



The Impact of Public Bikesharing on Bicycle Safety in North America

To evaluate how the proliferation of public bikesharing systems has impacted bicycle safety within cities in North America.

WHAT IS THE NEED?

Public bikesharing systems have proliferated across cities within the United States, Canada, and Mexico in recent years. The result has been transformative on the mobility options available to residents of cities both big and small. People within these cities are bicycling more, often in substitute of all other modes. While the dynamics of bikesharing on modal shift are a subject of active study, it is clear that bikesharing is increasing the presence of bicycles on the urban streets of North America. Furthermore, many of the bicycles deployed in bikesharing systems are equipped with lights and brightly marked, increasing their visibility at night. The presence of bikesharing, and its inducement of bicycle travel, may have impacts on the broader safety of bicycling in North America. The increased presence of bicycles and prominence that comes with public bikesharing brings an elevated visibility and awareness of bicyclists on the street. At the same time, it also increases bicyclist exposure to motor vehicles, often without protective gear. What are the overall bicycle safety implications of bikesharing?

WHAT WAS OUR GOAL?

The goal of this project was to evaluate how the proliferation of public bikesharing systems has impacted bicycle safety within cities in North America.

WHAT DID WE DO?

This study was designed to explore whether there is empirical evidence as to whether bikesharing has had an impact on the broader safety of bicycling within cities across North America.

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Project Title:

The Impact of Public Bikesharing on Bicycle Safety in North America

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Caltrans provides a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability.



The results of the study will help to quantitatively define the impacts of public

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

The results of the study helped to quantitatively define the impacts of public bikes on overall bicycle safety with North American cities as well as provide a qualitative evaluation of safety measures and considerations being undertaken in the San Francisco Bay Area.