

I am writing in support of SB 395, and shifting resources away from highways towards biking and walking. Investing in infrastructure and multi-modal transportation options is long overdue. We know that continuing to throw money at highways in the ways that we have been amounts to an increase in single occupancy vehicle usage, which has many negative impacts on our environment, including the costs of construction and ultimately the emissions that destroy our environment. These harmful impacts disproportionately affect communities of color, low-income communities, and other vulnerable populations that lack the time and resources to fully advocate for themselves in this process. Although this bill calls for a 1%-5% increase in funding for footpaths and bicycle trails, as a state, we need to be creating longer-term plans to grow these investments and infrastructure as part of a larger effort to encourage everyone in our community to take forms of transportation that have less destructive consequences. As part of the rule-making advisory committee for the Governor's executive order on climate change, we have in-depth conversations around how we can not only address the climate crisis, but also center equity and inclusion in this charge. It is my fundamental belief that supporting SB 395 is one step in a larger coordinated effort across the state to create a future where we can all thrive.

Thank you.