

BIKESHARE IN BOSTON

*An analysis of Bluebikes and comparison with
other bikeshare systems across the U.S.*



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Boston Bike Share

- 1** OVERVIEW
- 2** TRIP GEOGRAPHY
- 3** RIDERSHIP TRENDS
- 4** PEER PROGRAM COMPARISON
- 5** CONCLUSION

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Bluebikes is a public bike-sharing system owned by 13 municipalities in the Boston Metro Area

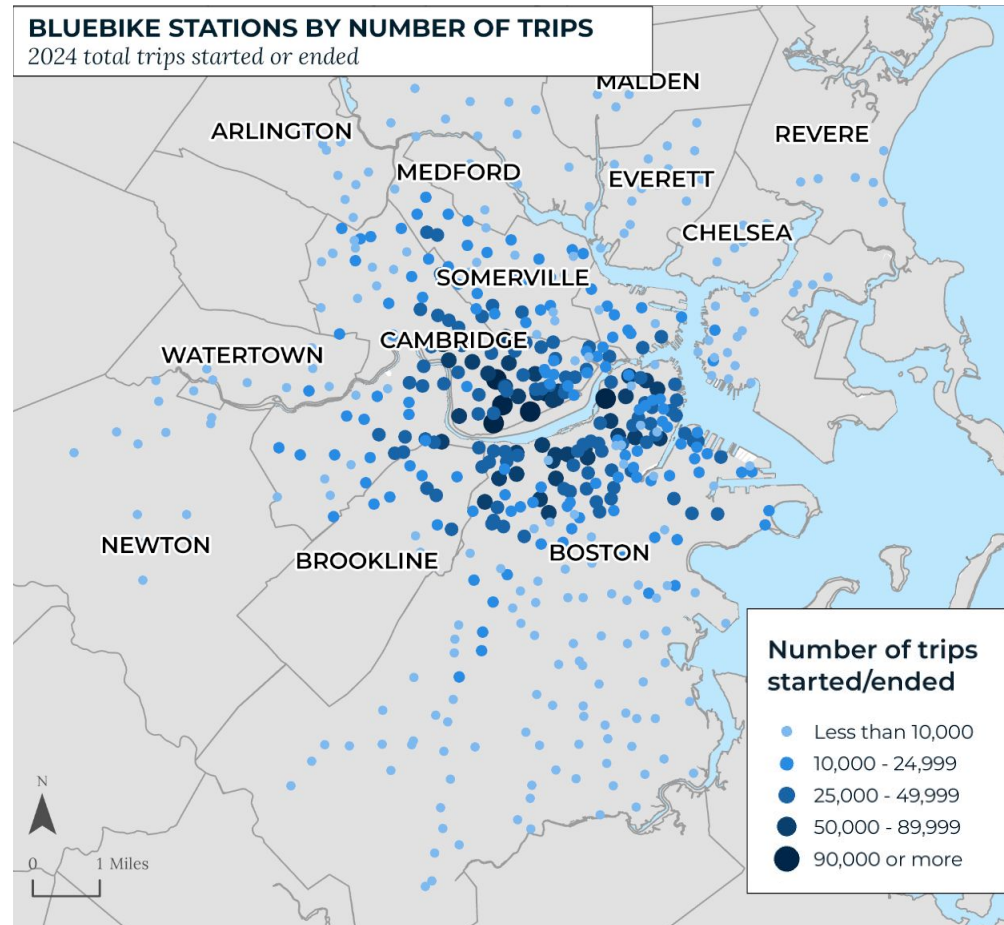
2024 BY THE NUMBERS:

29,671 annual members

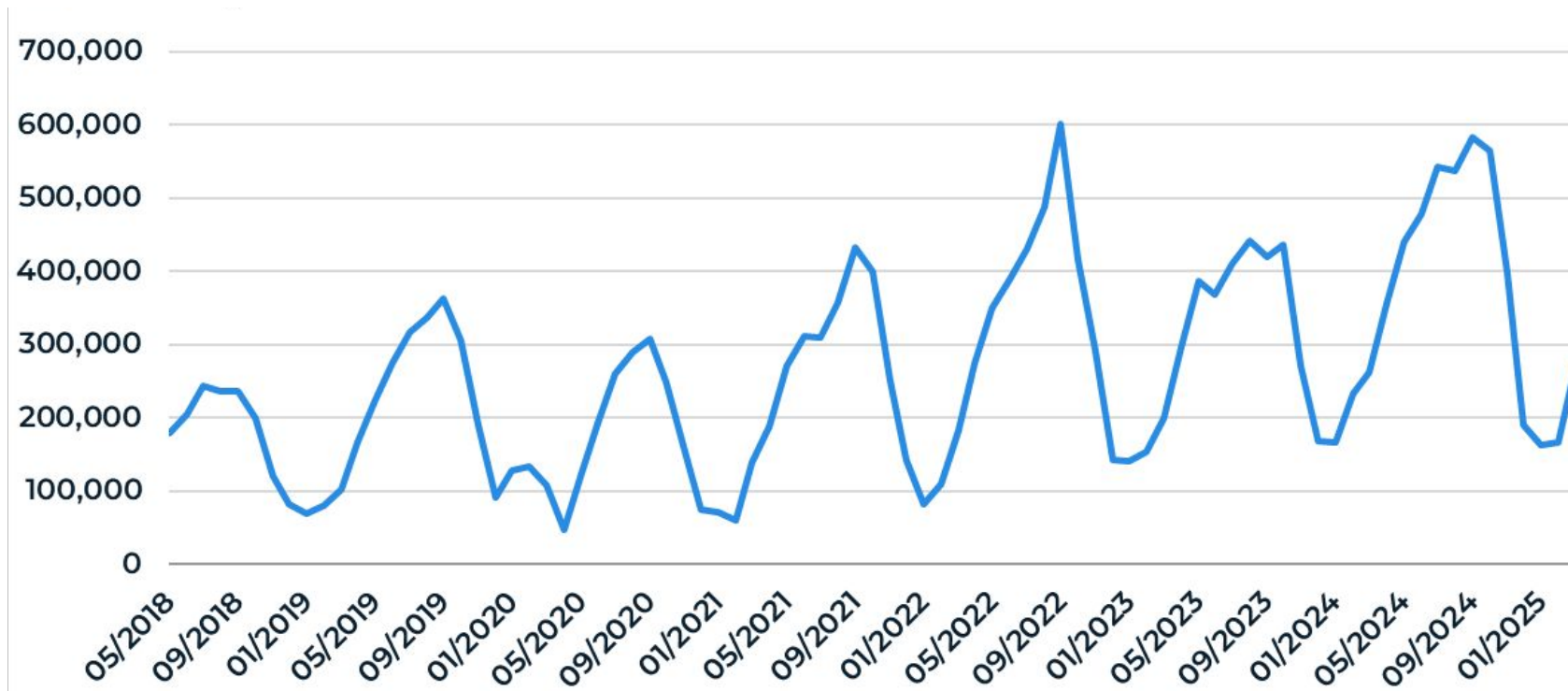
4,734,042 trips taken

520 stations

5,500 bikes



Bluebike usage experienced a **spike in Summer 2022, and ridership nearly reached that same peak in **2024** as it continues to experience increases in yearly average**



Note: spike in ridership in August 2022 is attributed to a promotion in which blue bikes were free for a month while the orange line was shut down

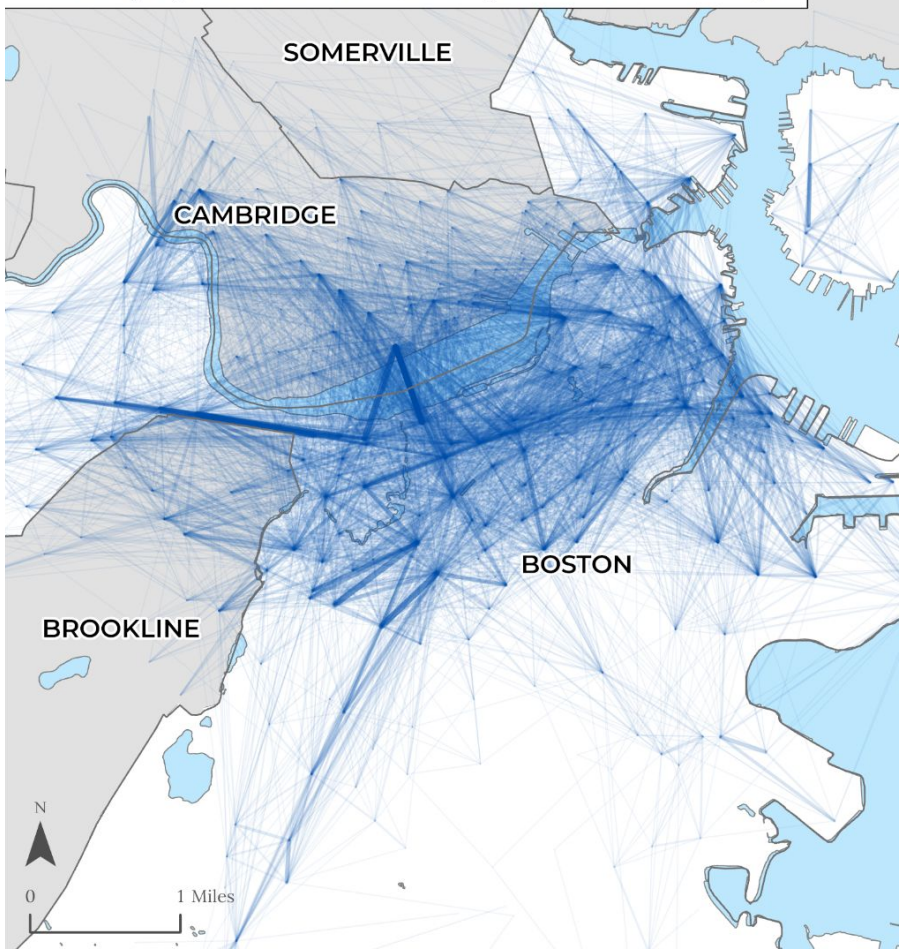
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Trips are clustered in high-traffic corridors of **Boylston St** and **Commonwealth Ave**, along with routes between Boston and Cambridge

