



July 18, 2017

Honorable Harry Mathis, Chairman

Mr. Paul Jablonski, CEO San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

1255 Imperial Avenue, Suite 1000 San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mr. Mathis and Mr. Jablonski:

At the June 12th 2017 Uptown Community Parking District Board of Directors meeting the Directors voted to support activities to persuade MTS to maintain bus route 83. We are joined in this effort by the Mission Hills Community; Mission Hills Town Council, the Mission Hills Business Improvement District and MH Parking Advisory Committee. The Board heard public comment from residents and business owners concerned for the continued accessibility to the area.

Accessibility throughout Mission Hills is the driving factor and the Metropolitan Transit System's Transit Optimization Plan review has it slated for discontinuation. Currently MTS Route 83 Bus service is the only available public transportation connecting the upper and lower areas of the Mission Hills community, downtown San Diego and the trolley system. It is instrumental in providing employees and care givers the means to get to work. Unfortunately, there is no pedestrian access that would allow a travel option between Mission Hills, Hillcrest or downtown San Diego.

Please assist us in maintaining Route 83 Bus service to and through Mission Hills. Many depend solely on bus #83 operations for all their commuting needs.

The Uptown Community Parking District supports alternative transportation modalities into and through the greater Uptown Community neighborhoods.

cc: Honorable Ron Roberts, Honorable Christopher Ward, Honorable David Alvarez, Honorable Myrtle Cole, Honorable Lorie Zapf, Honorable Georgette Gomez

June 22, 2017

San Diego Metropolitan Transit System
Board of Directors
1255 Imperial Avenue, Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Directors:

On June 8, the Mission Hills Town Council Board of Directors voted to urge the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System to maintain the #83 bus route, **the only bus route that serves both north and south Mission Hills**. Without this vital route, residents in north Mission Hills would have to walk to Washington Street to catch a bus. Residents in south Mission Hills would have to walk up a steep hill to the bus line on Washington Street or down the hill to the Middletown trolley station. In some parts of the neighborhood, this would mean a walk of a mile or more in areas that, in some cases, are neither well-maintained, easily accessible, or safe.

Residents who work or visit downtown depend on the #83 bus, as do residents who are elderly, disabled, no longer drive, or are low-income. For this latter population in particular, the one-mile-plus, steep walk to the Washington Street or Middletown trolley station or bus stops would be difficult, if not physically impossible. In addition, those who work in Mission Hills – like domestic workers, nannies, and homecare workers – are also dependent on this service. Many of our elderly residents would no longer be able to live at home without reliable home care workers, and a large segment of our community depends on the bus for transportation to grocery stores, pharmacies, and medical appointments.

As you can see, doing away with this bus route – which again, is the *singular* MTS option for two very large, diverse Uptown neighborhoods – would without question be catastrophic for those who depend on and use it daily. We strongly urge you to be circumspect in your consideration of the impact cutting this route would have on San Diegans who depend on it, and we ask that you to vote to retain the service without interruption.

Sincerely,

Anthony Nyikos,

President, Mission Hills Town Council

Cc: Christopher Ward; christopherward@sandiego.gov

David Alvarez; davidalvarez@sandiego.gov

Myrtle Cole; myrtlecole@sandiego.gov

Lorie Zapf; loriezapf@sandiego.gov

Georgette Gomez; georgettegomez@sandiego.gov

Ron Roberts; Email- (ron.roberts@sdcounty.ca.gov)



BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

June 27, 2017

Honorable Harry Mathis, Chairman
Mr. Paul Jablonski, CEO
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System
1255 Imperial Avenue, Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mr. Mathis and Mr. Jablonski:

The Mission Hills Business Improvement District and the Mission Hills Parking Advisory Committee learned the board of directors for San Diego Metropolitan Transit System is undergoing a Transit Optimization Plan review which presently suggests a lack of ridership and recommends eliminating MTS Route 83 Bus service.

We ask for your favorable consideration in maintaining Route 83 Bus service to and through Mission Hills. This mini-bus service provides a critical transportation link in the morning and in the afternoon between downtown San Diego and Mission Hills (Uptown). Those who utilize Route 83 Bus service cannot afford to purchase an automobile and using Uber or Lyft remains cost prohibitive.

On May 17, the Mission Hills Business Improvement District voted unanimously in favor of continuing MTS Route 83 Bus which services the Mission Hills community along Reynard Way and into North Mission Hills where the vast number of Mission Hills' businesses are located.

On June 21, the Mission Hills Parking Advisory Committee voted unanimously in favor of continuing MTS Route 83 Bus. The PAC supports alternative transportation modalities into and through Mission Hills and the greater Uptown Community neighborhoods.

Please consider all options available to maintain MTS Route 83 Bus service between downtown San Diego and Mission Hills.

