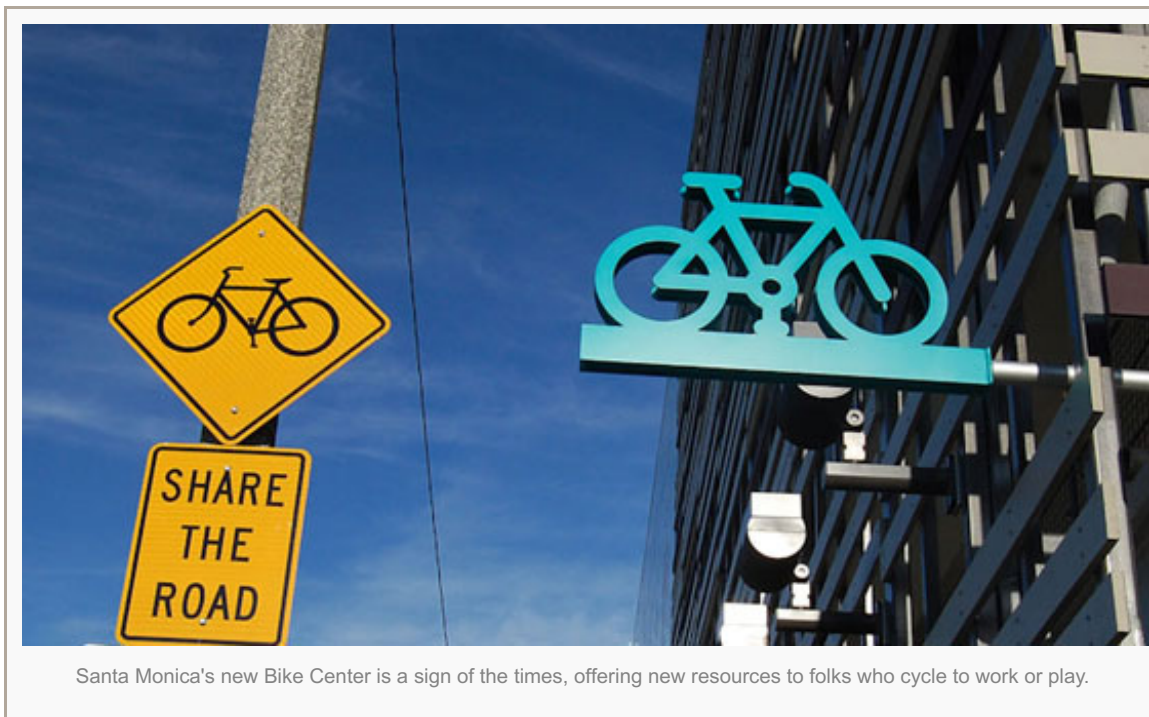


Need bike parking? No sweat

 zevyaroslavsky.org/news/need-bike-parking-no-sweat

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Portland may get all the bicycle buzz, but Southern California cyclists can lay claim to some bragging rights, too, as Santa Monica on Friday opens what's billed as the largest bike parking facility in the country.

The [Santa Monica Bike Center](#) will provide cyclists with secure bike storage, rentals, repairs and more. The [ribbon cutting ceremony](#) will take place Friday, November 18, at 10 a.m., and will be followed by open houses from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Up to 260 regular customers can reserve personal locking stations and showers for \$15 monthly or \$99 annually. Lockers and towels will be available at additional cost. (See the website for [full membership details](#), including 24/7 access to the secure bike parking area.)

For all users and visitors, the center will provide [other services](#) like bike and Segway rentals, retail supplies, self-service air and repair station, and a "bike valet"—just drop off your wheels and they will be safely stored under supervision.

The center will also be used for [special events](#), cycling classes and bike tours, all part of a plan to show people the upside of choosing transportation that is greener, healthier and, in many cases, just as fast as driving.

"In Santa Monica, a bike is really time-competitive with a car for most trips," said Lucy Dyke, deputy director for special projects for the City of Santa Monica. "Our streets are very congested."

Josh Squire, CEO of Bike & Park, which operates the Santa Monica Bike Center and others like it nationwide, said it is the highest-capacity bike parking facility in the country.

The bike center is located at [Colorado and 2nd Street](#)—next to the future site of the Expo Line's westernmost station. The light rail line eventually will connect downtown L.A. to Santa Monica. [Phase 1](#) is nearing completion,

and an initial segment—from downtown to La Cienega/Jefferson—is expected to open early next year. (Check out this [guided video sneak preview](#) with [Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky](#).) [Phase 2](#), which [broke ground in September](#), will extend the line from Culver City to Santa Monica.

The [Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority](#) partnered with Santa Monica in 2007 to create the \$2 million dollar bicycle transit hub. Metro funded \$1.5 million and Santa Monica pitched in the remaining \$500,000.

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