Top station pairings (start or end station in Boston)		# of trips (2024)
Beacon St @ Massachusetts Ave	MIT @ Mass Ave / Amherst St	9,739
Deerfield St @ Commonwealth Ave	MIT @ Mass Ave / Amherst St	6,051
Roxbury Crossing T Stop - Columbus Ave @ Tremont St	Ruggles T Stop - Columbus Ave @ Melnea Cass Blvd	5,462
700 Commonwealth Ave.	Commonwealth Ave @ Agganis Way	5,415
Forsyth St at Huntington Ave	St. Alphonsus St @ Tremont St	4,734

BLUEBIKE TRIPS WITH START/END STATION IN BOSTON, 2024
As the crow flies from start to end station, excluding routes with less than 100 trips



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The top 9 most taken Bluebike routes starting or ending in Boston access stations at universities: **Boston University,** **Northeastern,** or **MIT**

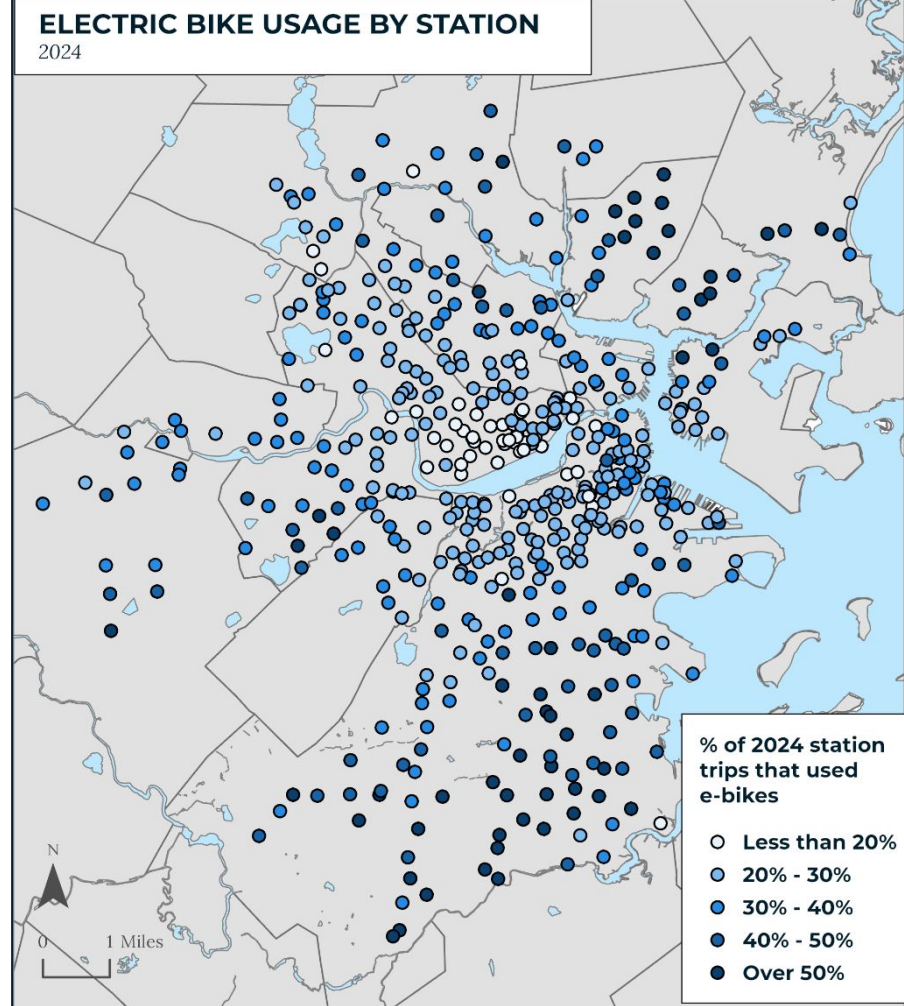
These universities may offer students a discounted membership through the **Group Rate Program**. Around **a third** of Bluebikes corporate memberships are licensed by Harvard or MIT, explaining trip clustering in Cambridge

Top station pairings (start or end station in Boston)		# of trips (2024)
Beacon St @ Massachusetts Ave	MIT @ Mass Ave / Amherst St	9,739
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Roxbury Crossing T Stop - Columbus Ave @ Tremont St	Ruggles T Stop - Columbus Ave @ Melnea Cass Blvd	5,462
700 Commonwealth Ave.	Commonwealth Ave @ Agganis Way	5,415
Forsyth St at Huntington Ave	St. Alphonsus St @ Tremont St	4,734
Commonwealth Ave @ Agganis Way	Silber Way	4,422
Brigham Circle - Francis St @ Huntington Ave	Forsyth St @ Huntington Ave	3,422
Commonwealth Ave @ Agganis Way	Deerfield St @ Commonwealth Ave	3,412
Commonwealth Ave @ Agganis Way	Packard's Corner - Commonwealth Ave @ Brighton Ave	3,241

Within Boston, stations in lower Dorchester, Mattapan, and Hyde Park have the highest proportion of electric bike usage

28.1% of all Boston trips use electric bikes.

Municipality (ride start or end station)	% of trips taken with e-bikes (2024)
Revere	47.1%
Chelsea	47.0%
Everett	46.1%
Medford	40.0%
Malden	39.1%



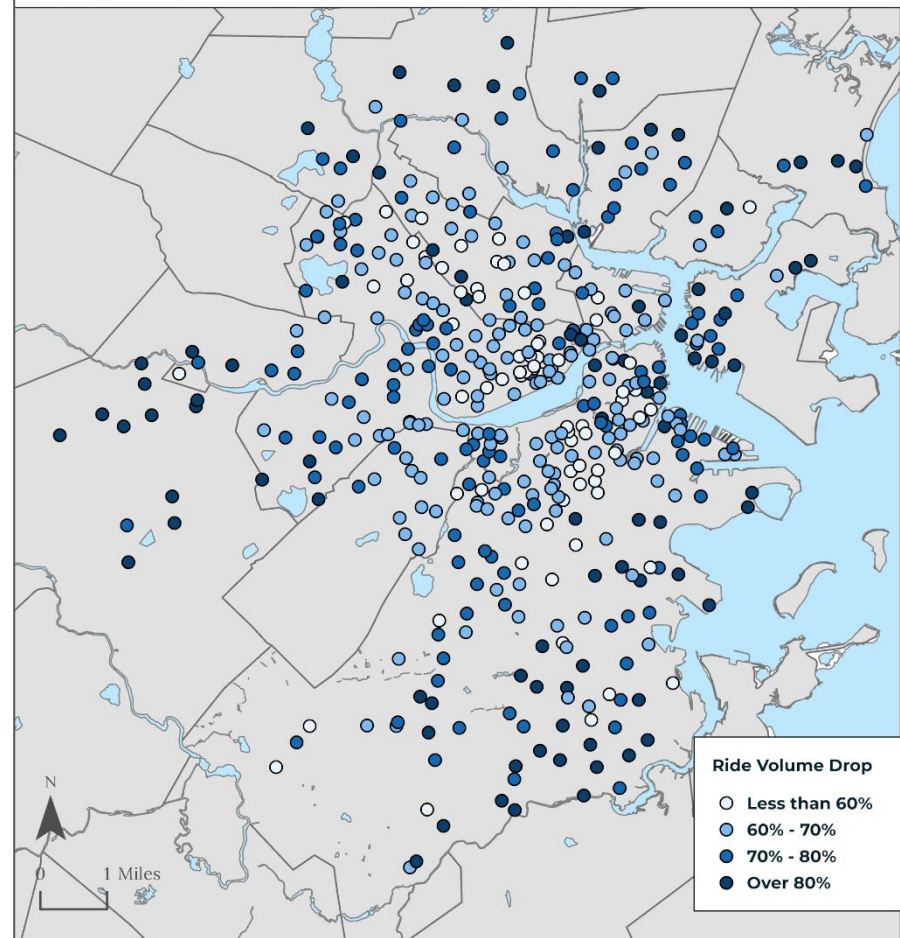
DROP IN RIDE VOLUME FROM PEAK TO LOW RIDERSHIP MONTHS

Peak: August & September, low-volume: December & January, 2024

Bluebike usage is both seasonal and more year-round

Stations near **universities** and **employment centers** maintain higher winter ridership.

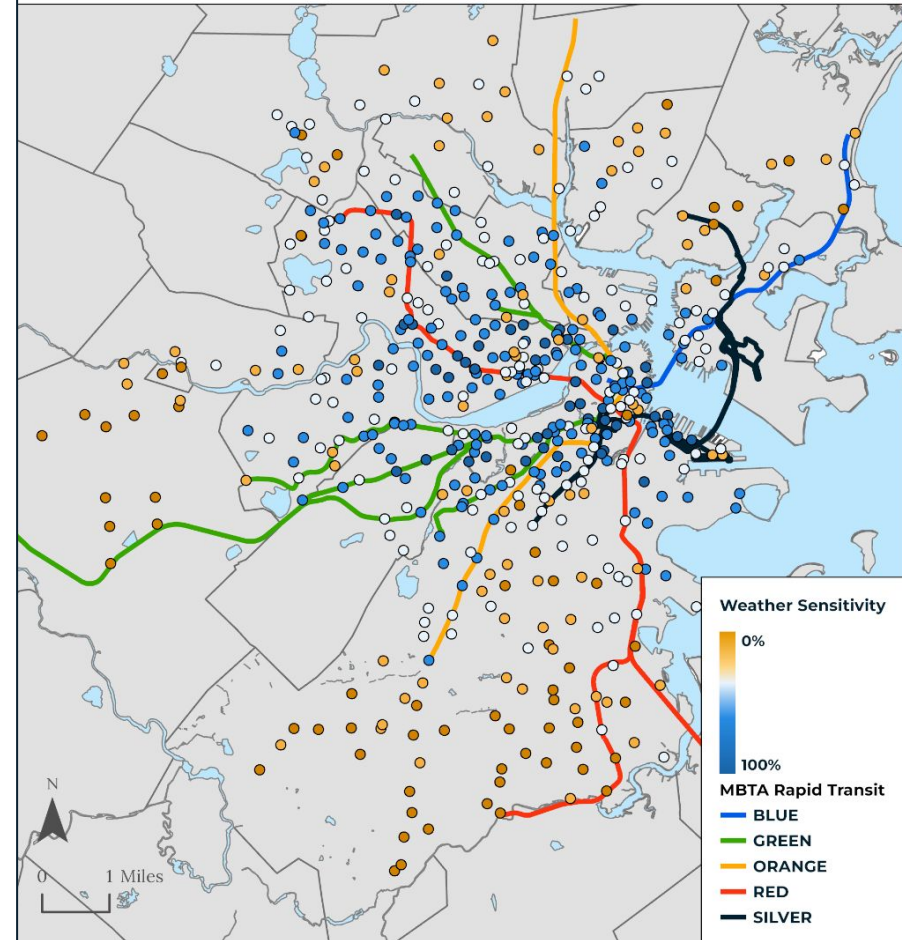
Tourist/recreational spots see the biggest declines, even in areas with high annual ridership like **Downtown** or the **South Boston Waterfront**.



