



peopleforbikes



April 30, 2024

The Honorable Senator Caballero
California State Senate
1021 O St., Suite 7620
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 960 (Wiener) Re: Department of Transportation: Complete Streets and Transit Priority Policies

Dear Senator Caballero,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write in strong support of Senate Bill 960. SB 960 is designed to make state-owned highways in California safer and more convenient for all users. If enacted, this bill would:

- Reduce deaths and serious injuries by making state-owned roadways safer by design;
- Give transit riders a more reliable and predictable trip with transit priority treatments;
- Create a virtuous cycle of growing ridership that, in turn, reduces climate pollution, increases equitable mobility, and improves transit's fiscal sustainability;
- Enable counties and local governments to make the most of local transportation dollars by speeding up the delivery of complete streets and transit priority projects that require state approval.

SB960 will move the state closer to its goal of aligning state transportation infrastructure investments with its climate, health, and social equity goals, building on the foundations established by SB1 and reinforced by the California Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) and Executive Orders N-19-19 and N-79-20.

While the state's General Fund is experiencing significant deficits, the state transportation budget has never been larger thanks not only to SB 1 but also to a significant boost in flexible formula funds from the Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Caltrans's 2024-25 proposed budget is larger than any previous year at \$17.5B. With the influx of new funding and strong mandates to address safety, equity, and climate at both the state and federal level, this is an opportune moment to implement facilities that make our State Highway System (SHS) safer, greener, and more accessible for all users.

According to the U.S. Federal Highway Administration, coupling these projects adds only a nominal expense, finding that combining a pedestrian safety project with a resurfacing project can reduce costs more than 50 percent compared to a stand-alone project. This means that roadway repaving and rehabilitation projects funded by the Caltrans State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) present the best opportunity to cost-effectively build sidewalks, bikeways, and crosswalks rather than having to come back and build those facilities separately as stand-alone projects. Given the funding constraints, we believe it would be ideal to pursue opportunities to build the projects when it is most cost-effective to do so.

SB960 would also accelerate the delivery of transit priority projects on state-owned highways in order to make transit faster and more reliable. Transit priority projects have numerous benefits, such as increasing transit reliability, improving coordination and transfers, which boost ridership

while reducing transit operating costs. Transit priority projects expand equitable access to transit because bus riders are more likely to be low-income and people of color relative to the general population.

For these reasons, we strongly support SB 960. Thank you for considering our support for this important legislation.

Respectfully,

Jared Sanchez, Policy Director
CalBike (co-sponsor)

Laura Tolhoff, Transportation Policy Director
SPUR (co-sponsor)

Jodie Medeiros, Executive Director
Walk SF (co-sponsor)

Marc Vukceвич, State Policy Director
Streets For All (co-sponsor)

Robin Pam
KidSafeSF (co-sponsor)

Jamie Pew, Policy Advisor
NextGen California

Nancy McPherson, State Director
AARP CA (co-sponsor)

Laurel Paget-Seekins, Senior Policy Advocate
Public Advocates

Zack Deutsch-Gross, Policy Director
TransForm

Sandhya Laddha, Deputy Director
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition

Matthew Hartzell, Director of Planning
WTB-TAM

Colin Fiske, Executive Director
Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities

Cyndy Johnsen, Board Member
Bike Walk Alameda

Ellie Cohen, Chief Executive Officer
The Climate Center

Leah Shahum, Executive Director
Vision Zero Network

Mari Lynch, Founder
Bicycling Monterey

Eli Akira Kaufman, Executive Director
BikeLA

George Spies, Co-Founder
Traffic Violence Rapid Response

Eris Weaver, Executive Director
Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition

David Diaz, Executive Director
Active San Gabriel Valley

Christy Zamani, Executive Director
Day One

Carter Lavin, Co-Director
Transbay Coalition

Stuart Wood PhD, Executive Director

Ross Pringle, Co-Founder

Sustainable Claremont	Claremont Streets for People
Eli Lipmen, Executive Director Move LA	Jason John, Acting Director Sierra Club California
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