

**AAMPO TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: FY2009 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)  
TRANSIT AMENDMENTS**

**BACKGROUND:**

Last year, the Ames Area MPO approved the 2009 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in May 2008 consisting of planning, capital and operating projects to be funded during fiscal years 2009-2012. Since this approval, two unforeseen transit project changes have occurred: Public transportation service analysis between Ames and Des Moines, and hybrid bus purchases. These are explained below.

Ames to Des Moines Service Analysis

This planning study would determine the feasibility of implementing public transit improvements to reduce single-occupant vehicle travel along Interstate 35 between the City of Ames and City of Des Moines. The following language would be added to the TIP:

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, 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 IDOT's state-wide needs corridor analysis due to the state legislature in December 2009. The \$100,000 cost will be funded entirely through State Transit Assistance Coordination funding.

Hybrid Bus Purchase

This purchase was placed within the transit portion of the 2009 TIP, but once approved in a state grant application must also be included in the highway section as it is funded with Federal Highway Administration funds as opposed to Federal Transit Administration funding. The following language would be added to the highway section of the TIP:

Heavy Duty Bus Expansion: These expansion vehicles could be purchased to provide buses for a new route serving the east side commercial/industrial area of Ames along Dayton Avenue. Specifically, the route would serve Lincoln Way, Dayton and E. 13<sup>th</sup> providing access to businesses such as 3M, Mainstream Living, Ames Pediatric Dental Clinic, Ames Foot Clinic, Grandgenett Dentistry, Central Iowa Transit (intercity bus carrier depot), Iowa Heart Center, Mary

Greeley Dialysis Center and Sauer-Danfoss. Service to this area was a priority within the Ames MPO's Passenger Transportation Development Plan process. The buses would be 40' heavy-duty hybrid vehicles. The \$1,144,000 total cost will be funded with \$915,200 in Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (which is federal funds) and \$228,800 as local match from the Transit fund.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve amendments of both projects into the 2009 TIP in order for projects and/or grant applications to proceed within this fiscal year.
2. Approve the amendments into the 2009 TIP with modifications from the AAMPO Policy committee.
3. Do not approve the amendments, thereby not allowing projects to commence or submittal of grant applications for approval of funding.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION:**

On February 26, 2008 the Ames Transit board approved a resolution supporting the Ames-Des Moines Corridor Study and the hybrid bus purchase. The study is funded totally with state dollars and requires no commitment to the ultimate project at this time, and local funding is available to leverage the federal funds for the hybrid bus purchase.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the Administrator that the AAMPO Policy Committee adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving amendments of the above projects into the 2009 TIP allowing grants to be submitted or work to commence on behalf of CyRide.