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March 17, 2014

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Andre Boutros, Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 M Street, MS-52
Sacramento, CA 95818

Dear Mr. Boutros:

On February 3, 2014, you submitted draft guidelines for the Active Transportation Program to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) for review, pursuant to SB 99, (Budget and Fiscal Review Committee), Chapter 359, Statutes of 2013.

SB 99 and Assembly Bill 101 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 354, Statutes of 2013, established the Active Transportation Program to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as biking and walking. The program combines five programs: the federal Transportation Alternatives Program, the state and federal Safe Routes to Schools programs, the state Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program, and the state Bicycle Transportation Account.

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) administers the program and is responsible for developing the program guidelines and procedures, including project selection criteria. The CTC is required to initially adopt a two-year program of projects, with subsequent four-year programs thereafter. Subsequent programs must be adopted no later than April 1 of each odd-numbered year; however, the CTC may elect to adopt a program annually.

I understand that numerous stakeholders spent many hours working with CTC staff to develop draft guidelines that generally meet the concerns of the diverse stakeholders involved in the process. The draft guidelines you have submitted to the JLBC reflect general agreement among the stakeholders. Using these guidelines, projects would be approved and funded by the CTC beginning in late August.

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The JLBC has reviewed the guidelines you have submitted, along with the four subsequent proposed revisions, and recommends their adoption by the CTC. In order to ensure the transparency of the guidelines development process, the JLBC further recommends no further changes to the guidelines be made when they are taken up for adoption on March 20, 2014.

Sincerely,



Mark Leno
Chair

cc: Members of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee
Mr. Michael Cohen, Director of the Department of Finance