

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION FACILITY PLANNING STUDY

BACKGROUND:

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included \$1.5 billion dollars in federal funding for the construction of transit system facilities. Guidelines for this funding, called TIGGER, were released on May 18, 2009 soliciting eligible projects for consideration of up to 100% funding.

The concept of an intermodal facility within the City of Ames, which would house parking, a CyRide station, inter-city bus station, and possible offices for ISU departments, has been briefly discussed within the community. However, specific details of its design, location and impact on the community have yet to be developed. For consideration of the TIGGER grant, these details will need to be further developed into a viable project for consideration by federal officials.

The following work would need to be completed to meet these grant requirements:

- Site Selection Study
- Programming – functions within the facility, space requirements
- Conceptual Design
- Cost Estimates - federal and local (review by Federal Transit Administration for compliance with funding regulations)
- Business Plan/Joint Development Agreement
- Construction Schedule
- Traffic Plan

In order to accomplish this work no later than the grant deadline of September 15, 2009 and to gain agreement within the community, it is believed that a majority of this work will need to be accomplished by one or more outside consultants in coordination with a team comprised of City, ISU and CyRide staff. It is believed that it could cost up to \$100,000 to complete this work in sufficient detail for the grant. A tentative agreement has been developed with the CyRide Transit Board of Trustees and Iowa State University to each fund 1/3 of these costs.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The Ames City Council can approve up to \$33,000 from the available balance in the Hotel/Motel Fund to support planning work for this facility, contingent upon corresponding action by the Transit Board of Trustees and Iowa State University

to provide up to \$34,000 and \$33,000, respectively, toward the completion of a planning study for development of an Intermodal Transportation Facility.

2. Do not approve funding for a planning study to develop an Intermodal Transportation Facility at this time.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Intermodal Facility was one of the priority projects the City Council took to Washington, D.C. in March to request funding from our Congressional delegation. Since those meetings, there has been some indication from Congressional staff members that funding for this project could be forthcoming. However, in order to qualify for these federal funds, we have a short window of time to complete a planning analysis for this project.

Assuming that the Council remains interested in pursuing this project, **it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the expenditure of up to \$33,000 from the available balance in the Hotel/Motel Fund towards the development of a concept for an Ames Intermodal Transportation facility, conditioned on the ISU Administration and Ames Transit Board of Trustees each contributing a like amount.**