

INVESTING *in* PLACE

January 4, 2019

Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition
111 North Hope Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Via email: lancc@empowerla.org

Re: Supporting Street Safety (LANCC Legislative Agenda Item - January 5, 2019)

As a Los Angeles-based policy advocacy organization that recognizes how our transportation choices in Los Angeles impact resources and opportunity, Investing in Place supports the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition's position to include robust community engagement in street design changes as well as being open to new street design to improve traffic safety. Every Angeleno deserves the right to walk or move safely throughout the city regardless of ability, age, and zip code. Streets need to be designed to give travelers a fighting chance to feel and be safe – and Vision Zero measures help make safe streets possible. Eliminating road safety configurations severely endangers the path of travel for so many vulnerable road users, especially people walking and rolling.

The quality of traveling is about more than just traffic and thinking behind the privileges of a dashboard. Designing streets for vehicles to travel at fatal speeds throughout the city is plainly irresponsible and dangerous. While collisions are a part of human nature and error, it is high vehicle speed that is the greatest factor determining a crash where someone can walk away or a crash where someone dies.

Vision Zero measures are guided by principles valuing safety and life, and also produce social equity benefits. In Los Angeles we see significant class disparities between those with and without access to private cars and a recent UC Irvine study found **pedestrians crashes are four times more frequent in low-income neighborhoods**. Vision Zero initiatives improve conditions for people who are traveling on sidewalks and crosswalks, and are targeted to improving street safety in historically underinvested communities.

Los Angeles is the deadliest city for traffic crashes in the United States. Traffic collisions are the leading cause of death for children ages 5 to 14 in Los Angeles County. A public health crisis of this magnitude demands adequate leadership that prioritizes community safety. We thank you for standing for safer streets and communities.

Sincerely,



Jessica Meaney
Executive Director