

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. Again this year, ABC has requested that City Hall serve as a breakfast host site during National Bike to Work Week, May 16-20. It was suggested that the City kick off the week with breakfast the morning of Monday, May 16.

Last year’s event at City Hall was well attended despite cold, wet, dreary weather. Cyclists were very appreciative of the support. City Hall would be joining several local businesses and organizations throughout the week offering morning refreshments to encourage biking as a healthy, environmentally friendly way to get to work or school. The number of commuter bicyclists continues to grow rapidly from coast to coast.

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 Open 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.