



Date: May 8, 2020

To: Commissioner Ricky Arriola  
*City of Miami Beach*

From: Colby Reese | management@decobike.com  
*Operator of Citi Bike in Miami, Miami Beach, Surfside & Bay Harbor Islands*

RE: Reopening of Citi Bike Docked Bikeshare Program

Dear Commissioner Arriola,

We wanted to thank you for putting the resolution to reopen Citi Bike on the agenda for next week's commission meeting. We have been in contact with the County several times over the past few weeks as we push to reopen our bikeshare program. As you are already aware, the State of Florida and Miami-Dade County have already begun to reopen, we sent a request to the County to set a date with us for reopening our dock-based Citi Bike program. As of today, we have not been provided any timeline from them.

As a part of the local public transportation options available for the past decade, we have thousands of residents across multiple municipalities who rely on us for daily transportation, exercise and commuting (including many with essential jobs), or just to pick up groceries or medicine. Both the State of Florida and the Federal Government deem bicycles to be essential during this time and demand for bikeshare has sharply increased in most large cities since March.

We take the safety of our riders very seriously and had already taken extra measures for disinfecting high-contact surfaces that have become the new industry standard considering the pandemic prior to the County's order that temporarily closed all bikeshare and scooter share programs.

Bikeshare has proven itself to be the safest form of public transportation in all major cities in the US and Europe during the pandemic. It offers the only transportation option that allows for easy and effective social distancing in an open-air environment while also helping take the stress off traditional transit such as buses and rail service. In addition to our staff's disinfecting procedures, riders can easily use hand sanitizer or gloves (or wash their hands) just like anyone else who is going into public spaces, public transit or to buy groceries for example. The public runs a higher risk of infection using ride hailing services and other modes of shared transportation with enclosed cabins where it is difficult or improbable to disinfect all surfaces, frequent turnover of passengers and no ability to practice social distancing. Bikeshare is the only safe alternative where the rider can easily control their environment and properly social distance.

We remain the only large metropolitan area in the US that has been ordered to temporarily close bikeshare service while other large cities and mayors are promoting bikeshare as the safe alternative to other forms of public transportation (including Washington DC, Chicago, New York, Houston, San Francisco, LA, Austin, Charlotte, etc). Other cities have even created emergency bike lanes and car-free streets to make more room available for "socially-distanced" commuting (including Bogota, Mexico City and Philadelphia).

As a docking station-based system, our bikes are always safely parked at our docking stations and never blocking sidewalks or obstructing pedestrians-- contrast that with other devices like dockless scooters that regularly obstruct sidewalks and require pedestrians to physically touch them to move them out of the way. Only our riders and staff touch our Citi Bikes.

The new standards for increased cleaning protocols for the pandemic adopted by us and most major cities in the US include the following:

- Disinfecting all high-contact surfaces on bikes when in our service depot
- Daily visits to stations to disinfect kiosk touchscreens (the user interface)
- Daily visits to stations to disinfect high-contact bike surfaces (grips, seats, etc).
- Staff using gloves and masks to transport bikes
- Daily disinfection of high-contact surfaces in staff vehicles

Just as important to note as the increased disinfecting protocols, UV radiation from sunlight is documented and proven to kill viruses quickly. Our bikes and solar-powered stations are permanently located in direct sunlight and receive prolonged exposure to the sun's UV rays throughout the day. According to the National Institute of Health, *"UV radiation from the sun is the primary germicide in the environment...Sunlight or, more specifically, solar UV radiation (UV) acts as the principal natural virucide in the environment. UV radiation kills viruses by chemically modifying their genetic material, DNA and RNA."* Source: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1280232/>

*Sunlight Destroys Corona Virus Quickly New Government Tests Find: "Results from government lab experiments show that the coronavirus does not survive long in high temperatures and high humidity, and is quickly destroyed by sunlight, providing evidence from controlled tests of what scientists believed...The study found that the risk of "transmission from surfaces outdoors is lower during daylight" and under higher temperature and humidity conditions." "Sunlight destroys the virus quickly," reads the briefing. "An important piece of knowledge that the White House's science advisers have been seeking as they scramble to respond to the spreading pandemic."*

Source: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/sunlight-destroys-coronavirus-very-quickly-new-government-tests-find-but-experts-say-pandemic-could-still-last-through-summer-200745675.html>

While our customers always ride at their own risk, we will continue to provide them with safety messaging. As a default, we are recommending that they avoid close contact with others who are sick and encourage them to review the CDC's tips on keeping healthy. We also recommend washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, wearing gloves, and/or using hand sanitizer after using any public mode of transportation, including bikeshare.

Lastly, we are local business with dozens of staff members who have been without work for nearly the past month and a half. This impacts them and their families immensely. They would like to get back to work and help contribute something positive to the community by being able to offer bikeshare as the safest form of public transportation available during this time.

We thank you for your support and consideration on this matter. Please let us know how we can assist further.

*Regards,*

Colby Reese  
DecoBike LLC Management