

Voi Bike Blog July 2026

For those of you who read my previous bike blog, you will know I was impressed by the OVO/Next Bike services and very impressed by the South City Way back in 2024 (see here, [OVO Bike Blog | University of Strathclyde](#)). I'm coming back to you two years on, with a whole new bike rental services and a longer South City Way. Here are my thoughts, my advice, and any tips I can offer for those who have yet to try out Voi bikes and are maybe interested in doing so.

On returning to work in Spring this year, I was determined to try and cycle in when I could. With two nursery drop offs, this left me with the option of one potential cycle in and back to work a week. I had seen and heard about these new red bikes about Glasgow and made up my mind to try them out. I decided to do my first test in early April and see how I found it. First things first I bought a helmet, downloaded the app, set myself up with my first free ride (for reference using code SCOTLAND gets you free minutes for your first ride), and took off on my cycle.



Well, wow, something to know about Voi bikes is they are all E-bikes. And they have a serious kick to them. I was amazed at how fast they went (tipping 24/5kph), and extremely grateful I had had the forethought to get a helmet! The bikes feel incredible and a wild step up from OVO bikes; they kick in when you need them too and make cycling up steep hills accessible and frankly, pretty easy. This was a must for me. My ride into Strathclyde Sport means I need to take on at least one serious hill. My fitness levels are not what they used to be and although I want my commute to be active, I don't want to be struggling up a hill at 08:00 in the morning and coming into the office already knackered. The ease makes cycling regularly realistic for me and has meant that I have managed to stick to cycling in, for over 3 months now.



My route has also played a key part in my consistency. I pick up my Voi bike from outside the New Victoria Hospital. From there I join the South City Way and stay on it until I hit the river. I follow bus/cycle routes up to John Street and then have a quick dash on Cathedral Street, parking outside the Business school. I wouldn't do the ride if I felt unsafe or worried about cars or buses, but up to now I have only had positive experiences. The biggest joy of my cycle is approaching The Citizen Theatre coming across the Victoria Bridge. I love heading over the bridge and looking out onto the River Clyde and then the iconic Citizen coming into view. Especially lovely in the sunshine!



In terms of the usage of Voi, the app is very easy, and you can see pick up and drop off points with the number of bikes available. I began using the bikes just Pay as you Go, which just charges you per minute. But I would definitely encourage you to look at the Voi passes, which you can buy via the app. These give you various packages across minute/days/weeks/months which work out much cheaper than the PAYG options. The app shows you where you can pick up and drop off your bikes. Choose your bike and scan the QR code on your app. Check the rating and charge of the bike, most say Good/Excellent, but be aware of one saying Low could run out of battery mid ride. Make sure you adjust the saddle and then you're good to go. You'll see large white painted boxes; these are the parking zones, where you can pick up and drop off your Voi bikes. On drop off, you end the ride on your App, and they will ask you to take parking photo which you send in. The process is very quick and smooth. All in all, I have loved using the Voi bikes. They have made my commute more sustainable, active, and enjoyable. I would highly recommend using them if you are able to!



To finish, my top Voi tips:

- Check out the Voi passes to get the best option for you.
- Wear a helmet, always.
- Do a test run of your route if possible.
- Always adjust your saddle before setting off.
- Unlike OVO, Voi has a section to attach your phone to, which seems very secure. It also charges your phone for you!
- Watch out for loose items in your basket, unfortunately cycling in Glasgow does not mean you avoid bumps or potholes.

