## Module 18 Challenge

Congratulations on your new job! As the new lead analyst for the New York Citi Bike program, you are now responsible for overseeing the largest bike-sharing program in the United States. In your new role, you will be expected to generate regular reports for city officials looking to publicize and improve the city program.

Since 2013, the Citi Bike program has implemented a robust infrastructure for collecting data on the program's utilization. Each month, bike data is collected, organized, and made public on the Citi Bike Data webpage.

However, while the data has been regularly updated, the team has yet to implement a dashboard or sophisticated reporting process. City officials have questions about the program, so your first task on the job is to build a set of data reports to provide the answers.

## The questions I am most interested in answering are

- 1. How are riders using these bikes, for recreation or for commuting?
- 2. Are there significant differences between the Member riders and the Casual riders? For instance, does one group take longer trips in terms of duration and distance?
- 3. Are there significant differences between riders who use Classic bikes and riders who use Electric bikes?
- 4. What are the most popular stations for starting a ride?
- 5. What are the most popular stations for finishing a ride?
- 6. Are there differences in trends between summer and winter rides?

#### Methods:

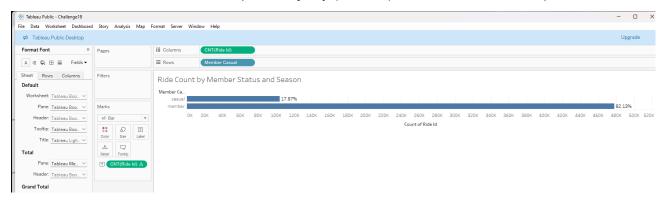
- 1. Because the amount of data available was so large, I selected June 2023 to represent summer rider behavior and December 2023 data to represent winter rider behavior.
- 2. I imported 7 csv files between June and December into VS Code as dataframes, and merged all data frames.
- 3. To reduce the volume of data to work with from over 5,000,000 records, I next took a sample of 10% of the total file. This brought the rows of the data frame down to 581,940 records.
- 4. To filter out bikes not in use, I considered only rideable\_type values of classic\_bike and electric\_bike.
- 5. The 'started\_at' and 'ended\_at' columns were object types, so I converted them to datetime objects. This allowed me to further separate date and time information into 'start\_date', 'start\_time', 'end\_date', and 'end\_time.' It also allowed me to calculate the duration of each ride, in seconds, by subtracting 'end\_time' from 'start\_time.'
- 6. I also created columns for ride day (day of the week) and ride month (June or December).

- 7. I used the haversine\_distance function on the 'start\_lat' (starting latitude), 'start\_lng (starting longitude) and 'end\_lat' (ending latitude) and 'end\_lng' (ending longitude) to calculate the distance in kilometers between ride starting points and ending points.
- 8. I used t-tests to determine whether the average duration and average distance of rides between 'member' and 'casual' riders and between 'classic\_bike' and 'electric\_bike' riders were significantly different.

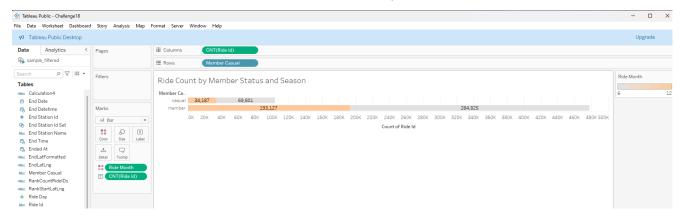
## Findings:

#### Citi Bike service users

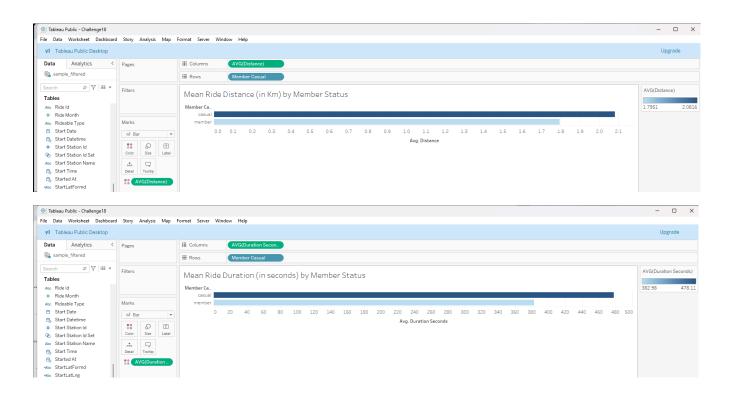
- Users of the Citi Bike service are one of two types: Casual riders and Member riders
- While we can't tell from the June and December 2023 data how many of each type of rider used the Citi Bike service, we can tell what proportion of the 10% data sample were made by Casual versus Member riders.
- Member-made rides made up the majority (82.13%) of all rides in that time period.

