



Approve Reprogramming Funds for the Regional Bike Share Project

Consent

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Attachments: No

Approved by: James Corless

Referring Committee: Transportation

1. Issue:

Consideration of an administrative action to reprogram remaining funds on the Regional Bike Share project to a new project focused on planning and implementing the next iteration of bike share and shared micromobility in the region.

2. Recommendation:

The Transportation Committee unanimously recommends that the SACOG board approve an administrative action to reprogram funds from the existing Regional Bike Share project to a new project focused on planning and implementing the next iteration of bike share and shared micromobility in the region.

3. Background/Analysis:

In 2013, the SACOG board awarded \$3.9 million in funding to pilot a Regional Bike Share project in the cities of Davis, Sacramento, and West Sacramento, and on the University of California (UC) Davis campus. In 2018, the regional bike share partners launched a fleet of 900 electric-assist bicycles across the entire service area. In 2020, JUMP/Uber pulled the fleet due to stay home orders and transferred operations to Lime. Since that time, partners have worked with Lime to relaunch bikes in Sacramento and West Sacramento, and are making progress toward the launch of a bike and scooter share (shared micromobility) pilot in Davis and UC Davis. Relaunching bike share with Lime has provided an opportunity to maintain bike share operations in the near term and test ridership during the pandemic, all while continuing to evaluate the potential that our current operating model has, as well as the potential that other operating models have, in meeting our policy objectives of:

- Equity: providing an equitable system that increases access to transportation options;
- Environment: reducing vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions; and
- Economy: providing a civic amenity that enhances economic vitality.

To advance this analysis further, the SACOG board approved a bike share budget amendment to allow the Bike Share Project Management Team (PMT) to work with bike share technical expert consultant (Steer) to explore various operating models, pricing structures, and financing opportunities, and bring recommendations back to the Bike Share Policy Steering Committee (PSC) and SACOG board regarding next steps for improving and expanding our existing system.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

The PMT originally anticipated that work on the Regional Bike Share project would conclude prior to the expiration of the funds, which is June 30, 2023. However, due to the pandemic, changes in operators, and the dynamic marketplace of shared micromobility, the PMT has not been able to expand the system at the pace it had planned. As a result, there was \$690,542.34 remaining in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding on June 30, 2022. Since the PMT is still in the process of working with a consultant to explore the best strategic direction for bike share in the region, staff recommends closing out the original project and reprogramming the remaining funds to a new project that is focused on planning and implementing the next iteration of bike share and shared micromobility.

This administrative action aligns with recent Bike Share PSC and SACOG board direction to complete an existing conditions analysis, operating model analysis, and market sounding analysis to bring options back to policymakers on a path forward for bike share and shared micromobility in the region. Reprogramming the remaining funds to a new project will provide:

- more flexibility to partners in determining the best use of the remaining funds;
- the opportunity to take advantage of changes made to CMAQ eligibility that were made as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which now allows project sponsors to use CMAQ on shared micromobility operating costs; and
- more time to consult with other cities and counties in the region that are interested in bringing shared micromobility to their jurisdictions to maximize benefit of this analysis.

Staff will return to the board by early 2023 with recommendations on how to spend remaining funds, which will be informed by the research analysis that is now underway with the bike share technical expert.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

The SACOG Board awarded \$3.9 million for the Regional Bike Share project. This action does not change the total funding amount; it extends the timeline for the project and broadens the eligible uses of the funding source.

6. This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Objectives:

Objective 2: Establish the Sacramento region as a testbed and scale-up location for innovative mobility solutions.

Goal 1 : Advance Economic Prosperity

Objective 3: Improve people's ability to get to jobs, schools, and other economic opportunities.

Goal 2 : Connected Communities