

Members of the Topeka Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board,

Since September of 2019, a cross-sector bike share task force has met for the purpose of developing an effective and sustainable bike share program in Topeka. This group has included representatives from the City of Topeka, Shawnee County Parks and Recreation, Shawnee County Health Department, Kansas Health Institute, Washburn University, Topeka Community Cycle Project, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas, United Way of Greater Topeka, and local businesses.

During this time, the members have looked carefully at data, best practices among bike share programs, and community backing to support this work. When Topeka Metro made the decision to partner with the City of Topeka to contract with Zagster, this group shifted its focus to develop core values and metrics to serve as a local advisory group to measure success of the program while also working with the vendor to seek out further sponsorship opportunities.

Recently, when the group learned that Zagster had ceased its national operations, the focus shifted again to the support of the existing bike share program in Topeka. At our meeting on June 24, we learned that the Topeka Metro Board would be voting on their budget on June 29 and that this vote would include a decision about whether to continue the bike share program.

As part of our June 24 meeting, we, the Topeka Bike Share Task Force, affirmed the following:

1. Our goal is to support a sustainable and effective bikeshare program in the community, regardless of the program's manager.
2. If it is not possible for a sustainable and effective bikeshare program to continue, this group supports distribution of existing bikes through a community partner.
3. If bikes are not distributed in this community, we support reutilization of these bikes as a fleet and ensuring it benefits another community. We do not support scrapping these bikes.

Further, we are committed to our continued work to maintain an effective and sustainable bike share program in Topeka.

Sincerely,

The Topeka Bike Share Task Force