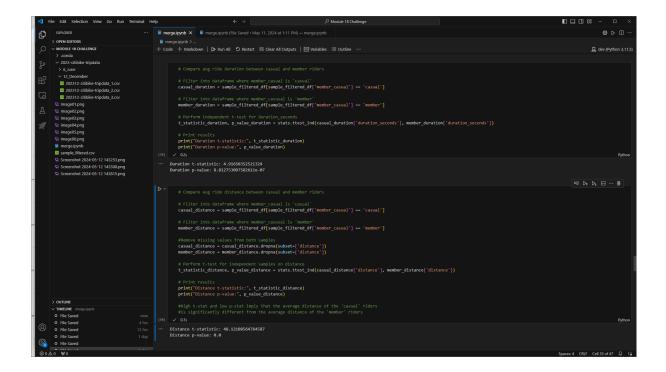


- When we break those numbers down further into rides by season (with June data serving as a
  proxy for summer, and December data serving as a proxy for winter), we see that both Member
  and Casual riders make fewer rides in winter than in summer.
- This finding could have implications for bike maintenance frequency. Bikes are likely experiencing more wear and tear in the summer season than they are in winter.

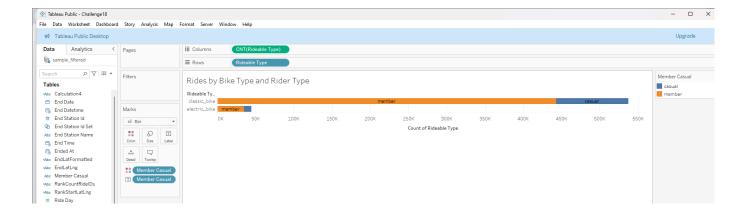


- When we compare the mean distance and mean duration (in seconds) of rides between Members and Casual riders, we see that - on average - Members are taking shorter rides in terms of both time and distance. The differences in mean distance and duration are statistically significant, as t-test p-values are less than 0.05 in both cases.
- The difference in mean distance and mean duration between Member and Casual riders suggests
  that Casuals are doing some sightseeing or leisure cycling, while Members are using CitiBikes to
  get from point A to point B under time constraints.

