



TO: Nicholas Mimms, PE, City Manager

THROUGH: Rebecca Grohall, AICP, Planning Director

FROM: Kori Benton, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: **St. Lucie County Transit Services Bike Share Program
Interlocal Agreement Authorizing Placement of Bicycle Stations within City Parks**

DATE: September 25, 2017

STAFF REPORT

Request

An interlocal agreement with St. Lucie County is being presented to the City Commission in an effort to provide St. Lucie County capacity to locate bicycle share facilities within City right-of-way or park land, adjacent to bicycle pathways or related transportation routes, as part of their transportation services system. The initial pilot program features five (5) bicycle station locations in the City Limits, with three (3) proposed on land under City control.

Bicycle Share Program

The proposed program initiated by St. Lucie County seeks to install and operate a countywide, two-year pilot bike share system. The new pilot program will initially be supported by nine stations and fifty specialty bicycles. The station locations are designed to integrate with the existing St. Lucie Transit System, and promote access to important activity destinations in downtown Fort Pierce and along Hutchinson Island. Station locations were determined as a result of a careful selection process with assistance from the Cities of Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie Transportation, Planning Organization, and the Florida Department of Transportation.

The downtown Ft. Pierce and Hutchinson Island portion of the system, consists of four (4) stations and approximately 25 bicycles, is programmed to become operational sometime in early Fall 2017. These stations include Marina Square, Causeway Park, Jetty Park, and Jaycee Park. A primary station will be placed at the County Intermodal Transportation on Avenue D with the initial roll out. Additional stations, or adjustment to stations, are a component of the program as quantitative data and qualitative feedback are collected during the pilot program timeline.

The proposed stations at Marina Square, Jetty Park, and Jaycee Park are located within City controlled lands, therefore the proposed interlocal agreement would provide approval to the County for installation and maintenance of these locations, and subsequent locations authorized under the program.

The new Fort Pierce Bike Share stations will provide a non-motorized transportation amenity allowing City residents and visitors to take short trips around the popular historic downtown and between Hutchinson Island Public Park and commercial destinations without the use of automobiles.

Reduced and simple rental charges are available to City (County) residents at \$1.00 for the first hour and \$2.00 per hour thereafter (typical bike share trips generally last from 25 to 45 minutes). Visitors will be charged \$2.00 for the first hour and \$4.00 per hour thereafter.

St. Lucie County Funding

The majority of the capital costs in conjunction with this pilot project have been obtained through the Florida Department of Transportation Intermodal Development Program with much of the Ft. Pierce stations' capital and operating funding derived through the St. Lucie County Municipal Service Tax Unit. The City of Fort Pierce is not committing resources to the lease of equipment, insurance coverage, or continued operation/maintenance of the program at this time. The fiscal support to the project is estimated at \$1,000-2,000 in order to provide any concrete necessary to complete two (2) bicycle station pads, and minor sidewalk connections to bicycle station locations. Impact Fees for transportation related facilities may be an appropriate source of said funding.

Staff Notes

This program is consistent with the City of Fort Pierce's investment in park enhancement, multimodal transportation, and increased access and accommodations for bicyclists. Additionally, the program furthers numerous Goals, Objectives, and Policies within the City's Comprehensive Plan, and the 2012 Comprehensive Plan amendment which seeks implementation of a Bicycle Facilities Improvement Program (BFIP). A collection of these guiding policies and objectives furthered by the proposed program are presented below:

1.22 Objective

The City will coordinate land use and transportation decisions to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and the number of automobile trips required for daily needs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through implementation of the following policies:

1.22.1 Policy:

The City shall maintain a well-connected pedestrian and *bicycle network* to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by completing missing sidewalk and bicycle segments through incorporation of projects into the City's Capital Improvements Program and through regional coordination efforts with St. Lucie County and the FDOT.

1.22.2 Policy:

The City shall improve access to transit, bicycling and pedestrian facilities. The City shall implement land use and community design features which contribute to energy efficiency and green house gas reduction, including, but not limited to:

4. Requiring provision of pedestrian/bicycle facilities in all new developments and redevelopment proposals
5. Requiring access to existing transit facilities as well as construction of new transit shelters associated with new development.

2.13 Objective:

The City shall support bicycling and walking as integral parts of the City's multimodal transportation system by providing connected, convenient, and user-friendly facilities along with requiring developments to be designed incorporating bicycle and pedestrian-friendly principles.

2.13.7 Policy:

The City shall prepare a Citywide Bicycle Facilities Report that inventories and evaluates the City's bicycle facilities network and develop a plan to provide an interconnected bicycle facilities network within the City to comply with Section 163.3180(5)(b)4, F.S.

2.3.5 Policy:

The City shall implement a “complete streets” policy which is designed and operated to address the needs of drivers, public transportation vehicles and patrons, bicyclists, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities in all planning, programming, design, construction, reconstruction, retrofit, operations, and maintenance activities. The City shall view all transportation improvements as opportunities to improve safety, access, and mobility for all travelers in Fort Pierce and recognizes bicycle, pedestrian, and transit modes as integral elements of the transportation system.

2.13 Objective:

The City shall support bicycling and walking as integral parts of the City's multi-modal transportation system by providing connected, convenient, and user-friendly facilities along with requiring developments to be designed incorporating bicycle and pedestrian-friendly principles.

2.13.8 Policy:

The City shall implement a Bicycle Facilities Improvement Program" (BFIP) in phases as bike lanes are constructed in key areas of the City specifically park and recreational facilities, transit stops and public spaces, as identified in Phase 1.

2.13.9 Policy:

The bicycle facilities utilized as part of the BFIP shall include covered and uncovered bicycle parking areas, fix-it stations, long term bicycle storage lockers and solar powered tracking devices.

2.13.10 Policy:

The LORs shall identify reduced parking requirements for all development contributing to the facilities identified in the BFIP that are above the established multi-modal requirements.

Future Action

Planning Staff seeks to provide the Parking Committee and City Commission an annual update regarding this innovative program, reporting ridership activities, funding levels, and opportunities of expansion.