



news release

March 26, 2015

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Awards Grant for Eugene Bike Share

Bike Share may be coming soon to the City of Eugene. The Oregon Transportation Commission on March 19 approved more than \$909,000 to develop a bike share system serving central Eugene.

The bike share system would be Oregon's first. The city in coordination with Lane Transit District and the University of Oregon developed a feasibility analysis in 2014 to determine if bike share would be a good fit for the Eugene area. The study confirmed the likelihood of a successful system and identified size, phasing, and operational characteristics of the system. The state grant will help pay for the bike share bikes and related infrastructure.

Bike share is an innovative transportation solution that allows people to check out a bicycle for short urban trips that might otherwise be made by bus or by car. On some transit routes, including the EmX route from campus to downtown, capacity is very limited. Bike share will help provide transportation options for people traveling less than two miles. Bikes are maintained by a local operator.

The grant application identified a station-based bike share system where bikes are secured at kiosks around the community. Users swipe a membership card or credit card to release a bike for their use. The first 30 to 60 minutes of the trip are generally free with fees accruing for use beyond the entry period. The trip ends when the user returns the bike to a bike share station. The grant will likely fund 28 stations and about 210 bikes. The feasibility study identified a total build out size of over 400 bikes. The initial launch location corresponds to locations where people are likely to use bikes including downtown Eugene, the UO campus, and portions of the Whiteaker neighborhood.

The city is interested in transportation solutions like bike share because they help to provide a transportation option that utilizes existing infrastructure, help to reduce the burning of fossil fuels, and help implement city plans and policies including the Climate Recovery Ordinance and the Transportation Systems Plan.

Bike share users will be able to choose a membership plan that best suits their needs including one-time, monthly, and annual memberships. There may also be group pass options for large employers.

Regional partners are currently evaluating operational plans, membership structures, and sponsorship opportunities. Selection of a bike share vendor and system operator is likely to take more than twelve months. The city is hopeful the bike share system will launch before the Olympic Trials in 2016.

For more information about the bike share system, go to www.eugene-or.gov/bikeshare.

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