

# Citi Bike: The First Two Years

## Executive Summary

Cyclists have taken more than 13.6 million trips on Citi Bike since its launch in May 2013. Bike share has become an integral part of New York's transportation culture; this report analyzes Citi Bike's success and offers policy suggestions for the future.

Citi Bike's success is due to three factors:

1. **Intelligent planning for density:** The concentrated core of Citi Bike stations is crucial to the system's high ridership and use. **Seventy-four percent of Citi Bike stations are within a five-minute walk of a subway station entrance**, providing a "last mile" solution for transit commuters. As a result, Citi Bike ridership is higher than in any other bike share system in the United States.
2. **Proximity to public transit hubs:** Citi Bike's stations are closely linked to public transportation hubs, connecting railroad commuters to workplaces in Midtown and Lower Manhattan. **Every month, an average of 11,579 trips start from the Grand Central Terminal area and 12,184 trips start from the Penn Station area.**
3. **Convergence with recent demographic trends:** Bike share in New York City converged with the economic recovery following the 2008 recession, the rise of the info-tech sector in New York City, and the emergence of the "sharing economy." **The May, 2013 Citi Bike launch reinforced demographic, economic and technological changes in New York City.**

Today, Citi Bike faces new challenges. To meet heightened demand, the system must extend its geographic reach to more neighborhoods with new bike stations. It must also diversify: **The majority of Citi Bike rides are taken by male riders:** 78 percent of member rides were taken by a man. Female riders are indicating a strong preference for safety choosing stations in lower-traffic areas with fewer recent collisions. To attract more female riders, **we recommend an increase in protected bike lanes, child-friendly options for bikes, and partnerships with workplaces for ride partners and mobility clinics.**