

ITEM #: MPO 6
DATE: 01-24-23
DEPT: MPO

TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: FFY 2023-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT

BACKGROUND:

To receive federal funds for regional transportation projects, it is necessary for them to be included in the Ames Area MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Ames Area MPO's current TIP contains projects programmed for federal fiscal years 2023 through 2026 and was approved on July 12, 2022. The TIP may be amended in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Ames Area MPO's TIP and Public Participation Plan. This process is outlined below:

Steps for TIP Amendment (as outlined in the Public Participation Plan)

1. Request for amendment(s) by member agency or MPO staff
2. Recommendation by the Transportation Technical Committee
3. Initial review by Transportation Policy Committee; Setting of public hearing date
4. Minimum 15-day public comment period
5. Public hearing and final approval by Transportation Policy Committee

CyRide has requested to the MPO that three projects be rolled over from previous TIPs into FFY 2023 with increased federal funding amounts as shown:

TPMS ID	Description	Previous FFY	Previous Federal-Aid	Updated Federal-Aid	Federal-Aid Increase
10246	Light Duty Low-Floor Bus (176" wb)	2021	\$124,958	\$172,529	38.1%
10247	Light Duty Low-Floor Bus (176" wb)	2021	\$124,958	\$172,529	38.1%
10248	Light Duty Low-Floor Bus (176" wb)	2022	\$81,600	\$168,507	106.5%

Because the amount of federal aid increase to these projects exceeds 30%, a TIP amendment is required to roll-over and modify these projects.

CyRide provided the following supporting information regarding the requested project amendments:

Supply chain shortages have occurred within the bus manufacturing industry particularly for bus chassis as well as technological make-ready items (electronic signage, cameras, etc). CyRide's new price for the LD low-floor 176" wheelbase bus with CyRide's options will be between \$198,243 (\$168,507 federal; non-urbanized minibus for Dial-A-Ride) and \$202,975 (\$172,529 federal; urbanized buses for EASE service).

In the summer 2022, all bus manufacturers listed on the Iowa DOT State Public Transit Bureau contracts, [PTS2021LDB contract](#), notified the Iowa DOT that they couldn't fulfill the base pricing previously bid. CyRide purchases many buses off of other state contracts as allowed by the Federal Transit Administration to lower administrative costs and time. Specifically, the previous LD Low-Floor 176" wheelbase base bid pricing offered by Høglund Bus Company of \$141,897 was renegotiated up to \$153,597. In addition, a 2023 bus chassis upgrade (2022 chassis no longer available) added another \$7,470 as well as \$8,000 to \$13,000 in additional make ready costs to make the bus look like a CyRide bus. Overall, the increase is approximately 38% for projects 10246 & 10247. Project 10248 indicates a 106.5% increase but was initially identified as a high floor LD Bus (176" wheelbase bus) but CyRide wishes to purchase a low-floor LD 176" wheelbase bus for its Dial-A-Ride service to better serve its ADA passengers.

In January 2023, the Iowa DOT notified CyRide it had identified additional federal 5339 funding to add to existing transit contracts across the Iowa. Otherwise, many transit agencies wouldn't be able to afford their bus purchases with only partial funding available in contracts. This federal funding first needs to be identified in an approved Statewide TIP before it can be requested within a grant to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on behalf of the Iowa DOT for CyRide.

The "low-floor" light duty buses are new to CyRide's fleet as historically CyRide has purchased high-floor minibuses with steps and a powered wheelchair lift. A low-floor minibus allows stepless boarding for all passengers and provides a quicker and more dependable wheelchair loading experience for ADA passengers by using a manual deployable ramp.

The Transportation Technical Committee reviewed this proposed amendment on January 17, 2023, and unanimously recommended approval. Once the Transportation Policy Committee has reviewed the proposed amendment and set the date of public hearing, the MPO will then begin a public input period from January 25, 2023, until February 28, 2023. After the public input period, the proposed amendment will then go before the policy committee again for the public hearing and final approval on March 28, 2023.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Set the date of public hearing as March 28, 2023 for approval of the amendment to the FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program.
2. Review and modify the amendment to the FFY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program and set March 28, 2023, as the date for the public hearing.

MPO ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approval of this amendment to the TIP will allow CyRide to access the Iowa DOT's additional funding made available for existing contracts. Without approval, it would be very difficult for CyRide to afford these bus purchases due to a substantial increase in costs due to supply chain shortages. **The Transportation Technical Committee unanimously recommended approval of this amendment to the FFY 2023-2026 TIP.** Therefore, it is the recommendation of the MPO Administrator that the Transportation Policy Committee adopt Alternative No. 1.