Daily ride volume at stations along MBTA rapid transit lines is **more likely** to be weather-sensitive. Riders have an accessible alternative to biking, in contrast to areas where Bluebikes may be their primary form of transit.

Weather sensitivity score calculated with correlation values of ride volume vs daily average temperature, windspeed, and precipitation

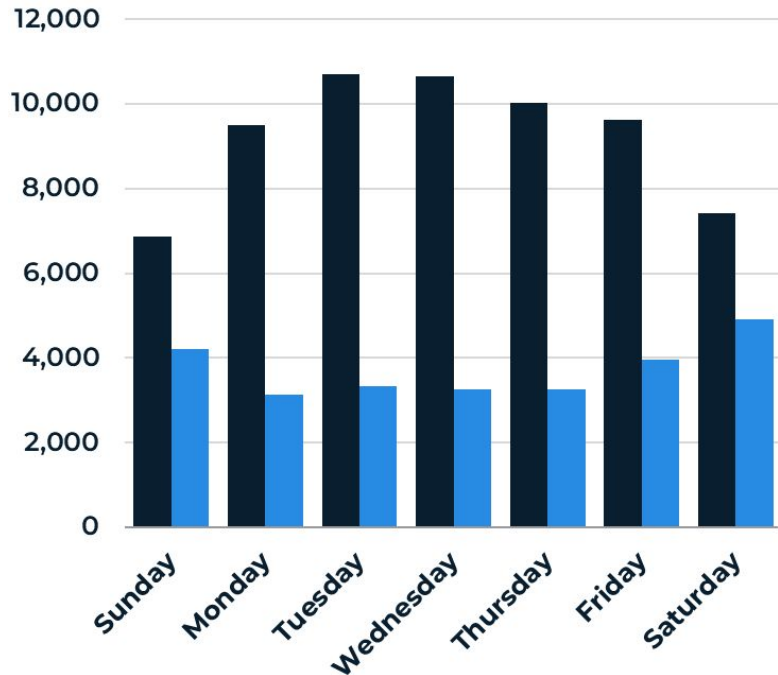
DAILY RIDE VOLUME WEATHER SENSITIVITY BY STATION
With MBTA Rapid Transit overlay, Boston April 2023 - March 2025



Bluebike member trips tend to peak around typical commute days and hours, while casual rides are more common on weekends

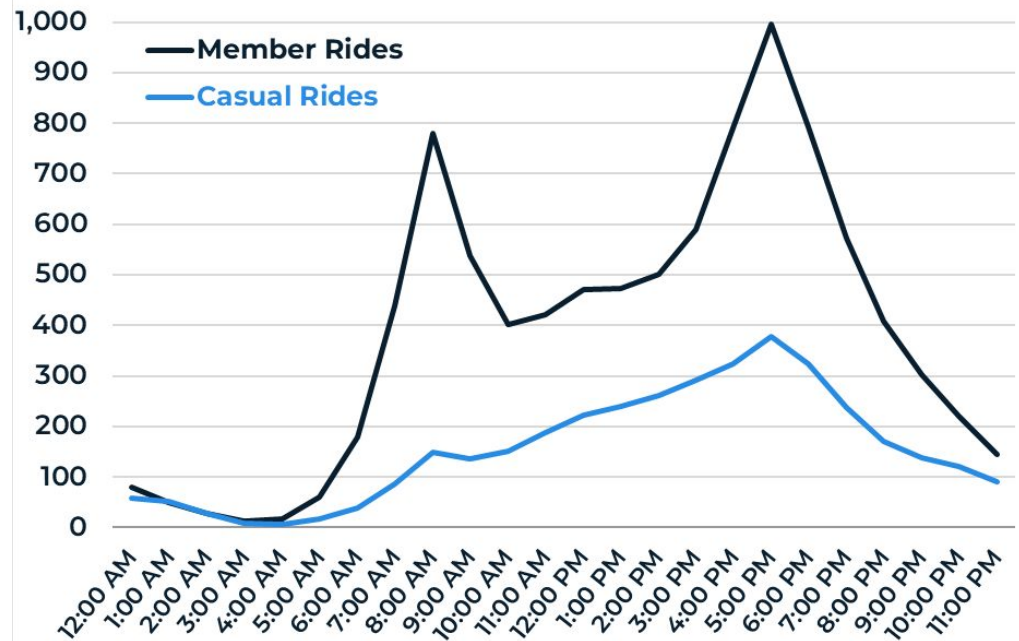
AVERAGE RIDES BY DAY OF WEEK

Bluebike members vs casual riders, 2024

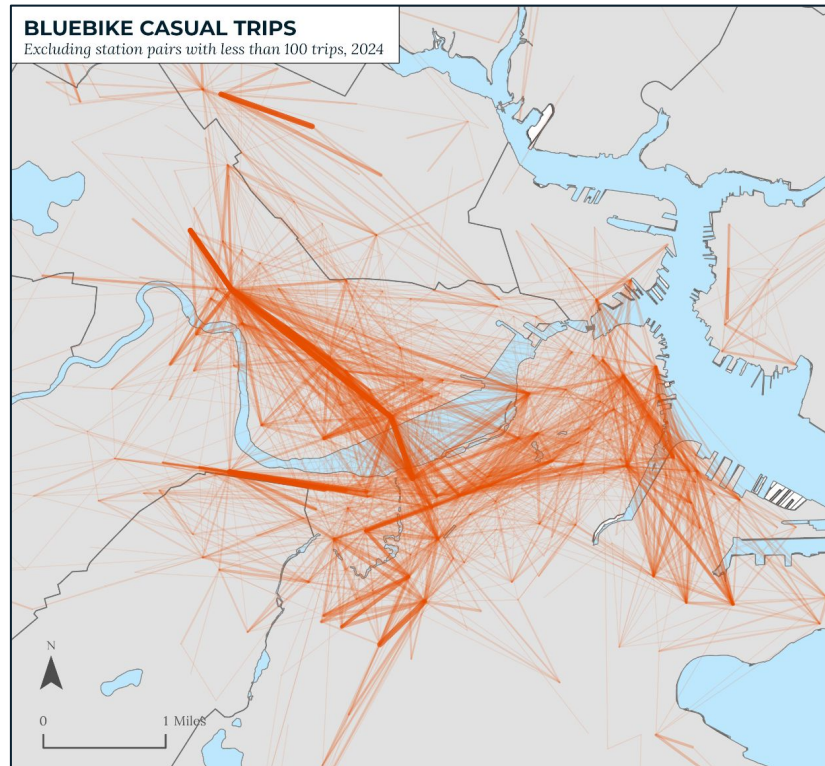
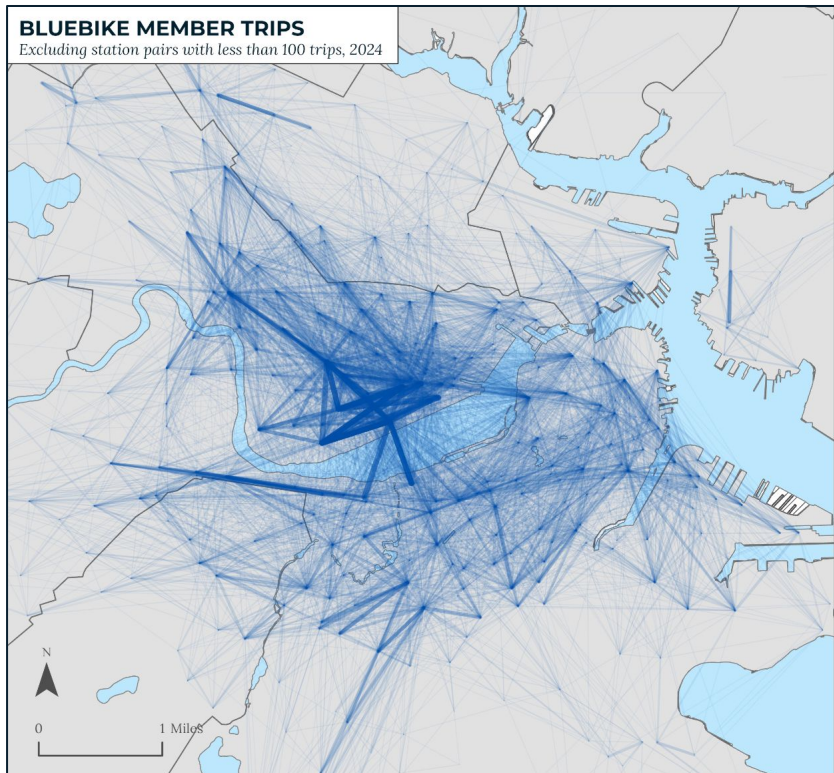


