



# MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

August 28, 2024

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

**RE: Support for SB 689 (Blakespear)—Local coastal program: bicycle lane: amendment**

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I urge your signature on SB 689. This bill aims to reduce unnecessary delays in the development of sustainable transportation projects along California's coast.

SB 689 addresses the need for streamlined processes by specifying that an application by a local government to convert an existing motorized vehicle travel lane into a dedicated bicycle lane, dedicated transit lane, or a pedestrian walkway will not require a traffic study for the processing of either a coastal development permit or an amendment to a local coastal program. Additionally, this legislation stipulates that if a local coastal plan amendment is required to accommodate a bicycle lane, transit lane, or a pedestrian walkway within an existing, developed right-of-way, it will qualify to be processed through the existing "de minimis" process, contingent upon the California Coastal Commission's executive director determining that the project will provide additional public access benefits without significantly reducing existing public access opportunities. The City supports opportunities to provide and improve active transportation infrastructure and to increase access, safety, and equity.

SB 689 is in alignment with the City's [Bicycle Master Plan](#) (Plan), which strives to make Long Beach a city where bicycling is the easiest, most convenient mode of transportation for errands, commuting, and recreation. The Plan expands upon the Mobility Element of the Long Beach General Plan by providing further details on bicycle planning and design. It also recommends a series of projects and programs to be implemented by Long Beach in the next few decades. SB 689 will help the City realize the Plan's vision, facilitating the development of a comprehensive and convenient bicycle network that contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

SB 689 will help the City achieve key goals in the [Long Beach Climate Action Plan](#) and ensure that sustainable transportation projects are not unnecessarily delayed.

For these reasons, the City requests your signature on SB 689.

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, 33<sup>rd</sup> District  
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69<sup>th</sup> District