

# AGENDA



## Recommendation for Council Action

### AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting : February 1, 2018

Item Number: 057

### Transportation

Approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to provide funds in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 to the Texas Department of Transportation as a match to a Transportation Alternatives Program federal grant, to expand Austin's B-Cycle bike share program.

<b>Lead Department</b>	Austin Transportation
<b>Fiscal Note</b>	Funds in the amount of \$200,000 are available from the 2017-2018 Operating Budget of the Austin Transportation Department.
<b>Prior Council Action</b>	Resolution 20161201-029, Ordinance 20160331-048
<b>For More Information</b>	Robert Spillar, 512-974-2488, Annick Beaudet, 512-974-7959, Laura Dierenfield, 512-974-7189, Gilda Powers, 512-974-7092.

### Additional Backup Information:

This action seeks Council approval to expand options for shared bicycle mobility in Austin by accelerating the expansion of the existing Austin B-Cycle system, funded by Council's previous acceptance of a federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant (Resolution 20160331-048). The requested action authorizes the use of up to \$200,000 in one-time operational funding to match \$908,500 in existing federal funding awarded in 2015. The originally proposed match for this grant was to have come from the City's bike share vendor, Bike Share of Austin. However, given current demand and market pressures, acceleration and completion of the station expansion project is recommended to

establish a sustainable shared bicycle mobility system in Austin that both preserves the existing docked system and allows for the potential introduction of an independent dockless system. This action also authorizes the City Manager to negotiate and execute an agreement with the bike share vendor that allows greater access for municipal employees to the Austin B-Cycle system on an on-going basis.

The proposed \$200,000 one-time operational funding identified for the match was approved as part of Austin Transportation's FY 18 Budget.

### **Accelerate Expansion of the Station-Based System**

The City of Austin is currently engaged in an expansion of the City's bike share system by 18 stations and 125 bicycles funded by \$908,500 in federal funding awarded under the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) matched with \$241,500 in private sources from Bike Share of Austin. The Austin Transportation Department (ATD) has identified up to \$200,000 in matching funds for stations that will support a number of City mobility initiatives, namely the City's Affordable Parking Program (providing bike share access to service workers who park in subsidized garages that are a long walk but short bike ride to their job), The Big Jump (an effort to double bike trips in the center city core), Smart Trips (a neighborhood-based transportation options program to encourage more use of the bus, walking and bicycling) and the Campus Bike Share initiative (an initiative to expand bike share to students, faculty, staff and visitors of Austin's area colleges, universities and vocational schools). The current timeline for this expansion using only private funding matched from Bike Share of Austin will take another 12-18 months to complete installation of the remaining 15 stations. By using operational funding identified for bike share expansion in FY17, ATD will be able to accelerate installation of these remaining 15 stations to 4-6 months. We will request that Bike Share of Austin continue its promised investment to allow for additional stations beyond those achieved through the accelerated TAP grant funding.

### **Gaining Improved Access to B-Cycle for Municipal Employees**

Over the past several years, the Austin Transportation Department (ATD) has made purchases of annual B-Cycle passes and distributed them to City employees. A total of 4,477 trips were taken by City of Austin employees between January and November of 2017. To be eligible to receive a B-Cycle pass from ATD, an employee is required to watch a short bicycling safety video, hosted on-line by ATD. Access to a B-Cycle pass provides employees easy access to bicycles and reduces the need for short trips by car. For example, the commute between One Texas Center and City Hall is often quicker and more reliable by B-Cycle than by private car. Access to the B-Cycle system also provides an opportunity for City employees to increase their physical activity, leading to improved health outcomes for staff and potentially lower health premiums for the City in the long run.