



GRAND RIVER PUBLIC BIKE SHARE NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2013

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THE LATEST FROM GRPBS: CITY AGREEMENT

By Prasad Samarakoon, GRPBS

City of Waterloo staff has worked with City legal counsel to prepare a legal agreement that allows Grand River Public Bike Share to place bike share stations within the City right-of-way. The agreement will come into effect on December 1, 2013 and is valid for five years. The agreement was prepared by City legal counsel and the Authorized Signing Authority for Grand River Public Bike Share Limited has signed the agreement. It is anticipated that as part of the first phase of the Bike Share program four (4) stations will be placed on City of Waterloo lands, and that additional stations will be proposed as the program evolves.

STREET CRED: GRAND RIVER PUBLIC BIKE SHARES THEIR VISION WITH THE OPEN STREETS WATERLOO CROWD

By Maurice Kumalo, GRPBS

If you have ever had a chance to go to Europe then you know that one of the pleasures of visiting that continent are the plazas or squares in the centre of most town. On any given night you will find thousands of people walking around the square going to restaurants, watching street performers, or just enjoying the night air. Fortunately, for those of us in Waterloo we have Open Streets. Grand River Public Bike Share ([GRPBS](#)) had a booth at the July, 20th, 2013 Open Streets where about 75 visitors over four hours heard our vision of a bike share programme here in Waterloo. GRPBS are in the advanced planning stages before our 2014 launch a system of 10 stations initially centered on the universities that will eventually expand outwards.



GRPBS Demo Bike and Booth at Open Streets Waterloo

Users will borrow a bicycle using their smart phones or other web enabled devices ride to another station near to their destination. Thus, Waterloo will join the 240 bicycle share programs around the world.

In addition two of our members, Mike, and Lorenzo, also participated in the Together We Travel Cycle event to honour fallen cyclists, with Lorenzo riding our demo bicycle, before our booth was opened, to show our support for the cycling community. The GRPBS booth was located near Willis Way and King Street North near the lane between Starbucks and Scotia Bank in Uptown Waterloo. Manning the booth were our volunteers; Prasad Samarakoon our director and co-founder, Lorenzo Carboni, Daneal O’Habib, Mike Playford, and Hamza Sayed who answered the questions of our visitors at our booth from 6pm until 10pm. However, if you missed our booth at Waterloo Open Streets you can still help improve our process by participating in our station crowd source [map](#). The more people participate the better our service will be when we roll out in 2014.



A close-up of a GRPBS bike



NEITHER, SLEET, NOR RAIN, NOR SHINE—GRPBS COMES TO A WINDY 2013 GET INVOLVED FAIR AT WILFRID LAURIER

By Maurice Kumalo, GRPBS

Those of us expecting another pleasant exhibition of GRPBS at the 2013 Get Involved Fair at Wilfrid Laurier were in for bit of surprise courtesy Mother

Nature. Every group and club imaginable at Laurier and beyond were exhibited at Alumni field and the adjacent parking lots interrupted by curious visitors at our stalls and gusts of wind from the sunny yet cooperative weather. Coordinating this day for WLU was Megan Lacoursier , and GRPBS wishes to extend our thanks to and her team. Also our superstar volunteer and WLU alumni, Mike Playford played an important role along with this author holding the fort literally and figuratively. While the wind did its work our curiosity did its work and we had a steady stream of visitor inquiring about our bike share. Fielding this questions were volunteers Mike, our director Prasad Samarakoon and this author. Those visitors shared their views with us and were nearly to a person looking forward to our launch in 2014 with great anticipation especially the prospect of a station near WLU!



GRPBS at 2013 Get Involved Fair

So stay tuned and spread the word 2014 is just around the corner.

BIKE SHARES SHARE THE WEALTH WITH SURROUNDING BUSINESSES, STUDY FINDS

By Maurice Kumalo

We know that cycling is a good form of exercise, well it turns out that if you do it as part of bike share program its good for the local economy too. A 2012 [study](#) from Humphrey School of Public affairs at the University of Minnesota found that the bike share users in the twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul brought in an additional \$150,000 to the local economy per year.

This information bodes well for the economic pros Grand River Public Bike Share's potential impact on the businesses around our bike share stations. So spread the word; bike sharing can literally spread the wealth.

GET INVOLVED

If you have questions or expertise about bike programs, please join the email-based GRPBS Community Bike Forum. There are rarely more than a couple message a week, discussions focus on bike sharing and other forms of bicycle programs. It provides those new to the movement an opportunity to get information that will help them along and those with experience an opportunity to share their knowledge and further expand the movement. To subscribe send an e-mail to info@grandriverpublicbikeshare.ca. Please forward this information to others who might be interested.