



CITY OF DURHAM
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News Release

For Immediate Release: September 25, 2017

Share! #Durham now considering dockless bike share & wants public feedback. Demonstration event set for Oct. 4.

Durham Seeks Public Feedback on Dockless Bike Share

Survey Open for Resident Feedback; Demonstration Event Set for October 4

DURHAM, N.C. – Bike share, a new mobility option, may soon be coming to Durham and residents are encouraged to provide feedback now through an [online survey](#) and meet potential bike share operators next month.

The City of Durham Transportation Department has been [researching](#) the feasibility of bringing bike share, a system where bikes are rented for short, point-to-point trips, to the Bull City. In addition, dockless bike share operators have expressed an interest in operating in Durham, and City staff has been working on developing ordinance regulations along with permit and assessment processes that would allow companies to operate for one year.

According to Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner Bryan Poole with the City's Transportation Department, more than 55 cities have bike share systems, including New York City, N.Y., Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Ga., and soon Raleigh, N.C. Most of these cities use a smart dock system, where people find bikes at a dock and check them out by becoming annual or daily members. A membership typically costs \$8 for a day or \$80 for a year, but once a member the first 30 minutes are usually free.

[Greensboro, N.C.](#) and [Seattle, Wash.](#) are trying a new type of smart bike system, where each bike has smart technology and a locking mechanism, which means the bikes do not need to be picked up or left at a dock. Bikes can be found using a mobile app, and locked up anywhere after customers are done with the ride. Anyone with a smart phone can ride the bikes and the cost is per ride, usually \$1 for 30 minutes. Additionally, while traditional bike share companies

typically require federal, local and/or advertising funding, dockless bike share companies can operate with no investment from the City.

According to Poole, there are pros and cons with each type of system. For example, while a dock system has bikes in a set location, with smart bikes the bike location is never guaranteed. Additionally, the bikes do not need a bike rack and can be left anywhere, so there is potential for the bikes to become obstacles within the public right-of-way.

As City staff moves forward with this project, residents are now invited to share their thoughts about bike share and a new smart bike system through an [online survey](#). Dockless bike share companies will also demonstrate their bikes at an event on Wednesday, October 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at City Hall, 101 City Hall Plaza. Residents are invited to come try the bikes and ask questions of the operators and City staff.

For more information, contact Poole at (919)-560-4366, extension 36423 or Bryan.Poole@DurhamNC.gov.

About the City of Durham Transportation Department

The [Transportation Department](#) is responsible for a broad range of transportation services, which include traffic signs and signals, transportation planning, [parking operations](#), street lighting, taxicab administration, and bicycle and pedestrian planning. The department also oversees [GoDurham](#) and [GoDurham ACCESS](#) as well as leads planning functions for the [Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization \(DCHC MPO\)](#), which is the regional organization that is responsible for planning and programming state and federal transportation projects in the urbanized areas of Durham, Orange, and Chatham counties. Guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), the department helps to strengthen the foundation, enhance the value, and improve the quality and sustainability of neighborhoods that are necessary for a strong and diverse community.

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