



June 24, 2024

The Honorable Assemblymember Tasha Boerner
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 4150
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 2259 – Bike Smart Handbook – SUPPORT (As Amended May 16, 2024)

Dear Assemblymember Boerner,

On behalf of the City of Carlsbad, we write to express our support for Assembly Bill (AB) 2259, which would reduce accidents, injuries, and fatalities among bicyclists while promoting safer and more frequent bicycling with an electronic Bicycle Driver Safety Handbook.

Encouraging more people to safely and lawfully use bicycles for travel and recreation activities would benefit California. The fast-increasing use of electric-assisted bicycles lends some urgency to help inform new users about lawful, safe, and courteous bicycle use.

An internet-available resource, similar to the California Motorcyclist Manual, could provide official, authoritative, and cost-effective information to achieve this goal. Several other states have developed bicyclist handbooks that meet the recommended information criteria of the proposed legislation. California could quickly develop a Bicycle Driver Handbook, using the contents of the "Street Smarts" booklets, which are widely used by other states, with permission. Other states, including Pennsylvania, Ohio, Idaho, Arizona, and soon Florida, offer similar handbooks.

While the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has improved bicycle-related content in their California Driver's Handbook and online content, and the California Highway Patrol's online information is beneficial, their content only covers basic information about California Vehicle Codes. A California Bicycle Driver Handbook would provide more comprehensive information on successfully, lawfully, and courteously operating a bicycle. The DMV's Motorcycle Handbook serves as a good example of how such a handbook could benefit California cyclists.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 2259 and thank you for your leadership on this most important issue. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate Sharon Gonsalves with Renne Public Policy Group at 916-974-9270.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Blackburn'.

Keith Blackburn
Mayor

City of Carlsbad City Council

City Hall 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive | Carlsbad, CA 92008 | 442-339-2820 t

CC: Members and Staff, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Catherine Blakespear, Senate District 38
Angela Pontes, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor Gavin Newsom's Office of Legislative Affairs