Sincerely,

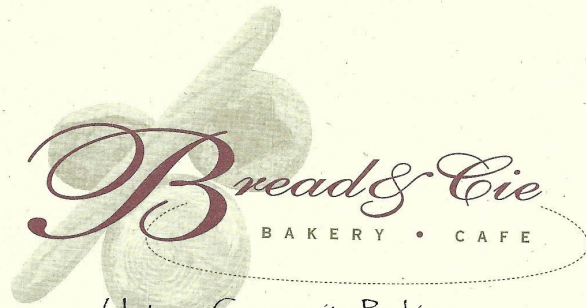
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Susan McNeil Schreyer".

Susan McNeil Schreyer
Executive Director, Mission Hills Business Improvement District
Chairperson, Mission Hills Parking Advisory Committee
Board Member, Uptown Community Parking District

cc: Honorable Ron Roberts, Honorable Christopher Ward, Honorable David Alvarez, Honorable Myrtle Cole, Honorable Lorie Zapf, Honorable Georgette Gomez

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Uptown Community Parking

Attn: Gerrie Trussell

Dear Gerry,

One of my employees approached me today about her concerns with the possibility of the discontinuation of bus route 83. She uses this bus daily to get to her job at Bread & Cie, and she said other buses are not a good option for her. She also told me that this would be a huge inconvenience for many of her neighbors as well.

I wanted to bring this to your attention, our hope, is that this decision be re-considered.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Linda M. Saltzman'.

Linda Saltzman

Bread & Cie

350 University Ave

San Diego, Ca 92103

Hello,

My name is Bethann Valine and I live in Mission Hills. We have a Senior Citizen Veteran take that bus an average of 2 times per week to come and walk our dogs. He appreciates the time with our dogs and the money. He will not be able to get to our home if they discontinue that route.

Thank you,

Bethann Valine

hello,

i am a resident of mission hills and i am disabled...

As i rode the 83 bus 1.5 weeks ago i over herd from a Sandag employee that her management knows that this bus has riders mostly in mornings(6am-10am) and afternoons (3pm-6pm) and they choose to ride at a time when they know when people are at work.... there are many people who ride to come to work as housecleaners, jury duty, food shopping.

As i stated earlier i am disabled and for me to walk out to the 10 bus takes me about an hour... i realize that sdmts takes into account who is paying over a monthly..., the mayor, sandag and sdmts are pushing for people to ride a bike take a bus.

It seems too me that Sdmts is more in money then what happens to the Bus drivers and the residents who rely on the bus in the area

lisa makarushka

(619)642-9630

lismakarushka1@gmail.com

I am writing to you to implore your help in preventing the elimination of the bus http://83. My reason to ask you to do this is because I am senior and employ a person whom use the bus all the time and ,the elimination of this route will make a tremendous burden on her.

Sincerely yours.

Rosalba Rodriguez de la Sierra

Additional calls and contacts:

Lauren Williams, [305-333-1893](tel:305-333-1893), laurenwilliams3@hotmail.com

Bob O'Connor, [619-972-6603](tel:619-972-6603) & [619-972-6603](tel:619-972-6603), Mission Hills neighborhood watch captain

Kaye Davis, [619-296-6965](tel:619-296-6965). She's a senior citizen in Mission Hills. (A bit on the chatty side, so watch out)

Louie (Italian last name I've forgotten) [619-269-6878](tel:619-269-6878). He's a disabled senior citizen who lives on Reynard Way

Judith Krumholz, [619-709-3264](tel:619-709-3264). Called me last week. Lives at Arista & Presidio, senior citizen

Joan Braumstein, [858-335-6184](tel:858-335-6184). Uses bus to visit her daughter who lives in MH

Linda Artiaga, [619-895-3136](tel:619-895-3136), artiata@cox.net. MH resident. Sent her info today.

Caleigh McLaughlin, cmclaughlin@mhsinc.org. She works at The Meeting Place Clubhouse, located at 2553 State Street, at the bottom of Reynard Way. Many who are members at the Meeting Place live in a group home called Friendly Home of Mission Hills. It is halfway down Reynard Way, across the street from the Cloverfield Market. They rely on that bus to get to the meeting place, as well everywhere else.

PATRICIA L. PAYLOR

808 Fort Stockton Drive, Apt. 3D San Diego, California 92103

{619} 838-1126 ppaylor@klinedinstlaw.com

June 8, 2017

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

I live in Mission Hills. I am a single, senior citizen who's still working full time. I have worked full time downtown at law firms for over 40 years. I, like many, have been using the 83 bus for over 10 years on a weekly basis. About 7 years ago, I campaigned heavily to keep this bus route when it was being threatened at that time. I communicated with Peter Casellini in the MTS planning department. He is the same person I have been communicating with this time around as well.

As always, the 83 bus transports many domestic workers up to Arista Street and then back down to catch their buses and trolleys on Washington Street or to the trolley downtown at America Plaza. It travels southbound to downtown on Columbia Street/Reynard Way. It returns northbound via State Street/Reynard Way. Many riders who live on Reynard Way depend on that bus to get to their jobs, to their doctor appointments, and to Vons on Washington Street to buy groceries.

