

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
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May 17, 2021

The Honorable Laura Friedman, Chair
Assembly Committee on Transportation
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 43 (Friedman): Traffic safety – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Friedman,

The City of Albany is pleased to support AB 43, which has been referred to the Assembly Transportation Committee. We thank you for authoring this legislation, and urge members of the committee to vote “AYE”.

According to the National Transportation Safety Board, speeding accounts for nearly a third of all traffic fatalities. AB 43 implements policy recommendations from the California State Transportation Agency as outlined in the Zero Traffic Fatalities Task Force by providing for more flexibility on setting speed limits based on safety. This bill requires traffic surveyors to take into account the presence of vulnerable groups, including children, seniors, the unhoused and persons with disabilities when setting speed limits. It permits cities to lower speed limits beyond the 85th percentile on streets with high injuries and fatalities, ensures they will never again have to raise a speed limit on any road, and limits the need for updated traffic surveys on certain streets. It further provides for greater flexibility in setting school speed limits to protect children.

AB 43 is an impactful legislative fix for a decades-old methodology in setting speed limits. Reducing speed limits has been shown to reduce both injuries and fatalities on the road. According to the University of California Institute of Traffic Studies, research has shown reducing speed limits on limited access roads by 5 miles per hour can reduce injuries between 8% and 15%, with some studies finding reductions as great as 28% and 39%. A range of research also suggests lowering speed limits may result in the number of fatalities dropping by 10% to 30%, with one outlier study showing an 80% reduction in fatalities. It is time for us to recognize and implement slower speeds on local roadways, backed by research and engineering. For these reasons, we urge your support of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Ge'Neil Gary, Mayor
City of Albany

Cc: Members, Assembly Committee on Transportation