CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER

May 1, 2018

The Honorable Laura Friedman
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2137
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 2363 (Friedman): Vehicles: Speed Laws

Dear Assemblymember Friedman,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in strong support of Assembly Bill 2363 (Friedman). This bill proposes to enable local traffic engineers to utilize data from traffic collisions resulting in death or injury to further reduce the speed limit below the 85th percentile speed of traffic in the specific speed zone by an increment of 5 miles per hour. Long Beach has a strong history of working on legislative issues related to speed limits and the establishment of safe transportation environment for all drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists in our City.

In 2011, the City noticed increasing speed limits with every 5-year evaluation of speed zones per the California Department of Transportation's California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Long Beach supported State legislation to amend the MUTCD to allow municipal Traffic Engineers the discretion to establish speed limits by rounding down within 5 miles per hour of the nearest 85th percentile speed of traffic, as opposed to continuously being required to round up. The ability for municipal Traffic Engineers to round down to the 85th percentile speed was adopted – however it did not negate years of traffic speed limit increases that resulted from being required to round up.

AB 2363 recognizes that rounding down within 5 miles per hour the 85th percentile speed of traffic may not be enough to create a safe environment for all modes of traffic. As California seeks to support more sustainable and alternative modes of transportation, it is essential traffic collision data, especially those result in death, be considered in establishing safe speed limits. AB 2363 would enable this consideration.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach strongly supports AB 2363 (Friedman).

Sincerely,

Patrick H. West
CITY MANAGER

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Laura Friedman, State Assembly, 43rd District
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District