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David S. Kim
Secretary

July 3, 2020

Dear Select Members of the Zero Traffic Fatalities Task Force and Advisory Group:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the *AB 2363 Zero Traffic Fatalities Task Force CalSTA Report of Findings* and for the opportunity to update you on efforts occurring within the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) and our departments.

I recognize the valuable insights you provided during last year's Task Force and Advisory Group activities, and I greatly value the important role that you, as public health and transportation professionals, researchers, community advocates, and industry representatives, continue to play in improving safety on California's roads.

Our focus on speed management has continued since the Task Force and Advisory Group completed their work and the report was delivered to the Legislature earlier this year. With the support of CalSTA, several departments under our jurisdiction – namely, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), California Highway Patrol (CHP) and the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) – are taking actions to further define and implement many of the report's recommendations.

To highlight a few current activities:

- Caltrans is in the exploratory phase of developing a context-sensitive approach to setting speed limits and is committed to moving forward with a safe systems approach.
- Caltrans is institutionalizing safety in one of its most important and far reaching roles statewide: local development review. Through the Interim Land Development and Intergovernmental Review (LDIGR) Safety Review Practitioners Guidance, Caltrans staff will receive direction about the approach to conducting safety analysis for proposed land use projects affecting the State Highway System. This will set the stage for safety impact analysis on all public roads, including a strong incentive for local jurisdictions to proactively create Local Roadway Safety Plans or Vision Zero plans.

- Caltrans is forming a team to gather information on best practices regarding design guides and training. Additionally, the Department is also planning to consult with subject matter experts to advise on revisions to the *Highway Design Manual*.
- OTS is planning a new statewide speed awareness safety campaign to promote behavioral changes to create a safe roadway for all users and is exploring ways to convene a virtual forum for law enforcement agencies to discuss traffic safety enforcement.

Implementation of some of the report's recommendations, including changes to how speed limits are set or piloting automated speed enforcement, will require legislative action. CalSTA is actively monitoring traffic safety, speed limit and design legislation that was introduced this year, and we will continue to engage with legislators on these complex policy issues and provide technical expertise as appropriate.

There is still much work ahead. Thank you for your offer to help advance the report's recommendations. As Caltrans, CHP, OTS and our partner agencies work on these important safety initiatives, we will draw on your expertise, experience, and technical knowledge to help develop solutions to make our roadways safer for all Californians.

Sincerely,

David S. Kim

DAVID S. KIM
Secretary

cc: Undersecretary Elissa Konove, California State Transportation Agency
Deputy Secretary Stephanie Dougherty, California State Transportation Agency
Director Toks Omishakin, California Department of Transportation
Chief Safety Officer Rachel Carpenter, California Department of Transportation
Commissioner Warren Stanley, California Highway Patrol
Director Barbara Rooney, California Office of Traffic Safety