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1:06 PM

Student launch bike share program on UNC-Chapel Hill's campus

By: Linnie Supall

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RALEIGH -- It's a program that's making it easier for students to get around UNC-Chapel Hill without breaking the bank. On Thursday, a group of students launched a bike share program called Tar Heel Bikes.

"It's really nice because I have the option if I want to bike to class. You can get to classes faster and with a lot less effort than walking," said Elliott Bowles.

It's a movement that continues to trend on campus, and now there's a push to make it even easier for students to hop on.

"That sounds great. The more people who bike the better," said Tyle Stelzig.

Danny Allen was just a freshman when he and his classmates came up with the idea. Now, two years later, their concept is finally kicking off.

"We're just trying to get the message out that people can take their bikes for those little rides if they're going to the convenience store or getting a book from the library. They don't necessarily need to take their cars," said Danny Allen, the co-founder of Tar Heel Bikes.

Much like checking out a book at the library, on-campus students can check out a bike for the day. There are stations outside three of the university's dorms on campus.

Right now, 30 bicycles are part of the Tar Heel Bikes program and they're available for day-long rentals. As the program expands, they hope to not only increase the number of bikes on campus, but also the length of the rental.

"In a few years you'll definitely see more bikes on the road," said Allen.

It's a vision geared toward shifting the way students get around.

"It's very convenient. Parking [on campus] is limited, you get exercise, and better for the environment," Stelzig said.

The rentals are free and can be checked out for up to 24 hours. The program was initiated by students and is funded with grant money.

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