

December 21, 2017

The Honorable Jim Beall
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
State Capitol, Room 2209
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support SB 760: Caltrans Complete Streets Implementation

Dear Senator Beall:

Investing in Place is pleased to write this letter in support of SB 760. This bill will give strong direction to Caltrans to create complete streets, including safer sidewalks, bikeways, and crosswalks, on roads owned and managed by Caltrans in our cities, towns, and neighborhoods.

Transportation can no longer have a singular focus on mobility. Creating safe, walkable communities is a significant asset that achieves multiple objectives – healthy communities, prioritizing vulnerable road users like children and older adults, and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. In the state of California, pedestrians comprise 16% of all roadway deaths. However, in the City of Los Angeles, pedestrians comprise 48% of all roadways deaths. Prioritizing complete streets will finally move our focus to a more comprehensive transportation system for all.

SB 760 is sound public policy. It also recognizes the need for equity in the creation of complete streets and has provisions for community input on proposed projects. Low-income communities and communities of color lack well-maintained routes to parks and schools, roads, bike lanes, and sidewalks, and these neighborhoods are often crisscrossed by busy, dangerous state roads. In many cases, residents in low-income communities of color simply do not have transportation options at all.

Complete streets make communities and neighborhoods more livable by ensuring all people can get safely to where they need to go – work, school, places of worship, the doctor's office, grocery stores, or parks – with healthy, affordable options. They also help people feel more connected to their neighbors, which improves quality of life for all.

For these reasons we ask for your “aye” vote on SB 760.

Sincerely,



Jessica Meaney, Executive Director
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