

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: APPROVE AMENDMENT TO HEARTLAND SENIOR SERVICES CONTRACT TO PROVIDE AMES TO IOWA CITY TRANSPORTATION

BACKGROUND: CyRide, as part of its Ames Area MPO responsibilities, has been working with human service agencies, the medical community, and Heartland Senior Services, to develop service to meet the unmet transportation needs of Ames residents in accessing medical facilities in Iowa City. This need was identified as one of the highest priorities in a survey of human service agencies regarding transportation needs in the Ames/Story County area. You may also recall that transportation is one of the priority areas for the City's ASSET dollars.

As a result of this survey, a service was developed as a two-year demonstration project. As designed, it would operate two days per week, connecting bus service within Story County and with CyRide in Ames, to Iowa City. Heartland Senior Services would directly operate this service. Specifics of the proposed service are detailed below.

Purpose: Connect Ames residents with medical services that can not be provided at Story County medical facilities.

Days of Service: Two Consecutive Days Per Week (days to be determined through additional input)

Ames Pick-Up Locations: Door-To-Door/CyRide Stop at Ames City Hall

Connections in Story County: Through Coordination with Heartland Senior Services

Hours of Operation: 6:30 am – 5:30 pm

Leave Ames: 7:00 am

Arrive Iowa City: 9:30 am

Medical Appointments Scheduled: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Leave Iowa City: No Later than 3:00 pm

Arrive Ames: 5:30 pm

Fare: \$10 Round Trip

Vehicle: Light-Duty, 20 Passenger Wheelchair-Equipped Bus

Cost: Year 1 - \$114,818 (capital/operating), Year 2 - \$38,272 (operating)

This project was briefly discussed with the Ames City Council in February during budget presentations. Since that time, the project's committee has been working to secure necessary funding to begin this service in July of 2009. To date, funding listed on the next page has been secured.

Year 1 Secured Funding -

Federal –	
New Freedom Program	\$82,159
State –	
STA Coordination Program	\$11,945
Local –	
United Way of Story County	<u>\$5,000</u>
TOTAL Funded	\$99,104
TOTAL Unfunded	\$15,714

There are three potential sources to complete funding for the first year of service: a Story County Foundation grant, funding from Story County and/or City of Ames funding. Funding/grant requests have been made for Story County Foundation's Program and from Story County. It is anticipated that these sources will provide a portion of this unfunded balance.

Year 2 Secured Funding –

State -	
STA Coordination Program	\$11,482
Local –	
United Way of Story County	<u>\$4,000</u>
TOTAL Funded	\$15,482
TOTAL Unfunded	\$22,790

New Freedom funds will be requested in the next fiscal year in the amount of \$19,136 for the second year of operation and are anticipated to be approved leaving a small unfunded balance of \$3,654 which may be funded through a Story County Foundation grant.

At this time, the project committee is seeking City Council assistance in financing only the first year of the demonstration project, so that a vehicle may be purchased. Of the \$15,714 in unfunded expenses the first year, the Council is being asked to provide \$5,000. Should additional funding be needed in future years (assuming that the service proves valuable to the community), staff recommends that the requests be handled through the normal ASSET allocation process. As Heartland Senior Services (HSS) would be operating the service, its ASSET contract with the City of Ames could be amended by the requested amount to support the Ames to Iowa City service within the "Transportation" service area. This funding would be available in the Local Option Sales Tax fund balance. The project committee is working toward securing funding commitments by November 1, 2008, so that a bus procurement can be completed, with delivery occurring before June of 2009. This would allow for service to Iowa City to begin on July 1, 2009.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve an amendment to the 2008-2009 Heartland Senior Services ASSET contract, increasing the contract by \$5,000 to assist in financing the Ames to Iowa City demonstration project. This will be contingent upon funds being also received from Story County and the Story County Foundation, totaling \$10,714.
2. Approve an amendment to the 2008-2009 Heartland Senior Services ASSET contract, increasing the contract by an amount other than \$5,000 to assist in financing the Ames to Iowa City demonstration project.
3. Do not approve an HSS contract amendment.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Transportation continues to be a major need for those residents of Ames and Story County who have health and economic issues which prevent them from being able to obtain services from University Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City on their own.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving a contract amendment to the existing Heartland Senior Services ASSET contract in the amount of \$5,000, in the "Transportation" service area. This action would be contingent upon Story County and the Story County Foundation providing similar levels of support. The support will allow for a demonstration project for a proposed Ames to Iowa City bus service, intended to break down transportation barriers for Ames and Story County residents seeking necessary medical treatments that can not be accomplished in our community.