

AAMPO TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: FY2009 TRANSPORTATION PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT

BACKGROUND:

Last year, the Ames Area MPO approved the 2009 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP), which included highway and transit planning projects. Since this document was approved, the Central Iowa region has begun discussions regarding public transportation service between Ames and Des Moines. A multi-community group has asked that CyRide, in conjunction with the two other transit agencies in this corridor, apply for state funding to determine the feasibility of service options for the public. CyRide staff has prepared the grant application and is thereby requesting this project be amended into the 2009 TPWP so that it can be considered for state funding.

Ames-Des Moines Corridor Study – This planning study would determine the feasibility of implementing public transportation improvements to reduce single-occupant vehicles along Interstate 35 between the cities of Ames and Des Moines. The study would provide essential information to key decision-makers in Des Moines, Ames, Ankeny and other communities along this corridor to implement future transportation improvements. The study would examine the following:

- Identify need/potential ridership in the Ames-Des Moines corridor
- Analyze potential transportation modes to serve forecasted ridership demand
- Refine and provide details on the best alternative
- Identify potential funding sources
- Identify benefits of implementation

The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority, Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency and CyRide would co-sponsor the project through a coordinated effort from the following potential organizations: Iowa State University, City of Ames, City of Ankeny, Greater Des Moines Partnership, Ames Chamber of Commerce, Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Iowa Department of Transportation's Office of Public Transit. Any recommendations from this study would be incorporated into the Iowa DOT's state-wide public transportation needs analysis due to the state legislature in December 2009.

The budget proposed for this project is as follows:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>State (STA)</u>	<u>Local</u>
Ames-Des Moines Corridor Study	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve amending the Ames to Des Moines project into the 2009 TPWP so that CyRide may submit a grant application to the Iowa Department of Transportation.
2. Approve amending the Ames to Des Moines project into the 2009 TPWP with modifications from the AAMPO Policy Committee.

3. Do not approve amending the Ames to Des Moines project, thereby not allowing submittal of the grant application to the Iowa DOT and analysis of the corridor.

ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION:

On February 26, 2008, the Ames Transit board approved a resolution supporting the Ames-Des Moines Corridor Study. Because this study is funded totally with state dollars and requires no commitment to the ultimate project, it is the recommendation of the Administrator that the AAMPO Policy Committee adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby allowing the feasibility of public transportation in this corridor to be evaluated.