



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

September 13, 2011

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

As a proud co-sponsor of SB 910 (Lowenthal), I urge you to sign this bill into law. By enshrining the 3-foot passing buffer into law, SB 910 will achieve key transportation goals that we both share: it will clarify the respective responsibilities of bicyclists and motorists; it will bring needed clarity to our state's Vehicle Code; and most importantly, it will increase the safety of our roadways for all users.

Last August, I helped launch the "Give me 3" campaign. This public education campaign encouraged motorists in Los Angeles to pass bicyclists with a safe distance. I am pleased to say that this campaign helped to catalyze the statewide movement to pass the 3 foot passing law.

By sending a clear message that safety for all roadway users is paramount, SB 910 will be a powerful compliment to the work that many cities are performing to increase bicycle ridership. In Los Angeles, we recently adopted a plan to make our city one of the most bicycle friendly cities in the nation with an integrated network consisting of over 1,680 miles of bikeways. In addition, we adopted a bicyclist anti-harassment ordinance that provides bicyclists more legal recourse when addressing instances of harassment by motorists.

Although California has been an innovator on many policy issues, the state has fallen behind in its protection of our bicycle community. California must join the list of over 20 states that have already adopted similar laws.

The future of transportation in Los Angeles and throughout the state of California is multi-modal. We will not be able to address our traffic problems and create environmentally sustainable communities unless we continue to build a transportation



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system that can accommodate multiple modes of transit: car travel, public transportation, bicycling and walking. Unless legislation like this bill becomes law, our goal of creating a safe transportation system to accommodate multiple modes of transit will continue to fall short.

For these reasons, I sponsored SB 910 (Lowenthal), and I firmly believe that the bill is a key step toward a safer and more sustainable future by ensuring that the California Vehicle Code adequately protects the range of users on the state's streets, roads and highways.

If you have any questions about my position on this bill, please contact my Sacramento staff at (916) 321-5500.

Sincerely,



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor

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