Cycle sharing comes to Anna Nagar

60 Bicycles At 6 Spots Available At ₹5 Per Hour

Karnika Athavale
@timesnpau.com

Chennai: If you have good stamina, you can now pedal from Thirumangalam metro station in Anna Nagar to the nearest destination — and from Tower Park, too. Greater Chennai Corporation launched a bicycle-sharing system on Wednesday with at least 60 bicycles at six locations, including six near the Marina beach.

The company Smart Bikes has placed the bicycles at designated parking stations. Registration cost for the high school, and Kandaswamy college on Wednesday. The bicycles will be placed at six spots near Marina beach and other locations in Anna Nagar.

"A control room at the Anna Nagar metro office will survey usage and track all bicycles. They will also make calls to those who do not return their bicycles at designated locations," he said. "Every bicycle has a unique ID and can be tracked," he said.

The contractor will operate the system with the revenue from the rent. "Apart from this, they can sign a two-year contract with companies that want to advertise on the bicycles and at the parking stations," said an official.

This will be scaled up to 5,000 bicycles in 250 locations in the coming months based on public response.

Nadkarni Nasiruddin, an associate of Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, said as per the comprehensive traffic and transportation study in 2017 and the recent figures of 2021, along with current trends, 6% of all trips in Chennai are estimated to be made on bicycles every day and approximately 12 lakh cycle trips a day.

"The launch of the bicycle-sharing system is a laudable move by Chennai to encourage this almost invisible transport mode. This pilot is a great start to an important form of last-mile connectivity," he said.

Residents, however, raised concerns such as unavailability of exclusive bicycle tracks, existing bicycle tracks not barricaded, traffic rules not followed, potholes on roads, debris, garbage dumped on road sides, bawlers on footpaths, traffic signal jump starts by motorists and peak hour traffic.