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NEWS RELEASE

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Iowa Transportation Commission Awards \$570,000 to Dubuque Bus Storage Facility Project

DUBUQUE, Iowa –The Iowa Transportation Commission has approved a \$569,823 infrastructure grant for the City of Dubuque’s Bus Storage Facility Project planned for construction in 2017.

The bus storage facility is the second phase of Dubuque’s Intermodal Transportation Center project. The first phase was the intermodal terminal and parking facility in the Historic Millwork District. Phase two includes a bus storage and maintenance facility for The Jule public transit fleet to be located at 925 Kerper Blvd., east of the intermodal terminal. The total estimated cost for the bus storage facility is \$6.3 million, with \$3.88 million secured in federal funds, \$1.17 million in state funds, and \$1.25 million in local match funds. The project is in the final design phase and the City plans to go out for construction bids for this phase of the project this fall.

The new facility will be the operations and training headquarters for The Jule, a dramatic improvement from the current century-old facility at 2401 Central Ave. The current facility is located directly on U.S. Highway 52, making vehicle entry and exit very difficult, especially during periods of high traffic when buses are most likely to be leaving and returning to the garage. This location also has inadequate space for vehicle storage and no space for employee meetings or training.

The new bus storage facility will be an adaptive reuse of a City-owned brownfield site (the former City of Dubuque Public Works garage) and is being designed to incorporate energy efficiency, water conservation, and a floorplan for improved workflow. On-site training, meeting, and mobility device tie-down practice space, as well as a paved and painted CDL course, are also planned for the facility.

The \$569,823 infrastructure grant was announced early this week as part of more than \$1.5 million in funding to support five public transit projects in Iowa communities. The projects are funded under the state Public Transit Infrastructure Grant Fund, which provides state funding assistance to Iowa’s public transit systems for new or improved facilities to support their public transit services. State participation is limited to 80 percent and the balance must be matched

from local sources. The Iowa General Assembly appropriates funding to this program on an annual basis. The five projects approved by the commission were:

- Phase II construction of bus storage facility (Dubuque): \$569,823
- Replace seven overhead doors (Region 12: Creston): \$16,000
- Reconstruct original 1983 section of roof (CyRide: Ames): \$320,000
- Construction of new bus facility in Monticello (Region 10: Cedar Rapids): \$225,509
- Purchase of building for transit facility (Region 15: Ottumwa): \$400,000

“The Public Transit Infrastructure Grant is a vital source of funding for public transit systems. This program enables transit systems to construct and maintain facilities that are critical to the operation of the system and maintenance of the vehicles and frees up other sources of funding to keep buses on the road,” said Ryan Ward, transit programs administrator in the Office of Public Transit for the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Public transit service is available in all 99 counties. It provides over 28 million rides a year, getting Iowans where they need to go. Visit www.iowadot.gov/transit for more information on Iowa’s public transit systems.

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