



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 14, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Room 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 43 (Friedman)—Traffic Safety

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I urge your signature on AB 43. This bill would provide the City greater flexibility in determining speed limits rather than being restricted to the so-called "85th percentile" methodology. Studies have shown that posting reasonable speed limits improves the level of safety for all who traverse roadways, and lower speed limits are safer for everyone, including those who walk, bike or drive.

In 2016, the Long Beach City Council unanimously adopted the goal of Vision Zero to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2026. Backed by a coalition of nearly 50 other cities nationwide, the data-driven initiative seeks to unify infrastructure design, public education and enforcement efforts, while increasing safe and healthy mobility for all users. Citywide, this commitment became the Safe Streets Long Beach Initiative (Initiative).

The Initiative is guided by the Safe Streets Long Beach Action Plan (Plan), adopted by Long Beach City Council in July 2020, which puts forth a series of data-driven actions and sets a clear path forward to achieve Vision Zero. According to the Plan's Long Beach collision data, the most frequent behavior by motorists and motorcyclists that leads to collisions is driving "too fast for conditions." One of the Plan's action items to complete by 2023 is to lower speed limits on neighborhood streets to 15-20 mph based on radar surveys. AB 43 will be essential to accomplishing this action item and achieving the City's Vision Zero goal.

The City supports legislation to provide safe streets for everyone, in alignment with Vision Zero. The local flexibility to maintain or reduce speed limits, particularly in multimodal areas, as AB 43 proposes, will help advance public safety for all road users. Given these reasons, the City requests your signature on AB 43.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia".

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

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
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District