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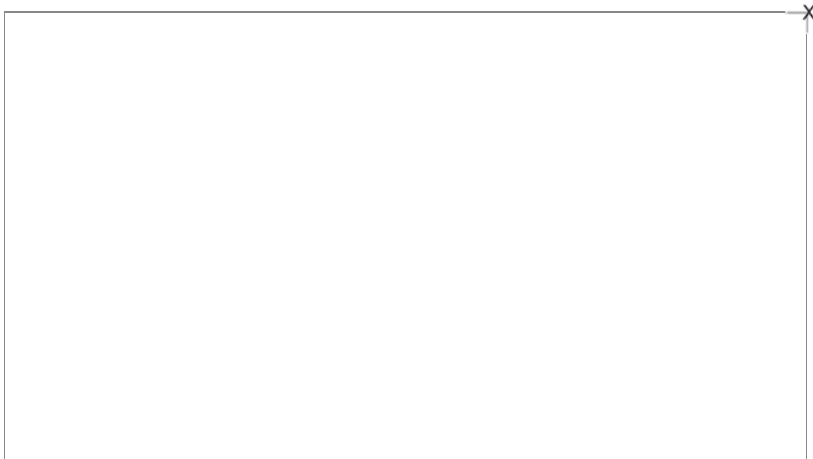
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Bird scooters show up in Arlington — without county's blessing



By [Jeff Clabaugh \(https://wtop.com/author/jeff-clabaugh/\)](https://wtop.com/author/jeff-clabaugh/) | [@wtopclabaugh \(https://twitter.com/wtopclabaugh\)](https://twitter.com/wtopclabaugh)

June 26, 2018 2:59 pm





Bird said its scooters are available throughout Courthouse, Clarendon, Ballston, Columbia Pike and Crystal City. (Courtesy Bird)

WASHINGTON — Bird, one of several dockless bike and scooter companies taking part in D.C.'s [ongoing dockless pilot program \(https://wtop.com/dc/2018/04/dc-extends-dockless-bike-pilot-program/\)](https://wtop.com/dc/2018/04/dc-extends-dockless-bike-pilot-program/), has deployed a fleet of scooters across the river in Arlington County, Virginia, but through no official arrangement with the county.

Bird said its scooters are available throughout Courthouse, Clarendon, Ballston, Columbia Pike and Crystal City. It will expand its Arlington fleet as ridership grows, the company added.

Though Arlington County may at some point consider an experiment with dockless bikes and/or scooters as a commuting option, it is nowhere near a decision, and Bird may find itself being run out of the county.

County transportation spokesman Eric Balliet told WTOP he is coordinating the evaluation of dockless vehicles and will meet with the county director and the county manager in September for more information.

"We will be having discussions with the county manager about Bird's deployment in Arlington," he said.

When asked by WTOP if Bird had an arrangement with the county, Balliet said he did not know.

the company did not immediately provide an answer.

Bird, and fellow dockless operators Lime and Spin, were temporarily put out of business in San Francisco for setting up operations without permits. The San Francisco Chronicle reported (<https://www.sfchronicle.com/business/article/Bye-bye-SF-scooters-as-Bird-Lime-and-Spin-go-on-12966874.php>) earlier this month the city mandated all three companies cease operations while they apply for permits.

The Chronicle said the city also impounded improperly parked scooters. Several companies have applied for permits now, with San Francisco expected to issue permits to a handful of them by the end of June.

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