



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: October 20, 2020

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Transportation Planning and Parking Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Bicycle Share Pilot Program Docking Systems Along State Street

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Approve a limited duration application for the installation of Bike Share docking systems in the City in accordance with the Bicycle Share Pilot Program; and
- B. Find, pursuant to Santa Barbara Charter § 817 (c) and SBMC § 22.22.140 B, that the public interest does not require review by the Historic Landmarks Commission of bicycle docking systems.

DISCUSSION

In April, 2019, City Council directed Transportation Planning staff to develop and implement a Bicycle Share Pilot Program (Program). In June 2019, a request for applications was released, and three different vendors submitted applications for the initial 3 year Pilot Program. After significant review by a bike share selection committee, staff recommended City Council accept the application from BCycle, a bike share operator with ten-plus years of experience and the backing of the Trek Bicycle Corporation. After further Program development, BCycle and the City of Santa Barbara signed a "Bike Share Operator's Permit" in February 2020, and began work on Program implementation.

In August and September 2020, staff presented the Program for Concept Review and Preliminary Design and Final Approval to the Architectural Board of Review (ABR) and the Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC). ABR granted Final Approval, though the HLC felt that the docking systems did not fit with the historic character of El Pueblo Viejo, and found that further siting information was needed to provide Final Approval for the Program.

Much has changed since Council accepted the BCycle application. State Street is currently operating as a promenade pursuant to Ordinance No. 5944 to promote economic recovery due to the COVID-19 emergency. Ordinance No. 5944 was recently extended to December

2020, with the potential for further extension to March 2021 if the COVID emergency continues. Furthermore, the City Council has appointed a State Street Subcommittee to review longer term vision for State Street, largely because of the success of the temporary promenade. The long term vision may result in extensive permanent changes to Downtown State Street likely including conversion of the roadway portion for other purposes.

Given the HLC's comments and the uncertain future use and configuration of State Street, staff recommends placing limited duration bike share docking systems on the Promenade, rather than permanently on the sidewalks where initially planned. The docking systems would be non-permanent, relocatable, and placed to minimize aesthetic or other impacts. Other locations outside of State Street will be implemented as originally planned. As the guiding vision for the State Street Promenade develops and as the Bicycle Share Pilot Program does or does not gain traction in Santa Barbara, bike share docking system locations can remain nimble and adaptive. If a permanent redesign project is developed, City Council can determine the ongoing need for bike share on State Street and HLC will approve the redesign.

The application's next step is to go to Planning Commission for a Coastal Development Permit for the portion of the application that is in the Coastal Zone. Implementation of non-Coastal Zone areas will proceed immediately.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Operation and docking infrastructure is the responsibility of BCycle. Operator fees set by the City are intended to offset management costs, but not costs associated with aesthetic changes. At the end of the shared mobility 3-year pilot program period, the fees and required City resources will be re-evaluated.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

As mentioned in the Circulation Element, an effective bike share program can increase personal mobility, potentially reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, reduce parking demand, and decrease the overall cost of transportation to individuals. It may help in the City's sustainability goals of emissions and traffic congestion reductions.

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SUBMITTED BY: Brian D'Amour, Acting Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office