



Metropolitan Transit System

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BY: .....

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August 19, 2016

The Honorable Jeffrey B. Barton  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
County of San Diego  
Hall of Justice  
330 West Broadway  
San Diego, CA 92101-3830

RE: GRAND JURY REPORT: "SAN DIEGO'S BIKESHARING PROGRAM NEEDS HELP"

Dear Judge Barton:

I am writing to you pursuant to California Penal Code section 933(c) regarding the recommendations included in the Grand Jury Report, "San Diego's Bikesharing Program Needs Help." In this report, the Grand Jury recommends that the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) "(w)ork cooperatively with DecoBike LLC to remove obstacles to placing bikeshare stations near transit stops." MTS agrees with this recommendation and has cooperated with DecoBike since it began operations in the City of San Diego. We are supportive of its effort to pair its bike stations with transit stops where safe and conducive to access to transit.

The Grand Jury Report states that, "The Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) has been uncooperative in allowing bikeshare stations near transit stops" (p. 5); however, this does not accurately portray MTS's collaboration with the bikeshare company to date. DecoBike has located dozens of bike stations a short distance from MTS transit stops. In 2014, MTS met with DecoBike to suggest a location on MTS property at the Old Town Transit Center. Although MTS and DecoBike mutually agreed upon a site (at the very visible corner of Taylor and Congress Streets), the installation is still in process.

As another example of collaboration, DecoBike suggested a bike station in the new Rapid bus station at El Cajon Blvd. & 30<sup>th</sup> Street in North Park. The location proposed by DecoBike would have limited circulation for pedestrians and people with disabilities as it would have removed 40 feet of the station platform. In this instance, maintaining adequate access to transit on the Rapid platform was deemed paramount. MTS suggested an alternative -- replacement of adjacent street parking with the bike station -- however this recommendation was not pursued.

The Grand Jury Report identifies the San Diego Association of Governments as MTS's "parent agency" (p. 5). However, MTS is a fully autonomous, state-enabled agency, which was created to develop and operate transit service in ten cities and unincorporated San Diego County. As such, MTS will remain focused on how best to accomplish that mission while continuing to collaborate with DecoBike in siting its facilities to the best advantage of both transportation modes.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul C. Jablonski  
Chief Executive Officer

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Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) is a California public agency comprised of San Diego Transit Corp., San Diego Trolley, Inc., San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway Company (nonprofit public benefit corporations), and San Diego Vintage Trolley, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, in cooperation with Chula Vista Transit. MTS is the taxicab administrator for seven cities. MTS member agencies include the cities of Chula Vista, Coronado, El Cajon, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Poway, San Diego, Santee, and the County of San Diego.