

After a slow start in the 1990s, bike sharing has exploded in popularity since about 2010, according to the Transportation Sustainability Research Center at UC Berkeley.

It's now available in 780 cities worldwide, including 60 in the United States, said Susan Shaheen, co-director of the research center.

"There are people that are using this as a form of public transportation," Shaheen said. "This is a new transportation mode, and how many times do we see that in our lifetime?"

Bike sharing has some drawbacks, such as the difficulty of making multiple stops without carrying a personal bike lock with you.

San Diego's plan to join the trend has also been criticized as premature, and for not serving many of the city's poorest neighborhoods, where it could arguably do the most good.

"Having more access to bikes definitely plays a role in reducing pollution and production of greenhouse gases, but there's a lack of adequate infrastructure in the city to accommodate biking," said Monique Lopez, a transportation policy advocate at the Environmental Health Coalition in National City.

Lopez is referring to San Diego's relative lack of protected bike paths and safe cycling routes, something the city's bicycle master plan hopes to remedy in coming years.

In December, the City Council approved an update to the plan that calls for adding 595 miles of bikeways across the city by filling gaps in the existing 510-mile network and creating new paths.

Lopez also criticized the city's plan for not including low-income neighborhoods, such as City Heights, Barrio Logan and Sherman Heights.

The initial 180 stations also exclude suburban neighborhoods, such as Rancho Peñasquitos and Tierrasanta, communities near the border and everywhere east of 30th Street.

"It works best in urban areas with a lot of activity," said city spokesman Bill Harris, explaining that the private vendor operating the stations needs revenue to exceed expenses. "You're not going to see bike-sharing stations in the outlying communities for a while. They don't provide the same kind of possibilities that downtown and the beach areas do."

PAGE:

1 (/news/2014/nov/02/bicycle-bike-sharing-commute-transportation-deco/?#article-copy)

2 (/news/2014/nov/02/bicycle-bike-sharing-commute-transportation-deco/2/?#article-copy)



(/news/2014/nov/02/bicycle-bike-sharing-commute-transportation-deco/2/?#article-copy)

You Might Also Like

(http://www2.forbes.com/entrepreneurs/top-10-ski-resorts-in-america/?utm_campaign=top-ski-resorts&utm_source=Outbrain&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=30871131) (<http://www.healthcentral.com/disease/cf/slideshows/foods-eat-and-avoid-atrial-fibrillation?ap=825>) (http://paidpost.nytimes.com/farmers/in-against-the-unexpected.html?_r=0#.VDRBCSldW7b) (http://www.lifescrpt.com/health/centers/diabetes_2/articles/tom_hanks_reveals_diabetes_diagnosis.aspx?utm_source=outbrain&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=diabetes2)

We Recommend

- **[Man Shot By Motorcyclist Succumbs To Injuries](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/nov/10/man-shot-golden-hill-died-hospital/)**
([Http://Www.Utsandiego.Com/News/2014/Nov/10/Man-Shot-Golden-Hill-Died-Hospital/](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/nov/10/man-shot-golden-hill-died-hospital/))
- **[Jerome Clary Officially Out For Season](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/nov/18/chargers-jerome-clary-hip-surgery-contract/)**
([Http://Www.Utsandiego.Com/News/2014/Nov/18/Chargers-Jerome-Clary-Hip-Surgery-Contract/](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/nov/18/chargers-jerome-clary-hip-surgery-contract/))
- **[Defense Great, But Aztecs Must Fix O Page 2 Of 2](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/nov/18/sdsu-defense-aztecs-offense-utah/)**
([Http://Www.Utsandiego.Com/News/2014/Nov/18/Sdsu-Defense-Aztecs-Offense-Utah/2/](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/nov/18/sdsu-defense-aztecs-offense-utah/))
- **[Drew Ford, A La Mesa Iconic Dealership, Has Been Sold Along With Drew Hyundai](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/nov/18/drew-ford-sold-la-mesa-penske-dealership-cars/)**
([Http://Www.Utsandiego.Com/News/2014/Nov/18/Drew-Ford-Sold-La-Mesa-Penske-Dealership-Cars/](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/nov/18/drew-ford-sold-la-mesa-penske-dealership-cars/))
- **[Sea Stars Along The Coast Of San Diego Have Perished In An Outbreak Of Wasting Syndrome](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/nov/18/environment-sea-star-virus-san-diego/)**
([Http://Www.Utsandiego.Com/News/2014/Nov/18/Environment-Sea-Star-Virus-San-Diego/](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/nov/18/environment-sea-star-virus-san-diego/))
- **[33-Yr Sentence In Murder Of Young Mother Page 2 Of 2](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/nov/18/man-sentenced-2012-death-escondido-mother/)**
([Http://Www.Utsandiego.Com/News/2014/Nov/18/Man-Sentenced-2012-Death-Escondido-Mother/2/](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/nov/18/man-sentenced-2012-death-escondido-mother/))

