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Invest Measure M Local Return in implementing Vision Zero

1 message

Jennie Chamberlain <jennie.chamberlain@gmail.com>

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To: David Ryu <david.ryu@lacity.org>, Adam.Lid@lacity.org, council.memberbonin@lacity.org

Dear Transportation Committee,

As an avid champion of Safe Routes to School, and as a parent who desires that my children have the freedom of mobility on their local streets, I ask that you consider committing a sizable portion, at least 20% of Local Return to fund safety-enhancing projects that help the City to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries in Los Angeles and achieve Vision Zero.

As the City's Vision Zero Action Plan states, "As the city with the most traffic deaths per capita, funding for solutions must match the severity of the problem."

Children are currently at risk simply walking to and from school. Traffic is the #1 killer of children in LA county, and the vast majority of severe and fatal crashes occur around school's drop off and pick up times. This is unacceptable.

At a time when encouraging active transportation to school is imperative for students wellbeing, health, concentration, and sense of community, as well as to help combat epidemics of obesity, diabetes, and asthma, as well as to quell air pollution and climate change, it is unconscionable that it is not safe enough for kids to walk their city streets. We have created an inequitable society where those who can drive their kids to school, and the other 34% of students walk, despite the dangers posed to them. We lose too many residents (260 just last year) to traffic violence, and countless more to secondary effects caused by creating a city that depends on vehicular traffic for the privileged and a woefully inadequate infrastructure for those who walk and bike.

The city should be striving to not only make these streets safe, but to make them pleasant to walk along, with shade and sidewalks that are connected, not in a state of disrepair and that have adequate access ramps up and down curbs. We need to bring the Complete Streets ethos to every street in Los Angeles.

This must be our city's priority, and allocating a reasonable share of at least 20% of the local return towards implementing Vision Zero is the first step in this process. The safety, well being and lives of Angelenos depend on this.

Thank You,
Jennie Chamberlain
President, Friends of King

and resident of CD4
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