

Proposed Response to Grand Jury Report:

SAN DIEGO'S BIKESHARING PROGRAM NEEDS HELP

IBA Report 16-18 REV

City Council Meeting, Item 333
October 4, 2016



Independent Budget Analyst



This Grand Jury report discusses issues related to the implementation of the San Diego bikesharing program.

- The Grand Jury filed this report on May 19, 2016.
- The report includes 2 findings & 2 recommendations directed to the Mayor and City Council for response.
- The IBA's Office worked collaboratively with City staff and the Mayor's Office to develop a proposed joint Council/Mayoral response.
- Due to the nearing legislative recess, an extension for submission of the response was requested/granted.
 - The response is now required to be provided to the Superior Court Presiding Judge by October 28, 2016.

Prescribed Grand Jury Responses

- For each Finding:
 - Agree
 - Disagree wholly or partially
- For each Recommendation:
 - Has been implemented
 - Has not yet been implemented, but will be
 - Requires further analysis
 - Will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable

Highlights of Finding 01

The success of the bikesharing program is important to achieving the city's planning and climate goals.

Proposed Response: ***Partially disagree***

- Agree that encouraging/facilitating bicycling is an important component in achieving the City's planning and climate goals.
- However, there are many other components, such as:
 - Realizing efficiencies in energy and water usage
 - Enhancing renewable energy generation
 - Increasing the use of zero emissions vehicles
 - Increasing mass transit usage

Highlights of Findings 02

To be financially successful, DecoBike needs kiosks in tourist areas including beach communities.

Proposed Response: **Partially disagree**

- Bike station placement in areas with a high volume of visitors would help create a useful, robust bike network and would offset DecoBike's cost of lower revenue bike stations.
- However, community concerns and public safety must also be considered, which is part of the process of choosing station locations.

Highlights of Finding 02

Proposed Response (continued)

- The optimal overall configuration of bike stations in San Diego will have...
 - additional locations in high-pedestrian areas
 - combined with additional commuter locations
 - to help create a financially viable network that will support the bike-transit connection.

Highlights of Recommendation 16-01

Assign one prominent official to be the single point of contact on bikesharing and refer communications about the program to that spokesperson.

Proposed Response: ***The recommendation has been implemented.***

- The City spokesperson will be the Director of Communications.
- In addition, the Assistant Chief Operating Officer (ACOO) will assist in the coordination to ensure implementation of the program.

Highlights of Recommendation 16-02

Instruct that prominent official to work with the San Diego City Transportation and Stormwater Department and local planning groups in beach communities to site bikeshare stations where needed for DecoBike to succeed.

Proposed Response: ***The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.***

Highlights of Recommendation 16-02

Proposed Response (continued)

- Based on prior feedback from the community, City staff has been working in partnership with DecoBike to identify 17-24 new sites in the La Jolla, Mission Beach, Mission Bay, and Pacific Beach communities.
- Information regarding the implementation of these sites was presented at the July 27 Smart Growth & Land Use Committee meeting, at which the public had the opportunity to provide comments.
- The implementation is expected to be completed within the next six months.

Previous Action & Next Steps

- On July 27 the Smart Growth & Land Use Committee recommended approval of the proposed response (with minor wording changes) to the full City Council.
- We request the Council approve the proposed response and authorize the Council President to deliver it to the Superior Court Presiding Judge by October 28, 2016.