

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:**           **REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN “BIKE TO WORK WEEK”  
BREAKFAST AT CITY HALL**

**BACKGROUND:**

As part of National Bike Month throughout May, the Ames Bicycle Coalition (ABC) has invited the City of Ames to participate in activities that promote recreational and commuter biking. Specifically, ABC requested City Hall serve as a breakfast host site during National Bike to Work Week, May 11-15. It was suggested that the City kick off the week with breakfast the morning of Monday, May 11.

As in previous years, several local businesses and organizations are offering morning refreshments to encourage biking as a healthy, environmentally friendly way to get to work or school. The number of bicyclists is growing rapidly from coast to coast. The National Household Travel Survey showed that the number of trips made by bicycle in the U.S. more than doubled from 1.7 billion in 2001 to 4 billion in 2009. Because Ames residents have expressed interest in sustainability, healthy lifestyles, and affordable transportation, encouraging bike riding in the community seems appropriate.

The estimated cost to host a light breakfast (bagels, juice, and coffee) would be less than \$250 and would be paid for out of Council Contingency funds.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the request and allocate Contingency Account funds to host a breakfast in front of City Hall as part of Bike to Work Week activities.
2. Do not approve the request

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Through our efforts to promote alternate forms of transportation, updates to our Long-Range Transportation Plan, community engagement initiatives with local bicyclists, and participation in the Healthiest Ames and Healthy Streets programs, this opportunity aligns well with City Council goals. Hosting an event that encourages biking will provide an additional opportunity to gather feedback about biking preferences and challenges in Ames from cyclists. City of Ames employees have volunteered to greet riders and serve food, and City Council Members could assist if schedules permitted.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1.