



Thursday, November 15, 2007

The Honorable Doris Matsui
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congresswoman Matsui,

I am writing today to urge you to take a leadership role in an important national movement to create *Complete Streets* throughout our urban areas.

Complete Streets are safe for all users at all times. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and bus riders of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across a *complete street*. Communities with complete streets enjoy the benefits of having more people walking and bicycling, with lower rates of injuries and fatalities, and a reduced impact on global warming.

WALKSacramento serves as lead agency for the Complete Streets Coalition, a project of the Partnership for Active Communities of Sacramento. The Partnership is a collaboration of individuals and organizations working to create a vibrant community supporting more physically active living. The Coalition brings key players together to support "*Complete Streets*", in and around Sacramento County.

In many areas of Sacramento, pedestrians cannot get to their destinations safely. In the City of Sacramento, between 33 – 41% of traffic fatalities are pedestrians. For the unincorporated County, between 23 – 37% of traffic fatalities are pedestrians (20% statewide, 13% nationally). Almost one-third of all pedestrian collisions in unincorporated Sacramento County involve children under 14 years old.

There is a strong desire for *Complete Streets* in and around Sacramento County. On Wednesday, October 3, 2007, hundreds of students, parents and other members of the community celebrated International Walk to School Day. The Natomas Unified School District, Sacramento City Unified School District, and Sacramento County, were recently awarded Safe Routes to School grants to promote walking and biking and to improve pedestrian and bicycling access.

The Sacramento Area Council of Government (SACOG) Blueprint promotes *Complete Streets* to help reduce congestion and provide healthier and more active transportation choices. The City of Sacramento and the County of Sacramento have developed Pedestrian Master Plans, and updated design guidelines, to help direct current and future transportation projects. *Complete Streets* is also consistent with Sacramento County's 2004 New Measure A, which calls for the "routine accommodation" of walking and bicycling in all projects it funds. In essence, *Complete Streets* is a safe routes for everyone program.

Even so, with current transportation funding priorities it will be many years before our region has a network of *Complete Streets*.

There is a growing national *Complete Streets* movement searching for a champion in Congress. We strongly urge you to consider making *Complete Streets* a legislative priority.

Thank you so much for your consideration. We look forward to working with you to create safe, healthy, livable, and walkable communities.

Sincerely,

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