



TRANSFORM



March 12, 2026

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Regional Network Management Committee
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105-2066

Subject: Regional Network Management Committee Agenda Item #5b: Contract Amendment – Bay Wheels Bikeshare Contract Extension

Dear Regional Network Management Committee Members,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations from across the Bay Area, we write in support of approving Item #5b to extend the current contract with Lyft for the Bay Wheels bikeshare program.

The Bay Wheels program continues to support Bay Area residents in their multi-modal regional travel, as the rapid growth of ridership, especially since MTC's 2023 investment, attests to. The Bay Wheels system is now equivalent to being the seventh most-used transit agency in the Bay Area, accounting for nearly 4.5 million trips in 2025 alone. It is an absolutely essential first/last mile connection for millions who use our inter-county transit options to travel regionally for work, commerce, and recreation. Any disruption to service, especially in light of uncertainty facing our transit systems as agencies seek financial stability at the ballot, would further undermine the region's climate, traffic congestion, and mode choice goals.

MTC's leadership in continuing our regional bikeshare program helps further the region's vision for a truly integrated transportation network for residents and visitors alike. Without this leadership and funding, we would face the same challenges with fragmented systems that our transit networks face today. We hope that in the future, as the next bikeshare program is considered, MTC and our other leaders continue to prioritize this regional approach for a connected, coherent, and equitable system. We recognize MTC's commitment to supporting transit as we navigate the difficult funding landscape, and we hope that MTC looks to include bikeshare as part of the critical regional transportation network in the Bay.

As nonprofit organizations working across the Bay Area to improve the availability, safety, affordability, and interconnectedness of sustainable transportation options, we are glad to see that the contract extension addresses some of our current concerns. The updated requirements around bike and dock

availability are positive moves for greater usability. We are also pleased to see the proposed investment in expansion opportunities to adjacent cities, such as Alameda, Albany/El Cerrito, Santa Clara, and Daly City/Colma. The intent to invest in student memberships is likewise promising, and we hope to see those investments expand across the region.

We also want to highlight areas that we hope to see growth and development in the coming contract phase:

- Further expansion to important transit hubs, such as the Oyster Point ferry terminal (South San Francisco) and the Palo Alto Caltrain station
- Prioritization of underserved neighborhoods in the current network, such as East Oakland and Daly City, prior to expansion into new cities.
- Better payment integration with the Bay Area's transit services, via Clipper and open payment options
- Discounts for transit transfers, both Bay Wheels-to-transit and vice versa
- Integrating Clipper Start with the Bike Share for All program, increasing accessibility to bike share and reducing the number of registration processes people with low incomes need to engage in.
- Continuing to improve the reliability of real-time information regarding bike and dock availability.

We also strongly encourage MTC to commission a study of the current bikeshare model in the Bay Area to assess what future model would best serve the unique needs of our region. The study released by [San Francisco's Budget and Legislative Analyst](#) in 2022 provided some analysis, but a more thorough analysis of successes and challenges thus far, regional needs, public vs private vs joint ownership, and funding models would better help MTC and the region plan for what comes after this five year extension.

With the investments that MTC has made in the last few years, bikeshare has the power to continue to transform the way we move around our region. We have not yet reaped all the benefits of that investment, though, and the current funding landscape does not lend itself to a new open RFP. In order to maintain the current positive momentum, we ask the Committee to approve this item for a contract extension of the Bay Wheels program with Lyft, as well as continued engagement with Lyft to achieve the necessary improvements to ensure the system fulfills its promise.

Respectfully,

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