

ITEM #: 2
DATE: 03-26-24
DEPT: AAMPO

TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: FINAL FFY 2025-2029 PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION PLAN

BACKGROUND:

The federal government requires an annual locally-coordinated planning effort between human service agencies and transportation providers in order to increase transportation efficiencies while improving transit for the disabled and elderly populations. The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) charged metropolitan planning organizations with this task in urbanized areas called a Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP). The Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) has been approving or amending these plans since March 2007.

Over the past year, AAMPO staff has been working with human service agencies and transportation providers request additional transportation needs, issues and priority projects. These meetings have primarily occurred through the Story County Transportation Collaboration Committee. The result of this effort has been a coordinated plan update for the Ames area.

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) requires that one type of funding (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) must be coordinated through this process. This funding must first be identified within an approved PTP before being incorporated into the subsequent Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which is required in order to receive grant funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

PTP DOCUMENT:

Passenger Transportation Plans are due to the Iowa DOT every five years. Because the AAMPO's last full plan was last submitted in May 2019, the next PTP is due to the Iowa DOT by May 1, 2024. The Final FFY 2025-2029 Passenger Transportation Plan is provided as Attachment A (the document is also available on the AAMPO website at following link - <https://aampo.org/ptp.php>) and the plan discusses the following required information:

1. **Introduction & Process:** Discussion of coordination efforts and documentation of the process in how the PTP was completed. (pgs. 2-5)
 1. Meetings held (pg. 4)
 2. Key Participants (pg. 4-5)
 3. Public input (pg. 5)
2. **Inventory and Process Discussion:** Discussion of the following:
 1. Existing transportation providers Vehicle Inventory (pgs. 6-19).
 2. Area Profile, Demographics, Limited English proficient (LEP) population analysis, Layout of the Ames area and how individuals access transportation services. (pgs. 20-35)
3. **Coordination Issues:** Discussion of the following: (pgs. 36-44)
 1. General assessment of service, management, fleet and facility needs
 2. Status of previously recommended priorities and strategies
 3. Recent development that may affect coordination issues
 4. Public input received concerning needs and/or coordination issues.

4. **Priorities and Strategies:** Describes proposed strategies for the next five years that could eventually lead to projects.
 1. Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities funding (Section 5310) must be specifically included in the PTP. (pgs. 45-48)
 2. Other potential projects (pgs. 49-56)
5. **Funding:** Includes a brief overview of federal, state and local funding opportunities and expectations of what is reasonably achievable over the next five years and what funding sources will be sought to meet strategies. (pgs. 57-70)
6. **Appendix:** Meeting minutes and CyRide LEP documentation

TIMELINE:

On January 24, 2024, the Story County Transportation Collaboration recommended that the PTP -- as well as projects, priorities, and strategies-- be presented to the AAMPO for formal approval. This committee was involved in the development of the priorities and strategies specifically for the elderly and disabled populations.

The Story County Transportation Collaboration committee and Iowa DOT were sent the Draft FFY 2025-2029 PTP document on February 1, 2024, for final review of the document. Iowa DOT staff suggested minor modifications to the document requesting clarification regarding how CyRide serves the community for healthcare, banking, and grocery shopping. (pg. 25). The Iowa DOT also requested more information regarding CyRide's fleet which has been included (pg. 38). Members of the Transportation Collaboration also provided minor comments and edits towards the final document. Staff addressed all comments received from the Iowa DOT and the Transportation Collaboration members in the final document. A 30-day public comment period was open from February 13, 2024, to March 14, 2024. No public comments on the draft document were received by staff.

The AAMPO Policy Committee is required to approve the PTP along with the recommended program for submittal to the Iowa Department of Transportation and Federal Transit Administration by May 1, 2024.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the Final FFY 2025-2029 Passenger Transportation Plan.
2. Approve the Final FFY 2025-2029 Passenger Transportation Plan, with modifications.

MPO DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Final FFY 2025-2029 Passenger Transportation Plan was developed in accordance with Iowa DOT requirements and in coordination with the Story County Transportation Collaboration. All minor comments received on the draft document from the Iowa DOT and Story County Transportation Collaboration were addressed in the final version. No public comments on the draft document were received by staff. **Therefore, it is the recommendation of the AAMPO Executive Director that the Transportation Policy Committee adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above.**

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Attachment A - Final FFY25-29 PTP.pdf](#)