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Implementing the Yote Bikeshare Program

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SUSTAINABILITY CAPSTONE Final Report

Introduction

As a relatively compact city, Vermillion has the potential to support a strong bike culture. Increased biking in Vermillion has many benefits for our campus and community, including decreased congestion of parking lots on campus and streets around campus, improved health of those who bike, and mitigation of environmental impacts such as emissions from transportation.

The implementation of a bike share program on campus is one way to increase bike culture because it would provide students with access to bikes on an as-needed basis. A need assessment survey for the potential implementation of this program conducted by Vermillion's "Making Lighter Footprints" Committee showed a positive response from the many USD students who participated.

In order to improve the bike culture on campus and address the interest expressed by students who participated in the survey, the Sustainability Club applied for the SGA Green Initiative Fund in October of 2016, and was awarded the \$4,950 grant in November of 2016. Upon receiving the grant, Sustainability Capstone students developed a plan for a bike share program that will begin the implementation process in the Spring Semester of 2017. Sustainability Capstone aspires to have the Yote Bike Share Program up and running by the Fall Semester of 2017.



Major Components

Bike Details

We ordered 12 "cayenne" Earth Cruiser bikes from Two Wheeler Dealer in Sioux Falls, SD, as shown to the right. The bicycles are medium sized to fit the average heights of students and faculty on campus. We also ordered 12 "Kryptonite Keeper 12 Long Shackle U-locks" (with 2 keys), 4 "Lazer Sport Compact" helmets, several detachable wire baskets, 12 bike lights, and bike repair and maintenance items. We would like to label the bikes using stickers that read "Yote Bike Share," as well as the identification number, and phone number of UPD and the USD MUC help desk. The permanent location of storage for the bikes during periods of use is on the bike rack located southwest of the MUC by the USD Barnes and Noble Bookstore. In the event that the program is successful and we receive funding to purchase more bikes, we propose to store them on the bike racks in front of the Wellness Center. During periods in which the bikes cannot be used such as winter and spring break, they will be stored in a garage connected to the McFadden residency complex.



Item	Cost/ Item	Quantity	Total
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Earth Cruiser Bike	\$329.00 each	12	\$3,948
Locks	\$28.95 each	12	\$347.40
Head/tail lights	\$14.99/set	12	\$179.88
Helmets	\$35.00 each	4	\$140.00
Repair Parts & Tools	---	---	\$150
		TOTAL	\$3,765.28
Project assistant	\$12.00/hr at 150 hours	1	\$1,800
		TOTAL	\$5,565.28

Program Maintenance

We chose to utilize the MUC help desk staff to perform tasks such as the check-out/in of bikes and safety equipment, provide basic availability information, administer waivers, inspect bikes after returned by students, contact students for late return of bikes, and hold responsibility for reporting bike damages to the project assistant. The project assistant, who we propose to be a student eligible for work-study, will be responsible for maintenance and cleaning of the bikes. UPD and Two Wheeler Dealer have both offered the opportunity to host a training session for the project assistant to learn how to properly maintain the bikes. The project assistant will also be given the opportunity to advance the program, and develop a more efficient check in/out system. Due to our limited budget to start the program, we decided to use a paper system to manage the bikes, but ideally the program will be transferred to a more technological system in later stages of development. Both the check-out/in sheets and paper versions of the waivers will be kept at the MUC help desk. In addition, we have permission to recognize Paul Formisano as the faculty advisor of the program.

Waiver

Before the student may check out a bicycle, they must sign the liability waiver administered by the MUC front desk employee that excuses the university's responsibility to cover injuries, student responsibility for the return of bike on time, student responsibility to lock the bike at all times, and student responsibility to report damage to the MUC help desk or theft to the MUC help desk and UPD immediately. A copy of the waiver can be found below.

**University of South Dakota - Yote Bike Share Program |
ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND WAIVER FORM**

BIKE #:

I, _____ being over 18 years of age, desire to participate in the Yote Bike Share Program. I am aware that riding a bicycle can be a dangerous activity involving many risks of serious injury.

