



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Mindi Hurley, Director of Community Development

Date: **July 10, 2018**

Reference: Discussion on Proposed Draft Bicycle Sharing Ordinance

2030: **Special Place to Live, Sustainable City Government, Community Enrichment & Wellness**

Executive Summary:

The purpose and intent of a Bike Share Ordinance will prevent the dockless bicycles from cluttering up the City of Coppell right-of-way and provide an opportunity for a docked bicycle share company to locate in Coppell, provided they are approved through the Development Review Committee process.

Introduction:

Bike share comes in different forms. Bikes that are locked to a docking station or kiosk, then checked out and back into the same or another docking station/kiosk for a small fee and a deposit to cover the bike (Ft. Worth's B-Cycle is a good example). The newer form of bike sharing consist of dockless bicycles that are locked to themselves (i.e. Limebike, Ofo, V-Bike, Mobike). These are GPS based and are coordinated through a smart phone app that shows where bikes are located and a credit card is used in the app to unlock the wheel from the frame. The user pays based on the time they use the bike (typically \$1.00 per hour). Both types of bike sharing will touch Coppell in some form or fashion in the near future.

Cypress Waters Station and the current construction of the trail system connection with the Campion Trail are factors contributing to staff addressing the topic of Bike Sharing in Coppell. The planned Cypress Waters Station is in the City of Dallas, which currently allows dockless bike sharing. Commuters beginning and ending their trips at the station will need to find other modes of transportation to and from that point. It is inevitable that bicycles will be an option along with other modes (ride sharing, taxi's, & shuttles) to serve the commuters. This is often called the "first mile/last mile leg of the commute". Also, the construction of the trail system along E. Belt Line is expected to be finished by the fall of this year. This will complete the connection that ties to Irving's Campion Trail, which provides a route for bicycles to be ridden to Coppell. Irving currently has an agreement with V-Bikes to operate a dockless bicycle system on the Campion Trail. When this trail connection is complete, it is recommended that we have the tools in place to responsibly regulate these bikes.

The overwhelming concern with dockless bicycles is #1 the abundance of them, #2 safety hazards if left within the right-of-way obstructing a sidewalk or roadway and #3 the visual clutter they create. Advocates of bike share like the accessibility, the affordability and the fact that they provide an environmentally friendly method of transportation.

Analysis:

At the March 27th and April 10th Council Worksessions, staff gave presentations and subsequent discussions ensued related to bike sharing. The purpose was to discuss the various forms of bike sharing and to get Council's direction on the topic. Council instructed staff to bring back a draft ordinance for review. The draft ordinance:

- Prohibits dockless bicycles from being left within the city right-of-way;
- Establishes a permitting system for the docked bicycle systems within the city.
 - The permit would include locations of kiosks and number of bikes at each location.
 - It is anticipated that the kiosks would be located at City Parks, Old Town Coppell, Hotels, and potentially on properties such as large office/warehouses in the west side.
 - To operate within the City of Coppell, the vendor will submit to the Planning Division a permit application which will be reviewed through the Development Review Committee (DRC) process much like any other development;
 - The permit will need to be renewed on an annual basis.
- Allows for the following enforcement:
 - If a bike is left in the right-of-way for a certain period of time, a call will be placed to Public Works to retrieve the bicycle and store it in a holding area.
 - The bike sharing vendor will be contacted and asked to pick up the bicycle.
 - A fee per bike will be assessed and paid through the Public Works department. It will be the responsibility of the bicycle share operator to retrieve the bike(s).
 - Because a deposit is required for the docked bicycle system, it is not anticipated that any will be left in the right-of-way intentionally. In the rare instance this does happen, they will be treated in the same manner as the dockless bikes.

Legal Review:

We have consulted with the attorney throughout the research and drafting of the ordinance.

Fiscal Impact:

A docked bike share plan shall be subjected to a permit application fee and a permit issuance fee based on number of bikes deployed. An annual renewal fee will be required for each.

A small fee for each bike brought to storage will be assessed when the bikes are picked up by the operator.

Recommendation:

Recommend the redrafting of the ordinance incorporating necessary changes as a result of the workshop session and bringing back the final ordinance on July 24, 2018 for adoption.

Attachments:

Draft Article 6-18 Bicycle Share