AVERAGE NUMBER OF TRIPS BY HOUR

Per day, 2024

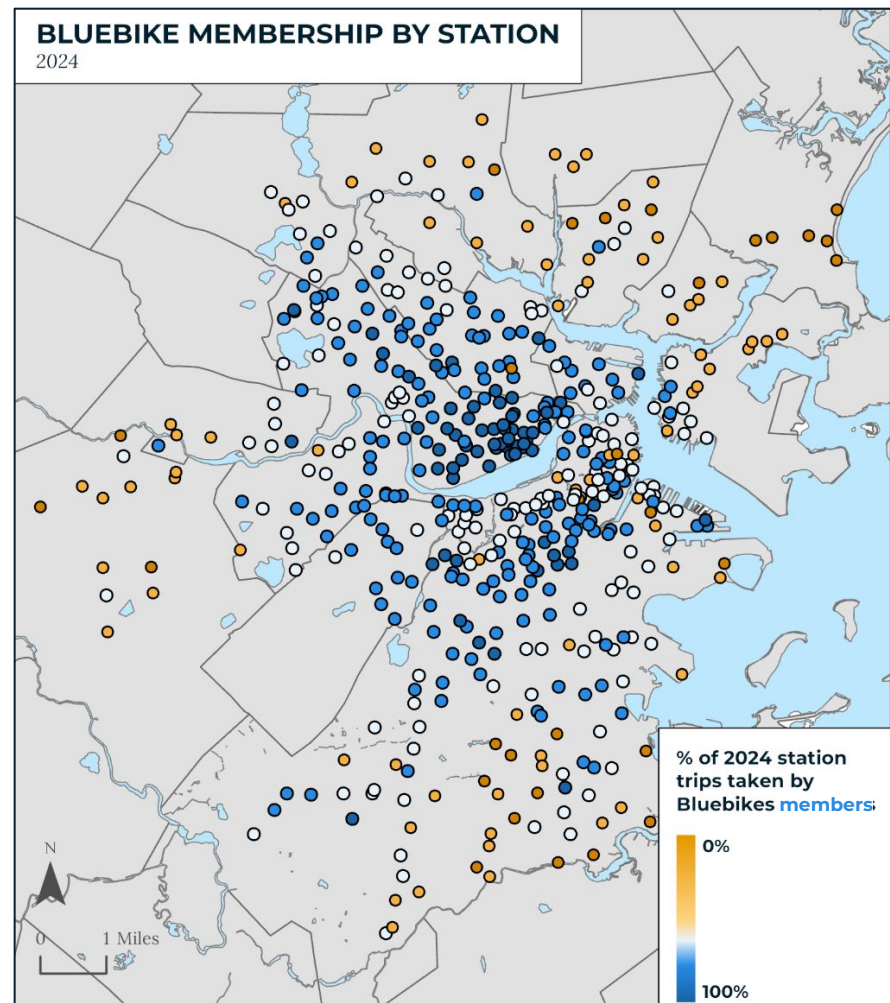


Member and **casual** trips cluster similarly, but **members** use **Central Square** around **MIT** more heavily while **casual** users favor Boston's **Back Bay, Downtown,** and **South Boston Waterfront** neighborhoods.



Bluebike stations with less frequent member usage tend to be further outside the city or in the city's commercial hubs (Back Bay, Fenway, Downtown, & South Boston Waterfront)

Percentage of rides starting/ending at each station that were taken by members, 2024



OUTLIER STATIONS

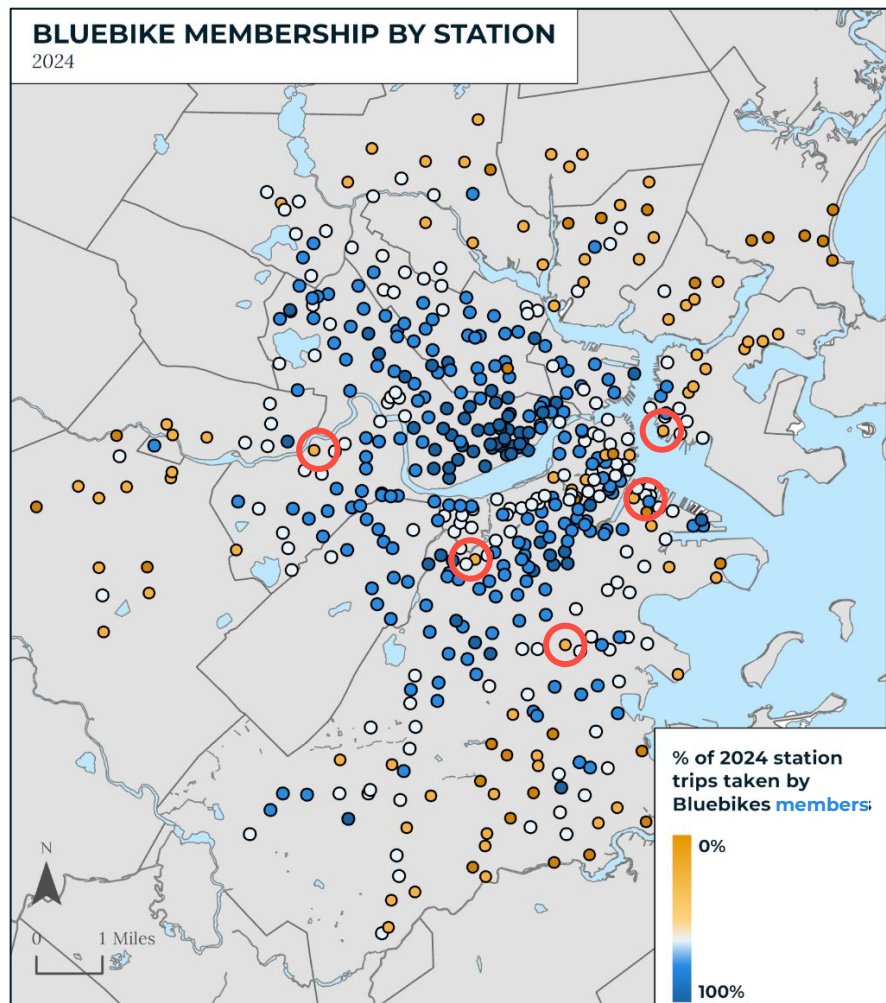
East Boston Lewis Mall Wharf

Fenway Wentworth Institute of Technology - Huntington Ave @ Vancouver St

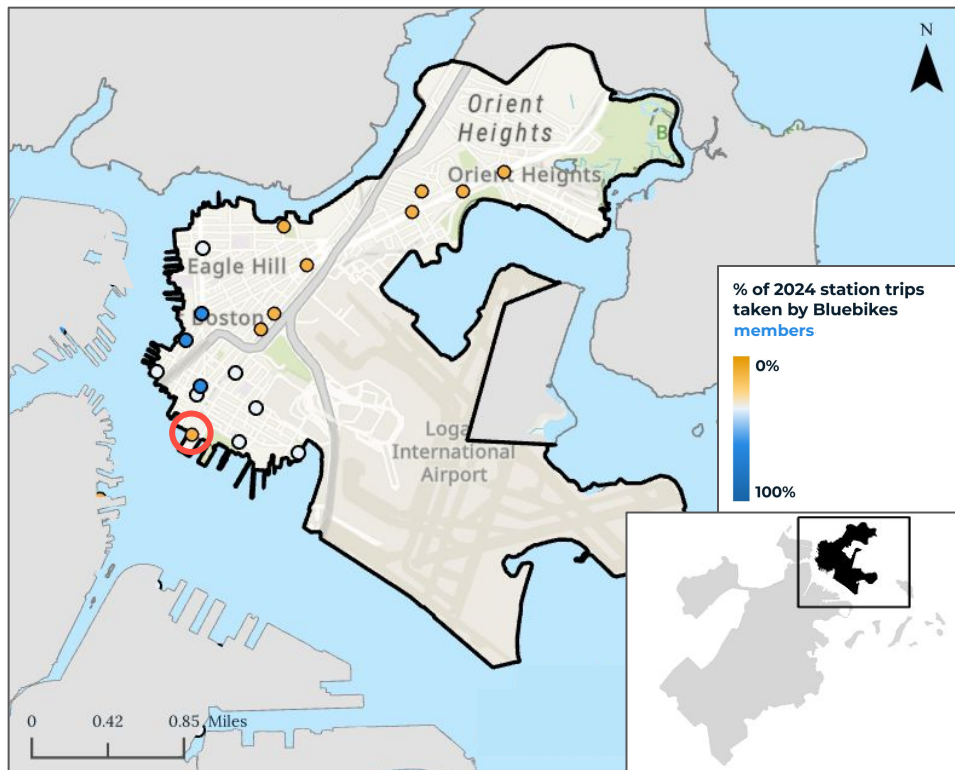
Brighton Western Ave @ Richardson St

South Boston Waterfront Pier 4 Blvd @ Autumn Ln

Dorchester Uphams Corner T Stop - Magnolia St @ Dudley St



East Boston Lewis Mall Wharf

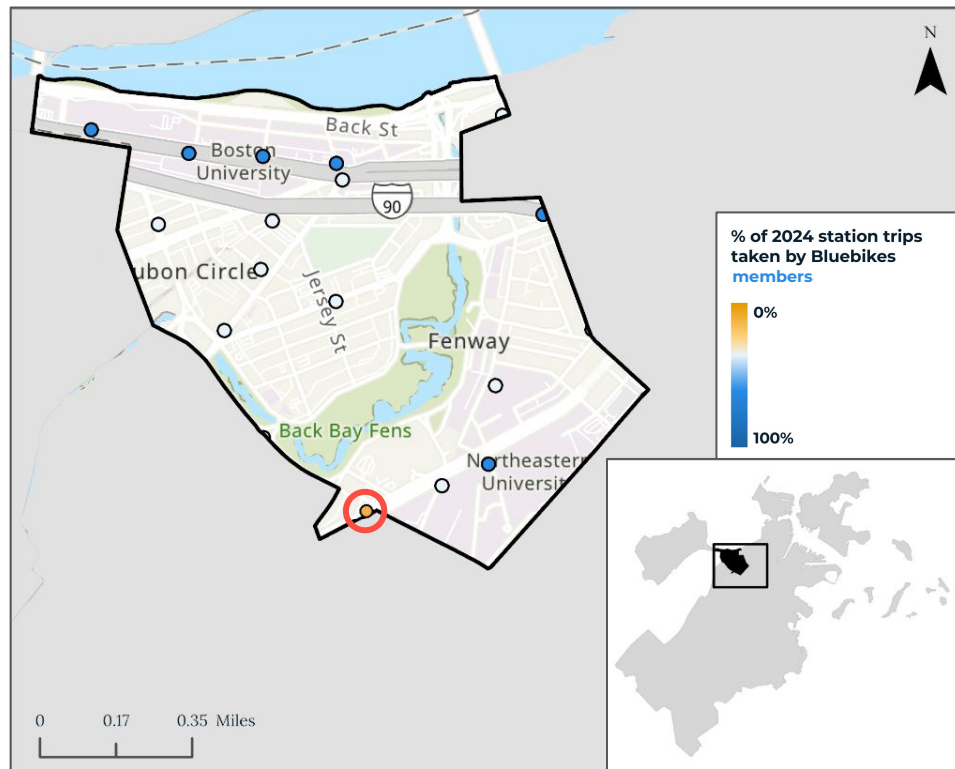


49.8% of trips accessing Lewis Mall Wharf are **casual rides**

Other stations closer to the water in East Boston have slightly higher levels of **casual use**

