



Circulate San Diego

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May 20, 2021

The Honorable Laura Friedman, Chair
Assembly Committee on Transportation
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Support for Assembly Bill 43 (Friedman) – Traffic Safety

Dear Assemblymember Friedman:

On behalf of Circulate San Diego, whose mission is to create excellent mobility choices and vibrant, healthy neighborhoods, I am writing to support AB 43, which will save lives by giving cities greater flexibility to set lower speed limits based on safety.

Every year, hundreds of Californians die in speed-related crashes. Speed is a major contributor to fatalities and serious injuries in crashes—if a driver traveling at 20 miles per hour hits a pedestrian, there is a 90 percent chance that the pedestrian will survive. At 40 mph, the chance of survival drops to 20 percent. Nationwide, 112,580 people were killed in speeding-related incidents from 2005 to 2014. High speed drivers are a particular danger to pedestrians and bicyclists.

AB 43 enhances safety by requiring traffic engineers to take into account the presence of vulnerable groups, including children, seniors, the unhoused, and people with disabilities when setting speed limits. It also permits cities to lower speed limits below the 85th percentile on streets with high injuries and fatalities. It further provides greater flexibility in setting school speed limits to protect children.

Circulate San Diego is particularly familiar with the dangers of high speed drivers. Each year, Circulate gathers data on the number of traffic fatalities and serious injuries on San Diego streets as part of our Vision Zero efforts. In 2020, 56 people were killed and 127 were seriously injured on San Diego surface streets. That amount of death and serious injury is unacceptable.

Circulate San Diego thanks you for your leadership on this issue. California cities desperately need the ability to set speed limits that reflect the value of human life. Moreover, AB 43 will help achieve California's Climate goals by enhancing pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Sincerely,

Colin Parent
Executive Director and General Counsel