



**Date:** February 13, 2007

**To:** Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Bonnie Lowenthal, Vice Mayor and Councilmember, First District *BL*  
Suja Lowenthal, Councilmember, Second District  
Patrick O'Donnell, Councilmember, Fourth District *PO*

**Subject:** **Study of Car-sharing Programs**

---

The City of Long Beach is an outstanding leader in alternative modes of transportation, with convenient access to bus and rail, and miles of bicycle lanes.

A growing alternative transportation program in other cities is car-sharing. Car-sharing organizations, such as Flexcar and City CarShare, allow people to share access to hundreds of vehicles, often within a close distance to home or work, for an hourly rate that covers gas and insurance. These time-share automobiles allow organization members to have occasional access to a car without the costs or hassles of ownership.

Car-sharing programs are a convenient, affordable, reliable, and environmentally beneficial alternative in personal transportation. Such programs are especially valuable in parking-impacted communities and low-income communities.

A few years ago, Long Beach residents enjoyed the pilot car-sharing program run by the nonprofit Bikestation Coalition in partnership with Flexcar. Currently, car-sharing organizations operate in the cities of Los Angeles, Seattle, San Diego, San Francisco, Chicago, Washington DC, and Portland, among others.

**Recommendation:**

Request report from the City Manager on (1) car-sharing programs in cities around the nation and (2) the attainability of establishing a car-sharing program in Long Beach.