



TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

LOCAL 250 A AFL-CIO

1508 FILLMORE STREET, SUITE 211 ~ SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115

(415) 922-9495 ~ (415) 922-9416 FAX

www.twusf.org

June 5, 2019

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Director Edward D. Reiskin
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency
1 South Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Director Reiskin,

We write to express our serious concerns with SFMTA's plan to permit dockless bikeshare operators in San Francisco.

As you know, Transport Workers Union Local 250A is proud to represent Muni workers. Through our International Union, TWU also represents bikeshare workers around the country, including the men and women who operate and maintain GoBike, the Bay Area's bikeshare system. We believe the city's bikeshare system should work in cooperation with Muni, rather than competition. Thanks to the partnership and support of your agency, our system has become a robust regional public transportation network that is safe, reliable and well loved by thousands of residents and visitors to the region.

When GoBike workers voted to join the TWU in March, they helped to increase their opportunities for strong wages and benefits and job stability. Stakeholders from around the city and country, including U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, supported our efforts to organize, because they know what union jobs can mean for our families' economic security.

There are no dockless bikeshare operators whose employees are unionized, and many of the companies in the micromobility industry have deeply troubling anti-labor practices and records. Numerous articles have documented these companies' use of independent contractors to charge and rebalance vehicles for little pay and no benefits — the same work that is done by well-trained union members in the GoBike system for solid wages and benefits, with opportunities for advancement. Indeed, JUMP, one of the biggest dockless bikeshare companies is now owned by Uber, which has a long history of disrespect for and mistreatment of its workforce.

Permitting anti-labor dockless bikeshare companies is a direct threat to the success of the regional GoBike system. Undermining the exclusive nature of the GoBike contract will put the whole system at risk and undermine years of hard work to build a successful bikeshare system. We believe in the model of docked bikeshare, which aligns with your Transit First Policy and has been successful in every other major city in the country. Importantly, GoBike is well connected to other transit networks, including Muni, with many of the busiest bikeshare stations co-located at transit stops.



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As the Bay Area faces crippling economic inequality, we believe policymakers like you need to stand on the side of working families and support companies who are doing the right thing by their workers. We should not allow companies with anti-labor records to come into our city to drive down wages and hurt union members. Motivate and the GoBike system are providing much-needed quality jobs, and they're doing it in the right way.

Thank you for considering the well-being of the men and women who keep San Francisco moving.

Sincerely,


Roger Marenco
President


Terrence Hall
Secretary Treasurer

Cc: Mayor London Breed
MTC Executive Director Therese McMillan