



**COLUMBUS PUBLIC HEALTH – Press Release
FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER**

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**COUNCIL MEMBER O'SHAUGHNESSY & COMMISSIONER LONG
INTRODUCE CITY BIKE PROGRAM**

Program seeks to reduce transportation cost & get city workers active!

The City of Columbus today introduced its new employee bike program to reduce gas usage, lower its carbon footprint and promote active living within its workforce. Council Member Maryellen O'Shaughnessy and Health Commissioner Dr. Teresa Long joined city employees at Columbus Public Health (or at city hall) for the program's inaugural ride.

"This cost-saving project is a great way to get to a nearby meeting or to use on the lunch hour to grab a bite and stay active," said Councilmember Maryellen O'Shaughnessy, chair of the Public Service and Transportation Committee. "Instead of getting in a City vehicle for a five minute trip, employees can choose to get active."

The initiative is possible thanks to assistance from Columbus Division of Police, who donated 10 bicycles from the Police Impound Lot and the City's Fleet division, who prepared the bikes for the road.

The bicycles, equipped with helmets and locks, will be located at city buildings. Helmets were donated by the Center for Injury Research and Policy at Nationwide Children's Hospital. The initiative will place 6 bikes at City Hall, 2 bikes at Columbus Public Health and 2 bikes at the Jerry Hammond Center.

"This pilot represents one more step toward making Columbus a more active, vibrant community," said Dr. Teresa Long. "The choices that we make are shaped by the choices that have. Today, we are giving our colleagues at the city one more way to make healthier choices to stay active."

The City's Facilities Division will be responsible for policies and standards on related to bike racks, bike use, liability, and any other process issues. For more information on Columbus Public Health or the Institute for Active Living, please visit our web site at www.publichealth.columbus.gov.

