



**Report to County Services Committee of Lee County Board**  
January 9, 2024 | 9:00 AM

**1) ROLLING 3-MONTH RIDE DATA FOR SFY 2024**

	October, 2023	November, 2023	December, 2023	Total for Period
<b>RIDES</b>	<b>8,713</b>	<b>8,061</b>	<b>6,592</b>	<b>23,366</b>
<b>SERVICE HOURS</b>	<b>2,704</b>	<b>2,787</b>	<b>2,114</b>	<b>7,605</b>
<b>MILES OF SERVICE</b>	<b>72,976</b>	<b>69,291</b>	<b>54,154</b>	<b>196,421</b>
<b>FUEL COST</b>	<b>\$19,112.29</b>	<b>\$17,960.25</b>	<b>\$15,321.67</b>	<b>\$52,394</b>

**2) DEVELOPMENTS**

**a) Feasibility Studies: Dixon and Rochelle**

- i) LOTS received Pre-Award Concurrence from IDOT on the choice of RLS and Associates as the successful vendor for work on feasibility studies to be completed in Rochelle and Dixon.
  - (1) RLS and Associates has initiated work on the two feasibility studies.
  - (2) An initial meeting between RLS and LOTS will be held this week.
  - (3) The feasibility studies will examine the potential of creating fixed transportation routes for the cities of Dixon and Rochelle.
  - (4) The studies will run concurrently with each other.
  - (5) The anticipated time frame for completing these studies is anticipated at up to nine (9) months.
  - (6) The studies will include a variety of tools (key stakeholder meetings, surveys and focus groups) to gather critical data on the question of whether it is feasible to create and run regular fixed routes in the two (2) municipalities.

**b) LOTS Awarded Funding to Complete SPR Funding on Transportation Needs**

- i) In September, LOTS/Lee County received word from IDOT/State Planning and Research of funding it has been awarded \$243,594 to complete a two-year study on transportation needs of residents of Lee and Ogle Counties.
  - (1) LOTS will partner with Northern Illinois University’s Center on Governmental Studies to complete this study.

**c) Reagan Mass Transit District**

- i) The Definitive Agreement, which outlines the transition of assets to RMTD, has been returned from IDOT and currently under review by the Lee County State’s Attorney’s Office and the legal team representing RMTD for final changes.
  - (1) The Definitive Agreement will be presented to the Lee County Board and Ogle County Board for their consideration.

**d) Rural Winnebago County Transit Services**

- i) The Winnebago County Board is continuing to work toward the launch of rural public transportation services on July 1, 2024.
  - (a) The next step in the process is to complete an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Winnebago County for the provision of transportation services.
  - (b) The formal request from Winnebago County for three (3) vehicles to be used in that county will be made in the coming weeks.

**e) Architectural/Engineering Firm / Oregon facility construction**

- i) Pre-award concurrence has been received from IDOT. Larson and Darby, an architectural firm out of Rockford, has been secured for the A&E process.
- ii) Architectural and Engineering firm has provided us with a 90% complete design of the Oregon facility. This project is part of LOTS application under REBUILD Round 1

- f) Architectural/Engineering Firm / Addition to Dixon Facility**
  - i) An architectural and engineering firm – Willett Hoffman – was selected for the addition project on to the Reagan Transit Center.
  - ii) Project includes development of new offices at Reagan Transit Center and secured file room/storage room. Geothermal and Solar technologies will be incorporated into complex
  - iii) This project is part of LOTS application under REBUILD Round 2
  
- g) Hydrogen Fuel Feasibility Study**
  - i) In partnership with the University of Illinois (Urbana/Champaign), LOTS has submitted a feasibility study proposal to the Illinois Center for Transportation to assess the potential use of hydrogen (and its local production) in public transportation vehicles.
    - (1) This 18-month proposal is requesting \$360,000 to consider the use (and production) of hydrogen in rural public transportation vehicles.
    - (2) This application is similar to the application submitted to the Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Grant program of the Build America program from the US DOT.
      - (a) Award announcements for this funding are expected by December.
  
- h) Budget/Contracts for FY 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)**
  - (1) Executed contracts for State Fiscal Year 2024 are as follows:
  - (2) Contractual amounts for FY 2024 are as follows:
    - (a) 5311 Contract: \$282,700 \*
    - (b) 5311F Contract (I-88): \$1,100,000 \*
    - (c) 5311F Contract (I-39): \$929,606 \*
    - (d) DOAP Contract: \$1,555,840

\*These are being combined into a single contract by IDOT
  
- i) Vehicle Procurement**
  - (1) LOTS collaboration with IDOT on a federal proposal to the Low/No Emission Grants.
    - (a) LOTS will procure two (2) electric buses via this proposal
  - (2) LOTS has submitted the order for two (2) electric vehicles to the Michigan Department of Transportation. IDOT promoted this relationship, as it does not currently have electric vehicles on its state vehicle contract, although they will likely add EVs in the near future.
  - (3) LOTS will also likely be the recipient of several “standard” fuel vehicles via a second federal grant – Buses and Bus Facilities – that IDOT wrote and were awarded funding for.

### 3) OPERATIONAL AND CAPITAL RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

- a) Capital Funding / REBUILD Round 1**
  - i) Application includes Construction of new Oregon location
  - ii) Furnishings and equipment for Oregon facility
  - iii) Implementation of video surveillance cameras into 17 of LOTS’ buses and minivans (completed)
  - iv) Three (3) new buses (Ford transit type vehicles)
  
- b) Capital Funding / REBUILD Round 2**
  - (1) Notice of State Award being processed by IDOT
  - (2) LOTS Proposal will allow for the following:
    - (a) Two electric vehicles for use in the LOTS system
    - (b) Three (3) new offices at Reagan Transit Center and secured file room/storage room
    - (c) Develop new Conference Room between Reagan Transit Center and Mechanical Bay
    - (d) Geothermal and Solar technologies will be incorporated into complex
  
- c) Capital REBUILD Round 3**
  - i) IDOT announced that Lee County/LOTS will receive \$62,500 for the purchase of 2 service vehicles
  - ii) The original proposal included the following:
    - (1) Add 72-feet onto the existing bus barn at Reagan Transit Center,
      - (a) This will provide for an additional twelve (12) slots for buses
    - (2) Add another bay onto the existing mechanical building
    - (3) Purchase service vehicles including one for maintenance

