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City gives thumbs up for bicycle sharing system

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: It is three months since the Kochi Metro Rail Ltd (KMRL) launched the public bicycle sharing system. And, Athi's Bicycle Club (ABC) that collaborates with the Metro agency to provide bicycles within city limits termed it a "successful endeavour".

Athirup M S of ABC said the response to KMRL's non-motorized transport systems was overwhelming. In fact, during the last three months about 1,500 registered with the cycling club.

"We did it on a trial basis, and a report has been submitted to KMRL. The KMRL managing director Elias George said the Metro agency would extend support for placing cycles and cycle tracks at least at six Metro stations between Aluva and Palarivattom," he said.



According to Athirup about 300 people used the bicycle during 900 days, and they could record 800 trips. "It was found that there were three trips per cycle per day," added Athirup.

Currently, cycle racks are placed at Menaka - opposite Gateway Hotel, near KTDC; South railway station - Vivekananda Road, next to sta-



GREEN TRANSPORT: The bicycles can be taken from any rack in the city and returned to any rack at the destination

tion entrance; North railway station - under the bridge; Kaloor - opposite private bus stand along Kaloor -Kadavanthra Road.

The bicycle club introduced a membership programme wherein a member has to SMS while taking and returning the bicycles.

The bicycles can be taken from any rack in the city and returned to any rack at the destination.

The member should ensure that the bicycle is locked after returning it to the rack.

People are provided an opportunity to use the bicycles free of cost for 100 hours per month and the usage will

automatically get blocked beyond 100 hours.

KMRL has maintained that development of walkway and cycle paths are important corollaries of Metro system.

Most often the last mile connectivity from Metro station is less than 500m and this can be covered by walking and cycling.

The Metro agency has also taken up the task of developing footpaths and cycle paths in many parts of the city including at Edappally and Aluva Junctions as well as on Hospital Road which connects Ernakulam boat jetty to Metro station at Maharaja's College ground.