



**Report to County Services Committee of Lee County Board**  
February 13, 2024 | 9:00 AM

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

	November, 2023	December, 2023	January, 2024	Total for Period
<b>RIDES</b>	<b>8,061</b>	<b>6,592</b>	<b>6,972</b>	<b>21,625</b>
<b>SERVICE HOURS</b>	<b>2,787</b>	<b>2,114</b>	<b>2,152</b>	<b>7,053</b>
<b>MILES OF SERVICE</b>	<b>69,291</b>	<b>54,154</b>	<b>57,606</b>	<b>181,051</b>
<b>FUEL COST</b>	<b>\$17,960.25</b>	<b>\$15,321.67</b>	<b>\$14,705.47</b>	<b>\$47,987.39</b>

**2) RIDERSHIP – CREST FOODS**

Calendar Year	In-Town	Out of Town	Revenue
<b>CY 2023 (Jan. 1 – December 31, 2023)</b>	<b>304 rides</b>	<b>4,654 rides</b>	<b>\$26,205</b>
<b>CY 2022 (Jan. 1 – December 31, 2022)</b>	<b>344 rides</b>	<b>4,610 rides</b>	<b>\$26,043</b>

**3) DEVELOPMENTS**

**a) Budget/Contracts for FY 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)**

- (1) IDOT has opened the portal for developing FY 2025 contracts.
  - (2) The Downstate Operating Assistance Program (DOAP) Grant has a proposed 20% increase in funding from IDOT
  - (3) Contractual amounts for State Fiscal Year 2025 are as follows:
    - (a) 5311 Contract: \$283,450
    - (b) 5311F Contract (I-88): \$1,100,000 \*
    - (c) 5311F Contract (I-39): \$929,606 \*
    - (d) DOAP Contract: \$1,867,008
- \*These are being combined into a single contract by IDOT

**b) 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) An Intergovernmental Agreement with Winnebago County is being completed to formalize 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.
  - (c) The contractual budget proposed by IDOT for this new service is as follows:
    - (i) 5311 Contract: \$188,804
    - (ii) DOAP Contract: \$708,728

**c) Reagan Mass Transit District**

- i) The Definitive Agreement, which outlines the transition of assets to RMTD, has been reviewed by the Lee County State’s Attorney’s Office and currently in the hands of IDOT Administrative team for any final changes.
  - (1) The Definitive Agreement will be presented to the Lee County Board and Ogle County Board for their consideration.

**d) Vehicle Procurement**

- (1) Lee County / LOTS received word last week from IDOT that its 2022 CVP Application was awarded 6 of the 10 proposed vehicles. Great news!
  - (a) The vehicles, which will likely come in 2025, include two (2) minivans and four (4) light duty buses. Total value of these vehicles is more than \$600,000.
- (2) 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
- (3) 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.

- (4) 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.
- e) **Feasibility Studies: Dixon and Rochelle**
  - i) Work has started with RLS and Associates on Feasibility Studies for Dixon and Rochelle.
    - (1) RLS will be in town this week (February 12-14<sup>th</sup>) to meet and talk with stakeholders
    - (2) The feasibility studies will consider the potential of creating fixed routes for the cities.
    - (3) The studies will run concurrently and both be completed by end of August, 2024.
    - (4) The feasibility Studies will include a technical assistance committee, review of existing data, key stakeholder interviews and public surveys.
- f) **LOTS Awarded Funding to Complete SPR Funding on Transportation Needs**
  - i) A contract between Lee County and State Planning and Research of IDOT has been executed for this two-year project with a budget of \$243,594.
  - ii) This project will look at the general “transportation needs” of residents in Lee and Ogle Counties.
  - iii) LOTS will partner with NIU’s Center on Governmental Studies on this SPR grant.
    - (1) Initial meeting with NIU was held last Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.
- g) **Hydrogen Fuel Feasibility Study**
  - i) In partnership with the University of Illinois (Urbana/Champaign), LOTS is continuing to assess potential partnerships for a study that will assess the feasibility of using hydrogen fuel cell vehicles in its rural operation along with the potential for production of the alternative fuel.
    - (1) The University of Illinois has expressed interest in this project as has other entities.
- h) **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
- i) **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

#### 4) 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