The proximity to the **East Boston Ferry** and **Tall Ship Boston**, a waterfront event venue, may both be reasons that casual riders are frequenting this area

Fenway Wentworth Institute of Technology - Huntington Ave @ Vancouver St

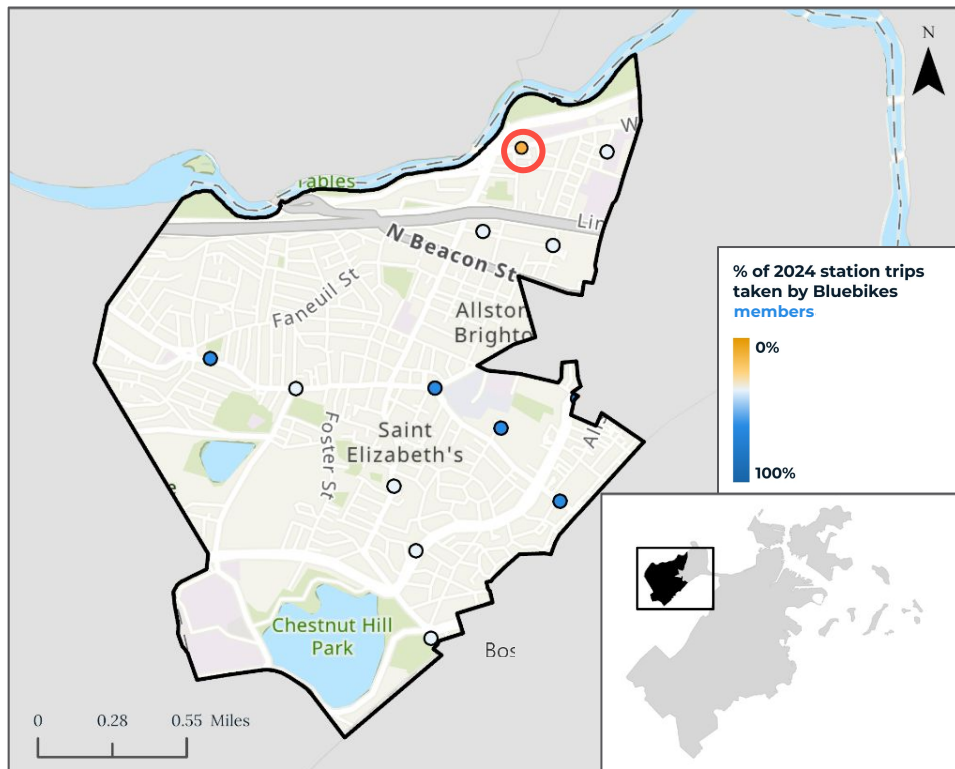


48.0% of trips accessing this station are **casual rides**

Bordering stations have a higher percentage of casual rides than the rest of Fenway

This station is near both the **Museum of Fine Arts** and the **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum**, contributing to increased recreational access

Brighton Western Ave @ Richardson St

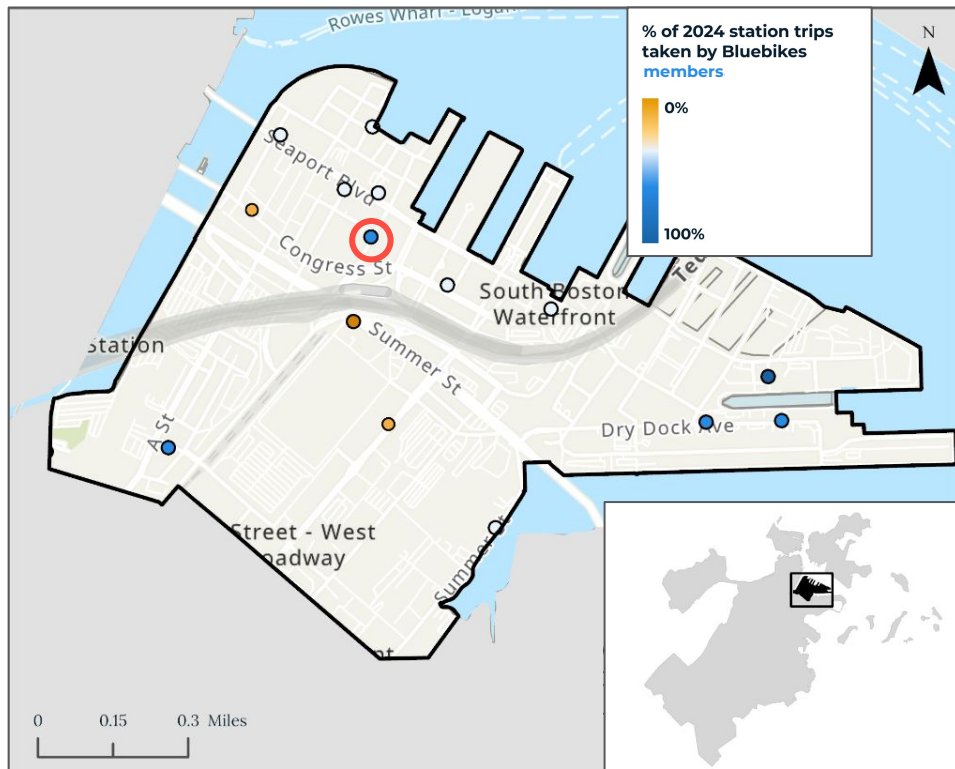


42.1% of trips accessing this station are **casual rides**

Bordering stations have a higher percentage of **casual rides** than the rest of Brighton

This station is near the **Charles River Speedway**, a shopping and food hall that hosts events several times a week, and has nearby access to the **Charles River Reservation Nature Preserve**.

South Boston Waterfront Pier 4 Boulevard @ Autumn Ln

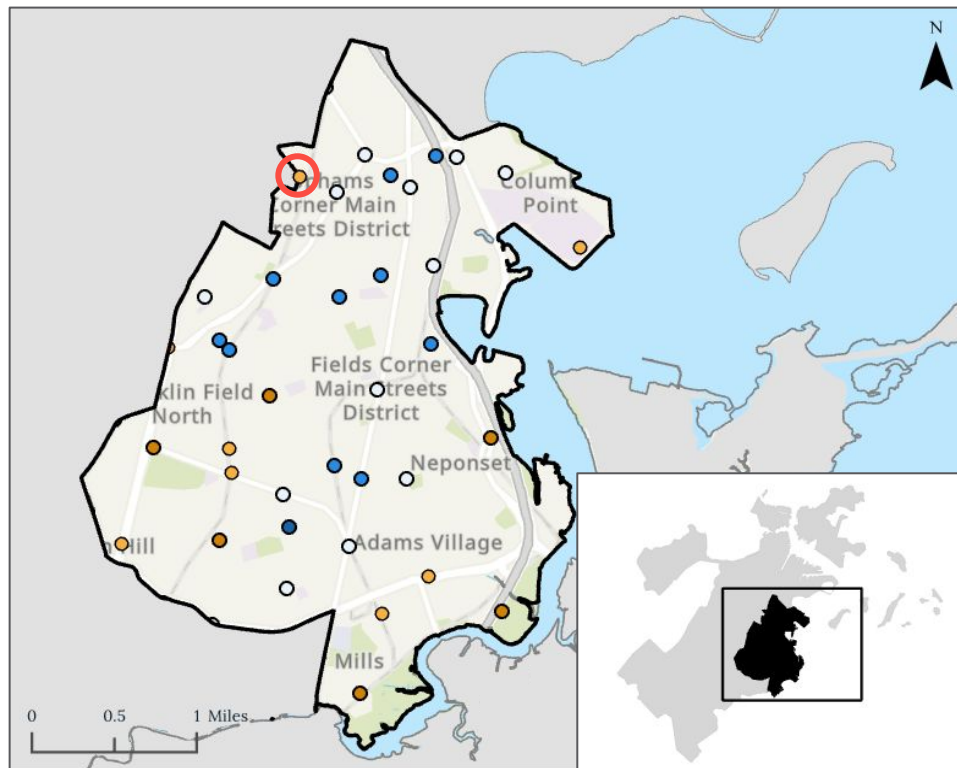


68.7% of trips accessing this station are **member rides**

Stations besides this one in the commercial South Boston Waterfront all tend to have a high percentage of **casual rides**

This station is directly next to a building with 430,000 sq ft of office space, currently occupied by **Amazon**, which includes bikeshare membership coverage as part of their employee benefits.

Dorchester Upham's Corner T stop



43.4% of trips accessing Upham's Corner are **casual rides**

Fellow stations near **Upham's Corner Main Streets District** have higher levels of casual rides than other stations in Dorchester.

This station's proximity to a commercial district, a public park, and a community center may all contribute to heightened casual rides.

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The top five bike share programs (by annual trip count) across the US, including Boston Bluebikes, are all operated by Lyft.

