June 20th, 2017

Hon. Bill de Blasio
NYC Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Hon. Mayor de Blasio,

Since Citi Bike was first launched in 2013, it has continuously grown and expanded to build on its success. From day one, Citi Bike has carried record-setting trips. And today, Citi Bike regularly serves over 60,000 trips daily—a level unseen in other bike share programs across the country. Citi Bike began with just 6,000 bikes located at 332 stations; by the end of 2017, Citi Bike will have doubled in size. Given this early success, it is essential that we act now to build on this growth and expand Citi Bike to all 5 boroughs, so that we can ensure that all 5 boroughs have access to the same high-quality, safe, bike share services that Citi Bike offers.

As Citi Bike has grown, it has become a fundamental part of New York City’s transportation network. However, that growth is limited; many lower income neighborhoods do not have access to Citi Bike. These are the very neighborhoods that would benefit from Citi Bike most: neighborhoods where Citi Bike would provide a new, low-cost transit option to New Yorkers otherwise lacking alternative transportation options. The future of a fair, equal city demands that these low income neighborhoods have access to the same reliable bike share system currently offered to New Yorkers in wealthier neighborhoods, so that they, too, can benefit from a new affordable transportation option.

In addition, if Citi Bike were to expand into these low income neighborhoods, Citi Bike would provide a new resource for physical activity in communities with historically high rates of obesity and other health-related issues that are correlated to a lack of exercise. These underserved communities are home to the New Yorkers who serve to benefit most from a mode of transportation that has already proven to improve the health of its users.
These New Yorkers cannot wait any longer to access a bike share program that has proven to provide so many critical benefits to the communities it serves. These underserved communities deserve the same, high quality bike share system that Citi Bike provides, and we therefore need to act now to expand Citi Bike to all 5 boroughs. Citi Bike can serve as true equalizer for our City, and we need to work together to transform this vision into a reality, so that we have one Citi Bike for one city.

Today, Motivate, the operator of Citi Bike, has put forward a plan to expand Citi Bike into all 5 boroughs. Motivate’s current proposal is simply too good of a deal for the City to pass up. If the City acts now, we can work with Motivate to use bike share to help resolve the problem of transit and health inequity.

We therefore urge the Administration to move swiftly to work with Motivate to transform the vision of a 5 borough bike share system into a reality. New York City’s underserved communities deserve access to safe, high quality, affordable transportation; working together, we can build a truly city-wide bike share system, so that for the first time, New Yorkers from across all 5 boroughs benefit from bike share.

Respectfully,
Bill Perkins
Council Member, District 9

Stephen Levin
Council Member, District 33

Daniel Dromm
Council Member, District 25

Helen Rosenthal
Council Member, District 6

Deborah Rose
Council Member, District 49

Margaret Chin
Council Member, District 1

Costa Constantinides
Council Member, District 30

Chaim Deutsch
Council Member, District 48

Vanessa Gibson
Council Member, District 16

CC: NYC DOT