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August 28, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB288 (Wiener) CEQA exemption: transportation related projects -- Request for Signature (As Enrolled on 8/31/20)**

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of Circulate San Diego, whose mission is to create excellent mobility choices and vibrant, healthy neighborhoods, I respectfully request that you sign SB288 (Wiener). This bill accelerates sustainable transit projects that will get people back to work and increase transportation choices by providing a two-year CEQA exemption.

This bill would save critical time and money by creating narrowly-tailored statutory exemptions from CEQA for projects that make streets safer for walking and bicycling, speed up transit service in the public right of way, and install zero-emission infrastructure.

Notably, SB 288 contains important provisions to ensure projects are delivering jobs for skilled and trained workers, identifying ways to public rights of way. Large projects must also be incorporated in a regional transportation plan or another plan that complies with CEQA at the programmatic level.

This change is necessary at the state level in order to ensure that sustainable transit is part of all of California's recovery strategy. Making it easier to take transit, bike, and walk plays an important role in revitalizing main streets and local economies, which will be critical for the recovery of small businesses. For example, San Francisco can use this exemption to expedite the Fulton Street Safety & Transit Project and uphold Safe Streets; Modesto plans to accelerate transit signal priority implementation; Manteca can advance seven pedestrian crossings over over downtown trains; and LA County will jumpstart the San Gabriel Valley Pedestrian and Bike Master Plan and greenway -- just to name a few. This bill is a no-cost stimulus that has no impact on the state budget.

For these reasons, the bill sponsors ask that you sign SB288.

Sincerely,

Cc: Rachel Wagoner, Deputy Legislative Secretary  
Senator Scott Wiener