



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

September 13, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 645 (Friedman)—Vehicles: Speed Safety System Pilot Program

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I urge your signature on AB 645, which would create the Speed Safety System Pilot Program. This legislation authorizes certain cities, including Long Beach, to establish automated speed enforcement pilot systems in areas with a high number of traffic incidents and speeding, helping to advance Vision Zero goals to protect vulnerable residents and travelers and reduce traffic injuries and death. AB 645 is aligned with the City's support for legislation to establish pilot programs for automated traffic speed enforcement in high-injury networks and specific locations.

According to the [2020 Safe Streets Long Beach Action Plan](#), fatal and serious injury crashes are increasing each year and are more likely to impact vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians and older adults. While bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorcyclists comprise just 14 percent of all road users, they make up 65 percent of Long Beach's serious injury crash victims. Furthermore, speeding accounts for nearly one-third of all traffic fatalities according to the National Transportation Safety Board.

Studies have shown that speed detection systems reduce severe and fatal collisions by as much as 58 percent. AB 645 would provide select communities with the option to pilot this public safety tool to create the expectation of regular speed checking on the most dangerous streets and in school zones where families and children are in proximity to fast-moving vehicles. AB 645 implements policy recommendations from the California Transportation Agency and federal agencies by authorizing the use of speed cameras on high-injury streets, in school zones, and on streets with a history of speed racing and motor vehicle exhibitions of speed.

The City supports legislation to prevent traffic fatalities, provide safe streets for all, and strengthen penalties for traffic violations in school zones, in an effort to reduce speed and protect youth. By giving select local transportation authorities the option of establishing speed safety system pilot programs, AB 645 would not only help to reduce speeding, crashes, injuries, and fatalities in line with Vision Zero objectives but would also allow jurisdictions to test and report on the efficacy and impacts of speed safety system technology. Speed safety systems can also advance equity by improving reliability and fairness in traffic enforcement while making speeding enforcement more predictable, effective, and broadly implemented—all of which helps change driver behavior.

For these reasons, the City requests your signature on AB 645.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65th District
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69th District