

Eileen Marum

Marion Planning Board

Bikeway Project

November 7, 2017

RE: V Bikes

The Bikeway Project meeting was held Tuesday, November 7, 2017 in the conference room of the First Citizens Federal Credit Union Administrative Building, 200 Mill Street, Fairhaven.

Town administrators, select board members, planning board members and tourism directors attended the Bikeway Project to learn of a new bike sharing concept geared toward communities where visitors/tourists may arrive via boat or bus and no public transportation /taxi service is readily available.

The silver bicycles with solid rubber yellow wheels are oversized BMX bikes parked in loose clusters on sidewalks, libraries, museums, bus stations and train terminals in downtown areas and are already being used in several Texas communities, downtown Dallas, Ft. Worth and Denton. The bikes are not locked down to a permanent rack, but their rear wheels locked. The V-Bike is single speed with two hand brakes, and the brake lines that are completely hidden. A generator-driven light system is affixed to the front wheel, and each bike comes with a tracking locator. The saddle is not adjustable for height, but it would work for people from 5'2" to six feet tall.

To access the VBike, one must download an app to their cell phone and simply turn on the Bluetooth, approach the bike, aim the phone at the lock and the U-lock around the rear wheel disengages. Many people return the bike to the same place, but there are designated cluster areas shown on a downloadable map where one can leave them and manually close the rear wheel U-lock. The app will give you a trip summary with the cost and mileage, and other details including carbon emissions saved.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen J. Marum

Chairman, Marion Planning Board