RE: Updating Transportation Impacts Analysis in the CEQA Guidelines

Dear Mr. Calfee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Updating Transportation Impacts Analysis in the CEQA Guidelines, Preliminary Discussion Draft of Updates to the CEQA Guidelines Implementing Senate Bill 743 (Steinberg, 2013). WALKSacramento believes the proposed Section 15064.3 will better analyze the potential impacts that land use and transportation projects may have on pedestrians, especially with the use of Subdivision (b)(3): Local Safety as a criteria for analyzing transportation impacts.

It will be a big step in the right direction to include the safety of all road users, including pedestrians, as a project impact. The proposed Local Safety criteria will allow for the analysis needed for the public and their elected representatives to make more fully informed decisions on how projects will impact the safety of drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians.

Several of the objective factors proposed for local agency consideration are critically important to pedestrian safety. These factors include increases in crossing times or distances, motor vehicle speed and distance between crossings.

WALKSacramento is working to support increased physical activity such as walking and bicycling in local neighborhoods as well as helping to create community environments that support walking and bicycling. The benefits include improved physical and mental health, and a stronger sense of community and safety in local neighborhoods.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Chris Holm
Project Analyst