



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 3b

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Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: May 2, 2014

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1131

RE: AB 1532 (Gatto), AB 2398 (Levine), SB 1151 (Canella):
Pedestrian Safety

Background

Pedestrian safety is a growing concern in the Bay Area, especially on the streets of San Francisco, where 21 people were killed in 2013, the highest number since 2007. In response, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority has adopted a policy, Vision Zero, to eliminate pedestrian and cyclist fatalities within a decade. While this policy largely involves capital improvements to specific intersections, there are a number of bills under consideration in Sacramento this year that aim to improve conditions for pedestrians in the near term through stiffer penalties and other common sense requirements for how drivers should respond in the event of an accident involving a pedestrian.

Recommendation: Support AB 1532, AB 2398 and SB 1151

Discussion

The bills under consideration include the following:

- Assembly Bill 1532 (Gatto) would expand the scope of existing hit and run law to require that when a person is struck but not injured the driver shall remain at the scene of the accident and provides that failure to do so would be a misdemeanor.
- Assembly Bill 2398 (Levine) raises the penalty for causing “bodily injury or great bodily injury” to a newly defined category of “vulnerable road users” from either \$70 or \$95 respectively to at least \$220 (but less than \$1,000) and requires a violation point to be added to a driver’s record for such violation. The bill also requires DMV to suspend for six months the driver’s license of anyone convicted of a second violation of the above within a three-year period. The bill defines vulnerable road user as a pedestrian, including a highway construction or maintenance worker, a person operating non-motorized equipment, including but not limited to a bicycle or skateboard, a person on horseback or a person operating a farm tractor.
- Senate Bill 1151 (Canella) requires that fines for specified violations be doubled or increased if the violation occurred when passing a school building or school grounds, as specified, and the highway is posted with a standard “SCHOOL” warning sign and an accompanying sign notifying motorists that increased penalties apply for traffic violations that are committed within the school zone. The bill would require that these additional fines be deposited in the State Transportation Fund for purposes of the Active Transportation Program.

Collectively, these bills aim to make the roads safer for pedestrians and other non-motorized road users by mandating increased penalties associated with accidents involving pedestrians and traffic violations in the vicinity of schools. In the case of SB 1151, the bill would also generate a new funding source to support active transportation. In support of Plan Bay Area’s goal to increase active transportation, staff recommends a support position on all three bills.

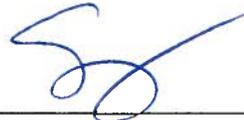
Known Positions (See attached)

Bill Number	Support	Oppose
AB 1532 (Gatto)	Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs City and County of San Francisco City of Los Angeles Riverside Sheriffs' Association Crime Victims Action Alliance California Bicycle Coalition Walk San Francisco Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition Los Angeles WALKS Safe Routes to School National Partnership Citizens for Law and Order, Inc. Walk Bike Glendale Benjamin Franklin Elementary Foundation Conor Lynch Foundation Finish the Ride Los Angeles County Deputy Probation Officers Union, AFSCME Local 658 Missing Link Bicycle Cooperative	
AB 2398 (Levine)	City and County of San Francisco San Francisco MTA Marin County Bicycle Coalition California Walks Transportation Authority of Marin Safe Routes to School National Partnership California Electric Bicycle Association California Bicycle Coalition (support) BIKEable Communities Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition	Safer Streets L.A. National Motorist Association
SB 1151 (Canella)	California Federation of Teachers Latino Coalition for a Healthy California California Pan-Ethnic Health Network California Walks City of Goleta Merced County Office of Education Central California Regional Obesity Prevention Program (co-sponsor) Safe Routes to School National Partnership (co-sponsor) TransForm (co-sponsor) Alliance for Community Research and Development	National Motorists Association Safer Streets L.A.

Legislation Committee

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Steve Heminger

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