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City of Bern
Directorate of Civil Engineering,
Transport and Green Spaces



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TRANSPORT AND GREEN SPACES

“Velo Bern” now open

Bern, 28 June 2018. The “Velo Bern” bike hire scheme was officially opened today. The scheme will be expanded gradually from 70 stations currently to around 200 stations with approximately 2,400 bikes by 2020. Half the bikes in the fleet are e-bikes.

With “Velo Bern”, the City of Bern, its inhabitants and visitors can use a high-quality bike and e-bike fleet around the clock thanks to a simple access system via the PubliBike App or SwissPass. Bike stations will one day cover the entire city. The fleet will ultimately comprise some 2,400 bikes at around 200 stations.

Construction work on the stations began in April 2018, and the network was officially opened today. 70 stations are currently available, offering 350 bikes and 350 e-bikes. The aim is to increase the number of stations to 100 by the autumn. Working on behalf of PubliBike, the City of Bern’s Competence Centre for Work will ensure that the scheme operates smoothly.

Additional options for everyday mobility

“‘Velo Bern’ is a milestone towards making Bern a ‘cycling capital’,” said city councillor Ursula Wyss at the inauguration event. She explained that together, the bike hire system, public transport and other sharing services will promote more flexible mobility and provide users with more options they can incorporate in their everyday mobility habits.

“We are delighted to be able to put the Bern network into operation today, thereby setting priorities in the cycling capital”, Bruno Rohner, CEO of PubliBike, told the media and guests. Gradual expansion of the system has also proved successful in the case of “Züri Velo”, which was launched in April.

All the investment costs, for instance to equip the stations or bikes, are financed by PubliBike. The Migros Aare cooperative and Swiss Post are the main sponsors of “Velo Bern”. The SBB is a strategic partner: like Migros and Swiss Post, the SBB supports sustainable mobility among its employees. PubliBike has been present in Bern since 2012 with a company network consisting of seven stations. Until now, these were mainly used by employees of Swiss Post, PostBus, PostFinance and the SBB. The latest business customer, the City of Bern, has signed a flat-rate contract with PubliBike for the period from 2018 to 2022.

Free test rides

PubliBike is giving people the opportunity to test bikes and e-bikes free of charge at the Zeughausgasse station from 11 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. each day between Friday 29 June and Thursday 5 July (except Sunday).

More information:

- City councillor Ursula Wyss, Director of Civil Engineering, Transport and Green Spaces, tel. +41 31 321 64 67

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Note to media representatives: A factsheet with details of the PubliBike service, a city map showing current and future station locations together with a photo of a station showing the “Velo Bern” anthracite-coloured bikes and a column can be downloaded at www.bern.ch/medienmitteilungen. Pictures of today’s inauguration will also be available from 1.30 p.m. onwards.