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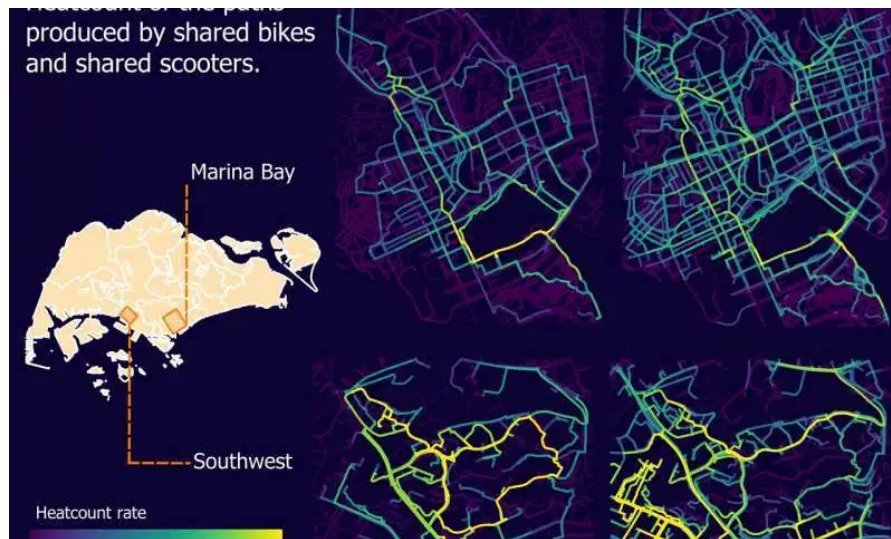
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# Study compares benefits of scooter-sharing vs. bike-sharing

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The picture reveals the utilization of shared scooters and shared bikes within the two distinct areas in Singapore Credit: Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART)

While ridesharing providers like Grab, Uber and Gojek have developed into a pervasive part of life, many international locations within the Asia Pacific are nonetheless unconvinced in relation to micro-mobility comparable to bike and scooter-sharing. While handy,

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particularly throughout a pandemic, when individuals could also be cautious of crowding in busses and metro trains, there's a want for in-depth information of these new transportation choices to assist information coverage and regulation.

A gaggle of scientists at Future Urban Mobility (FM) Interdisciplinary Research Group (IRG) at Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART), MIT's analysis enterprise in Singapore, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) got down to higher perceive the phenomenon and inform policymaking by way of a comparative evaluation of bike-sharing and scooter-sharing actions in Singapore.

The researchers shared their findings in a paper titled "Understanding spatio-temporal heterogeneity of bike-sharing and scooter-sharing mobility" printed within the journal *Computers, Environment and Urban Systems*. The examine is predicated on actual utilization data containing location and time of departures and arrivals in two distinct areas in Singapore.

"We constructed historical trajectories of the bike-sharing and scooter-sharing trips and compared usage patterns of the two systems at the Marina Bay area and the NUS campus," says Dr. Rui Zhu, Postdoctoral Associate at SMART FM. "Our results showed increased sharing frequency and decreased fleet size for scooter-sharing, suggesting that it performs better than bike-sharing."

More particularly, the sharing frequency was elevated from lower than one time per day for bike-sharing to greater than thrice per day for scooter sharing, however the researchers imagine that may be improved even additional to create a extra worthwhile service.

The examine additionally discovered that shared scooters in Marina Bay had been continuously left away from their designated parking areas or charging stations, indicating expensive and manpower-intensive upkeep since workers want to gather and transport scooters between stations repeatedly. However, the statistics additionally confirmed that over 28% and 26% of journeys departed from and arrived at non-stations respectively, suggesting that customers truly used most of the inappropriately returned scooters.

In addition, the examine revealed quantitative adjustments in journeys over time, distances and length, and the affect of climate on the demand of micro-mobilities.



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"In Singapore and a few other cities, dockless bike-sharing systems rose and fell in just one year, followed by an explosion of docking scooter-sharing systems. But we didn't have the necessary insights for appropriate business and policy decisions," Dr. Zhu explains. "Our study goes deeper into the problems and possibilities of micro-mobility sharing and suggests how these services can be improved."

To facilitate a sustainable scooter-sharing service, the researchers recommend optimizing the fleet dimension of stations and their areas, regulating returning behaviors extra strictly, enabling scooters to have autonomous repositioning performance, and rising the helpful battery life of scooters.

To improve battery life, they recommend putting in a photovoltaic module on scooters for photo voltaic charging throughout journeys and parking time or equipping standard dock-based stations with grid charging or photo voltaic charging platforms, permitting for an environmentally pleasant answer that may be capable of scale back carbon footprints.

While the enterprise mannequin and person conduct drastically affect the success of mobility-sharing providers, authorities coverage additionally performs a major function. Supportive insurance policies or rules on controlling fleet sizes and limiting utilization to discrete areas are enormous drivers for the sustainable growth of the brand new transportation modes. With this examine, SMART's researchers hope to fill present gaps in information about micro-mobility sharing to assist inform coverage choices.

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#### More data:

Rui Zhu et al. Understanding spatio-temporal heterogeneity of bike-sharing and scooter-sharing mobility, *Computers, Environment and Urban Systems* (2020). DOI: 10.1016/j.compenvurbsys.2020.101483

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