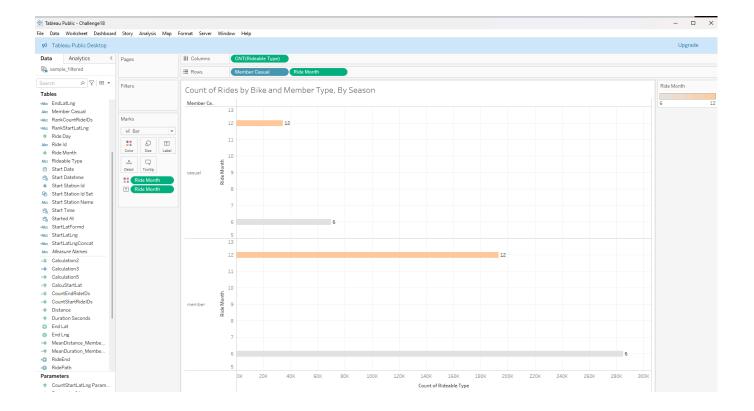




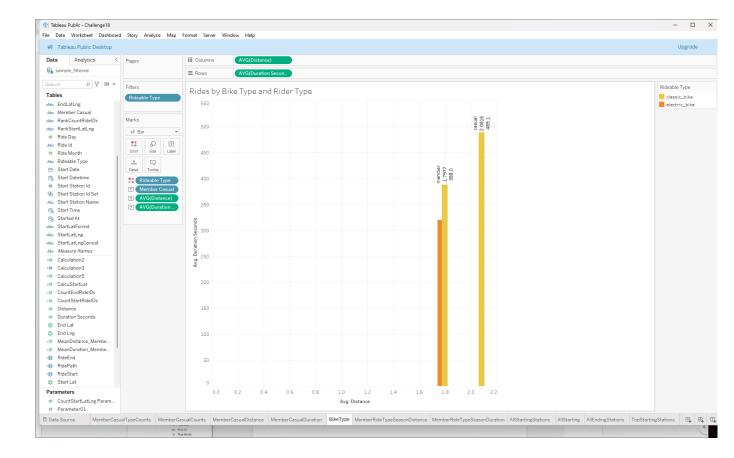
 There is a third dimension to the bike rides to consider, Ride Type. Bikes are either Classic or Electric. As we can see in the graph immediately below, far fewer rides are made on Electric bikes. This is likely because there are fewer Electric bikes than Classic.



- When we add seasonality to the graph, we can see that both Member and Casual riders are using electric bikes, but Members are using them much more extensively than Casuals, in both seasons. This may indicate that Electric bikes aren't as available as Classic bikes are when Casual riders are interested in riding. It could also suggest that Casual riders are not as familiar with Electric bikes and that they prefer Classic bikes.
- If the City decides to eventually replace Classic bikes with Electrical bikes, educational signage
  and marketing may be needed to transition Casual riders to Electric bikes and avoid a decrease
  in CitiBike usage.

