

## B-cycle program expands with Missions

By Jeremy T. Gerlach, Staff Writer

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Riders prepare to ride B-cycle bicycles from the Blue Star Arts Complex station. The city is planning to add up to six B-cycle stations to between Missions Conception and Espada. Photo: San Antonio Express-News File Photo

The U.S. Department of Transportation has provided \$296,000 to the city of San Antonio to expand both its B-cycle program and signage for Mission Park.

“This funding will help provide San Antonio residents and visitors who want to experience the beauty of the missions with better ways to travel to and through the national park,” said U.S. Rep. [Lloyd Doggett](#). “I’m pleased that this federal funding will support these Southside treasures.”

Since the Bexar County Congressional Delegation proposed on March 1 to enlarge the [San Antonio Missions](#) National Park by 137 acres, an effort now moving through Congress, San Antonio's B-cycle Director [Cindi Snell](#) said that this funding comes at a crucial time.

“We’re looking to add at least five to six B-cycle stations to ‘fill in the gaps’ between Missions Conception and Espada,” Snell said after a bike ride from the [San Antonio Zoo](#) to the [Witte Museum](#) Thursday. “We know that 27 percent of our users are actually people on the Southside stations, so we are already talking about massive usage down there.”

While the pricing — \$10 a day, \$24 a week, and \$60 a year — isn't changing any time soon, Snell added that B-cycle already offers various holiday promotions and discounts. She pointed out her department is also exploring more flexible options.

“We’re actually talking to a similar bike-share program in Minneapolis to figure out a ‘pay-as-you-go’ system,” Snell said. “The price already looks pretty affordable in terms of the annual membership, but we’re always trying to make it more accessible to people on the fly — the

world is our oyster, so to speak.”

While the bike share program already operates more than 300 bikes at 35 stations, Snell said that B-cycle is aiming to potentially increase those figures to 500 at 50 stations, respectively, by the end of 2013.

In addition to B-cycle's expansion, Doggett's office pointed out that \$137,000 of the grant will go towards improved signage and maps for park rangers to hand out to guests.

A partnership with VIA may be considered, but transit representatives couldn't say whether it would take the form of additional or extended bus routes along the Mission trail.

[jgerlach@primetimenewspapers.com](mailto:jgerlach@primetimenewspapers.com)

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