

April 24, 2020

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4001
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 2932 (O'Donnell) City of Long Beach: Design-Build Process

Dear Assemblymember O'Donnell:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), thank you for introducing Assembly Bill 2932 (O'Donnell). This legislation proposes to authorize the City to utilize the design-build contracting process for constructing curb ramps for individuals with disabilities. Work related to accessibility infrastructure improvements continue to progress amid industry-wide construction challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Construction in the public right-of-way is an essential service, and, as such, the City is obligated to build 4,500 curb ramps by fiscal year end 2022.

In April 2017, Judge Dale Fischer preliminarily approved a class-action settlement agreement to make sidewalks, crosswalks, and other pedestrian pathways safer and more accessible. Under the agreement, the City is working to address a number of accessibility issues, including the construction of up to 4,500 missing curb ramps; retrofit up to \$50 million or 16,000 existing curb ramps not in compliance with relevant accessibility standards; and, remediate up to \$125 million in repairs for inaccessible sidewalks, crosswalks, and other pedestrian facilities over the next 30 years. To date, and in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations, the City has assessed the existing conditions of 1,160 miles of sidewalks, conducted a third-party assessment identifying barriers to safe and equal access, and held public hearings to inform Long Beach residents of the outcomes and receive public input. AB 2932 is vital to the City's fulfillment of completed self-assessment and transition plan obligations within the set timeframe.

As the City continues to make great strides toward improving livability, it is imperative to have public infrastructure that is accessible to all residents. The City supports legislation that provides a process for businesses and other governmental entities to implement ADA requirements and fully support people with disabilities. Authorizing the City to utilize the design-build process for the construction of accessible curb ramps, as proposed by AB 2932, would enable the City to efficiently construct infrastructure to support all our residents.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 2932 (O'Donnell).

Sincerely,



THOMAS B. MODICA
City Manager

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District

