Dear [insert local elected official names here]:

During these unprecedented times, people need safe places to get outside and exercise. Unfortunately, the surge in people seeking outside space close-to-home is putting a considerable strain on our public spaces. Trails, sidewalks and parks are overcrowded, making it difficult for people to safely maintain 6 feet of distance between themselves and others.

*[Personalize your message with an example of how this hardship is affecting you, your family, or your community]*

With dramatically-reduced car traffic due to the pandemic, we have an opportunity to create more public spaces for people to safely get out—by opening up our streets for walking, biking and physical activity. Closing off selected streets to cars or converting some traffic lanes for biking and walking use can expand access to the outdoors, which is essential to maintaining physical and mental health.

I urge the City of Sacramento to look to the models established in cities around the country like Oakland, CA, Denver, CO, Burlington, VT, and Minneapolis, MN. An updated list can be found [here](https://smartgrowthamerica.org/program/national-complete-streets-coalition/covid-19-how-is-your-community-responding/).

Opening streets for recreation and active transportation is an attainable tactic to improve quality of life and promote public health during this unprecedented public health crisis.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Address]

[Contact information]