I agree to adhere to all city, state, and federal laws and regulations as well as university policies regarding the operation of bicycles.

I hereby represent that I am in good physical condition and do not know of any condition or reason that I should not be able to operate one of the bicycles provided through the Yote Bike Share Program. I further acknowledge that the University of South Dakota has no duty to supervise, monitor or provide assistance (medical or otherwise) in connection with my use of a bicycle from the Yote Bike Share Program.

FINANCIAL LIABILITY

I understand that I am responsible for the care and on-time return of this bicycle. If the bicycle is lost, stolen, or irreparably damaged due to my neglect; or if the helmet or lock are lost or damaged, I agree to pay the following repair/replacement costs.

Check the items you are checking-out: Fee if lost/stolen/damaged

- Bicycle (lost or stolen).....\$300
- Bicycle (damaged).....\$100
- Helmet.....\$35
- Lock.....\$35

Furthermore, I understand that this bicycle is due back at the point of loan **before the facility closes today**. USD Police Department will be notified of any non-returns. **Failure to pay these fines will void my ability to check out bikes from the Yote Bike Share Program in the future and will result in a charge to my student account in the amount owed.**

By my signature below, on behalf of myself, my heirs, next of kin, successors in interest, assigns, personal representatives, and agents, I hereby:

1. Waive any claim or cause of action against and release from liability the State of South Dakota, South Dakota Board of Regents, University of South Dakota, its officers, employees, and agents for any liability for injuries to my person or property resulting from my participation in the Yote Bike Share Program;
2. Agree to indemnify and hold harmless the State of South Dakota, South Dakota Board of Regents, University of South Dakota its officers, employees, and agents for any claims, causes of action, or liability to any other person arising from my participation in the Yote Bike Share program;
3. Agree to all of the terms and conditions as referenced in this waiver.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF THE RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AND CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT, ASSURANCE, OR GUARANTEE BEING MADE TO ME AND INTEND MY SIGNATURE TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Phone # _____

Email Address: _____ USD ID #: _____

Signature: _____

Terms of Use

We propose that students may check bikes for free, for one day between the hours of 8:00am-10:00pm. Students will be notified by email and phone call by the MUC help desk staff or the project assistant in the event that they fail to return the bike on time. After one week of no response or return, we propose that UPD is notified and a

report is filed. If the bike is lost, there is no response, or the bike is not returned by the last day of finals, we propose that UPD is notified, a report is filed, and the USD Business Office charges the student the full price of the bike. In addition, the student must sign waivers before check out at the MUC help desk, and provide appropriate contact information including name, phone number, local address, and student ID number. Also, the student must check out and return the bike at MUC help desk.

Green on Green Kickback

The Green on Green Kickback event was a special project created by our team to spread awareness for the new Yote Bikeshare Program on our campus while



simultaneously giving students the opportunity to utilize the available greenspace on the University of South Dakota campus. The event was intended to be a three-hour outdoor fair featuring live music by local musicians, free food from local vendors, and the opportunity for students to hear about new sustainability initiatives coming to campus. Due to inclement weather, the event was moved to an alternative location (the Muenster University Center Pit lounge). Inside, we were still successful at attracting a large student-base through live music and R Pizza. Our capstone team worked closely with students from the Sustainability and Science class to make this event a success. The students volunteered by hanging flyers, setting up the event, and brainstorming ideas of how to make the event more interactive with students. One such way of increasing student interlacement was by constructing a photo booth (example

above). We gave away over 140 slices of pizza, meaning we were able to share

information about the Yote Bikeshare program and the Give N Go initiative with at least that many people.

Summary

Overall, our team has experienced a positive reaction from the student body about the new Yote Bikeshare program. We hope that this excitement lasts throughout the summer and gives students and faculty a chance to ride the bikes and explore Vermillion this fall. Supplying the community with a free bike sharing program is the first step in increasing bicycle awareness and accessibility in our community, which falls in line with the sustainability capstone’s idea of a cleaner, greener future for USD and the Vermillion area.

