

City of Greensboro

Melvin Municipal Building 300 W. Washington Street Greensboro, NC 27401

Legislation Text

File #: ID 17-0483, Version: 1

Resolution Authorizing Execution of Agreement for Bicycle Sharing Service with LimeBike

Department: Transportation Council District: Citywide

Public Hearing: N/A

Advertising Date/By: N/A

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PURPOSE:

A resolution needs to be approved to authorize an exclusive agreement with Neutron Holdings DBA LimeBike to operate a subsidy-free bicycle sharing program in Greensboro.

BACKGROUND:

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) began an on-campus bicycle sharing program operated by LimeBike in June after an RFP and review of available service providers. The LimeBike program has been well received by the university community. The University plans to expand the program on campus in the Fall. Meanwhile, GDOT has been working closely with stakeholders including UNCG, Downtown Greensboro Incorporated, Action Greensboro, and the community to bring a bicycle sharing service to the City with an initial focus on downtown and close-in areas. Goals include improving mobility and public health, reducing traffic congestion, and providing convenient and economical access to bicycle transportation. After a review of the options, GDOT recommends the City approve the enclosed agreement with LimeBike on a sole-source basis.

Unlike traditional bicycle sharing services requiring docking stations, LimeBike is one of a handful of operators offering an on-demand dockless service. Customers can use the LimeBike app to locate and unlock the bikes. The bikes lock themselves in place when not in is use. Because the bikes are dockless they may be left at any location. GDOT will work with the vendor in an effort to ensure the bikes do not block driver or pedestrian access. LimeBike is committed to educating users on the proper locations to leave bikes and addressing complaints promptly regarding inappropriately parked bikes. Unlike other providers, LimeBike offers a subsidy free arrangement coupled with a relatively low user cost structure and a relatively large fleet of bicycles.

The enclosed agreement provides LimeBike an exclusive right to provide bicycle sharing in the City for a two year period, with the possibility of a two year extension and a termination clause if needed. The City will work with LimeBike to establish preferred parking locations and to ensure the orderly implementation of the bikesharing service. The City will also work with LimeBike to ensure the orderly deployment of the bicycles.

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BUDGET IMPACT:

No additional City funds are required to implement the bikesharing program.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION REQUESTED:

The Department of Transportation recommends and requests that City Council approve the attached resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute the enclosed agreement with LimeBike.