

# Pedal Power

## DOCKLESS BIKES ARRIVE ON CAMPUS



*Chancellor Robert Jones and Lily Wilcock*

A decade-long effort to provide bike sharing options on campus is a reality.

While earlier initiatives explored by F&S were cost prohibitive because of the expense associated with docking stations to hold bikes, the rise of dockless bike companies changed the equation—and the conversation.

With both the cities of Champaign and Urbana also considering dockless bike sharing options, F&S Active Transportation Coordinator Lily Wilcock and F&S Associate Director of Facilities & Services, Sustainability, Morgan White helped move the discussion forward. The result is an agreement that will bring convenient, inexpensive, widespread rental bike access to campus and the cities.

And that creates a wealth of benefits to the local community.



“Bikes are the most sustainable form of transportation,” says Wilcock. “Not only do they reduce the amount of greenhouse gases, they mitigate traffic, they build the strength of the user, and they can last decades when they are well maintained.”

Providing access to rental bikes is the latest success in the work being done by F&S to promote biking on campus. Not only does it build on the university’s reputation as a Bicycle Friendly University, says Wilcock, it achieves goals established in the Campus Bike Plan and the Illinois Climate Action Plan to offer bike sharing by 2020.

The agreement is a one-year pilot project that lays out the obligations of any participating dockless bike share operator. Companies are required to ensure bike education for users, register all bikes (a maximum of 500 bikes is allowed per company), and respond to any problems with their bicycles.

After the first year, the program will be evaluated by the cities and university, and the agreement will be updated as necessary. In the meantime, the enthusiasm for dockless bikes is high across campus.

“This is a responsive, collaborative, low-risk approach to provide transportation that the campus has been seeking for a long time,” says White. “Even those who aren’t bike riders will see that the benefits are numerous.”

To learn more about how dockless bike sharing works, visit [go.fs.illinois.edu/bikeshare](https://go.fs.illinois.edu/bikeshare).