Program Name	City	# of trips (thousands, 2024)
Citibike	New York City, NY	44,400
Divvy Bikes	Chicago, IL	5,861
Capital Bikeshare	Washington, D.C.	5,624
Bluebikes	Boston, MA	4,752
Bay Wheels	San Francisco, CA	3,353
Indego	Philadelphia, PA	1,269
Metro Bike Share	Los Angeles, CA	519
POGOH	Pittsburgh, PA	464
CapMetro Bike Share*	Austin, TX	141
CoGo**	Columbus, OH	63

Future visualizations will refer to each system by major city name (even if it serves other municipalities) for easier comprehension

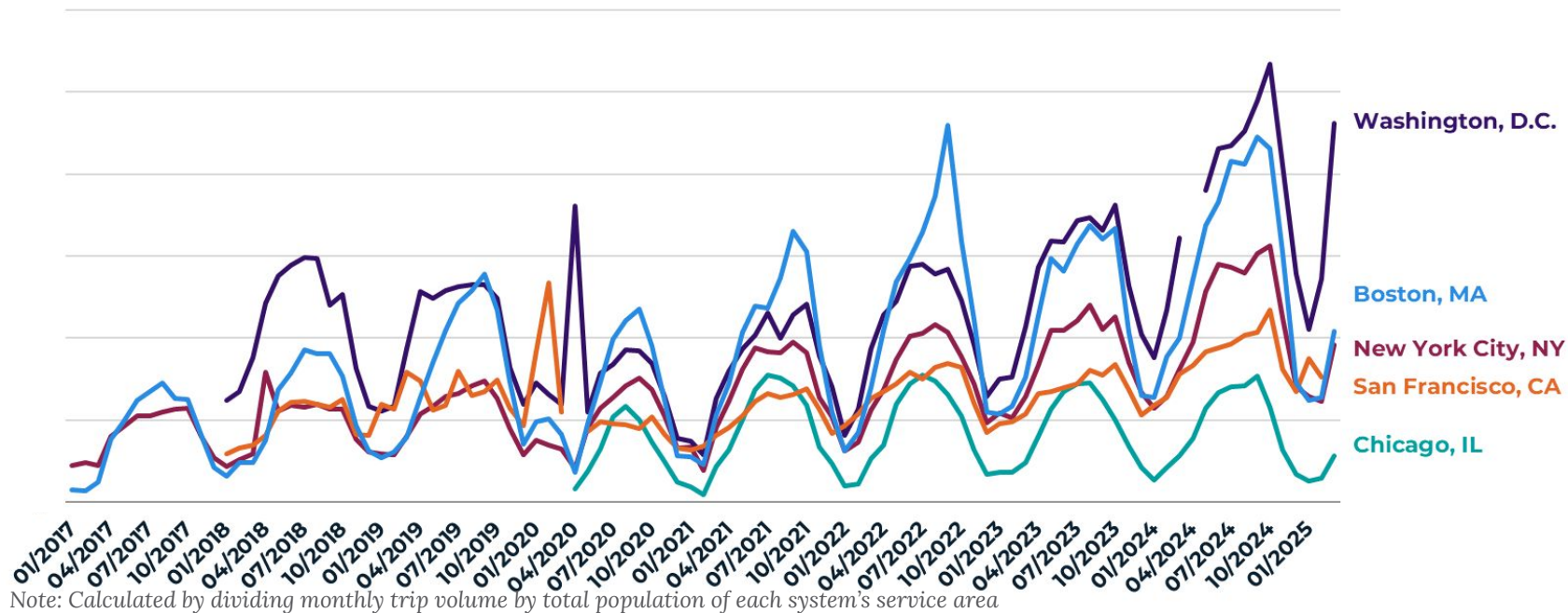
*Note: CapMetro experienced a shutdown for renovations in July 2024, and no data has been published since then

**Note: since start of this presentation, CoGo bikeshare services have ended in Columbus

Source: <https://citibikenyc.com/system-data>, <https://www.rideindego.com/about/data/>, <https://www.lyft.com/bikes/bay-wheels/system-data>, <https://bikeshare.metro.net/about/data/>, https://data.austintexas.gov/Transportation-and-Mobility/Austin-MetroBike-Trips/tyfh-5r8s/about_data, <https://divvybikes.com/system-data>, <https://bluebikes.com/system-data>, <https://data.wprdc.org/organization/pogoh>, <https://cogobikeshare.com/system-data>, <https://capitalbikeshare.com/system-data>, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

In 2020-2022, Boston's peak months showed the highest proportional Bikeshare usage, but ridership in Washington, D.C. has since surpassed Boston

Yearly number of bikeshare trips adjusted for city's 2024 population

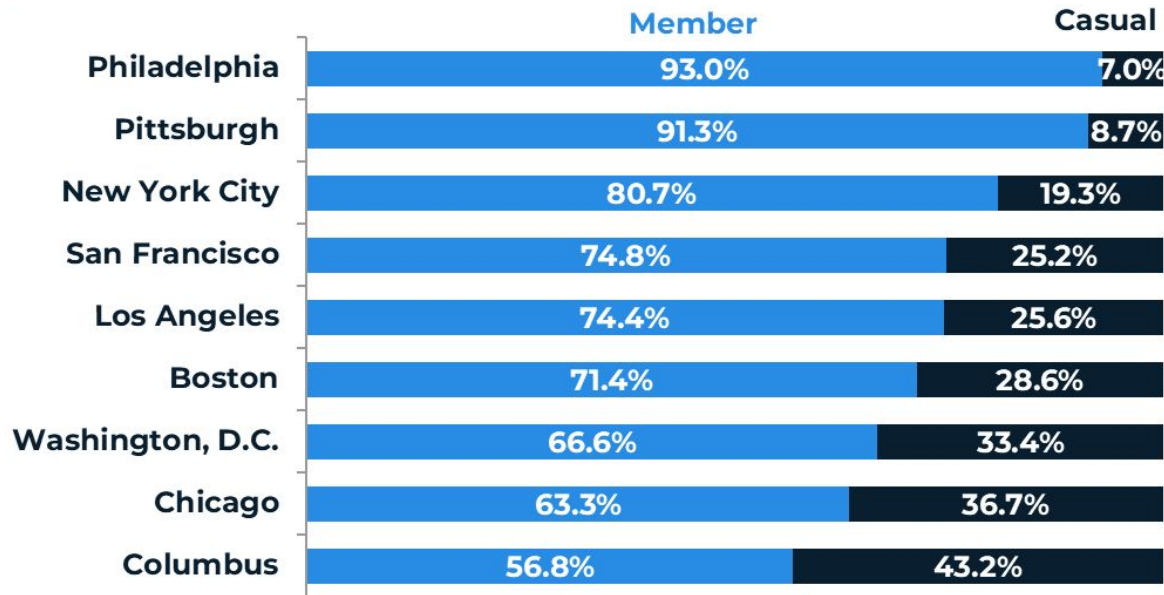


Note: Calculated by dividing monthly trip volume by total population of each system's service area

Source: <https://bluebikes.com/system-data>, <https://capitalbikeshare.com/system-data>, <https://citibikenyc.com/system-data>, <https://www.lyft.com/bikes/bay-wheels/system-data>, <https://divvybikes.com/system-data>, U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis

While Boston has a higher proportion of casual riders than some other cities with bikeshare programs, the majority of trips are taken by those with memberships.

Member vs casual ridership by city bikeshare system, 2024



Boston's bikeshare system shows 71.4% of rides are taken by members and 28.6% by casual riders, placing it in the middle for member usage.

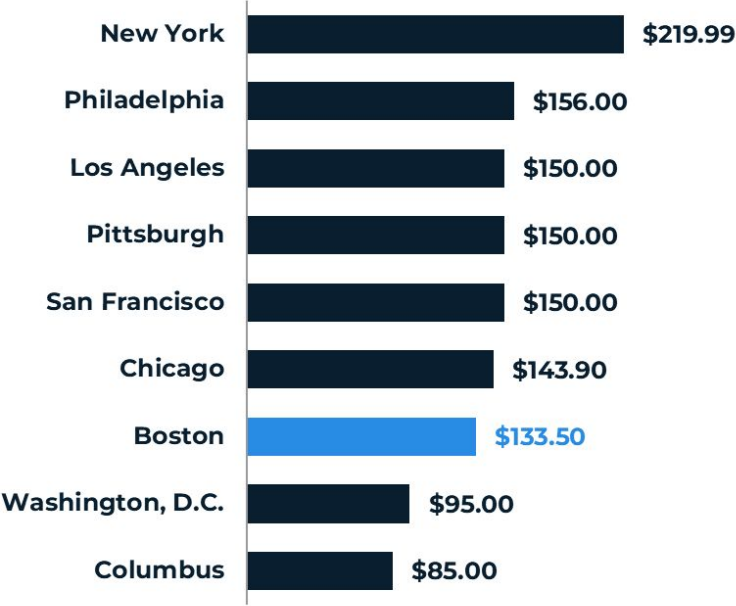
Boston's bikeshare system serves both regular commuters and occasional users.

Source: <https://citibikenyc.com/system-data>, <https://www.rideindego.com/about/data/>, <https://www.lyft.com/bikes/bay-wheels/system-data>, https://data.austintexas.gov/Transportation-and-Mobility/Austin-MetroBike-Trips/tyfh-5r8s/about_data, <https://divvybikes.com/system-data>, <https://bluebikes.com/system-data>, <https://data.wprdc.org/organization/pogoh>, <https://cogobikeshare.com/system-data>, <https://capitalbikeshare.com/system-data>, <https://bikeshare.metro.net/about/data/>, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

Bluebikes is relatively cheaper than other bikeshare programs, for both members and casual riders

