

Civic Minds

Date: Friday, March 18, 2016

E-Edition Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Article Title: Seattle to buy and expand failing bike-share program

Section: Main, A1

Vocabulary:

Look up the definition of ***insolvent***. Please write the definition and create a new sentence, using your own words.

“Documents in January revealed it to be ***insolvent***.”

Comprehension Questions

1. The Seattle City Council voted 7-2 on Monday to buy what?
2. Monday's vote approved an ordinance releasing \$_____ million from the city's budget to rescue Pronto, which launched in October 2014 under nonprofit ownership.
3. The program's ridership and revenue have fallen short of expectations: Pronto had 142,846 trips and 3,000 members in its first year. What numbers were projected?
4. The existing program has _____ stations in Seattle — and _____ bikes, according to Pronto. But the city Department of Transportation, which asked the council for approval to purchase Pronto, intends to expand the system in 2017 to include many more stations and, possibly, some electric bikes.
5. Users pay \$_____ a day or \$_____ for three days to rent the bikes for unlimited 30-minute trips, returning them to any station. Annual memberships start at \$_____.
6. Proponents of the takeover, including Councilmember Mike O'Brien, who chairs the council's transportation committee, said owning Pronto will give the city what?
7. They called Monday's move a modest investment to help provide people across the city with what?
8. Cowdery, 50, lives in Belltown and rides Pronto bikes to the post office, the bank and meetings. She said she owns her own bikes but prefers not to use them for errands and commuting. Why?
9. The council approved amendments to the Pronto purchase ordinance Monday required SDOT to do what?

Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts:

Pronto's critics contend the program has struggled because Seattle is hilly and rainy, while proponents claim it will succeed if more stations are added, particularly near transit hubs like two light-rail stations opening Saturday.

- What do you think it will take for Pronto to succeed in Seattle?

Essay

\$1.4 million dollars for a failing bike riding program in Seattle.

- Do you think this is what taxpayers want their hard earned money spent on? Why or why not?
- Would you ride if you lived or worked near a Pronto station? Why or why not?
- Why do you think the model is failing so terribly?
- Do you think voters should be able to vote on issues like these? Why or why not?
- What do you think will be the end result of the bike program? Should more money be invested for electric bikes? Why or why not?
- Why didn't the City look for private companies to run this program, instead of taking on the financial burden themselves?

Newspaper-related CBA activity: U.S. Policy

How the United States government interacts with the world affects people across the globe. Analyze and evaluate the causes and effects of US foreign policy on people in the United States and across the world.

- Using The Seattle Times e-edition, find an article from this week that deals with world politics or foreign policy.
- What are the main points of view from someone living in that particular country? How is that "view" similar and different than your own opinion, regarding the specific issue the article is discussing?
- Why is it important to study and learn about foreign policy? How does it help you understand the world we live in, using current issues and events?

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