Reynard Way is not serviced by any other public transit. In addition, along Reynard Way, there is a group home for mentally disabled people. They can't drive and need that bus. There is also a facility called The Meeting Place on Reynard Way, which is used by mentally disabled people in the area.

An argument was brought up about the disabled using the para transit service (Access bus). Many disabled do not qualify for using that service. I used it myself when recovering from two knee replacement surgeries. I know firsthand that it is a highly unsatisfactory way to get somewhere. I have often boarded and rides are added on. It has taken me from 90 minutes to 2 hours to get to places that would have been a 15-minute ride in a car. Many of the people who depend on the 83 do not have the mental capacity or ability to schedule their rides on an Access bus. They can barely deal with just getting on the bus, placing the fare in the box, and remembering to get off at the correct stop.

Apparently, the heaviest usage is in the morning and late afternoon hours, when people are getting to and from work. Ridership in the middle of the day is usually sparse. I've been polling drivers. We see no use for the bus circling into Hillcrest, along a route that is serviced by three other buses. Many of us agree that the route should be shortened to begin and end farther west up on Washington Street, and then keep the same route from that point. Both drivers and riders agree wholeheartedly.

I proposed to Peter Casellini that they just modify the route to run during peak times, much like commuter buses. He sent an apologetic e-mail telling me they considered that and, basically, the route doesn't make money, so it needs to go. I've been strongly urging him to reconsider that the opposite needs to be done, that the route needs to be improved, not cancelled.

Rather than simply modifying the service to run only during peak hours, the Transit Optimization Plan proposes that the route be ended entirely. That is like throwing the baby out with the bath water, as the saying goes.

Here are some of the people whose lives will be affected if the 83 bus is discontinued:

- A neighbor of mine, Charles Tate, is a retired veteran who lives at Green Manor at Ibis and Fort Stockton. Charles is 91 years old and still going strong. He gets his medical care at the VA hospital and travels up there regularly. That is a long trip. He told me that losing the 83 will make it difficult to get to all of his other doctors and to the dentist.
- A neighbor who lives on Hortensia Street called me. He and his wife are 86 years old. Their caregiver comes to their house via the 83 bus. They are very concerned.
- Lisa Makarushka is a disabled young woman who lives on Reynard Way. If the bus is taken away, she told me it will take an hour to walk up the hill to get the #10 bus on Washington Street.
- Imelda, a single mother who lives on Reynard Way with her two children. Her daughter is attending UCSD and travels a long distance to get to school every week. Imelda told me she can't afford to get a cab or an Uber every time she needs to get to a store for her kids or to an appointment.
- Caleigh McCullough is a facilitator at The Meeting Place on Reynard Way. She spoke to the Board on May 11 on behalf of the disabled people who depend on the bus to get to The Meeting Place. She is very concerned for the people in her care.
- Kaye Davis, a long-time Mission Hills resident, is a widowed senior citizen and depends on the 83 bus to get everywhere.
- Several residents of the group home for mentally disabled on Reynard Way.
- Dozens of Latina women, some young, some senior, take the bus into Mission Hills every week to get to their jobs and then back down to go home, or to go to their second jobs. I've seen many of these ladies using that bus for over 10 years.
- Louie and Gary, who live on Reynard Way. Louie is disabled and is unable to walk north up the steep hill to get to the bus, or walk south for 20 minutes south to the nearest trolley station.
- A senior citizen and veteran gentleman travels to Mission Hills twice a week to assist Bethann Valine. He walks her dogs. Bethann told me he appreciates the time with their dogs and the additional money.
- Several senior citizen Mission Hills residents who use the 83 bus to get to jury duty downtown, as well as to errands in the area.
- A senior citizen, Joan Braumstein, just called me to say that when she comes to Mission Hills, she uses that bus to visit her daughter.

This is not an easy town to live in. People are stuck where they are. I am one of them. Rents have become astronomical. Many are living in places where, fortunately, they are paying manageable rent in a safe and desirable neighborhood. But if they had to move just to get near public transportation, it would be mostly

impossible to find the same rental situations that they enjoy now. I have spoken to Brittany Bailey, a representative at Councilman Chris Ward's office and they are aware of the situation.

I have been in contact with Mission Hills Town Council members, as well as many residents who employ the domestic workers who rely on that bus to get to the residents' houses. The whole neighborhood is aware of the impact. We've been expressing our concerns to each other for months. People are contacting me every week to discuss their concerns. We are all fearful.

I refer everyone to Julia Tuer, who then passes on the rider information to you on the Board of Directors.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. We all urge you to move to have this route re-examined and revamped. NOT discontinued. The impact to our neighborhood will be devastating if this route is discontinued.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Paylor