



**Report to County Services Committee of Lee County Board**  
September 11, 2023 | 9:00 AM

**1) DEVELOPMENTS**

**a) Visit to LOTS by Congressman Darin LaHood**

- i) On Thursday, August 31, 2023, Congressman Darin LaHood visited Lee Ogle Transportation System touring the facility as well as sitting down for an update on public transportation locally.
- ii) Congressman LaHood has presented a \$2.9472 capital construction project proposed by LOTS to the House Appropriations Committee for an expansion of the administrative building. Additional offices as well as the construction of a new conference room has been proposed.
- iii) The funding request from LOTS, one of 15 submitted by Congressman LaHood, was submitted under Congressman LaHood's 2024 Community Funding Project Requests.

**b) Hydrogen Fuel Feasibility Study**

- i) LOTS is working with the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign on a feasibility study proposal to the US Department of Transportation that will assess the potential use of hydrogen (and its local production) in public transportation vehicles.
  - (1) An application has been submitted to the Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Grant program of Build America program of the US DOT.
  - (2) Total funding request for the 18-month project is estimated at \$360,000
  - (3) Award announcements for this funding are expected by no later than October.
- ii) The proposal will also be submitted to the Illinois Center for Transportation for funding consideration.

**c) Pending Agreement with Dixon Family YMCA**

- i) Operational Staff are working with the Dixon Family YMCA on an agreement to transport middle school students from Reagan Middle School to the Y on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- ii) The arrangement will be modeled after the existing agreement LOTS has with the Dixon Park District

**d) Reagan Mass Transit District**

- (1) The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is reviewing the Definitive Agreement, which outlines the transition of assets to RMTD.
  - (a) State's Attorneys for Lee and Ogle Counties have already reviewed and given consent to the content.
  - (b) Once finalized, the Definitive Agreement will be presented to the Lee County Board and Ogle County Board.
- (2) RMTD held an initial meeting with Region 1 Planning Council, Winnebago County Board, Rockford Mass Transit District and Rural Transit Assistance Center regarding public transportation services for "rural" Winnebago County.
  - (a) Initial draft budget for public transportation services was sent to Region 1 with a follow-up meeting held on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, in Rockford.

**e) City of Rochelle Feasibility Study / Technical Assistance Grant (Awarded) from IDOT**

- i) Lee County / LOTS reviewed proposals for the Technical Assistance Grant for Rochelle and chose RLS Associates as the successful bidder. IDOT has given their concurrence on this choice.
  - (1) The expected timeframe for completion of this Technical Assistance/Feasibility Study 6-9 months with completion anticipated by summer of 2024.
  - (2) Focus of the Feasibility Study is to consider the development of a fixed route for public transportation in the City of Rochelle.

**f) City of Dixon Feasibility Study / Technical Assistance Grant (Awarded) from IDOT**

- i) Lee County / LOTS reviewed proposals for the Technical Assistance Grant for the City of Dixon and chose RLS Associates as the successful bidder. IDOT has given concurrence on this choice.

- (1) The expected timeframe for completion of this Technical Assistance/Feasibility Study 6-9 months with completion anticipated by summer of 2024. This feasibility study will run concurrently with the Feasibility Study of the City of Rochelle.
- (2) Focus of the Feasibility Study is to consider the development of a fixed route for public transportation in the City of Dixon.

**g) 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

**h) Ride Data for SFY 2024 (July 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023)**

	July, 2023	August, 2023	Total for Period
<b>RIDES</b>	<b>7,074</b>	<b>7,254</b>	<b>14,328</b>
<b>SERVICE HOURS</b>	<b>1,898</b>	<b>2,179</b>	<b>4,077</b>
<b>MILES OF SERVICE</b>	<b>49,905</b>	<b>63,372</b>	<b>113,277</b>
<b>FUEL COST</b>	<b>\$20,236.98</b>	<b>\$25,392.26</b>	<b>\$45,629.24</b>

**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.

**j) Vehicle Disposal Approved by IDOT**

- i) IDOT has given its approval for the disposal of nine (9) existing vehicles of LOTS/Lee County
- ii) This disposal means LOTS/Lee County will have direct control over these vehicles, several of which are beyond repair and will be sold for junk.
- iii) The other vehicles may continue to be used in the system and/or sold out right with the profits going to operational needs of the system.

**k) 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 will provide two (2) design options for Oregon facility
- iii) This project is part of LOTS application under REBUILD Round 1

**l) 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

**2) 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

**REAGAN**  
**MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT**

