



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

July 12, 2021

The Honorable Adrin Nazarian
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4146
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 773 (Nazarian)—Street Closures and Designations

Dear Assemblymember Nazarian,

As Mayor of the City of Long Beach, I write to support AB 773. This bill would allow the City to establish a slow streets program to advance public safety for all road users. The City has observed the economic, health and safety benefits of comparable models to support COVID-19 recovery for residents and businesses.

Two months into the COVID-19 pandemic, the Long Beach City Council approved an Open Streets Program to temporarily transform public areas into safe spaces for physically-distanced activity. The program has led to more than 100 temporary parklets throughout the City, benefitting over 120 businesses. This program will remain in place at least through the end of September 2021, and AB 773 would provide the local flexibility to allow for open streets after the emergency.

Citywide, the Safe Streets Long Beach Action Plan (Plan), adopted by Long Beach City Council in July 2020, puts forth a series of data-driven actions and sets a clear path forward to achieve Vision Zero. The Plan's data found that pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists account for only 14 percent of collisions but represent 65 percent of all traffic deaths and serious injuries in Long Beach. This disproportionate impact on people walking, bicycling, and riding motorcycles underscores the need to improve traffic safety for our most vulnerable groups, which includes older adults, children, and people with disabilities. AB 773 will be essential to advancing public safety 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 reduce vehicular traffic in slow streets program locations, as AB 773 proposes, will promote Vision Zero statewide. Given these reasons, I support AB 773.

Sincerely,

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