



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: July 30, 2009
To: Minneapolis City Council
Subject: **Donation of Travel Expenses**

Recommendation:

- a) Authorize Public Works to accept a donation of travel expenses for a bicycle delegate tour of Europe from the Bikes Belong Foundation, a national non-profit organization.
- b) Authorize Public Works to designate a department employee to represent the City on this trip.

Prepared by: Steve Mosing, Principal Traffic Engineer, 673-5746

Approved by:

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer - Director of Public Works

Presenter: Robert Lilligren

Reviews

Permanent Review Committee (PRC)	NA
Civil Rights	NA
Policy review Group (PRG)	NA

Financial Impact

No financial impact

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: Not Applicable
City Goals: Satisfies multi-modal transportation goals
Comprehensive Plan: Not Applicable
Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background

On July 21, 2009, the Bikes Belong Foundation offered a donation of a bicycle trip to the City of Minneapolis at a value of \$3,000. The Bikes Belong Foundation is a 501c3 national non-profit charitable organization which focuses on:

- Bicycle safety projects
- Children's bicycle programs

The Bikes Belong Foundation is a stand alone organization which is organized by the Bikes Belong Coalition, a national advocacy organization with the mission of putting more people on bicycles more often. The Bikes Belong Coalition focuses on:

- Federal policy and funding
- National partnerships
- Community grants
- Promoting bicycling

The trip is also being organized in association with the Dutch Information and Technology Platform for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Space (CROW). CROW is a Netherlands-based, non-profit organization which facilitates government and businesses working together in pursuit of common interests through the design, construction, and management of roads and other traffic and transportation facilities.

Trip Details and Purpose

The trip is a five-day transportation study tour of urban bicycle facilities in the Netherlands and Germany from August 30 to September 3, 2009. Other attendees will include leaders from the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Projects (NTP) and members of the Bikes Belong board and staff. The trip is billed as an inspirational, informative, and intensive study of state-of-the-art practices in bicycle planning, engineering, and design.

The Netherlands and Germany are among the world's leaders in achieving high levels of bicycle participation and safety. The tour group will gain an insider's perspective on how bicycle facilities are conceived, built, financed, and used, with an eye toward adapting strategies to the political and cultural climate of the United States. Primary activities will include cycling tours and meetings with Dutch and German cycling policy and infrastructure experts.

The Bikes Belong Foundation will cover the expenses of the tour, including round-trip economy class airfare from Minneapolis to Amsterdam, all course materials, accommodations, ground transportation, and most meals during the tour.

Recommendation

In order to take advantage of this opportunity to increase our city's knowledge on improving bicycle transportation, Public Works recommends that this donation be accepted by the City. Public Works plans to designate Shaun Murphy, Non-Motorized Pilot Program Coordinator, to represent the City.