March 13, 2017

The Honorable David Chiu
California State Assembly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0017

Re: AB 342 (Chiu) – Support

Dear Assemblymember Chiu,

On behalf of Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC), a nonprofit creating a healthy community, environment, and economy through bicycling, I am writing to support AB 342: the Safe Streets Act of 2017.

AB 342 would allow San Jose and San Francisco to conduct a five-year pilot of speed safety camera technology to supplement traditional traffic enforcement. This technology would be used on streets that have a demonstrated incidence of collisions that result in injuries or fatalities. The bill provides a cost-efficient safety measure which we are pleased to see includes lower fines, no court add-ons, and a diversion program to ensure it does not cause undue burden to low-income communities.

SVBC has a strong commitment to making it safer for bicycling and reducing injuries and deaths on our roadways. We have championed Vision Zero since 2011 and have published a Vision Zero Toolkit with our colleagues at California Walks. Our organization supports San Jose and San Francisco’s Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic injuries and fatalities.

In San Jose and San Francisco, unsafe speed is the leading factor in collisions that result in severe injury or death, and is a fundamental predictor of crash survival. Speed safety cameras are a proven safety technique in use by one hundred and forty two communities in the United States. Studies on the effectiveness of speed safety cameras show a reduction in speeding vehicles and reductions in collisions that result in severe injury or death.

For these reasons, we strongly support AB 342.

Sincerely,

Shiloh Ballard
President and Executive Director

cc: Senator Jim Beall
Senator Scott Wiener
Assemblymember Phil Ting
Assemblymember Kansen Chu
Assemblymember Ash Kalra
Assemblymember Evan Low
Assemblymember Marc Berman