Bike-sharing program pedals to Public Works Committee

Measure on the agenda for Wednesday’s meeting

The Public Works Committee will discuss a resolution Wednesday (July 11) to create a bicycle-sharing program in Milwaukee that if approved could start up in spring 2013.

The multifaceted resolution – file# 120428 (attached) – directs city departments to assist and support efforts to establish and maintain bicycle facilities including bike-sharing programs and installations. The measure directs the commissioner of Public Works and the commissioner of City Development to collaborate with appropriate community and business organizations, including Midwest Bikeshare, Inc., in the implementation of a bike-sharing program.

Alderman Robert J. Bauman, the primary sponsor of the resolution, said more than 20 large U.S. cities – including Madison, Chicago, Des Moines and Minneapolis – have implemented or have begun implementing bicycle sharing programs which have been found to increase bicycle access in central business districts, reduce parking demands, promote tourism and increase bicycling activities even among experienced bicyclists.

“I think Milwaukee has made tremendous progress in making many streets, neighborhoods and commercial areas more bicycle and pedestrian friendly, and I think we are ready for a bike-sharing program that will be an asset to our citizens and the city as a whole,” Alderman Bauman said.

Alderman Nik Kovac, Alderman Michael J. Murphy, and Alderman Tony Zielinski are co-sponsors of the resolution, which will be heard by the Public Works Committee at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, July 11, in room 301-B at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.

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