March 16th, 2018

To: Mayor Kevin Faulconer

CC: Director of Land Use and Economic Development Elyse Lowe, Director of Budget and Finance Policy Jessica Lawrence, Transportation & Stormwater Director Kris McFadden, Transportation Engineering Operations Deputy Director Linda Marabian, Public Works Director James Nagelvoort, Infrastructure Policy Manager Lee Friedman

From: Circulate San Diego

Subject: Response to Delay and Cost Increase for Downtown Mobility Plan Cycle Tracks

Dear Mayor Faulconer,

On behalf of Circulate San Diego, whose mission is to promote excellent mobility choices and vibrant, healthy neighborhoods, I am writing to share our disappointment in the reported delay and cost increase for the Downtown Mobility Plan cycle tracks. I also write with hope that action be taken to ensure protected bicycle facilities be installed using low cost temporary materials across the entire network within three years from the Plan’s adoption in 2016, as promised by Mayor Faulconer.

The City of San Diego can make great improvements to the public right of way with quick and lean treatments. Plaza de Panama in Balboa Park is San Diego’s best example of low cost and temporary measures that can also make great public safety improvements. Examples of low cost improvements are included in Attachment A.

We recommend that the City use planters to implement the cycle tracks. Planters can serve the same function of providing an aesthetically-enhanced physical separation from automobiles as concrete curb barriers or other capital improvements that require a lengthier and costlier process. To be clear, short term and low cost improvements do not preclude the City from making more expensive and permanent facilities in the long term.

It is Mayor Faulconer’s responsibility to tell staff that safe bicycle facilities will proceed, and they must find near-term and cost-effective solutions to make our streets safer. The City’s acclaimed Climate Action Plan and Vision Zero goals cannot wait.

Circulate San Diego will support implementing the Downtown Mobility Plan with temporary but meaningful measures by June 2019, as originally promised.
Sincerely,

[Signature]

Colin Parent
Executive Director and General Counsel
Circulate San Diego

Attachment A—Examples of low cost temporary improvements
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Creating excellent mobility choices and vibrant, healthy communities.