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MAYOR EMANUEL ANNOUNCES DIVVY TO CARRY OUT NEXT MAJOR EXPANSION, EXTENDING BIKE SHARE SYSTEM'S REACH TO NEW CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOODS

*Divvy to Add 75 More Stations to Serve Additional Areas of Chicago
Extending Reach of Largest Bike Share System in North America*

Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced today that Divvy will launch the next major expansion of the City's popular bike sharing system in summer 2016, adding 75 additional bike stations in Chicago to what is already the largest bike share in North America in terms of geographic area. The expansion will extend Divvy's service area in the City to the south, southwest, west and north. And through an ordinance introduced today, Divvy will go beyond the City's borders, leveraging a state grant to install 13 stations in Oak Park and eight in Evanston.

"Divvy has been a great success story and is a major reason why Chicago has become one of the most bike-friendly cities in the country," said Mayor Emanuel. "Now we are building on that success. This new expansion will ensure more residents in more neighborhoods can access this system and enjoy the transportation and health benefits of biking."

After this next round of expansion, Divvy, which features signature blue bikes, will offer a total of 571 stations and more than 5,000 bikes, up from the previous number of 475 stations and 4,750 bikes.

The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT), which operates Divvy in conjunction with the bike share company Motivate International, will be expanding into new neighborhoods that include Austin and Garfield Park on the west side; Burnside, Chatham, Greater Grand Crossing, Brighton Park and Englewood on the south side; and Rogers Park on the far north side. Station locations in Evanston and Oak Park will be decided by those two municipalities.

Last year, in order to make Divvy more accessible to people on limited incomes, the City launched the *Divvy for Everyone* program, under which Chicagoans with income under 300 percent of the federal poverty level qualify for a one-year membership at a cost of only \$5 for the full year.

Additionally, Mayor Emanuel and CDOT introduced to City Council two Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) covering Divvy's expansion to Evanston and Oak Park. The cost of the expansion is being covered by a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) with Chicago, Evanston and Oak Park each providing the required 20 percent local cost share match. The

suburban municipalities are establishing their own separate contracts with Motivate International to maintain and rebalance their stations and to ensure that the City of Chicago does not incur costs due to suburban operations.

Last year, the Mayor celebrated the installation of 106 miles of protected bike lanes since he first took office, surpassing the goal of 100 miles. Chicago now has 292 miles of designated bike lanes. Over the next four years, the City is committed to installing 50 miles of better bike lanes.

Chicago was recently honored for having two of “America’s 10 Best New Bike Lanes of 2015” by the bicycling advocacy group People For Bikes: the new barrier protected bike lane on Clybourn, constructed by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT); and the new two-way protected bike lane on Clinton Street in the West Loop, built by CDOT as part of the Loop Link project.

“CDOT is looking forward to this next expansion phase and building on the great momentum that we achieved in Divvy’s first two plus years as we extend Divvy’s reach to even more Chicago neighborhoods,” CDOT Commissioner Rebekah Scheinfeld said. “Divvy’s popularity is evident from its ridership numbers: it recorded a 30 percent increase in the number of trips last year with almost 3.2 million trips in 2015, compared to 2.4 million in 2014. The system has almost 32,000 annual members and the bikes are used year-round. More than 900 rides were taken this past Sunday with a high temp of 27 and a low of just 4 degrees. It’s clear that Divvy has become an integral part of Chicago’s transportation network.”

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) signed on in 2014 as the System Sponsor for Divvy. Each Divvy bike sports their logo and tagline “Enjoy Your Ride.” BCBSIL’s community investment not only supports the Divvy system, but also supports bike lanes and bike facilities.

About Divvy

Divvy is Chicago’s newest transit system, giving Chicago residents and visitors a bike on-demand at hundreds of stations across the city. Intended to provide an additional transportation option for getting around, Divvy is a convenient, fast, fun and affordable. For more information and a map of station locations, visit DivvyBikes.com. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois is the exclusive System Sponsor of Divvy.

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