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COPY: Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee
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PRESENTER: Meredith Soniat, Public Works Department; Steve Victor, City Attorney's Office
SUBJECT: Bike and Scooter Share Pilot
DATE: November 14, 2018

PRESENTATION TYPE:

Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

Public Works Department staff will present an overview of dockless bike (Lime) and scooter share (Lime and Bird) pilot.

BACKGROUND:

The Puget Sound Regional Council expects that by 2040, Tacoma will grow by 127,000 new residents and will provide 97,000 additional jobs. Tacoma's future transportation network will support options that provide safe and welcoming travel for people in all modes. The majority of trips in Tacoma today are made by single occupancy vehicles, which take up a disproportionate amount of space on the roadway network and contribute to congestion. The Transportation Master Plan sets citywide targets for 2030 commute mode split of 8 percent walking, 4 percent biking, and 10 percent transit – up from 5 percent walk and bike (combined) and 5 percent transit in 2012. One way to shift travel patterns is by providing access to these transportation options through shared vehicles such as bike share.

In 2017, the City of Tacoma completed its Bike Share Feasibility Study that evaluated the potential traditional dock-based bike share in Tacoma. The feasibility assessment identified a number of significant challenges to implementing a bike share program in Tacoma. In the summer of 2017, dockless bike share debuted in the United States, starting in Seattle. Since then, dockless bike and scooter share have started to provide transportation options for people in cities across the country.

On September 21, 2018, Lime brought 100 dockless bikes and 250 scooters. Bird subsequently launched on October 13, 2018, with an additional 250 scooters. Modeled off of the Seattle dockless bike share permit, Tacoma has permitted these transportation options to operate in Tacoma for an initial 60-day pilot with the potential to extend.

ISSUE:

The 60-day pilot period is coming to a close for both Lime and Bird on November 20, 2018, and December 12, 2018, respectively. Lime has requested a 60-day extension of their permit, and staff plans to grant this extension through January 20, 2019. The purpose of the pilot is to collect data on usage and to gather feedback from community members. Feedback submitted through either 311 or via direct email to staff is being used to structure an appropriate permit for a longer-term agreement.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.