

I want to write in support of HB57 a bill establishing a grant program to fund public bike share for Alaskan communities.

Shared bike programs are relatively new throughout the world and have generally been successful. HB57 would allow Alaskan communities to among the first in the world to have some exciting new developments for commuting bikes. A couple of examples; a new company named Breezer bikes makes a bike specifically designed to be a no-frills, durable and low-maintenance yet of good quality and specifically designed for commuting. Here is an article and their website:

http://www.popularmechanics.com/science/4271520?click=main_sr

<http://www.breezerbikes.com/>

A truly revolutionary system is on the horizon as well. It uses the ever-increasing abilities of cell phones and GPS to administer a public bike sharing program. This is, it would be possible for a subscriber to walk up to a locked public share bike, unlock the bike with the cell phone, ride to your destination, lock the bike and walk away and not worry about returning it to a central location. New York city is going to implement it.

Company website:

www.socialbicycles.com

HB57 would provide the funding necessary to make use of these kinds of new technologies and potentially change the face of transportation in communities throughout Alaska.

You can bet if this bill passes I will be active in my community deploying these new technologies. I strongly urge the passage of HB57.

Thank you, Ryan Kennedy