

Ms. Bransen:

The California Council of the Blind is the largest and oldest organization of Californians with visual impairments. Since 1934, the council has been working to improve conditions for blind and visually impaired Californians.

I am writing to applaud the inclusion of strong "complete streets" components within the CTC's draft RTP guidelines and to urge the CTC to retain or strengthen these provisions.

As non-drivers, blind and visually impaired Californians have a particular interest in making sure our streets are safe for pedestrians, not just the exclusive territory of automobiles. In order to accommodate blind pedestrians our streets need to include the following features.

1. Separate paths of travel for pedestrians, bicycles and automobiles.
2. roadways that are physically separated from sidewalks by well-defined curbs.
3. pedestrian crossings featuring Accessible pedestrian signals that provide audible and tactile indication of the status of the walk signal.

Again, we hope that the California Transportation Commission will enact strong regulations that will make our streets safe places for blind and visually impaired pedestrians to travel.

Best wishes,

Frank Welte
Director of Advocacy and
Governmental Affairs
California Council of the Blind
1510 J Street, Suite 125
Sacramento, CA 95814
Work Phone: (916) 441-2100
Cell Phone: (650) 576-4177
Work Email: frank.welte@ccotb.org
Web Site: <http://www.ccotb.org>