



November 8, 2019

Director Toks Omishakin  
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)  
1120 N. Street, MS 49  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
*via email: [Toks.Omishakin@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Toks.Omishakin@dot.ca.gov)*

**RE: Caltrans 2020 Complete Streets Implementation Strategy**

Dear Director Omishakin:

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Director of Caltrans. We appreciate your willingness to engage with stakeholders in the early days of your appointment, including speaking at the Active Transportation Program (ATP) Symposium and expressing concern for the safety of vulnerable road users in your public comments. While we are enthusiastic about your perspective and leadership, we continue to be concerned with how Caltrans will advance complete streets efforts.

The undersigned organizations represent a broad coalition of transportation, health, and climate advocates at the state and regional level. Our coalition represents organizations that were in strong support of SB 127 (Wiener) - Complete Streets for Active Living. During the legislative session our coalition took substantial steps to accept amendments that address applicability and concerns for prescriptive approach to the implementation of SB 127. We are extremely disappointed in the Governor's veto decision and are committed to working closely with you to see real changes and accountability within Caltrans.

Many of the undersigned groups have been working for over a decade with Caltrans to address the lack of adequate Complete Streets implementation on the State Highway System, where nearly a fifth of the roads serve as local and main streets. Based on our experience to date, we strongly believe the department must open up dialogue and engagement with organizations like ours, and other local stakeholders, and work collaboratively to address necessary changes needed and develop a strategy moving forward.

While we strongly disagree with Caltrans' fiscal analysis used as the basis for the veto, we are optimistic that under your leadership, you will commit to holding the department accountable for creating safe opportunities for walking, biking, and transit - critical to meeting health and climate goals in California. Below are the items that we believe require urgent action from Caltrans and CalSTA to ensure accountability and transparency. We respectfully request the department and agency to respond with an update to stakeholders on the following inquiries:

1. How will you ensure that the 2020 SHOPP Project Initiation Documents include meaningful inclusion of Complete Streets elements (that are separate from ADA required enhancements)?
2. What demonstrable improvements will there be with respect to the inclusion of Complete Streets elements from the 2018 and 2016 SHOPP programs?
3. When do you plan to update the California Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA-MUTCD) and the Highway Design Manual (HDM) to provide improved guidance on Complete Streets elements, especially specific guidance on traffic calming and road diets, and reflect the type of engineering guidance needed for mobility for all?

4. When will you issue an update to the Complete Streets Directive (DD64) requiring a formal waiver that is made public for approval at each project phase when Complete Streets elements are not included or are removed from projects?
5. When and how will you set clear performance measures for implementing walking and biking mode share goals that have already been adopted by Caltrans, as well as tracking procedures for clear public communication of progress?
6. How soon will you assign and fund specific staff within Caltrans to focus on pedestrian and bicycle investments and improve safety?
7. How will you provide clear guidance to Caltrans staff across all districts to streamline encroachment permits on local streets that are under or over a Caltrans facility but do not directly interface with them so that local agencies can more quickly build and implement safe streets for all?
8. When and how will you establish clear guidance for the required inclusion of community members and local community groups in the Project Development Team for each SHOPP project?
9. What performance metrics will be used to evaluate how input from community members and local community groups is incorporated into SHOPP projects, and if not, justification where community input is not included?
10. How do you plan to expedite the Caltrans District Active Transportation Plan process to ensure the plans are meaningfully integrated into SHOPP projects and the Transportation Asset Management Plan?

Additionally, in connection to questions outlined above, we would appreciate an opportunity to discuss metrics and prioritization of roads for complete streets implementation. We also encourage you to consider the role and authority of advisory groups available to Caltrans, such as the California Walk Bicycle Technical Advisory Committee (CWBTAC) that can serve as a resource and play an important role in decision-making to advance safety on our roadways. The CWBTAC members hold valuable knowledge and expertise in bicycle and pedestrian specific issues at the local, regional, and state level yet are currently underutilized and have limited authority.

Our organizations are committed to seeing accountability in our transportation sector to not only use funds efficiently but to use funds to protect and address the safety of ALL road users. Children and families that walk and bike and live along Caltrans owned and operated roadways should be safe to move about their own communities and not risk their lives simply crossing the street to get to school or the grocery store.

We look forward to a response and implementation plan to address the above actions and engaging with your team at Caltrans in a meaningful way to ensure California roads are safe for all users.

Respectfully,

Tony Dang, Executive Director  
**California Walks**

Linda Khamoushian, Policy Director  
**California Bicycle Coalition**

Jamie Morgan, Government Affairs Regional Lead  
**American Heart Association**

Margo Pedroso, Deputy Director  
**Safe Routes Partnership**

Bill Magavern, Policy Director  
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Victoria Rome, Director of California Government Affairs  
**Natural Resources Defense Council**

Anne Wallach Thomas, Director  
**Shasta Living Streets**

Deborah Silvey, Board Chair  
**Fossil Free California**

David Diaz, Executive Director  
**ActiveSGV**

Dave Campbell, Advocacy Director  
**Bike East Bay**

Chris Hwang, Board President  
**Walk Oakland Bike Oakland**

Janice Li, Advocacy Director  
**San Francisco Bicycle Coalition**

Colin Fiske, Executive Director  
**Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities**

Jessica Meaney, Executive Director  
**Investing In Place**

John Yi, Executive Director  
**Los Angeles Walks**

Kevin Hamilton, Chief Executive Officer  
**Central California Asthma Collaborative**

Cynthia Rose, Executive Director  
**Santa Monica Spoke**

Eli Akira Kaufman, Executive Director  
**Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition**

Mari Lynch, Founder  
**Bicycling Monterey**

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**Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates**

Randolph Torres - Van Vleck, Senior Program Manager  
**City Heights Community Development Corp.**

Eris Weaver, Executive Director  
**Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition**

Victoria Tovar, Environmental Justice Program Manager  
**Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Stockton**

Joey Juhasz-Lukomski, Executive Director  
**BikeVentura**

Gina Gallino Cole, Executive Director  
**Bike Santa Cruz County**

Barry Remis, Board Administrator  
**Coalition for Sustainable Transportation - Santa Barbara**

Patrick Band, Executive Director  
**Napa County Bicycle Coalition**

Blair Miller, Steering Committee Member  
**Pasadena Complete Streets Coalition**

Claire Linder, Lead Advocate  
**Bike Concord**

Steve Gerhardt, Executive Director  
**Walk Long Beach**

Liore Milgrom-Gartner, Northern California Director  
**California Interfaith Power & Light**

Curtis McPherson, Representative  
**La Verne Bicycle Coalition**

Mariela Ruacho, Education and Comms Program Manager  
**California Releaf**

Adina Levin, Co-Founder, Advocacy Director  
**Seamless Bay Area**

cc:

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