RESOLUTION 48-11

Title: **Bicycle Sharing Programs**

Introduced by: **Brian M. Salata, for the Medical Student Section**

Original Authors: **Brian M. Salata, David S. Rogawski, and Priyanka Shah**

Referred to: **Reference Committee D**

House Action:

Whereas, bicycle sharing programs improve the health of a city by reducing air pollution, noise pollution, and traffic, and

Whereas, AMA policy encourages town, city, and county governments to support community exercise venues as cited in Resolution D-470.993, and

Whereas, exercise from bicycling reduces the risk of numerous health conditions such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease and cancer, thus reducing the overall cost of health coverage, and

Whereas 78 cities in 16 countries, including American cities such as Washington, DC, Chicago, and Denver, have bike sharing programs with a total of 70,000 bikes, and

Whereas, cities have partnered with advertising firms to reduce the cost for bicycle sharing patrons, and

Whereas, bike sharing has advantages over personal bike ownership such as reduced theft and elimination of the need for personal bike storage and maintenance, and

Whereas, bike sharing programs create a friendlier environment for bicyclists and pedestrians, thus improving community spirit, and

Whereas, Madison, Wisconsin, has similar demographics, size, and weather as Ann Arbor, Michigan, and will be implementing a B Cycle bike sharing program in May 2011 with 350 bikes at 35 kiosks, and

Whereas, demand for bike sharing programs would be high in Michigan cities such as Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, and Traverse City, due to city structure and demographics, and

Whereas, according to bcycle.com, a bike sharing program in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in which 10% of the citizens each travel 30 miles would reduce carbon emissions by 22,562 gallons of gas, saving $334,323 while also burning 21,422,130 calories, and

Whereas, according to bcycle.com, a bike sharing program in Grand Rapids, MI in which 10% of the citizens each travel 30 miles would reduce carbon emissions by 60,918 gallons of gas, saving $902,690 while also burning 57,841,020 calories; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS actively support Michigan city governments in their investigation of the feasibility and economic sustainability of bike sharing programs; and be it further,

RESOLVED: That MSMS actively supports the implementation of a bike sharing program if the investigation provides adequate verification of its practicality, potential health impact and economic viability.[1]

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

[1] Midley, Peter. "The Role of Smart Bike-sharing Systems in Urban Modality." Journeys; May 2009 http://www.docstoc.com/docs/37244959/The-Role-of-Smart-Bike-sharing-Systems-in-Urban-Mobility