

March 31, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
B03 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
United States House of Representatives
115 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Padilla, and Congressman DeSaulnier,

I write to express my strong support for the City of San Pablo's **San Pablo Avenue Bridge Replacement and Intersection Realignment** project.

The City of San Pablo requests \$8.0 million to complete the funding needed for a bridge replacement and "complete streets" approach to realigning the skewed, five-legged intersection on top of the bridge. These requested funds will allow the City of San Pablo to take advantage of the economies of scale by funding the non-bridge aspects of this project. The City received \$8.4 million in Federal Bridge Replacement funds, but those cannot be use to repair the creek below the bridge or to provide the necessary upgrades for safer bicycle, pedestrian, and vehicular travel over the circa 1925 bridge. There have been 55 accidents at this intersection since 2018 – including two pedestrian hit and run accidents, including one fatality this past year.

The City of San Pablo is primarily a residential community of 30,000 where roughly 17% of residents get to work by public transportation, walking, or bicycling. According to the recent Contra Costa Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, the City of San Pablo averaged 5.47 pedestrian injuries annually per 10,000 people—the second highest rate of pedestrian injuries in the County—and 3.19 cyclist injuries annually per 10,000 people—the County's fourth highest rate of cyclist injuries. This intersection is at the heart of the City and carries 16,500 vehicles per day, but also incorporates the primary "parallel arterial route" for the I-80 Integrated Corridor Mobility program which can take freeway traffic around an incident on I-80 by redirecting motorists to surface streets in the local communities. One of the streets entering this intersection has the Hatlen Center for the Blind, the City's sole Middle School, and its Community Center within ½ mile of this intersection. Safe passage through the intersection and expeditious traffic flow are of the utmost importance to the City of San Pablo.

Currently, the City of San Pablo cannot fund the non-bridge replacement work, which would transform this intersection into a comprehensive, multi-modal, complete street experience for the traveling public – increasing safety to all users. Realigning the intersection to improve sight distance, slow the vehicles, and provide protected areas for pedestrians and cyclists are key to improving the safety of this intersection. Without these requested funds, this intersection will continue to be a challenge for the traveling public. With the funds to enhance the safety of this intersection, the City can better serve its community and safety to all of the road users.

I ask that you give the City of San Pablo's request for funding full and fair consideration. These funds would remove a barrier to safe travel options for the entire San Pablo community and I fully support its impact. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Pabon-Alvarado
Mayor

cc: City Council
City Manager
Assistant City Manager
Public Works Director

March 31, 2021
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein,
The Honorable Alex Padilla,
The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier,
RE: San Pablo Avenue Bridge
Replacement and Intersection Realignment project
Page 2