



June 24, 2019

Councilmember Mike Bonin
Chairman, Transportation Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Chairman Bonin,

Lyft is proud to be a part of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation's Dockless Mobility Program, operating more than 3,000 scooters city-wide to provide the people of Los Angeles with a reliable and equitable transportation option to access all corners of the city.

Earlier this year, Lyft stood alongside Mayor Garcetti and other civic leaders in Los Angeles to launch Lyft City Works, representing our long-term commitment to support cities across the country with sustainable, accessible, and connected transportation solutions. Our Bikes & Scooters program is a major pillar of this initiative and will continue to play a large role in helping Angelenos minimize reliance on single-occupancy vehicles, in support of a more sustainable transportation ecosystem. With this in mind, we urge you to continue to protect affordable, sustainable transportation and urge you to oppose scooter bans in specific Council Districts during the pilot program.

The Dockless Mobility Program plays a major role in serving the public good; it connects people to economic and educational opportunities, keeps single-occupancy cars off the road, and boosts the local economy with newly created jobs and improved access to local businesses. **Removing a council district from the Dockless Mobility Program's service area would have several negative consequences:**

- **Fewer Transportation Choices While Creating Transportation Deserts:** A district-wide ban would cut residents, employees, and visitors of Council District 1 off from critical transportation options and create gaps in our service area, making Lyft scooters less reliable for everyone. People who do not own cars and neighborhoods lacking adequate transportation options will suffer most.
- **Bad User Experience:** Our users don't observe district boundaries as they move around the city. The inability to start or end a trip in Council District 1 will create a poor user experience and may discourage scooter riders from using this mode again in the future.

- **Contagion Effect:** City Council has approved the LADOT Dockless Mobility Program and permit holders have met many Council-directed requirements including insurance, liability, and equity and community engagement plans. This ban goes against the intended spirit of the pilot program, and could threaten the viability of the entire program if other Council Districts follow the lead of Council District 1 and withdraw from the pilot.
- **Stalling progress on safe streets:** The introduction of scooters in LA has shed light on the fact that our streets are not safe enough for all users. If we want people on scooters to operate responsibly on our streets, we need to give them the infrastructure needed to do so safely. Thanks to LADOT's scooter program, a critical mass of new road users has helped build the case for more infrastructure, such as bike lanes and bike corrals, that will increase safety and encourage more biking, walking, and scooter riding in LA.

As Councilmember Cedillo's motion indicates, there are policy concerns related to scooters regarding safety and clutter. Lyft takes these concerns seriously and continues to incorporate stakeholder input to implement solutions. The following are examples of actions we are taking:

Safety: regular helmet giveaways; safety training sessions; proactive geofencing; and our "Scootiquette" education campaign.

Parking: end of ride photo requirement; responsible deployment and incentivized parking zones; e-assist cargo trike ambassadors; and tipped scooter sensors.

It is our hope that the dockless mobility program remains available to all Angelenos. Removing an entire district from the program will not only create inequity for Council District 1 constituents, but will disrupt service for those who use scooters to traverse the city through the district. We appreciate the time and consideration that the Council and LADOT have given to crafting and implementing the citywide program, and urge the Transportation Committee to continue to provide micromobility access to all Angelenos.

Sincerely,



Caroline Samponaro
Head of Micromobility Policy
csamponaro@lyft.com