

capital bikeshare

What is bikesharing?

Bikesharing is bike transit - automated, public, bicycle rental like SmartBikeDC, the District's 100-bike system run by ClearChannel Outdoor since 2008.

What is happening with bikesharing now?

The success of the SmartBike program has led to demand for more bikes and stations. There is also interest in a regional system. In response, DC and Arlington County will launch a new bikesharing system in September 2010 with roughly 1100 bikes at 114 stations. There is also a new name for the system: Capital Bikeshare.

When will the new bikes be available?

The new system is scheduled to be up and running by September 2010.

What system are we using?

The new system is called Public Bike System, commonly known as "Bixi." This system has been running in Montreal since 2009 and will be arriving soon in Minneapolis, Melbourne, and London. The stations are solar powered and use wireless technology to allow for easy installation and adjustments. It looks different, but the Bixi bicycle has many of the same features as the Smartbike: 3 speed, internal hub gears, fenders, chain guard, lights, and a front rack. Alta Bicycle Share will operate the system with local staff.



Where can I rent one?

One thousand bikes will be available at 100 locations throughout the District in all 8 wards as well as 14 more stations in the Crystal City area of Arlington County (the Crystal City Business Improvement District is helping finance the program). A map with locations is available at CapitalBikeshare.com.

How much will it cost to use the bikes?

There will be three levels of memberships: an annual membership for \$75; a monthly membership for \$25; and a 24-hour membership for \$5. All of these memberships allow for an unlimited number of rentals. After the first 30 minutes of free use, members will be charged a usage fee for each additional increment of 30 minutes.

Do I have to return it to the same location?

No. You may return the bike to any one of the 100+ locations in DC or Arlington. However, if the station at your desired endpoint is full, you must return it to another location.

How will you prevent people from keeping or stealing the bikes?

Only members can release a bike from the station. The system knows who has released which bike from which station. If it's lost or stolen, the member who released the bike will pay for a replacement bike.

What about helmets?

The bikeshare system does not include helmets. DDOT and Arlington support helmet use and encourage members to bring and wear their own helmets.

What happens to Smartbike members?

Current members will transition to new Capital Bikeshare memberships after joining online.

What happens to the SmartBikes themselves?

DDOT and Clear Channel Outdoor are working out the future of the SmartBikes in the context of the bus shelter advertising agreement.

For more information, visit www.CapitalBikeshare.com



District Department of Transportation

