September 23rd 2013

Interim Mayor Gloria
City of San Diego
202 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: BikeSD's Top Three Requests

Dear Interim Mayor Gloria:

Congratulations on your new role. We are confident in your ability to manage the challenging task of serving San Diego in two roles and advancing a healthy, sustainable, and thriving future for our City. Critical to achieving this vision is a strong plan to improve, enhance and promote bicycling in the city and I, as the Executive Director of BikeSD, write today to both acknowledge your continuing support for our own mission and to ask your support for our top three requests that we would like implemented during your mayorship.
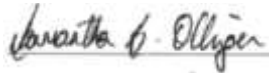
1. Hire a Bicycle Program Manager – Ed Clancy was appointed by former mayor Filner to oversee the citywide bicycle program. As a liaison between the mayor's office, the staff and the general public, he oversaw the implementation of an incredible number of projects that we as advocates struggled to get to fruition in the past. This position is **key** to advancing the bicycling transportation agenda. Although we've made an incredible amount of progress in the last year and a half, you are well aware on how far behind we as a city are in comparison with other cities in the country. The position has been voted on by City Council and funded per the FY 14 budget and is currently vacant. As mentioned in the past, I strongly recommend Charlie Gandy to this position and his biography is attached to this letter.

2. Direct staff to work with BikeSD representatives and Council Staff to write an implementation strategy for the Bicycle Master Plan Update – In July, the Planning Commission voted to approve the Bicycle Master Plan Update. This update is now scheduled to go before the full City Council for a vote. However the commissioners noted that the plan currently lacks an implementation strategy and thus is poised to become another well written plan with no accountability. In order to be an effective plan with measurable goals, it requires an implementation strategy.

3. Direct staff to report quarterly on Transnet funds expenditure status specific to bicycling projects – The Transnet ordinance allows for two streams of revenue to be used for bicycling projects: the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Neighborhood Safety Program and, the Local Street and Road Program. Staff should report on:

    a. How projects are prioritized within the city and,

b. What percentage of total funds are being spent on bicycling projects.

According to the most recent Transnet Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee meeting held on September 11, 2013, the City of San Diego has a balance of over $54 million in its Local Streets Improvements allocation for FY 13. As 70% of the funds are to be used for congestion relief which includes traffic calming measures and, 30% of the funds are to be used for non-congestion relief which includes road diets to implement bicycle facilities – it would be useful for us to understand how these funds are being expended and how the priorities are being made so that we as advocates can be more effective in advocating and supporting both staff and our elected officials' roles in governing our city.

BikeSD's mission is to "establish San Diego as a world-class bicycling city by promoting everyday riding. We do this by advocating for and promoting world-class bicycling infrastructure that contributes toward an aesthetic, livable urban environment." These top three requests would go a long way to ensuring that both taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently and that your support for our efforts remains steadfast. The City has made great strides in the past year and a half and we can continue to surpass on past successes. I look forward to both supporting your efforts in order to make that a reality.

 Sincerely,

Samantha Ollinger

Executive Director, BikeSD