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May 16, 2019

Council President Georgette Gómez  
Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry  
San Diego City Council  
202 "C" Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Diego, CA 92101

**Subject: FY 2020 Budget Recommendations for City Council Final Budget Modification Priority Memoranda**

Dear Council President Gómez, Council President Pro Tem Bry, and Councilmembers,

On behalf of Circulate San Diego, whose mission is to promote excellent mobility choices and vibrant, healthy neighborhoods, I am writing to urge the San Diego City Council to prioritize FY 2020 budget funding to implement the City's Vision Zero and Climate Action Plan policy priorities. This letter reiterates the recommendations found in Circulate's letter dated January 11<sup>1</sup> and is a response to the May Revise of the FY 2020 Budget.

Circulate's bicycle infrastructure recommendations have not yet been funded in the proposed budget and we ask that they be incorporated into the final FY 2020 budget. In our January 11 letter, Circulate recommended fully funding Phase 3 of the Downtown Mobility Plan Cycletracks and two Bicycle Master Plan Priority Projects located on Vision Zero Corridors El Cajon Boulevard (43<sup>rd</sup> St to Montezuma Rd) and University Avenue (Boundary St to Winona St).

The May Revise estimates \$2.4 million in annual revenue from scooter permitting fees and dedicates \$100,000 towards Vision Zero education.<sup>2</sup> A higher share of this revenue should be dedicated to the important task of promoting safety by and for scooter riders. Circulate recommends funding these street safety projects in order to reach its Climate Action Plan and Vision Zero goals.

The proposed budget, including the May Revise, has incorporated some of Circulate's recommendations. It also funds other important projects that were not originally Circulate budget recommendations. This investment in Vision Zero will make our streets safer. Still, the City Council must increase funding in the FY 2020 budget to meet the goal of zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

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<sup>1</sup> Circulate San Diego, Recommendations for Councilmember Budget Priority Memoranda for FY 2020, January 11, 2019, available at

[https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/circulatesd/pages/1061/attachments/original/1547230474/Circulate\\_Budget\\_Recs\\_FY20\\_-\\_Final.pdf?1547230474](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/circulatesd/pages/1061/attachments/original/1547230474/Circulate_Budget_Recs_FY20_-_Final.pdf?1547230474).

<sup>2</sup> Kris Michell, Rolando Charvel, and Tracy McCraner, May Revision to the Fiscal Year 2020 Proposed Budget, May 14, 2019, available at <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/fy20mayrevision.pdf>.

It is time to shift from historical budgeting practices to reverse the tragic increase in pedestrian fatalities on San Diego streets, implement complete streets in all repaving projects, and to achieve the City's ambitious Climate Action Plan mode share goals.

The City of San Diego is not on track to meet its Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2025. According to San Diego Police Department data, 35 pedestrians died in 2018 on San Diego streets, more than double the number in 2017.<sup>3</sup> While Vision Zero goals receive \$11.9 million in the proposed budget plus additional funds added in the May Revise, street repaving will receive nearly eight times as much funding. Street repaving is funded at \$80 million to fix a total of 430 miles of streets, above and beyond the Mayor's fully accomplished pledge to resurface 1,000 miles.<sup>4</sup>

According to the IBA Review, Gas Tax Fund revenue will increase by \$13.9 million in FY 2020, yet "there is no corresponding increase in any programs or expenditures associated with this revenue increase."<sup>5</sup> Funding for street repaving, including increased Gas Tax Fund revenue, should be used to fund Vision Zero and Climate Action Plan investments above and beyond what is in the proposed budget. However, any resurfacing dollars in the adopted FY 2020 budget should incorporate high quality complete streets improvements concurrent with resurfacing to maximize the safety of our infrastructure investments. A comprehensive Complete Streets Policy should be developed as a next step to ensure that repaving benefits all road users.

Circulate looks forward to working with the Mayor and City Council in ensuring that the City invests in San Diego's safety. Thank you for your consideration of Circulate San Diego's budget recommendations for FY 2020.

Sincerely,



Maya Rosas  
Director of Policy  
Circulate San Diego

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<sup>3</sup> San Diego Police Department, Request #19-1782, available at <https://sandiego.nextrequest.com/requests/19-1782>.

<sup>4</sup> Office of the Independent Budget Analyst, Review of the FY 2020 Proposed Budget (page 5), April 26, 2019, available at [https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/iba\\_report\\_19-06\\_review\\_of\\_fy20\\_proposed\\_budget.pdf](https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/iba_report_19-06_review_of_fy20_proposed_budget.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Office of the Independent Budget Analyst, Review of the FY 2020 Proposed Budget (page 173), April 26, 2019, available at [https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/iba\\_report\\_19-06\\_review\\_of\\_fy20\\_proposed\\_budget.pdf](https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/iba_report_19-06_review_of_fy20_proposed_budget.pdf).