



**Circulate San Diego**  
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February 6, 2018

Ms. Barbara Valentine  
Caltrans District 11  
4050 Taylor Street  
Mail Station 240  
San Diego, CA 92110

Dear Ms. Valentine:

On behalf of Circulate San Diego, whose mission is to create excellent mobility choices and vibrant, healthy neighborhoods, I am pleased to provide a letter of support for the City of Oceanside in applying for a Safe Routes to School planning grant.

Increasing student participation in walking and biking will decrease the vehicle congestion around schools and resultant greenhouse gases and other pollutants. Children who walk to school have been found to have higher academic performance in terms of attention/alertness, verbal, numeric, and reasoning abilities; higher degree of pleasantness and lower levels of stress during the school day; and higher levels of happiness, excitement and relaxation on the journey to school. Walking to school can further foster personal growth by developing a sense of independent decision making and the emotional bonds with peers. Additionally, active travel is an important source of physical activity and with more physical activity comes increased metabolism, improved cardiorespiratory fitness and lower weight and body mass index (BMI).

The City of Oceanside will be taking the lead in applying for this grant and will be working with the community through the Parent Teachers Associations, school district staff and the North County Health and Human Services. Circulate San Diego would be pleased to participate as an additional partner in implementing the goals of the grant to increase active transportation.

We appreciate Oceanside's efforts on safety for school children, and we encourage Caltrans to award this grant.

Sincerely,

Colin Parent  
Executive Director and General Counsel  
Circulate San Diego

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