



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 2c

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*Memorandum*

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: May 3, 2013

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1131

RE: AB 1371 (Bradford) Minimum Passing Distance: Bicycles

**Background**

AB 1371 (Bradford) — known as the “Three Feet for Safety Act” — would require the driver of a motor vehicle overtaking and passing a bicycle to pass in compliance with specified requirements, including doing so at a safe distance — which the bill generally establishes as at least three feet between any part of the motor vehicle and any part of the bicycle or its operator. AB 1371 would also permit a vehicle to cross a double parallel solid lines or double parallel lines, one of which is broken, to pass a bicycle traveling in the same direction if the driver has sufficient visibility to do so safely. The bill would make a violation of these provisions an infraction punishable by a \$35 fine. In the event that a collision occurs between a bicyclist and a motor vehicle causing bodily harm to the bicyclist, a violation of any of the bill’s provisions would subject the driver to a \$220 fine.

**Recommendation: Support**

**Discussion**

AB 1371 is very similar to a bill passed by the Legislature last year, SB 910 (Lowenthal), which was vetoed by the Governor. Unlike AB 1371, SB 910 set a maximum speed of 15 mph for a vehicle passing a bicycle, raising concerns about the safety impacts of requiring vehicles to travel at 15 mph on roads that ordinarily permit higher speeds. As AB 1371 does not include this provision and Governor Brown ended his veto message encouraging “the author, proponents, and opponents to send me a bill next year that solves these problems,” it appears to have good prospects of securing his signature this year. Staff recommends a support position on this common sense bill that will help bicyclists and motorists share the road more safely.

**Known Positions**

**Support**

Mayor of Los Angeles (sponsor)  
LibraryBikes.org

**Oppose**

None on file

  
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Steve Heminger