

Starting November 7, 2022 Houston BCycle will be rolling out station suspensions over the next several months as a temporary cost-saving measure. Suspended stations might affect your transportation plans, so we encourage using the BCycle app to check station and bike status before you go.

The last 10 years (2012 - 2022) have seen a 1000% growth (3 to 153 stations) in the number of BCycle stations, largely in areas with high transportation needs. Unfortunately, revenue has not kept pace with the cost of operational support to maintain a larger bike share network.

We are suspending stations to regroup, plan, and implement practices that allow for the network to be more dependable and sustainable.

To view available stations, see the BCycle Station map on the <u>BCycle app</u> or our <u>website</u>.

To view station suspension updates scroll down or click here.

FAQ

How many stations will be affected?

At this time, we estimate a total of 75 stations will be suspended over the next several months.

How did you choose which stations will be suspended?

The stations affected by this temporary plan were chosen based on a combination of location, reliability, ridership, and power source (solar versus wired).

Is there a map of which stations will be suspended?

The BCycle app and our website will be updated in real time as stations are removed from service.

When will they come back online?

We have experienced rapid growth in our bike share network, and our goal is to have stations back online quickly with improved operations and service. Our commitment is to communicate our plans regarding station operations within one week of suspension or reinstatement.

Is the station I use the most being suspended?

The BCycle app and the website link are the best way to see which stations are available.

How will I be notified of suspension?



Regular updates will be posted on our website, social media, and in The Kickstand newsletter.

How will I know a station is suspended – will signage change?

Affected stations will be modified to prohibit regular use. The kiosk will be shut down and each dock will be wired so a bike cannot be docked. There will be signage on the kiosk providing instructions on where you can access a bike.

Can I still return a bike to a suspended station?

Please don't! The dock will be wired so that a bike cannot be docked. If you try to return a bike to a suspended station it will not register, and you may be charged extra Ride More fees as a result. If the bike is not docked properly, it could be stolen. Use the BCycle app to find the closest station where you can securely return a bike.

Is this temporary or permanent?

This is a temporary cost-saving measure to sustain and improve the network.

Can I request that a station not be suspended?

We value your feedback, concerns and ideas. Contact us at houstonbcycle@gmail.com

Why is this necessary?

The last 9 years have seen a 700% growth in the number of BCycle stations, largely in areas with high transportation need. Unfortunately, revenue has not kept pace with the cost of operational support to maintain a larger bike share network. We are suspending stations to regroup, plan, and implement practices that allow for the network to be more dependable and sustainable.

How can I help?

We value your support! Let your elected officials know how much bike share means to you. Call, email or write a letter asking them to support Houston BCycle financially. Click these links to find out who represents you on <u>Houston City Council</u> and <u>Harris County administration</u>.

As a nonprofit organization, your donation goes a long way to help us provide the safe, affordable, and environmentally friendly public transportation option you've grown to love and rely upon. Click <u>here to donate</u> today.



Updates:

On March 23, 2023 Houston Bike Share and Midtown Management District entered into an agreement to reactivate the suspended stations in the Midtown micro network. Midtown recognizes the benefit of having bike share available to their residents and will pay a quarterly service fee for the maintenance of their own micro network for the next three months. The stations will be available to the public as usual.

We are in ongoing negotiations with other neighborhood management districts to provide the same service in their respective networks. The terms of these agreements are currently limited to ninety-day increments to allow for flexibility as we develop a bike share network plan with METRO.

Stations reactivated as of March 20, 2023, are as follows:

- Milam & Webster
- Ensemble/HCC
- Austin & Gray

The contract with Midtown will expire in 90 days. In May 2023 Midtown Management District and Houston Bike Share will decide to either extend or terminate the current contract.