



A community group dedicated to biking in Santa Monica and Climate Action Santa Monica. Working to make the City of Santa Monica a more sustainable, bike-able place to live, work and play



July 24, 2018

Agenda items: V, 8C

Support for Safe Streets for 17th and Michigan Avenue Project

Dear Mayor Ted Winterer, Santa Monica City Council, management and staff:

Santa Monica Spoke, Climate Action Santa Monica (CASM) and the Santa Monica Safe Streets Alliance (SaMoSSA) would like to express their enthusiastic support of the Safe Streets for 17th Street and Michigan Avenue Project and the allocation of funds to “green bike lanes” — making them more visible, safe and inviting. We are very excited by the innovative designs proposed for 17th Street that include traffic calming measures, protected bike lanes and intersections, and improved lighting for sidewalks. These improvements move us closer to several of our city goals of environmental sustainability and safer streets that reduce road fatalities and serious injuries with vision zero.

We applaud Santa Monica’s continued leadership with sustainable and active transportation projects like this to make our city more environmentally resilient, and encouraging healthy active transportation by inviting our community to adopt alternatives to taking single car trips. We must prioritize safety if we want to reach our environmental goals and invite people out of their cars to get around our city by walking, biking, scooting, by bus or train, or other active modes.

In Santa Monica we lead with sustainability initiatives and the Wellbeing Project which prioritize human health and safety. Projects like the one before the Council this evening reinforce this commitment and prioritize creating streets that are sustainable environmental systems that encourage active transportation and are safe for people to walk, bike, scoot or drive. Building infrastructure that removes barriers to safety allows viable choices for a healthy and active multi-modal eco system. This project will create a framework to make safety implementations real and goes beyond business as usual by demonstrating our City’s commitment toward real change.

As they engage the community this summer the CASM Climate Corps have been listening to what Santa Monica’s diverse residents (and visitors) have to say about what they need to take personal climate actions and to strengthen our sustainable future. The word cloud below portrays the varied responses to the Climate Corps asking, “What stops you from choosing your favorite transit option?” Clearly, a current pulse reading indicates that safety matters tremendously. We look forward to sharing additional insights from the CASM and SaMoSSA surveys in the coming weeks.

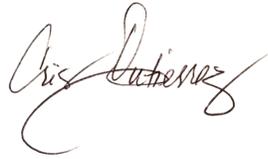
Q4 What stops you from choosing your preferred transit option? ¿Qué te impide usar su modo de tránsito ideal?



Please accept this letter as full support for Safe Streets for 17th Street and Michigan Avenue. Santa Monica Spoke, which has participated as an active partner throughout the process, is joined by the Santa Monica Safe Streets Alliance in support the innovative vision, inclusive outreach and all the hard work staff has put into the planning of this project. This project supports our goals of a more environmentally sustainable, healthier and safer multimodal city for us all to walk, bike, play — regardless of mode.

This letter is submitted by Santa Monica Spoke and Climate Action Santa Monica as a founding members of the Santa Monica Safe Streets Alliance along with current members: Streets Are For Everyone (S.A.F.E) and the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) and our community members.

Sincerely,



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SANTA MONICA Safe Streets Alliance

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

