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April 24, 2014

Malcolm Dougherty, Director
California Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 942873
Sacramento, CA 94273-0001

Subject: Active Transportation Program - Support for State Route 15 Bike Facility Project

Dear Mr. Dougherty:

I am writing to express our support for the "State Route 15 Commuter Bike Facility" to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for funding consideration for the Active Transportation Program administered by the CTC. The State Route 15 Commuter Bike Facility Project would construct a barrier separated bicycle facility along 1 mile of northbound State Route 15 between Adams Avenue and Camino Del Rio South, just south of Interstate 8 in the City of San Diego.

There is currently a gap between Mission Valley and Mid-City bicycle facilities. This project would bridge that gap and provide a safe and direct link for bicycle commuters between Mission Valley and the disadvantaged and historically underserved communities of Mid-City. The proposed project would fulfill one of the terms of a 1985 Memorandum of Agreement and a 1992 Memorandum of Understanding, which stated that the City and Caltrans would use their best efforts to provide for non-motorized access from Adams Avenue to Camino Del Rio South within the State Route 15 corridor.

It is imperative to construct the State Route 15 Commuter Bike Facility to increase safety for bicycle riders and reduce the potential for injuries while supporting active lifestyles. The only current commuter bike route access between Mid-City and Mission Valley is by Fairmount Avenue, which has high speed conflicts, and Texas Street, which has high speed conflicts, narrow right of way, and a very steep, sustained grade. Neither route provides a convenient link for bicycle riders between Mission Valley and Mid-City and both routes result in several miles of out of direction travel. The proposed bike facility would increase safety through its barrier separated design, would be constructed in the Caltrans right of way, and would be the most direct and shortest route connecting the communities of San Diego Mesa to nearby employment, shopping, and education centers.

Thank you for your consideration for this project. We look forward to our continued partnership for improvements for the State Route 15 Commuter Bike Facility.

Sincerely,

SAMANTHA OLLINGER
Executive Director, BikeSD