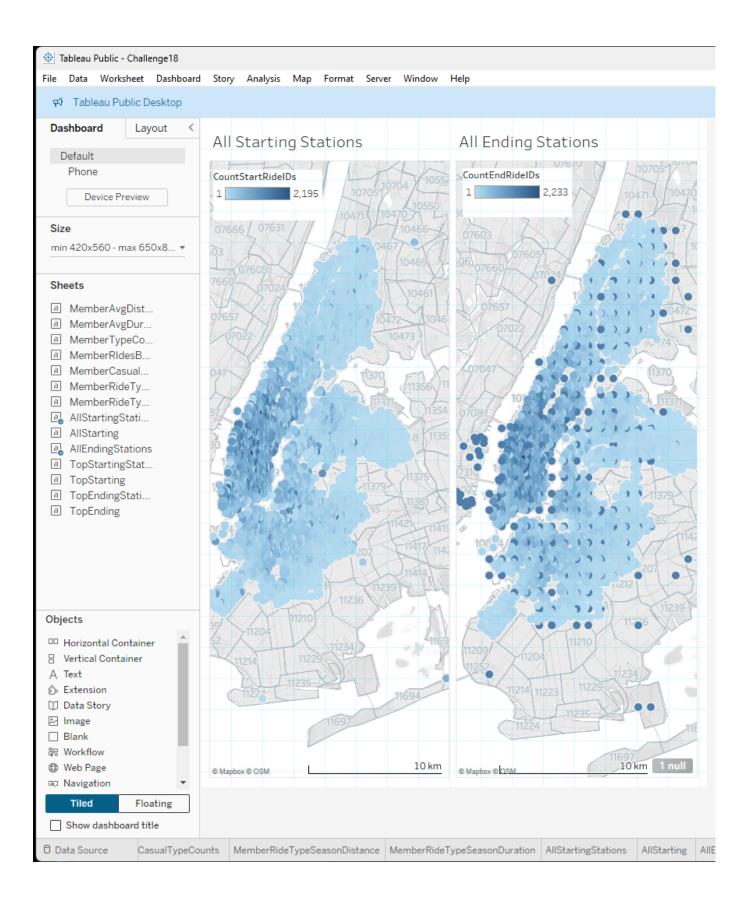


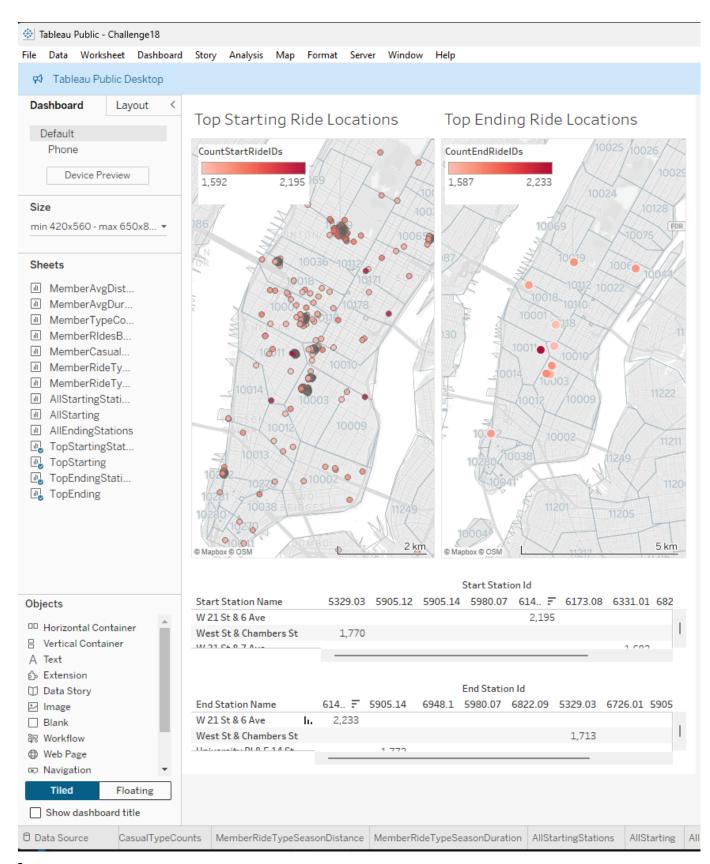
Note that when Member riders use Electric bikes, they tend to ride a very similar average
distance in Kilometers as when they ride Classic bikes. This reinforces the idea that Members are
using bikes to get from point A to point B. That their average ride duration in seconds is
noticeably shorter on electric bikes indicates that electric bikes get Members to their destinations
more quickly than Classic bikes.



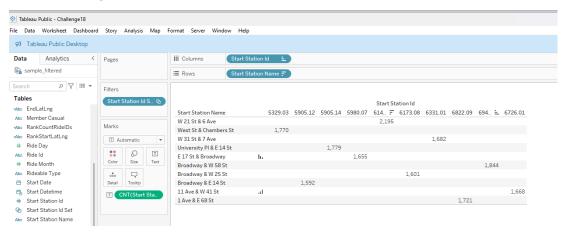
#### Citi Bike Stations

- In the sample analyzed, every ride had a starting latitude, a starting longitude, an ending latitude, and an ending longitude. Because any station can be both a starting station and an ending station, two separate maps indicate where the sample rides started and where they ended.
- The clusters of bike stations are very similar between the starting and ending maps. The most notable differences are that the ending locations are spread wider than the starting locations in these directions: southeast, northeast and west of Manhattan. This suggests that commuters are riding home from lower and midtown Manhattan, but not as frequently riding into the city by bike.
- Additionally, the most popular ending locations are clustered in both lower and midtown
   Manhattan and in the outer boroughs and Jersey City.
- The ten most popular starting and ending stations are in midtown and lower Manhattan. In fact, most of these stations ranked in the top 10 for starting and ending rides.

