



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

Date: April 28, 2008
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Referral to: Honorable Paul Ostrow, Chair Ways & Means Budget Committee
Subject: **Donation of Bicycles**

Recommendation:

- a) Authorize Public Works to accept a donation of 26 bicycles valued at \$7,250 from Bikes Belong, a national bicycle advocacy organization.
- b) Authorize Public Works to use no more than 12 of the bicycles for the Bike Walk Ambassadors, with up to 6 being used as prize giveaways for Bike Walk to Work Day.
- c) Direct Public Works to explore using the remaining bicycles as a city bicycle fleet for employees, and return to City Council with a potential plan for a city bicycle fleet.

Prepared by: Shaun Murphy, NTP Project Coordinator, 333-2450

Approved by:

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

Presenter: Shaun Murphy

Reviews:

Permanent Review Committee (PRC)	NA
Civil Rights Review	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/Supporting Information

In early September of 2008, Bikes Belong sponsored a temporary bike sharing program for the Republican National Convention. 1,000 bicycles were placed in downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul for public use. During the 4-day convention, the bicycles were ridden 15,141 miles. The Public Works Department served as a resource in determining locations for the bicycles, both for indoor staging and outdoor bicycle check-out stations.

Subsequently Bikes Belong, a national bicycle advocacy organization, offered a donation of 26 bicycles to the City of Minneapolis, at a value of \$7,250. The Public Works Department recommends acceptance of the bicycles for the following potential uses:

- 1) **Bike Walk Ambassadors** – The Bike Walk Ambassador Program, which launched earlier this year within the Public Works Department, could utilize a portion of the bicycles for educational purposes. This will include uses such as guided bicycle tours, skill courses, and prize giveaways. In the short term, the Ambassadors would like to give no more than 6 of the bicycles away as prizes for Bike Walk to Work Day, which is May 14, 2009.
- 2) **City Bicycle Fleet** – Several cities across the country such as San Francisco, Tucson, Houston, and Louisville have launched city bicycle fleets for employee use. A Minneapolis bicycle fleet could be spread between key city buildings within reasonable biking distance. Bicycles could be checked out by employees for work purposes such as meetings and field visits. The goals of a city bicycle fleet would be to reduce harmful air emissions, improve employee health, and provide a more economic alternative to vehicle use. The city bicycle fleet could also serve as a visible model for other Minneapolis workplaces striving for sustainability.

A city bicycle fleet could work as a complement to a potential public bike sharing system. The city fleet could allow lengthier check-out times and serve city employees outside of the proposed public bike share service area (e.g. 311 offices).

In order to create a model that is safe and sustainable, Public Works recommends that a potential plan be researched and brought back to the City Council, with the involvement of the following departments and divisions:

- Community Planning & Economic Development
- Fleet Services
- Human Resources
- Police
- Risk Management
- Sustainability Office

CC: Greg Goeke
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