

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
"A World Class City"



Department of Neighborhood Development Services

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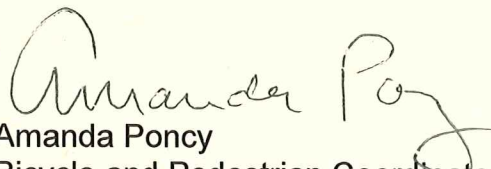
May 20, 2015

UBike Letter of Support

I am writing to offer my support for UVA's new U Bike bicycle share system as an innovative alternative mobility option at the University of Virginia. As the Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for the City of Charlottesville, I am very interested in finding new ways to reduce our reliance on automobile travel and offer a variety of choices to students, faculty, staff and visitors who are travelling across the campus and into the neighboring community. As a city we have made improving our pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure a priority and have recently been designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community (Silver) and a Walk Friendly Community (Gold). The U Bike system fits into the City's continued support for biking and walking for their contributions to sustainability in the form of benefits to the economy, environment and society.

UBike is one of the only bicycle share programs owned and operated by a university and was the result of an extensive multi-year planning process. The planning process began with a feasibility study done as a class project by students in the School of Commerce and ended with the award of a Virginia DOT matching grant that allowed the University to fund the start-up costs and initial operations of the U Bike system. Following this, I was part of the selection team that awarded the contract for the bicycle share system.

I am coordinating with the University on the performance and usage patterns of the U Bike system. So far the data indicates there may be demand for additional bike stations extending into the downtown of our City. I am actively studying the possibility of expanding the system because of this.


Amanda Poncy
Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
City of Charlottesville