Recommended by

37

COMMENTS

BE RELEVANT, RESPECTFUL, HONEST, DISCREET AND RESPONSIBLE. [COMMENTING RULES](http://www.utsandiego.com/commenting-rules/)
([HTTP://WWW.UTSANDIEGO.COM/COMMENTING-RULES/](http://www.utsandiego.com/commenting-rules/))



Add a comment...

Comment



John Thurston · Top Commenter · San Diego High School

With San Diego's year round mild climate it's amazing that it has taken this long for bikesharing to arrive.

In at times frigid Chicago, that have bike share stations everywhere and are extremely well received by locals and visitors alike. If they can do it, so can we.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 4 · November 4 at 5:58am



Gernot Trolf · Top Commenter · Merchant Academy Salzburg, Austria

Good idea but not on the beach where there are enough bike rental businesses already and you are taking away their bread and butter.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 2 · November 3 at 8:51am



Ted James · Top Commenter

I am glad the city didn't subsidize this business, that would be the city competing against private businesses on the beach. As long as this is just another privately owned company competing for business, I have no problems with them going into this market. It will ultimately be better for consumers.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 2 · November 3 at 9:04am



Ted James · Top Commenter

A look to the future, November 2015, the bike share experiment is over mainly due to the high cost of replacing stolen bikes. GPS chips indicate 95% of all bikes were sent to Mexico.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 1 · November 3 at 8:26am



Znarf Sino · Top Commenter · West Hollywood, California

Theft hasn't been a problem with any modern bike share systems. It wasn't a problem in NYC, it wasn't a problem in Chicago and it wasn't a problem in DC. All these places make SD look like heaven.

Reply · Like · 3 · Edited · November 3 at 8:30am



Ted James · Top Commenter

Those cities aren't a hop, skip, and a truck ride away from TJ. I admit, I'm a pessimist but there is a real threat to bikesharing in San Diego. It would be very cheap to "rent" a bike, throw it in your truck on the way home from work and viola! Your kid has a new bike in TJ or maybe you sell it for a profit. It's one of the joys of living in a border town.

Reply · Like · 1 · November 3 at 9:01am



Znarf Sino · Top Commenter · West Hollywood, California

Ted James it's not easy. They require a credit card and if you do not return the bike, they get charged \$1200. The bikes are also purposely unique, and do not use off the shelf parts so you can't even strip one down and sell the parts as they are useless.

Reply · Like · 5 · Edited · November 3 at 9:10am

[View 1 more](#)



TJ Applegate · Top Commenter · SDSU

Boondoggle . . .

Reply · Like · 1 · November 3 at 6:41am



Bill Davidson · Top Commenter · San Diego, California

Do you know what that word means?

Do you think that Decobike is wasting their own money in order to look like they're doing something?

Reply · Like · 3 · November 3 at 5:15pm



Alex Clarke · Top Commenter · CCMS

Anyone who rides a bike in downtown is putting their life on the line. Walk it is safer.

Reply · Like · November 3 at 5:39am



Bill Davidson · Top Commenter · San Diego, California

I used to work downtown and rode there all the time. I found it a pretty easy place to ride. Car speeds are low. It's easy once you figure out to use the full travel lane.

Reply · Like · 2 · November 3 at 10:38am



Eric Spoerner · Top Commenter · San Diego, California

Maybe exposing some more citizens to the dangers of bicycling will create a bit more political willpower to get safer infrastructure.