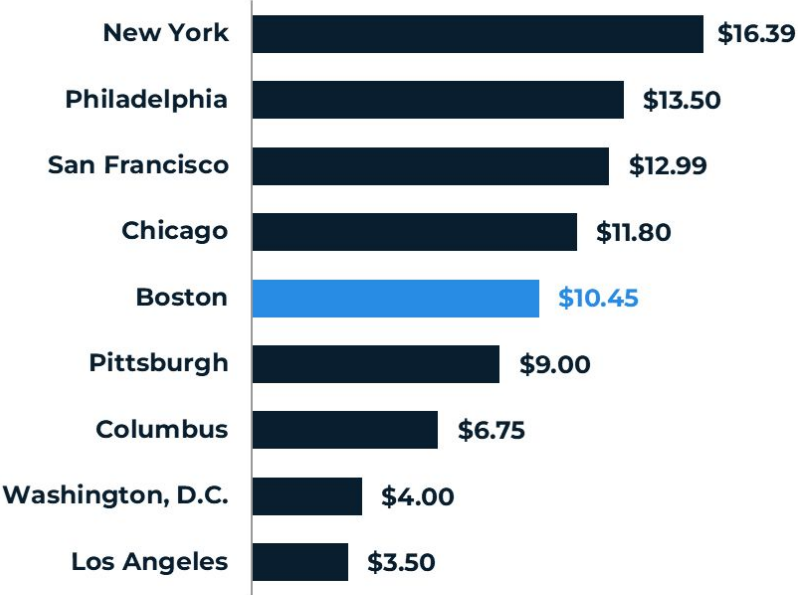
PRICE OF A YEARLY MEMBERSHIP

June 2025



COST OF 1-HOUR LONG CASUAL RIDE

June 2025

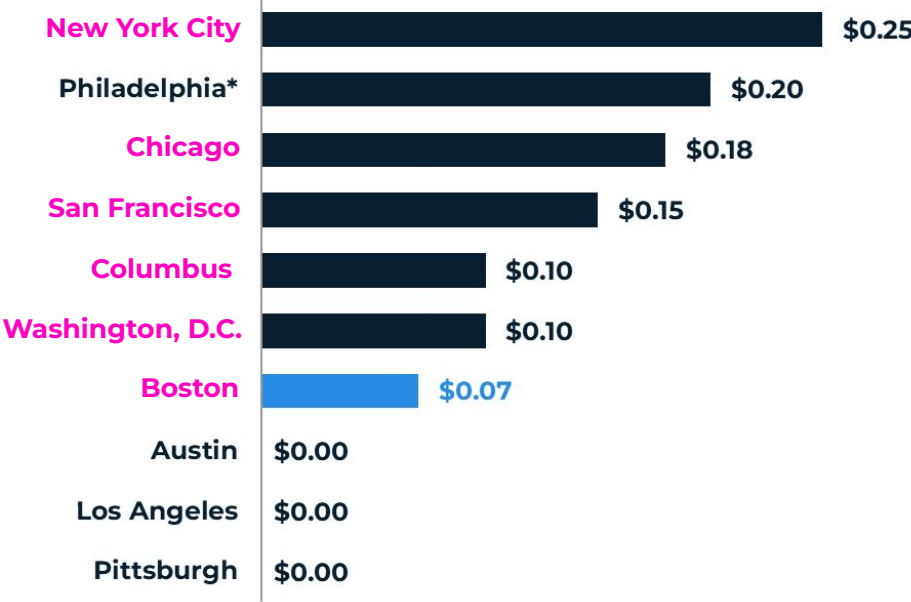


Source: <https://citibikenyc.com/pricing>, <https://www.rideindego.com/buy-a-pass/#/>, <https://www.capmetro.org/bikeshare/bikeshare-fares>, <https://www.lyft.com/bikes/bay-wheels/pricing>, <https://divvybikes.com/pricing>, <https://bluebikes.com/pricing>, <https://pogoh.com/pricing/>, <https://cogobikeshare.com/pricing>, <https://capitalbikeshare.com/pricing>, <https://bikeshare.metro.net/signup/#/>, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

The municipalities that own **Bluebikes** subsidize the cost of member e-bike trips, offering the lowest-cost e-bike trips of all **Lyft-operated** systems. Those not owned by **Lyft** may offer free e-bike trips to members.

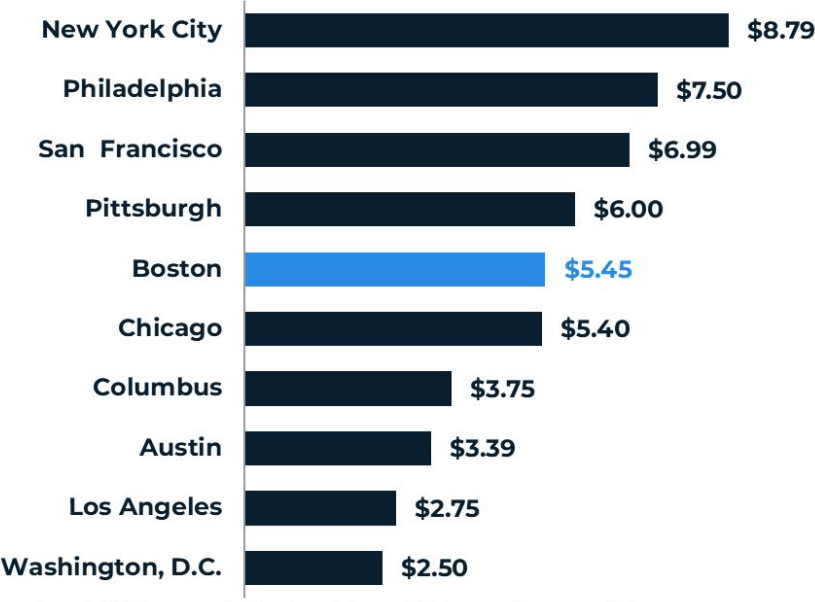
COST PER MINUTE OF MEMBER EBIKE RIDE

June 2025



PRICE OF 10-MINUTE CASUAL E-BIKE RIDE

As of June 2025

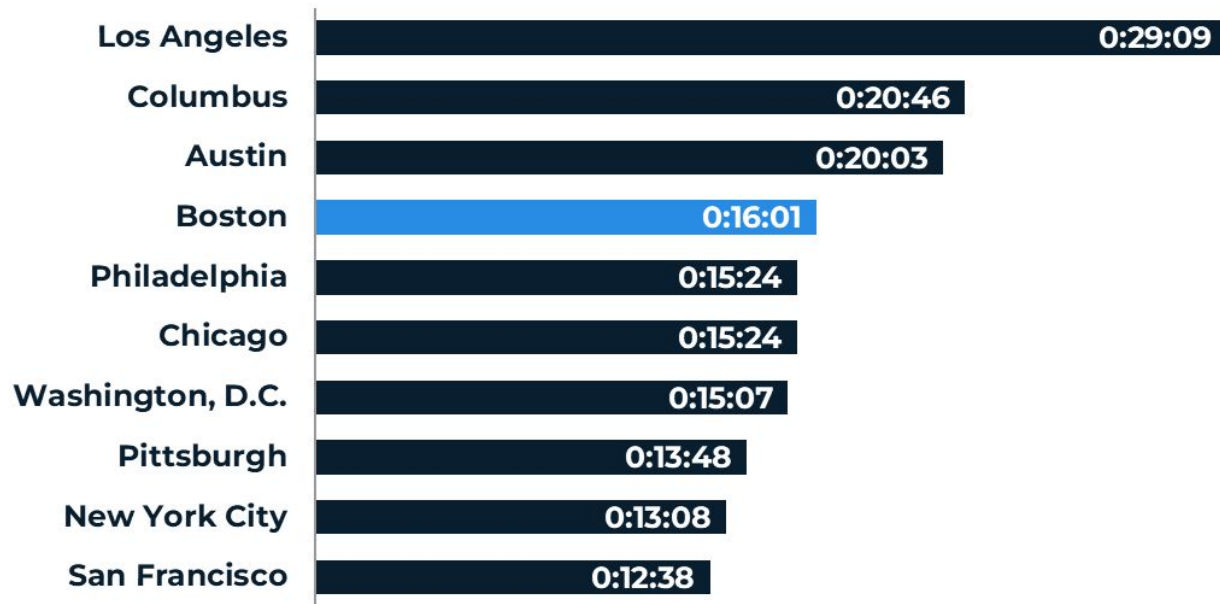


*Note: Philadelphia Indego members get two free 30-min e-bike trips per day, price shown is the cost after that

Source: <https://citibikenyc.com/pricing>, <https://www.rideindego.com/buy-a-pass/#/>, <https://www.capmetro.org/bikeshare/bikeshare-fares>, <https://www.lyft.com/bikes/bay-wheels/pricing>, <https://divvybikes.com/pricing>, <https://bluebikes.com/pricing>, <https://pogoh.com/pricing/>, <https://cogobikeshare.com/pricing>, <https://capitalbikeshare.com/pricing>, <https://bikeshare.metro.net/signup/#/>, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

Boston's average trip duration appears to be in the middle range compared to other U.S. cities

Top city bikeshare system by trip



Casual rider trips across all cities are, on average, **89.5% longer** than member trips.

The top three cities have systems with fewer riders and more casual riders, making Boston unique in its usage patterns.

Bluebikes aren't just used frequently, but for **longer rides** by **regular users**.

Source: <https://citibikenyc.com/system-data>, <https://www.rideindego.com/about/data/>, <https://www.lyft.com/bikes/bay-wheels/system-data>, https://data.austintexas.gov/Transportation-and-Mobility/Austin-MetroBike-Trips/tyfh-5r8s/about_data, <https://divvybikes.com/system-data>, <https://bluebikes.com/system-data>, <https://data.wprdc.org/organization/pogoh>, <https://cogobikeshare.com/system-data>, <https://capitalbikeshare.com/system-data>, <https://bikeshare.metro.net/about/data/>, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

Bluebike riders travel nearly as far as those in much larger cities despite Boston having the smallest land area

Average trip distance in miles by city Bikeshare system, start station to end station as the crow flies



Boston ranks **third-highest** in average trip distance, though it is the smallest city by footprint

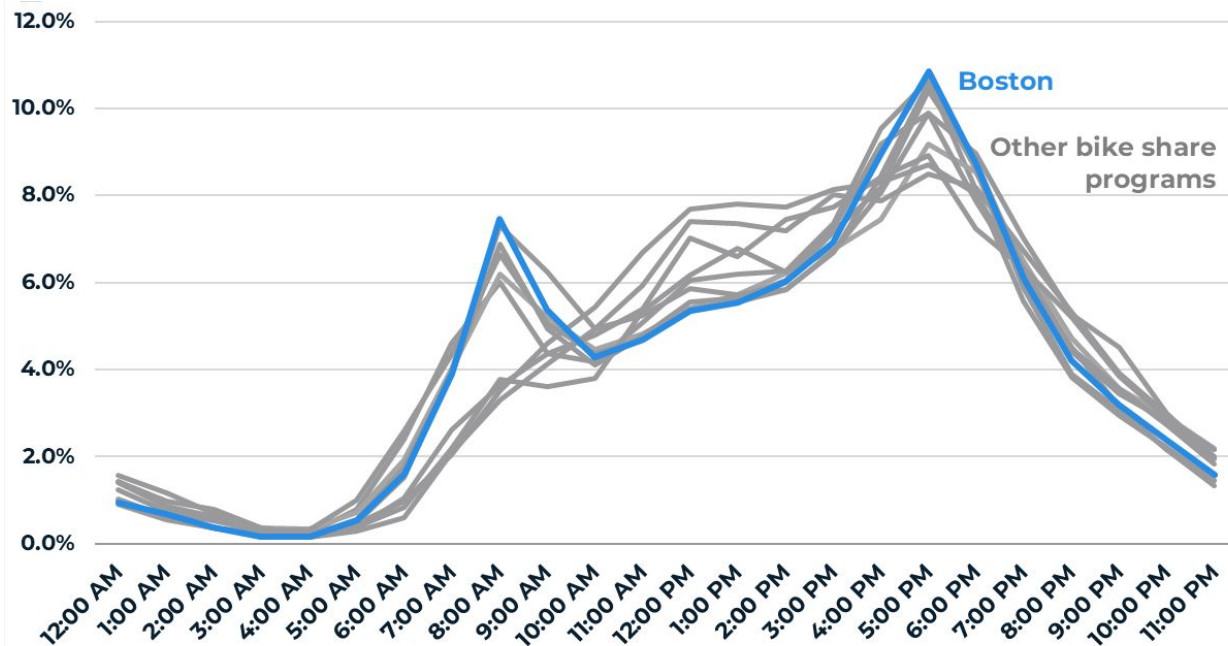
This highlights the efficiency of Boston's bike network, as riders are able and willing to go long distances.