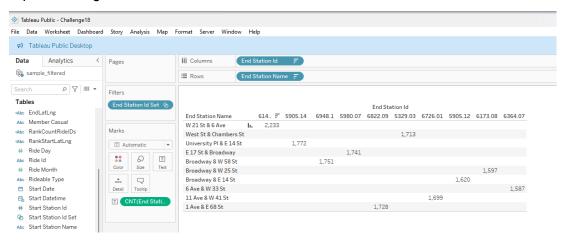


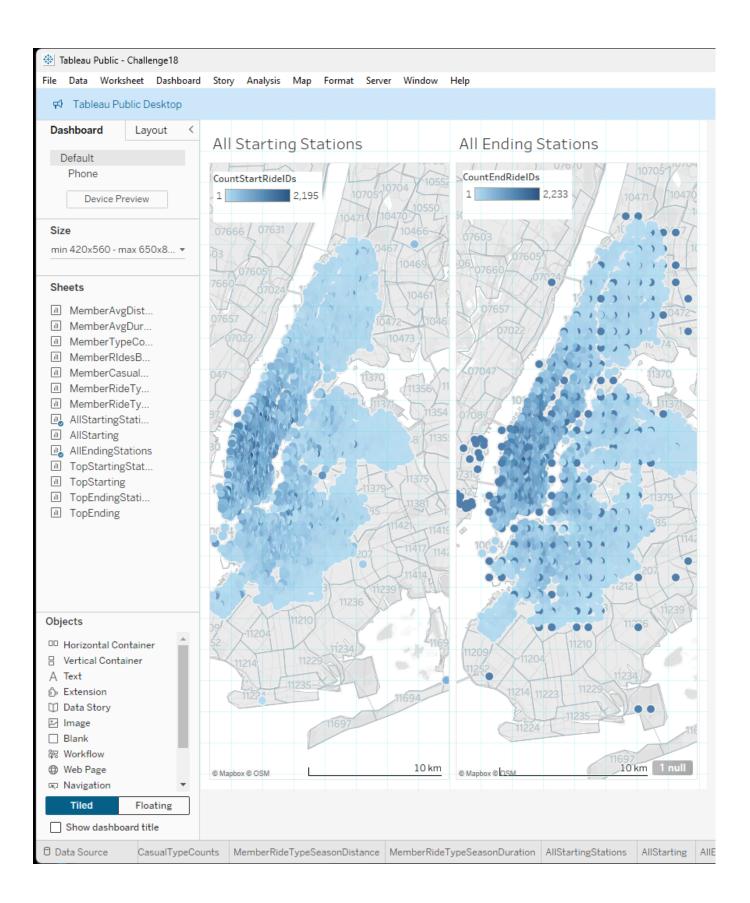


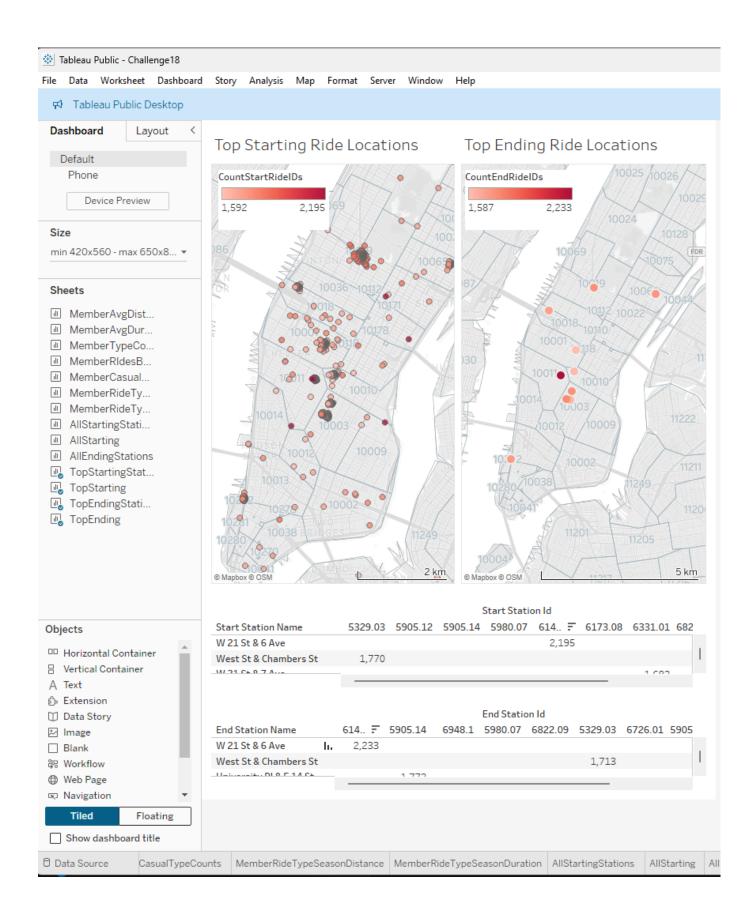
# Top 10 Starting Stations



## Top 10 Ending Stations







### Ideas for Further Analysis

- Are the outbound rides ending at some of the most popular ending stations occurring during similar times of day and on similar days of the week? Do these trips coincide with breaks in train availability?
- How does travel and popularity of stations vary between weekdays and weekends?
- If the outer stations that are among the most popular ending stations are not used as much as beginning stations, what does that imply for relocating bikes back to the more popular starting stations? Does CitiBike need to transport bikes back into Manhattan if riders don't take them into the city?
- How many Classic and Electric bikes were in circulation in June 2023? How many were in circulation in December 2023? Did Electric bikes increase in number between summer and winter?

All maps and visualizations can be found at <u>Profile - christine.jauregui | Tableau Public</u> under Challenge18.