



San Francisco | San José | Oakland

September 1, 2024

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 960 (Wiener) – Complete Streets Bill – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom:

SPUR strongly supports Senate Bill 960 (Wiener) and respectfully requests your signature on this bill. We believe that signing this bill is the right next step for this Administration, as it signals California's leading commitment to safety and sustainability, and willingness to tackle stubborn trends in traffic deaths and emissions in the transportation sector.

SPUR is a member-supported non-profit public policy organization that works to make the Bay Area more sustainable, equitable and prosperous.

California has one of the highest rates of traffic deaths, nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ of which occur on state roads. Today, the tangible costs estimated cost of all motor vehicle traffic crashes in the United States is estimated to be on the order of \$340 billion annually. That does not include the unbearable cost of losing a parent, child, or loved one.

SB 960 supports Caltrans' transition to a multimodal agency enacting the future of transportation in California. It saves lives by requiring state-owned surface streets to accommodate all road users, including pedestrians, bicyclists and people using transit in a cost-effective way.

SB960 effectuates many of the recommendations outlined in the State's Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI), as well as the goals outlined in SB125 (2023) to improve transit performance and grow transit ridership. For instance, SB 960 directs the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to develop a transit priority policy, improving transit performance on key state-owned highways. SB960 would also accelerate the delivery of transit priority projects on state-owned highways in order to make transit faster and more reliable. When

buses are out of traffic, they are faster and more reliable. Improving bus service especially helps people with low-incomes, who are more likely to take transit than the general population. The provisions in SB960 also help local jurisdictions build projects faster.

SB960 helps build the infrastructure we need to make California safer, cleaner, and more affordable. For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to sign SB 960, the Complete Streets Bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Laura Tolkoff', written in a cursive style.

Laura Tolkoff
Transportation Policy Director
SPUR (co-sponsor)