

# The Bike Share Derby

New York City's bike share program got under way this week. On Monday, our reporters tested the new system against more familiar modes of city transportation. Which would be faster?

By J. DAVID GOODMAN, LIZ ROBBINS, JULIE TURKEWITZ, NICHOLAS CORASANTI and ALICIA DeSANTIS

## TRIAL NO. 1 THE PIZZERIA CHALLENGE

Lombardi's to Juliana's

SUBWAY

START

BIKE SHARE



Walk north on Mott Street, then left on Houston Street.

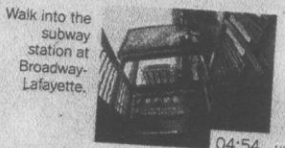
03:50

Lombardi's Pizzeria  
32 Spring Street  
Manhattan



03:40

Avoid street protest over station location; extract a bike after brief delay.



Walk into the subway station at Broadway-Lafayette.

04:54



04:30

Turn onto bike lane, heading south on Christie Street.



Purchase a new \$10 MetroCard, after short delay with touchscreen.

05:50



07:36

Navigate the bike route to Manhattan Bridge.



On the platform, wait for the F train, running on a holiday schedule.

08:20



15:50

Scenic ride over bridge, but slow going on a heavy bike.



Proceed through the tunnel under the river.

18:00



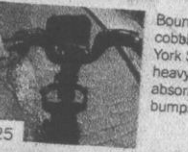
17:20

Roll off of the bridge onto Jay Street.



Exit train at York Street Station.

20:15



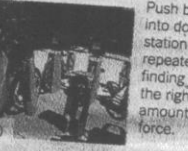
18:25

Bounce over cobblestones on York Street, heavy bike absorbs bumps.



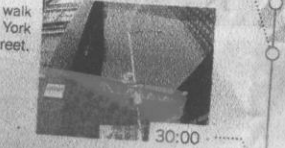
Make left turn onto York off of Bridge Street.

24:40



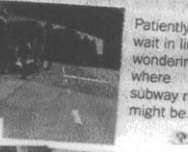
20:50

Push bikes into docking station repeatedly, finding just the right amount of force.



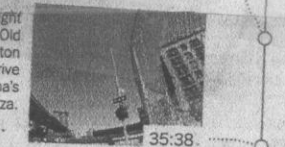
Long walk down York Street.

30:00



22:10

Patiently wait in line, wondering where subway rider might be.



Make a right turn onto Old Fulton Street, arrive at Juliana's Pizza.

35:38



35:38

Share two pizzas, loser pays.

35:38  
FINAL TIME

Juliana's Pizza  
19 Old Fulton Street  
Brooklyn

22:10  
FINAL TIME  
WINNER!

TRIAL NO. 2  
COMMITTER'S

TRIAL NO. 3

TRIAL NO. 4

TRIAL NO. 5



BY MICHAEL APPELTON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES  
Citi Bike program started on Monday in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

## at the Streets ring Begins

budget. After a few moments, Mr. Pennington was told that only annual members could ride.

"We've got an hour to kill before we get to the flight," he said, adding that his wife and daughter were at a nearby Victoria's Secret. "Now we're going to have to go to a lingerie shop and wait on a bench."

Several of those interviewed suggested that their typical transit commutes could be abandoned.

Mr. O'Malley said he hoped to get a 30-day MetroCard to use as a pay-per-ride card once he began regularly using Citi Bike.

Jeff Genshaft, 54, from Park Avenue, said he planned to use the program to shorten his commute, usually by bus, to the Far West of Manhattan. "I'm opting for the M42," he said, after renting a bike to Fulton Ferry in Brooklyn.

The city has said the bikes are intended to complement subway service. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority would study the bikes' effect on ridership but did not expect an immediate change.

Many New Yorkers remain opposed to the program, chafing at the locations and the aesthetic kiosks.

A group protested the placement of a station in Petrosino Park, beside Lafayette Street, that a hub was placed in a park dedicated for public art.

They were taped to some of the trees. "Boycott this Citi Bike until D.O.T. moves it from the park to the street."

Mr. Bloomberg acknowledged that "teething problems" would probably crop up in the program's early days, but dismissed much of the criticism as "noise." "Bike racks do take up space," he said. "But the parked cars that were replaced took up a lot more space."

He was also questioned about the stolen bike, which officials said they recovered on Monday morning after it was taken from a Manhattan site on Sunday.

"I'm sure that's the first bicycle stolen in this city," Mayor Bloomberg joked.

Mr. Bloomberg did not ride a bike himself but did pose with a bicycle in photographs.

In the past year, the transportation department has not always been consistent in its