Bike-sharing program moves forward with committee approval

A public bike-sharing system for the City of Milwaukee picked up the endorsement of a key Common Council committee on Wednesday, putting the city on track to launch 28 bike-sharing kiosks by the end of next year.

With the sponsorship of committee chair Robert Bauman and council members Nik Kovac, José G. Pérez, Tony Zielinski and Michel J. Murphy, the resolution received the unanimous approval of the Public Works Committee. Working in partnership with the State of Wisconsin and the nonprofit Midwest BikeShare, Milwaukee would expand upon the single bike-sharing kiosk currently in operation near Discovery World, beginning in the central city and moving outward into neighborhoods.

“Bike-sharing programs have been embraced by our Midwestern neighbors in cities like Madison, Minneapolis and Chicago, as well as residents in more than 30 cities nationwide,” Alderman Bauman said. “With its growing concentration of urban professionals trying to minimize their dependence on cars, Milwaukee is ideally suited for this program. It will be another powerful tool for expanding economic activity in the city.”

The program would be made possible by a grant agreement with the state, whereby the city would contribute $320,000 toward the project in order to secure almost $1.3 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program funds. With the Public Works Committee’s approval, the full Common Council is expected to take up the resolution at its meeting on December 17.

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