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Bike, bus and car to race on Friday

A race between transportation modes – bike, bus and car – will be held through Des Moines on Friday, May 30, as a cap to Bike Month.

The Bike Bus Car Challenge will feature local elected officials, including Polk County Supervisor Angela Connolly and Des Moines City Council Member Christine Hensley on bus, as well as media members, including Des Moines Register business editor Lynn Hicks on bike. The challenge starts at 7 a.m. in front of Plymouth Church at the corner of 42nd Street and Ingersoll Avenue and end at Des Moines Central Library at 1000 Grand Ave.

The event is being organized by the Des Moines Bicycle Collective and the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART) to promote the convenience and affordability of alternative transportation, especially for short trips. In the Des Moines metro, 50 percent of all trips taken by car are three miles or less, and 25 percent are less than one mile, according to the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Bike: The average annual cost of operating a bike is \$308 per year, according to the League of American Bicyclists.

Bus: The annual cost of riding a DART bus is no more than \$696 per year for individuals buying \$58 monthly Express Plus passes – and free to employees of several of the region’s major employers. Those include the City of Des Moines, Davis Brown Law Firm, Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Des Moines Public Schools, Des Moines University, Drake University, EMC, Grand View University, ING, Nationwide, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Principal and Wellmark.

Car: The average annual cost of owning a car is \$9,122 per year, according to AAA. This figure is based on 15,000 miles of driving and includes fuel, maintenance and insurance. Driving also has many indirect costs, including road and parking construction and maintenance.

For more information about the Bike Bus Car Challenge, call Kirstin Baer-Harding with DART at 515-283-8132 or Beth Hicks with Bike Month at 515-556-0586.

The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority is the public transportation provider that serves Polk County. DART operates a family of transportation services that makes getting around the Greater Des Moines area easier and more convenient. For more information about DART services, schedules, route changes, or directions to the nearest DART stop, visit the website at www.ridedart.com or call 515-283-8100. The MyDART Trip Planner BETA is now available at www.ridedart.com.