Indicates point-to-point travel across neighborhoods.

Source: <https://citibikenyc.com/system-data>, <https://www.rideindego.com/about/data/>, <https://www.lyft.com/bikes/bay-wheels/system-data>, https://data.austintexas.gov/Transportation-and-Mobility/Austin-MetroBike-Trips/tyfh-5r8s/about_data, <https://divvybikes.com/system-data>, <https://bluebikes.com/system-data>, <https://data.wprdc.org/organization/pogoh>, <https://cogobikeshare.com/system-data>, <https://capitalbikeshare.com/system-data>, <https://bikeshare.metro.net/about/data/>, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

Boston experiences particularly sharp peaks at commute hours

Percentage of total rides occurring by hour, 2024



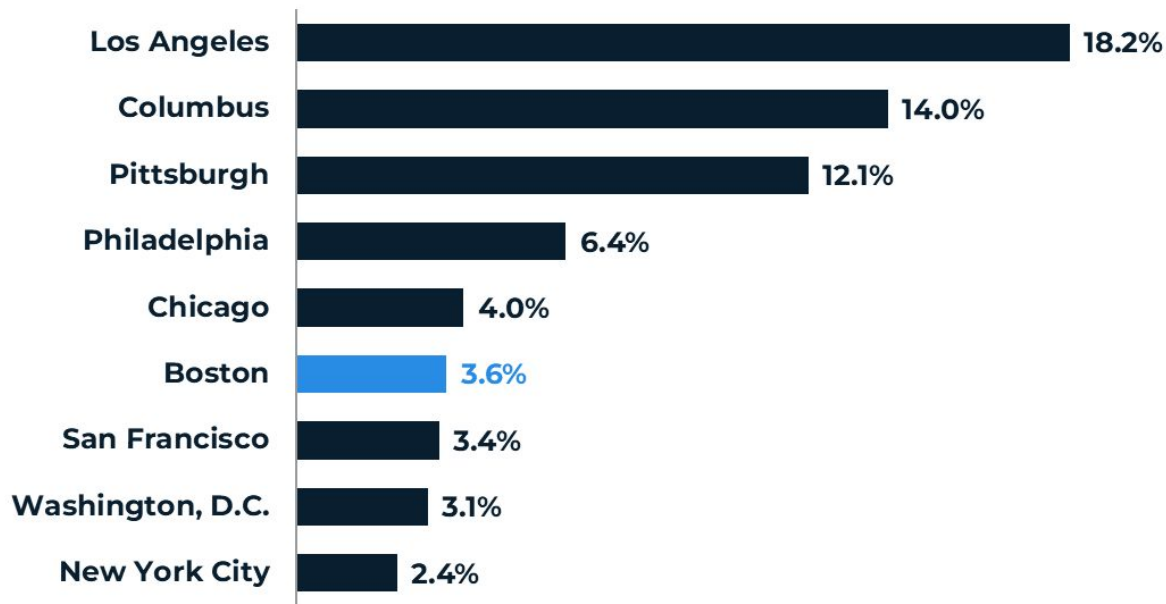
Boston's peak ridership hours are at commute hours, 8:00am (7.5%) and 5:00pm (10.8%). These patterns generally mirror other bikeshare programs (shown in gray), but have more pronounced peaks indicating extremely regular commuting.

Usage is minimal between 12:00am and 6:00am, with usage nearing none (0.1%) at 4:00am.

Source: <https://citibikenyc.com/system-data>, <https://www.rideindigo.com/about/data/>, <https://www.lyft.com/bikes/bay-wheels/system-data>, https://data.austintexas.gov/Transportation-and-Mobility/Austin-MetroBike-Trips/tyfh-5r8s/about_data, <https://divvybikes.com/system-data>, <https://bluebikes.com/system-data>, <https://data.wprdc.org/organization/pogoh>, <https://cogobikeshare.com/system-data>, <https://capitalbikeshare.com/system-data>, <https://bikeshare.metro.net/about/data/>, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

Boston has a relatively low number of round-trip bike trips, in comparison to other cities in the U.S.

% of rides that started and ended at the same station, 2024



Round-trip journeys on bikes indicate **recreational** usage

Boston's low number of round-trip rides indicate that less riders are using bluebikes as a recreational activity and more as a transportation method for commuting or point-to-point travel

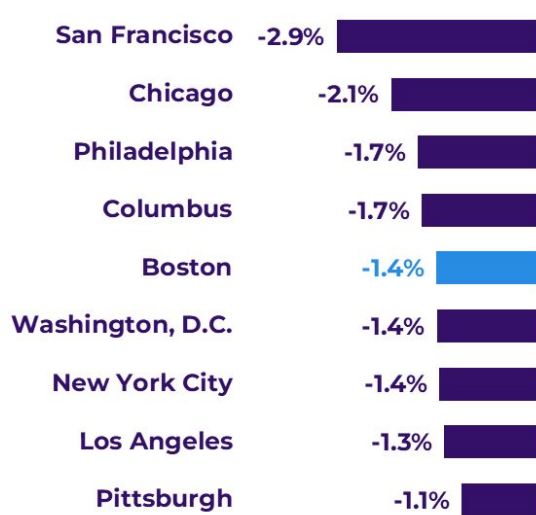
Source: <https://citibikenyc.com/system-data>, <https://www.rideindego.com/about/data/>, <https://www.lyft.com/bikes/bay-wheels/system-data>, https://data.austintexas.gov/Transportation-and-Mobility/Austin-MetroBike-Trips/tyfh-5r8s/about_data, <https://divvybikes.com/system-data>, <https://bluebikes.com/system-data>, <https://data.wprdc.org/organization/pogoh>, <https://cogobikeshare.com/system-data>, <https://capitalbikeshare.com/system-data>, <https://bikeshare.metro.net/about/data/>, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

Bluebikes' daily ride volume is moderately sensitive to **temperature** and **wind speed**. **Precipitation** has a less pronounced impact than in other cities, but even minimal rain or snowfall will cause a drop in trips.

% change in daily ridership per change in precipitation, temperature, and wind speed, 2024

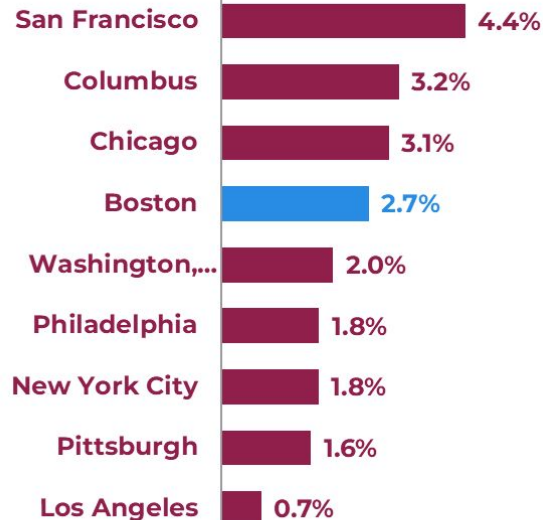
PRECIPITATION

% change in rides per 1mm precipitation



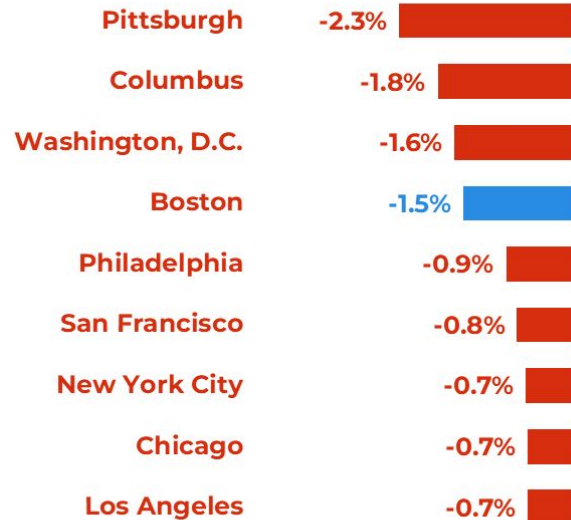
TEMPERATURE

% change in rides per 1°F



WIND SPEED

% change in rides per 1km/h



Source: <https://citibikenyc.com/system-data>, <https://www.rideindigo.com/about/data/>, <https://www.lyft.com/bikes/bay-wheels/system-data>, https://data.austintexas.gov/Transportation-and-Mobility/Austin-MetroBike-Trips/tyfh-5r8s/about_data, <https://divvybikes.com/system-data>, <https://bluebikes.com/system-data>, <https://data.wprdc.org/organization/pogoh>, <https://cogobikeshare.com/system-data>, <https://capitalbikeshare.com/system-data>, <https://bikeshare.metro.net/about/data/>, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

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Key Findings

Strong program Nationally

Boston ranks 4th nationally for total annual trips in 2024, and offers its users competitive pricing, maintaining a solid base of members while simultaneously appealing to casual users.

Commuter-focused

Bluebikes proves itself to be a critical part of transportation due to patterns of usage around university hubs and at commute hours, along with low recreational usage.

Weather Sensitive

Usage drops significantly in winter months. Trip volume and type changes day-to-day due to weather, with a 0.62 correlation between average temperature and the proportion of rides using e-bikes.