



# MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

February 8, 2024

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 7340  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for SB 689 (Blakespear)—Local coastal program: bicycle lane: amendment**

Dear Senator Blakespear,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Long Beach (City) to express support for SB 689, which aims to reduce unnecessary delays in the development of sustainable transportation projects along California's coast.

SB 689 addresses the need for streamlined processes by specifying that an application by a local government to convert an existing motorized vehicle travel lane into a dedicated bicycle lane will not require a traffic study for the processing of either a coastal development permit or an amendment to a local coastal program. Additionally, this legislation stipulates that if a local coastal plan amendment is required to accommodate a bicycle lane within an existing, developed right-of-way, it will qualify to be processed through the existing "de minimis" process, contingent upon the California Coastal Commission's executive director determining that the project will provide additional public access benefits without significantly reducing existing public access opportunities. The City supports opportunities to provide and improve active transportation infrastructure and to increase access, safety, and equity.

SB 689 is in alignment with the City's [Bicycle Master Plan](#) (Plan), which strives to make Long Beach a city where bicycling is the easiest, most convenient mode of transportation for errands, commuting, and recreation. The Plan expands upon the Mobility Element of the Long Beach General Plan by providing further details on bicycle planning and design. It also recommends a series of projects and programs to be implemented by Long Beach in the next few decades. SB 689 will help the City realize the Plan's vision, facilitating the development of a comprehensive and convenient bicycle network that contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, replacing the term "bicycle lane" with "bikeway" throughout the text of the proposal will make the language consistent with the definition in the [Streets and Highways Code, section 890.4](#), and expand the City's ability to implement various types of cycling infrastructure.

SB 689 will help the City achieve key goals in the [Long Beach Climate Action Plan](#) and ensure that sustainable transportation projects are not unnecessarily delayed. For these reasons, the City supports SB 689.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson  
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33<sup>rd</sup> District  
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69<sup>th</sup> District