

**AAMPO TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: FY2009 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TRANSIT AMENDMENTS**

**BACKGROUND:**

Last year, the AAMPO 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. In March 2009, the AAMPO approved two amendments to the TIP including a public transportation service analysis between Ames and Des Moines and hybrid bus purchases. Since this last approval, two other unforeseen transit project opportunities have occurred due to the availability of stimulus funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. These are hybrid bus upgrades and articulated bus purchases. These TIP amendments would allow CyRide to fulfill ARRA requirements and be ready to proceed with grant submission if the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) awards this funding directly to CyRide. These projects would allow CyRide to help fulfill the City Council goal to "Go Green and minimize the impact on global climate change." The two projects are explained below.

Hybrid Bus Upgrades: This project would allow CyRide to upgrade up to 12 buses from diesel to hybrid in order to save energy, approximately 30% in fuel, and greenhouse gases over the life of the vehicle(s). The FTA has funding available under the ARRA entitled Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) program. These funds are being requested at 100% funding; \$2,454,000 total (\$2,454,000 TIGGER; \$0 local).

Articulated Buses: This project would allow CyRide to replace 40-foot buses, which are more than 20 years old, with larger 60-foot vehicles. CyRide would replace six diesel buses with four articulated buses, which will reduce fuel, greenhouse gases, and labor costs from only having to hire four drivers as opposed to six to carry the equivalent number of passengers. These funds are also being requested at 100% federal funding; \$2,460,000 total (\$2,460,000 TIGGER; \$0 local).

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the amendments for hybrid bus upgrades and articulated bus purchases to the 2009 TIP in order for projects and/or grant applications to proceed within this fiscal year.
2. Do not approve the amendments, thereby not allowing these projects to commence or submittal of grant applications for funding.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION:**

Utilizing this ARRA funding will allow CyRide to decrease fuel consumption, carbon emissions and operating costs while upgrading its fleet. A public meeting was held on June 2 and the proposed amendments were presented to the AAMPO Technical Committee where a unanimous recommendation for approval was made.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the Administrator that the AAMPO Policy Committee adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the amendments for hybrid bus upgrades and articulated bus purchases to the 2009 TIP in order for projects and/or grant applications to proceed within this fiscal year.