



A community group dedicated to walking and biking in Santa Monica.

Working to make the City of Santa Monica a more sustainable, walkable and bikeable place to live, work and play.

October 12, 2020
Item 8A

Dear Mayor, City Council, Management and Staff,

Santa Monica Spoke and the Santa Monica Safe Streets Alliance would like to express their enthusiastic support for the Bike Action Plan Amendment (BAPA) that officially adds a protected bike lane vision and planned implementation to the 2011 Bike Action Plan. We are very supportive of protected bike lanes and intersections that have been proven to improve safety for all road users. These improvements move us closer to city goals that improve environmental sustainability, safer streets and help reduce road fatalities and serious injuries with vision zero.

Santa Monica's continued leadership with sustainable and active transportation helps make our city more environmentally resilient, and encourages healthy active transportation by inviting our community to adopt alternative travel modes to single car trips. The BAPA reinforces our commitment to safety as we reach toward our environmental goals and invite people out of their cars to get around by walking and biking, by bus or train, or other active modes.

We are excited to see the BAPA chart a clear path forward for Santa Monica to build a protected bike lane network citywide in the next five years. The BAPA will help the city in competing for outside grant funding as we progress towards our community's climate, safety, and mobility goals and help us build our resilience in these uncertain economic times. We enthusiastically support this achievable plan focused on the identified high-impact corridors that the city can get done in the near future. We would request the council express their full support and give staff direction to search for new opportunities to expedite the 20 year visions.

In Santa Monica we lead with sustainability initiatives and the Wellbeing Project which prioritize human health and safety. Our Climate Action & Adaptation Plan is our roadmap to carbon neutrality, ideally in the next decade. Towards that end, the adoption of protected bike lanes is a meaningful investment in our commitment to prioritize creating streets that are sustainable environmental systems that encourage active transportation and are safe for people to walk, bike or drive.

Building protected infrastructure that removes barriers to safety encourages viable choices for a healthy and active multi-modal ecosystem. The BAPA will help create a framework to make safety implementations real by demonstrating a commitment toward real and tangible change.

In Santa Monica we have a demonstrated history of how talented and dedicated staff have produced undeniable successes and great results. Santa Monica Spoke has been an enthusiastically engaged community partner since 2009 and actively participated in the creation of the 2011 Bike Action Plan. Together we have aimed high, and thus have achieved huge environmental and sustainability successes like in the initial implementation of the Bike Action Plan where we saw substantial progress with projects that resulted in increased biking, active transportation and improved road safety.

We are exceptionally pleased that the BAPA will build on these successes and add protected bike lanes providing further safety improvements and support for our VISION ZERO goals to eliminate preventable traffic fatalities by 2026. As we invite people out of their cars we must provide attractive and safe alternatives to driving — protected bike lanes help improve safety for people using alternate modes to their cars. We know healthy active mobility options contribute to a healthier environment, community, and improve access and safety to our transportation network for people of all ages, including our most vulnerable road users. Protected bike lanes help us move Santa Monica forward to a healthier, safer and more sustainable city with less traffic and pollution.

As we celebrate our progress, we would like to acknowledge that each of these successes has been achieved thanks to council leadership and to the incredibly detailed hard work and outreach of a dedicated staff in order for us to reach for and achieve these real and meaningful results. This letter is submitted by Santa Monica Spoke, the Santa Monica Safe Streets Alliance and our partner and community members in support of the Bike Action Plan Amendment before you this evening.

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SANTA MONICA
Safe Streets Alliance

*Safe, livable, and sustainable streets are welcoming to everyone
and strengthen our community.*