



September 21, 2018

Polly Trottenberg  
Commissioner  
New York City Department of Transportation  
55 Water Street, 9th Floor  
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg:

I am the Executive Director of the Checks and Balances Project, a nonpartisan government and industry watchdog. I am writing to you about the Dept. of Transportation's contract with NYC Bike Share, LLC (NYCBS) and its parent companies to operate NYC Citi Bike.

Recently, we submitted two Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests via the [OpenRECORDS](#) system of New York City for records regarding the above-referenced contract. We expect a response to one of our requests next month. In the interim, we have a few questions about your role with respect to this contract.

1. In the midst of a global revolution in dockless electric bikes and scooters offered by multiple, entrepreneurial companies, the [contract with a single company was extended](#) not just five years — which it could have been — but ten. Why?
2. The original amended contract between DOT and Motivate (then Alta Bicycle Share and its subsidiary NYCBS) appears to have last been amended on January 1, 2016. That contract stated in [Section 2.2.2](#): “the Initial Term may be extended by DOT for up to two (2) additional terms of five (5) Years each, at DOT’s option.” Why didn’t DOT exercise the option for a single five-year contract extension?
3. Eight months after the contract was double-extended by NYC DOT, on July 2, 2018, [Lyft bought Citi Bike from Motivate](#), as well as networks in six other cities, for \$250 million. It appears that [Motivate is backed](#) by several players with significant ties to NYC government, including investments from [former Deputy Mayor Dan Doctoroff](#), mega real estate developers and others. Did these insiders push for the option of extending the contract for ten years?
4. What conversations did you have with the aforementioned stakeholders prior to the ten-year extension?

Our readers and New York City residents look forward to your response. Please contact me if you have questions. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Peterson'.

Scott Peterson  
Executive Director, Checks and Balances Project