Reply · Like · 1 · November 3 at 11:18am



Derek Marlowe · Top Commenter · Panama City, Panama

There already are plenty of bike rental places at the beach and downtown neighborhoods and less costly. If a person rides the train or trolley to work and wants to cycle the last distance to their work, they would figure out its much less money to use your own bike, they are easy to take on the train.

Reply · Like · November 2 at 9:37pm



Znarf Sino · Top Commenter · West Hollywood, California

It's very clear you have no idea what you are talking about. Have you even used bikeshare before?

Reply · Like · 2 · November 2 at 10:58pm



Peter F. Desser · State University of New Mexico

You didn't even get started yet and you already killed your changes of success. Way over priced! What couple is going to pay you \$14 per hour to rent your bikes. Please give me a break. How about fixing your website first, it will not show your stations. Period!

Reply · Like · November 2 at 7:01pm



Bill Davidson · Top Commenter · San Diego, California

The price is due to the lack of government subsidies. Other cities in the country subsidize their programs so their prices are lower. It remains to be seen if these prices will discourage rentals.

Reply · Like · November 2 at 9:42pm



Znarf Sino · Top Commenter · West Hollywood, California

The pricing structure they have is actually quite unique. The other bikeshare systems do not even have hourly rates like the SD one. The yearly pricing isn't too bad compared to the other systems though and I like the month to month idea.

Reply · Like · November 2 at 11:04pm



Jon Steele

Is there a map of where the bike pick up/drop offs will be located?

Reply · Like · 1 · November 2 at 6:46pm



Znarf Sino · Top Commenter · West Hollywood, California

<http://www.decobike.com/sandiego/map-location> then download the whole thing if the map isn't working (at the bottom of the map)

Reply · Like · November 3 at 8:33am



Ken Platt · Top Commenter · Works at Dept of The Navy

Once again, the City is only thinking of downtown and the surrounding neighborhoods even though the MAJORITY of the residents don't live around there. The majority of the traffic during

though the MAJORITY of it's residents don't live around there. The majority of the traffic during rush hour comes from places like RB, Scripps Ranch, Poway, or Eastlake, all places without any efficient public transportation. Those folks will still have to drive and sit in the normal traffic everyday. These bikes do nothing for the citizens of San Diego....

Reply · Like · November 2 at 5:05pm



Bill Davidson · Top Commenter · San Diego, California

Actually, lots of citizens live in the areas where these are and it covers a lot of areas with plenty of tall multi-unit buildings (especially downtown) where the city is most densely populated.

These bikes are meant for short trips; not long ones. Certainly, the majority of traffic on the freeways is the long trip type. So? What does that have to do with anything?

This will serve people in downtown and uptown mesa and PB and some of Point Loma and Mission Valley. If you live out in the boonies, then it's not really for you. Take heart in the fact that you're not paying for it.

Reply · Like · 5 · Edited · November 2 at 9:41pm



Znarf Sino · Top Commenter · West Hollywood, California

They are specifically aiming at the tourist markets as a revenue generator to subsidize the locals. It's a smart move because of limited funds, as we have seen in other cities. It will eventually expand to the other parts of the city.

Reply · Like · 4 · November 2 at 11:01pm

Facebook social plugin



NEWS ([HTTP://WWW.UTSANDIEGO.COM/NEWS/](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/)) SPORTS ([HTTP://WWW.UTSANDIEGO.COM/NEWS/SPORTS](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/sports/))
 BUSINESS ([HTTP://WWW.UTSANDIEGO.COM/NEWS/BUSINESS/](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/business/)) ENTERTAINMENT ([HTTP://WWW.UTSANDIEGO.COM/NEWS/ENTERTAINMENT/](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/entertainment/))
 U-T TV ([HTTP://WWW.UTSANDIEGO.COM/TV/](http://www.utsandiego.com/tv/)) U-T VIDEO ([HTTP://WWW.UTSANDIEGO.COM/VIDEO/](http://www.utsandiego.com/video/))
 MILITARY ([HTTP://WWW.UTSANDIEGO.COM/NEWS/MILITARY/](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/military/)) OPINION ([HTTP://WWW.UTSANDIEGO.COM/NEWS/OPINION/](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/opinion/))
 U-T OFFERS ([HTTP://WWW.UTSANDIEGO.COM/OFFERS/](http://www.utsandiego.com/offers/)) CLASSIFIEDS ([HTTP://LOCAL.UTSANDIEGO.COM/SECTIONS/CLASSIFIEDS/](http://local.utsandiego.com/sections/classifieds/))
 REAL ESTATE ([HTTP://LOCAL.UTSANDIEGO.COM/SECTIONS/REAL-ESTATE/](http://local.utsandiego.com/sections/real-estate/)) CARS ([HTTP://WWW.UTSANDIEGO.COM/NEWS/CARS/](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/cars/))

