



# NEWS

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## **Montco Looking To Expand Bike Share Program after Success of Pilot Program**

**Norristown, PA (September 10, 2015)** – The success of Montgomery County’s bike share program on county trails initiated in April has given the Montgomery County Commissioners the impetus to explore the possibility of expanding the program on a permanent basis. On Thursday, the commissioners voted to authorize the issuance of a request for proposals (RFP) for bike share companies to bid on expanding the bike share program countywide.

The county, in conjunction with Zagster, a bike share provider and operator, launched a pilot bike share program in April for its trail system. The pilot program established just two docking stations and rental locations. One was at Lower Perkiomen Valley Park in Oaks near the junction of the Schuylkill River Trail and the Perkiomen Trail, and the other was at the head of the Pennypack Trail, just off Huntingdon Pike in Lower Moreland.

Six bicycles were available at each station, and since April business has been brisk. In all, there were 951 total trips or rentals, which is an average of almost 200 per month. The average trip length was two hours and 50 minutes, and the program has 526 active members. Sixty-five percent of the trips originated from the Pennypack Trail location with 35 percent from the Oaks location.

With the RFP, the county is seeking an organization able to provide a complete turnkey package for the comprehensive bike share program. The plan would be for the package to include, at a minimum, bikes, storage racks, maintenance and repair, a reservation and payment system, marketing services, and online user metrics for the county. In addition to providing the county these services, the county also wants all interested municipalities in Montgomery County to be offered the opportunity to access the program in a way that is compatible with the county, and at the same cost. This would allow the counties and municipalities to offer a comprehensive bike-share program throughout the county.

Montgomery County has over 60 miles of trails with an additional 10 miles in design or under construction. An estimated 800,000 people use the Schuylkill River Trail each year, with another 400,000 using the Perkiomen Trail. In the next two years, improvements or extensions are planned for the Schuylkill River Trail, Chester Valley Trail, Pennypack Trail, Wissahickon Trail Connector, Cross County Trail, the Norristown Trail Center, and the Sunrise Trail.