



## Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Debra Figone

**SUBJECT:** SPONSORED TRAVEL TO THE NETHERLANDS FOR BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION STUDY TOUR

**DATE:** 08-13-10

### RECOMMENDATION

1. Accept invitation from the Bikes Belong Foundation to participate in a transportation study tour of urban bicycling best practices in the Netherlands from August 28 to September 4, 2010. The conference sponsor will pay for travel and accommodations costs.
2. Approve travel to the Netherlands for Manuel Pineda, Acting Deputy Director for Transportation Planning and Project Delivery as the City's official staff representative on the study tour.

### BACKGROUND

The City of San Jose is gaining increased national attention as a leader in environmental sustainability and green mobility, based on the bold programs and policy leadership described in the "San Jose Green Vision" plan adopted in 2007. In alignment with the Green Vision / Green Mobility plan, San Jose's bicycle transportation program is generating national interest and recognition for excellence. For example:

- San Jose has received awards as a "Bicycle Friendly City" by the League of American Bicyclists.
- Over the past three years, San Jose's bicycle mode share for commuting has tripled, representing the fastest growth rate in the country according to data from the American Community Survey.
- San Jose's urban trail network at 53 miles is already among the largest in the nation and is planned to grow to 100 miles.
- San Jose's Street Smarts program was ranked best in the nation for bicycle safety education by the Alliance for Biking and Walking.
- In 2009, the City Council adopted the ambitious San Jose Bike Plan 2020 that sets forth a network of 500 miles of on-street bikeways and trails with a vision of being among the best big cities in the nation for bicycling.

The Bikes Belong Foundation has invited San Jose officials to be part of a small delegation of U.S. city leaders working to achieve balanced, sustainable urban mobility with bicycling as an integral mode. The delegation will participate in a one-week transportation study tour of urban

bicycling best practices in the Netherlands from August 28 to September 4, 2010. A copy of the draft itinerary is attached. The Netherlands is the world leader in implementing a safe and efficient bicycle transportation network. The city of Amsterdam has a bicycle mode share of over 40%. Other city officials joining the U.S. delegation include representatives from San Francisco and Boston.

Bikes Belong Foundation is a national 501(c)(3) tax exempt non-profit organization based in Boulder, Colorado that is focused on getting more people riding bicycles more often with an emphasis on bicycling safety and children. It is the host organization for the U.S. Safe Routes to Schools National Partnership. Bikes Belong Foundation leads efforts to import, share and adapt international best practices in bicycle transportation to America.

Bikes Belong Foundation is seeking participation on the Netherlands study tour by both elected officials and senior staff members involved with bicycle transportation policy and planning. Bikes Belong Foundation will cover all expenses for the trip, including airfare, accommodations, ground transportation and most meals. Councilmember Sam Liccardo has received a direct invitation and is planning to attend. I have selected Manuel Pineda, Acting Deputy Director for Transportation Planning and Project Delivery to be the City's staff representative.

Pursuant to San Jose Municipal Code Section 12.08.030 (I), sponsored travel and expenses of a designated City employee do not constitute a prohibited gift under the City's gift ordinance, but must be accepted by the City Council. In addition, travel outside the United States is permitted under the Political Reform Act and not subject to the gift limits if the travel meets two prongs under Government Code Section 89506(a)(2). First, the travel must be reasonably related to a legislative or government purpose; second, the travel must be provided by, among other entities, a nonprofit charitable organization which is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The payments must be reported by Mr. Pineda on his Form 700 and may subject him to disqualification for 12 months after the date of the payments if Bikes Belong Foundation ever comes before the City for business. (FPPC Regulations § 18703.4.)

The travel expenses to be provided by the Bikes Belong Foundation for San Jose's participation are estimated to have a value of approximately \$3,500 per person.

### **ANALYSIS**

A primary goal of the bicycling study tour to the Netherlands is to gain a perspective on how their facilities are conceived, built, financed and used, with an eye toward adapting strategies to the political and cultural climates of the United States.

Participation by San Jose on the tour will have the following benefits for the City:

- Increase knowledge on best design practices for bicycle transportation systems that support San Jose's bicycle master plan implementation.
- Gain new ideas to enhance the City's bicycle safety education and encouragement programs.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

08-13-10

**Subject: TRAVEL TO NETHERLANDS FOR BICYCLE STUDY TOUR**

Page 3 of 3

- Learn of opportunities for encouraging increased bicycling by non-governmental organizations.
- Develop contacts with bicycle transportation stakeholders involved with influencing national policy relative to funding and design standards.
- Opportunity to increase recognition of San Jose's Green Vision and San Jose's leadership in the area of green mobility and sustainability.

Overall, these benefits are expected to help expand funding opportunities, accelerate implementation of San Jose's bicycle transportation infrastructure, and achieve increased bicycle travel and safety. Correspondingly, these actions support the City's goal of achieving a more sustainable, healthy and livable community.

### **COORDINATION**

This memorandum was coordinated with the Department of Transportation and the City Attorney's Office.

DEBRA FIGONE  
City Manager

For questions, please contact Hans Larsen, Acting Director of Transportation at (408) 535-3835.  
Attachment