Launched in 2018, the ValleyBike Share program connects Western Massachusetts communities with an affordable, and green alternative transportation network.1

ValleyBike was created through a partnership between Northampton, Springfield, Amherst, Holyoke, and South Hadley.2 With help from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, these cities and towns secured a $1.3 million federal grant.3

ValleyBike was officially launched in the summer of 2018. Between June and September 2018, the program allowed residents to travel more than 36,000 miles throughout their communities.4 By November, at the end of its first full season, ValleyBike’s bicycles had covered 84,000 miles over 43,000 trips.5

The program’s bicycles are available at an affordable rate, with different tiers of membership. A pay-per-ride pass costs $2, while monthly and annual plans allow frequent users to save money.6

ValleyBike operates more than 500 bicycles spread out between 54 docking stations.7 Each bike is equipped with a GPS system to allow users to easily check availability and to facilitate the recovery of missing bicycles.8 The stations are situated conveniently at areas of high traffic in the communities they serve, including the campuses of UMass Amherst and Smith College.9

The bicycles have proven to be a reliable transportation option. While the bicycles weigh in at a sturdy 75 pounds, they are equipped with electric assist (e-assist) technology to help commuters tackle the hilly terrain in the Pioneer Valley. The e-assist technology helps to increase the average distance riders cover per trip.10

The ValleyBike Share network is slated to expand, with service arriving in Easthampton in the summer of 2019.11 PVPC has also taken other steps to encourage bicycle travel in the Pioneer Valley, including a partnership with Holyoke to develop a bike network plan targeted at improving the city’s bicycle-friendly infrastructure.12

2. Ibid.
11. Ibid.