

## Bruins, Eric

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**From:** Bruins, Eric  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 2:37 PM  
**To:** 'Allyson Vought'  
**Subject:** RE: Bike Share

Hi Allyson,

Thank you for your comments. I will share them with our Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee for their consideration.

Regards,  
-Eric

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**Culver**CITY

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Allyson Vought <[allysonca@mac.com](mailto:allysonca@mac.com)>  
**Date:** March 13, 2017 at 9:11:53 PM EDT  
**To:** [art.ida@culvercity.org](mailto:art.ida@culvercity.org)  
**Subject:** Bike Share

Greetings;

I've just read the new Bike Share proposal for Culver City.

It's very comprehensive and something that I am always in favor of in any community. Sadly, there is one glaring problem. Reliance on pedal only bikes that will result in decreasing ridership over the term simply because of the fact that the general population is lazy and care not to put in an effort to utilize bikes as an alternative mode of transit. Most people are not cyclists and given any type of topography that creates a physical challenge from an effort to propel a heavy 40 pound bicycle is doomed to low ridership.

I urge you to look to a pedal assist system and not a pedal only bike.

Sadly, not everyone feels electric pedal-assist bicycles have a role to play in the bike share industry's equity efforts at this time, but I would hope that Culver City could be the first to explore this option here in the greater Los Angeles area. Currently, Birmingham is the only city in the United States to offer electric pedal-assist bicycles. A quarter of the bike share system's powered fleet are electric pedal-assist, and managers there said they were attracted to an electric option because of its ability to reduce physical and mental barriers associated with

riding. Internationally, Rotterdam recently announced it would launch an electric bike share system using pedal assist's, though the appeal there seems more tied to being a "smart city" and embracing new technology rather than being equitable alternative transit method.

I've long been an advocate for anything relating cycling along with a robust infrastructure that will support alternate transportation modes. To me pedal assist is the only way to grow the bike share, and hopefully will lead to a greater infrastructure connecting to surrounding Cities. Whether battery or hydrogen powered, the only alternative to growth is being overlooked.

Sadly I was too late for Los Angeles.... the decisions were already made and we are stuck with a system that is marginal at best. In that I urge you to expand your scope and look to a bike share that is innovative and attractive to a wider segment of the population. Have your consultants look to the future and not the present. Add the pedal assist option to your plans. Grow towards the future, and not rely on antiquated methods of transportation.

I would be happy to come and discuss my experiences with you and do feel free to call if you would like additional information.

With warmest regards,

Allyson



#### **LOS ANGELES COUNCIL DISTRICT 15 BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTEE**

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