

Boise GreenBike adds bicycles and stations

By: Teya Vitu March 10, 2017 0



A GreenBike station in downtown Boise. The city is going to add 16 new bike stations this year. File photo.

Boise's bike sharing program will double the number of stations where riders can rent and return bikes and add 15 bikes to the fleet.

Boise GreenBike will enter its third year in April with 129 bicycles, a number that director Dave Fotsch wants to build to at least 200 bikes. In May, 16 new bike stations will be in place in addition to the 15 original branded hubs and another 21 flex hubs, where Boise Greenbike stickers are attached to existing public bike racks.

The new bikes were funded with a \$19,920 Communities in Motion Implementation grant from the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho. A \$40,000 grant from the city of Boise and support from a handful of businesses and other organizations paid for the new stations, Fotsch said.

Boise GreenBike has attracted 7,517 active members since the program's launch in April 2015 with 25,960 rides recorded in 2016, director Dave Fotsch said.

Nearly all the new branded hub stations will be at new locations. Ten will be in parks along the Boise River. Others will extend the reach of Boise GreenBike to Harris Ranch, Dutch Bros. Coffee at 15th and State streets, the Red Lion Downtown, and the Ada County Highway District office, Fotsch said.

"From Day One, we have tripled the number of places you can lock the bikes," he said. "These are places where people are riding."

Boise GreenBike offers monthly and annual memberships, but 82 percent of the members are pay-as-you-go for \$5 an hour, which increased from \$4 on March 1.

More branded stations allows for more station sponsorships, which make up 75 percent of Boise GreenBike's \$261,000 annual income, Fotsch said.