September 6, 2019

The Honorable Scott Wiener
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 127 (Wiener) Transportation Funding: Active Transportation: Complete Streets

Dear Assemblymember Wiener,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write in support of Senate Bill 127 (Wiener). The bill proposes to accelerate and increase complete streets in the State by prioritizing the consideration of related projects by the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans). The bill would therefore support our goals of prioritizing alternative modes of transportation and, thus, promoting pedestrian and bike safety, improving air quality, and fostering vibrant corridors in our communities.

By requiring CalTrans to consider bike and pedestrian safety where state highways function as local roads, the bill would support the City’s Safe Streets Action Plan, which aims to eliminate traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries by 2026. Currently, the City is assembling data on collisions and roadway design to conduct analyses for improving road safety for all users. Through data analysis, community input, and best practice research, the Safe Streets initiative will set Long Beach on a clear path to eliminating traffic-related deaths and injuries. In this way, the bill would integrate CalTrans projects into the City’s efforts, particularly along SR 1 (Pacific Coast Hwy.) and SR 19 (Lakewood Blvd.), to create safe and active multimodal connections for local streets.

SB 127 presents the opportunity for CalTrans to support the City in its efforts to communicate to the public about the importance of incorporating multimodal considerations into transportation projects. By improving the safety and accessibility for people using active transportation modes, SB 127 supports the City’s goals of increasing safety, promoting equity in transportation, and creating a vibrant community.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SB 127 (Wiener).

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
    The Honorable Tom Umberg, 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