



ACTIVE
TRANSPORTATION
ALLIANCE

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July 10, 2009

Mr. Sadhu Johnston, Deputy Chief of Staff
City Hall, Room 509
121 N. LaSalle St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Ms. Lisa Schrader, Deputy Chief of Staff
City Hall, Room 509
121 N. LaSalle St.
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Sadhu and Lisa:

We appreciate your attention to and clarification of the concerns in our analysis of the Chicago parking meter concession. We think it is important to analyze how this lease will impact transportation and urban planning. It was never our intention to embarrass the City.

On behalf of the Active Transportation Alliance, I would like to simply state that we should not have published this report. I am embarrassed that it not only contains factual errors, but that it also paints an incorrect interpretation of the lease's overall goals.

We applaud the City's commitment to risk management and the Chicago Parking Meter System Concession Agreement's investment in market-based parking meter rates, which will lead to maximum revenue while reducing congestion and carbon emissions. We also look forward to the full implementation of the advanced technology of the pay-and-display boxes and its potential to manage parking for maximum turnover and minimum automobile cruising.

Furthermore, we regret our statement that "planners and neighborhoods have lost control over one of their most powerful urban planning and revenue-generating tools." We understand that the City bears the financial costs of meter removal today just as it did before the meter agreement took place.

After reviewing the City's response to our report, we have some clarifying questions that we would like addressed before we refresh our report to reflect current understanding. We have had additional requests from media for interviews, and we have ceased these interviews while we work with you on further clarification. Once we have these clarifications, we will submit to the City for review a reissued report. We would like to discuss with you how we would then proceed in terms of making this new report public.



We welcome a conversation about how we can assist in ensuring that the City's numerous progressive plans supporting bicycling, walking, and transit may become a reality.

We applaud the City for using the \$100 million human infrastructure fund to improve quality of life among seniors, children and people with disabilities. We suggest that improving mobility and accessibility for underserved populations would be a worthy cause. Complete Streets with wider sidewalks, or greater access to transit, would leave a tangible and germane legacy.

We deeply appreciate the commitment the City has to improving bicycling, walking, and transit in our City. The City's work will no doubt help us reach the Mayor's goal of becoming the most bicycle-friendly city in the nation.

I can be reached at (312) 427-3325 Ext 228, by cell at (773) 575-1933 or by e-mail at rob@activetrans.org.

In cooperation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Sadowsky". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline.

Rob Sadowsky
Executive Director

cc: Matthew Darst, Department of Revenue