



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 26, 2023

Honorable Thomas J. Umberg
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 6530
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 645 Vehicles: Speed Safety System Pilot Program – SUPPORT

Dear Honorable Chair,

On behalf of the San José Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, I am writing in support of your bill, Assembly Bill 645: Speed Safety Systems Pilot. The San José Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is a citizens-committee that advises the City of San José about the needs of bicyclists and people walking and biking.

In 2022, San José experienced its deadliest year in traffic fatalities with 65 deaths on its streets, approximately half of whom were pedestrians or bicyclists. Between 2018 to 2022, 33% of traffic deaths in San José were attributed to speeding as a contributing factor. Speeding is a fundamental predictor of crash survival, as many streets with the highest incidence of fatal and severe injury crashes are also plagued by excessive speeding. Exacerbating this crisis is that many of these corridors are disproportionately impacting disadvantaged communities.

San José has made substantial investment towards infrastructure improvements such as quick-build and complete streets projects as well as enhanced education and outreach efforts to promote traffic safety. However, additional tools are needed to modify driver behavior and reduce this epidemic of speeding in San José.

Automated speed enforcement is a proven safety technique that is currently being used in many communities across the country to deter speeding and improve safety for all road users, with results including:

- A reduction in drivers traveling more than 10 mph over the speed limit;
- A reduction in citations issued as drivers change their dangerous driving behaviors; and
- Most significantly, a reduction in crashes that result in serious injury or death.

The San José Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee appreciates the strong equity and privacy provisions that are included in this legislation to ensure that local jurisdictions will be transparent and accountable throughout the implementation of the pilot program, especially as it pertains to community engagement and collaboration.

It is critical that this bill be enacted so that cities such as San José may immediately commence the robust process to implement this pilot, and ultimately, reduce speeds and improve safety on our streets for vulnerable roadway users. I strongly urge you to support and approve this lifesaving legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

San José Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

CC: Honorable Toni Atkins, Senate Pro Tempore
California State Delegation
Senate Transportation Committee
Senate Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee
Senate Appropriations Committee