



Santa Fe Metropolitan Planning Organization

"Promoting Interconnected Transportation Options"



December 10, 2015

Santa Fe Bike Share Up-Date

- A. PUBLIC GATHERING – November 19th @ Iconik Café – The evening gathering sponsored by the Santa Fe MPO with Tomas Rivera representing the Chain Breaker Collective and Erick Aune representing the Santa Fe MPO was well attended. The gathering resulted in a lively 90 minute discussion with a highly engaged audience approximately 30 people were in attendance. The purpose of the gathering was twofold:
1. Inform folks who may not be aware of efforts to expand ABQ's BICI Bike Share program to Santa Fe; and
 2. Discuss the pros and cons of how a bike share programs and how one may be implemented in Santa Fe.

A few take aways from the gathering: Members of the Chain Breaker Collective were well represented and with clarity, expressed their concerns about bike share programs nationally and inherent social equity elements associated with them. I believe it is fair to state that they are fundamentally opposed to a bike share expansion program in Santa Fe. They believe it would not benefit the constituent base they represent and ultimately they express fear that if public funds are allocated, they may be siphoned from other critical services such as transit. Alternatively, several members of the audience reflected their support for the expansion articulating the benefits to visitors and locals alike. Several people were impressed with Downtown ABQ's efforts and believe it would be a nice fit for Santa Fe and ultimately add value to both the bike culture and investment in bicycle infrastructure throughout the City.

The MPO is focused on developing a two year "pilot" program with the expansion of Downtown ABQ's BICI bike program as supported by the Zagster bike share company. As with the BICI bike program the MPO is encouraging private sector and non-profit sector funding to begin the pilot project and then provide an annual evaluation for all stakeholders to be well informed regarding future investment decisions. Please note at this time Santa Fe County (Economic Development) has expressed interest in participating in the pilot project and the New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department has committed funding for the pilot project.

On social equity, Downtown ABQ, the Mid-Region Council of Governments and the MPO take these issues very seriously and believe that the opportunity exists for our metro areas to build a program that strives to address those needs. Examples intended to increase access to a diverse constituency include keeping annual fees low, keeping the option for annual, monthly and daily fees, and using potential grant funds to subsidize stations near or in federally funding affordable housing complexes. The MPO has included recommended locations, and localized demographic data that was folded into the PNM request for funding. Additionally BICI Bikes is partnering with

a local Credit Union to assume the risk for those who do not have credit cards as their disposal. In fact, a local Credit Union found in both metro areas has officially agreed to do just that. They will be working on the logistical details for several months and are looking to have this service available by the summer of 2016.

- B. The Mid-Region Council of Governments and Downtown ABQ are administering a first year on-line bike share survey to garner input and help gauge the functionality of the existing program. Once results are published the MPO will share with the BTAC.
- C. It is the goal of the MPO through the implementation of the Bicycle Master Plan to have a bike share pilot program up and running by May 20th 2016 in conjunction with Bike-To-Work Week. Details of course, are actively being fleshed out and will continue through the winter. We believe having the BTAC formalize support or otherwise, regarding this endeavor would be a responsible component to the planning of this project. As in the past, the MPO will continue to approach the planning of bike-share for Santa Fe in a thoughtful and comprehensive manner. We look for your guidance and initiative regarding how the BTAC may or may not want to pursue formal support.

Respectfully Submitted:

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