



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: March 13, 2018

DATE: February 8, 2018
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager
328-2008, kathomas@washoecounty.us
THROUGH: John Slaughter, County Manager
SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve an interlocal Agreement between the City of Reno, the Regional Transportation Commission, the City of Sparks, Washoe County and the University of Nevada Reno, Regarding Implementing a Regional Bike Share System. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

Since early 2017, a regional working group has been researching the implementation of a bike share program for the Truckee Meadows. The group has conducted community forums, an industry forum, and in November of 2017, the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) requested the City of Sparks, City of Reno, and Washoe County discuss a regional dockless bike share pilot program; each of the entities approved the work continue towards implementation.

The Interlocal Agreement between the City of Reno, Regional Transportation Commission, the City of Sparks, Washoe County and the University of Nevada Reno Regarding Implementing a Regional Bike Share System is a pilot program before the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners for approval as the result of collective work of the entities. The agreement expires December 31, 2018 with the ability to extend the pilot program for one additional year from date of implementation.

Additionally, RTC will continue efforts to seek a Transportation Alternatives grant application for a regional smart bike/station based bike share program.

Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, secure and healthy communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On January 9, 2018 the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners approved staff to pursue a regional dockless bike share pilot program.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

BACKGROUND

In 2015, RTC finalized a Bike Share Feasibility Study to explore bike share options in the Truckee Meadows. The complete 2015 Bike Share Feasibility Study is available on the RTC website.

On August 11, 2017, a community Bike Share Forum was held to identify potential interest in using public-private partnerships to implement bike share. More than 60 participants, including public officials, reviewed the study and provided an overview of bike share. The Bike Share Forum resulted in strong support for implementing a bike share system in the Truckee Meadows and there was a consensus to invite vendors to an Industry Review. Following the forum, a meeting of the RTC, City and County attorneys was held to initiate coordination regarding bike share-related issues.

On November 2-3, 2017, RTC hosted a Bike Share Industry Forum at CENTENNIAL PLAZA. The purpose of the forum was to learn more about the alternative bike share operating models and equipment, and to inform regional decision-making about the type of program that would be best suited to the Truckee Meadows. The forum supplements information in the Bike Share Feasibility Study, which was completed before the privatized dockless bike share business model became available in the United States.

Three types of bike share operating models were reviewed at the forum:

- Station-based – requires bike check-in/check-out at kiosks and is publicly funded.
- Smart bike – requires bike check-in/check-out at designated bike racks and is publicly funded.
- Dockless – bikes may be checked-in/checked-out at any location. No racks or designated parking areas are required. This system type is privately funded.

Publicly funded systems (station-based or smart bike) could be operated by RTC and capital costs funded through a Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside grant. Ongoing operations would be funded through private sponsorships. Dockless systems are privately funded and would require permitting through the local jurisdictions. RTC would have no management/oversight role with a dockless system.

All bike share companies were invited to participate in the forum which was publically-promoted. Six (6) providers participated including:

Company	System Type	Proposed Business Model
SPIN	Dockless	Privatized
ofo	Dockless	Privatized
PBSC Urban Solutions	Station-based (electric assist bikes available)	Purchased/owned by government entity
LimeBike	Dockless	Privatized
BCycle	Smart Bike (electric assist bikes available)	Lease or purchase by government entity
noa Technologies	Smart Bike	Purchased/owned by government entity

Forum evaluators included representatives from RTC, City of Reno, City of Sparks, Washoe County, Washoe County Health District, University of Nevada, Reno, Renown, and the Reno Bike Project. A summary of evaluation results will be compiled and presented at the RTC Board meeting.

Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside funding may be a funding option for start-up capital costs associated with implementing a publicly-funded bike share system. The Nevada Department of Transportation Statewide and RTC Washoe plan to accept applications for funding of Federal Fiscal Years 2019-2020 in early 2018. It is anticipated that funding of approximately \$650,000 statewide and \$375,000 for RTC Washoe will be available. If the region has a desire to submit applications, RTC will collaborate as the administrator of the applications and funding. A strategy for seeking private funding for ongoing operations will also be developed.

On January 9, 2018 the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners received a presentation and update on a status report on bike share and directed staff to pursue a regional dockless bike share pilot program.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners approve the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Reno, Regional Transportation Commission, the City of Sparks, Washoe County and the University of Nevada Reno Regarding Implementing a Regional Bike Share System.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: Move to approve the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Reno, Regional Transportation Commission, the City of Sparks, Washoe County and the University of Nevada Reno Regarding Implementing a Regional Bike Share System.