U-T SAN DIEGO

About Us
[\(http://www.utsandiego.com/about-us/\)](http://www.utsandiego.com/about-us/)

Contact Us
[\(http://www.utsandiego.com/contact-us/\)](http://www.utsandiego.com/contact-us/)

Advertise with Us
[\(http://www.utsandiego.com/\)](http://www.utsandiego.com/)

Job Opportunities
[\(http://www.utsandiego.com/news/jobs-ut-jobs/\)](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/jobs-ut-jobs/)

Frequently Asked Questions
[\(http://www.utsandiego.com/faq/\)](http://www.utsandiego.com/faq/)

Privacy Policy
[\(http://www.utsandiego.com/privacy/\)](http://www.utsandiego.com/privacy/)

Terms Of Use
[\(http://www.utsandiego.com/terms-of-use/\)](http://www.utsandiego.com/terms-of-use/)

Subscription Information & Policies
[\(http://www.utsandiego.com/subscription-information-and-policies/\)](http://www.utsandiego.com/subscription-information-and-policies/)

Newspaper in Education
[\(http://nie.uniontribune.com/\)](http://nie.uniontribune.com/)

HELP

Customer Service
[\(http://www.utsandiego.com/customer-service/\)](http://www.utsandiego.com/customer-service/)

Manage Subscription
https://iservice.uniontrib.com/cgi-bin/cmo_cmo.sh/custservice/web/login.html

Vacation Stop
https://iservice.uniontrib.com/cgi-bin/cmo_cmo.sh/custservice/web/login.html

QUICK LINKS

Apps (<http://apps.utsandiego.com/>)

Mobile (<http://m.utsandiego.com/>)

E-edition
[\(http://www.utsandiego.com/todays-paper/\)](http://www.utsandiego.com/todays-paper/)

Guides
<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/entertainment/feature/business>

Archives
[\(http://www.newslibrary.com/sites/sdub/\)](http://www.newslibrary.com/sites/sdub/)

Buy U-T Photo
<http://signonimages.mycapture.com/mycapture/index.asp>

Business Listings
[\(http://www.utsandiego.com/places/\)](http://www.utsandiego.com/places/)

Special Ad Sections
[\(http://sandiegouniontribune.ca.newsmemory.com/ee/sandiegouniontribune/specials_pages.php/\)](http://sandiegouniontribune.ca.newsmemory.com/ee/sandiegouniontribune/specials_pages.php/)

Forums
[\(http://forums.utsandiego.com/\)](http://forums.utsandiego.com/)

Crossword
<http://crossword.uniontrib.com/news/features/crossword/index.html>

Sudoku
[\(http://www.utsandiego.com/sudoku/\)](http://www.utsandiego.com/sudoku/)

Horoscope
[\(http://www.utsandiego.com/horoscope/\)](http://www.utsandiego.com/horoscope/)

Gas Prices
<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/local-topics/transportation/>

Lottery
[\(http://www.utsandiego.com/lottery/\)](http://www.utsandiego.com/lottery/)

WSRadio
<http://www.wsradio.com/utsandiego>

CONNECT WITH THE U-T



SIGN UP FOR EMAIL ALERTS

([HTTP://WWW.UTSANDIEGO.COM/NEWSLETTER/SIGNUP/](http://www.utsandiego.com/newsletter/signup/))

Improve your browsing experience with a paid subscription to the U-T.

SUBSCRIBE

([HTTP://WWW.UTSANDIEGO.COM/S](http://www.utsandiego.com/s))

