

Bike share program comes to KU

Yesterday, April 2, the University of Kansas announced the launch date (Wednesday, April 18) for a new bike share program on the KU campus. Knowing these bikes will not remain on campus only, and will be used to travel throughout the community, the City is in talks with KU on a plan of action to protectively address concerns and potential issues. The item will be presented on next week's City Commission agenda.

The bike share is a one-year pilot program at no cost to the City or KU. The program is consistent with many City transportation goals. Most bike share programs are not free to governments and/or universities and cost more than \$100K a year to operate. The operational costs in this program are the responsibility of the vendor. The vendor plans to add e-bikes to the fleet at KU and accessibility bikes (trike and hand-cycle) too. The plan is to start with 180 bikes with some of the bikes placed around Lawrence at designated locations for community use. The dockless locations will be geofenced, which will be predetermined before bikes will be made available. An education program will also be undertaken by the vendor to educate the public about the bikes and how the system works. The pricing structure provides options, including monthly and annual bike share packages, as well as ride-as-you-go pricing.

The bikes are a durable, geared bike, having solar-powered lights, double kickstand, theft proof bolts, GPS tracking, phone or PIN accessibility for use, and a mobile device app. There is also the potential to expand the program with additional bikes at the City's request at no cost to the City.

