

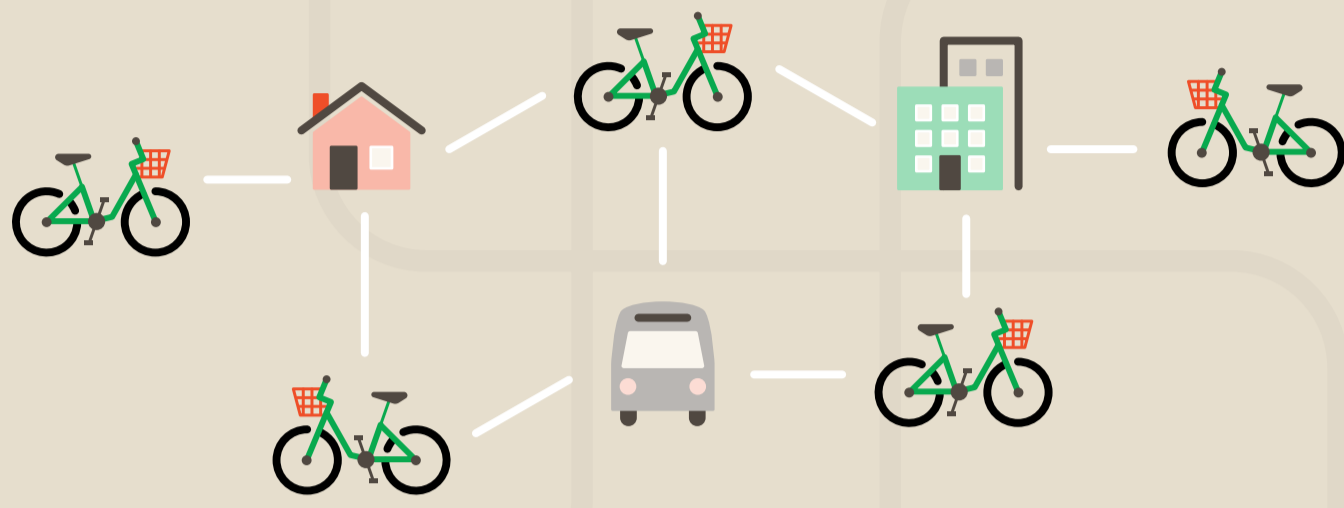
# RIDING THE BIKE-SHARE BOOM

## Top Five Components of a Successful System

The Institute for Transportation & Development Policy has identified the five most important elements for a cost-effective, high-performance bike-share system:

### 1 STATION DENSITY

A quality system needs **10–16 stations for every square kilometer**, providing an average spacing of approximately 300 meters between stations and a **convenient walking distance** from each station to any point in between.



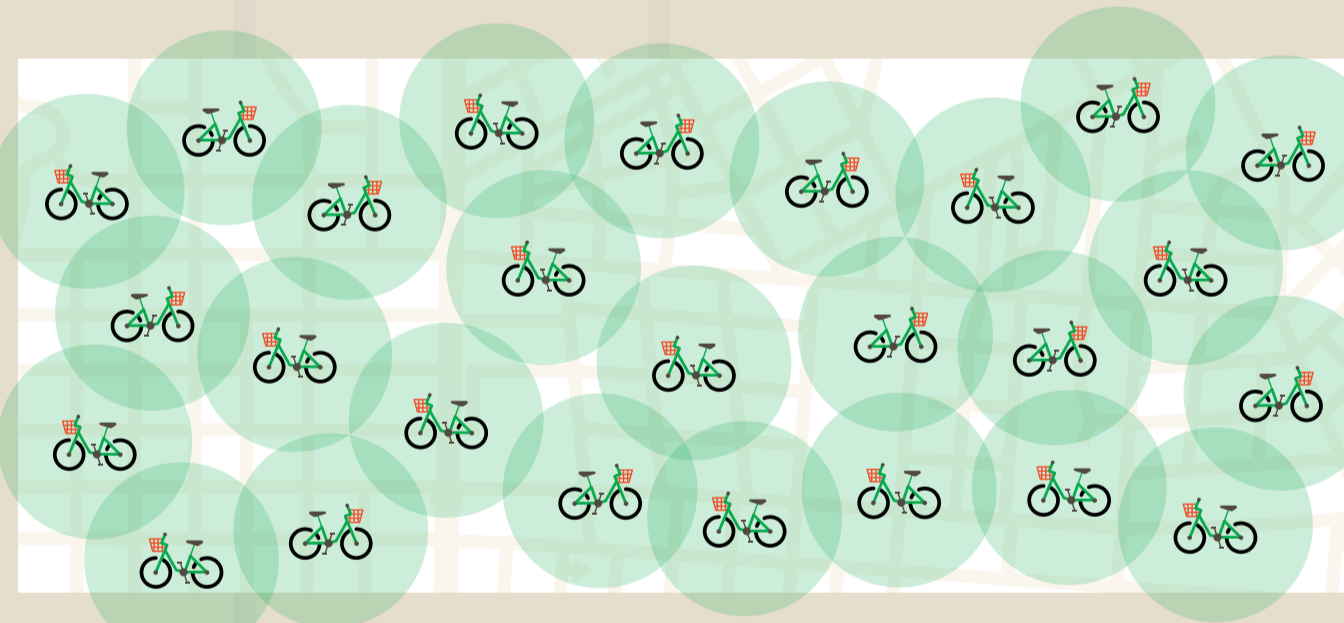
### 2 BIKES PER RESIDENT

There should be **10–30 bikes available for every 1,000 residents** within the coverage area. Larger, denser cities and metropolitan regions that have a large influx of commuters into the area served by the system should have more bikes available to meet the needs of both commuters and residents during peak demand periods.



### 3 COVERAGE AREA

The minimum area covered by a system should be **10 square kilometers**, large enough to contain a significant number of user origins and destinations. Smaller areas may drive down system usage.



### 4 QUALITY BIKES

Bikes should be **durable, attractive and practical** (with a front basket to carry bags, packages or groceries). The bicycles should also have specially designed parts and sizes, which discourages theft and resale.



### 5 EASY-TO-USE STATIONS



The process of checking out a bicycle should be simple. The payment and authorization technology should have an **easy-to-use interface**, a fully automated locking system, and real-time monitoring of occupancy rates (to track whether more or fewer bikes are needed for each station).