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California State Senate

SENATOR
BEN ALLEN

TWENTY-FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT



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October 11, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 205900-0001

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in support of Streets for All and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)'s joint application for USDOT's Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Discretionary Grant Opportunity funds for the Marina Central Park feasibility study.

This study would consider the process of converting the 3.1-mile CA-90 Freeway that starts at the edge of my district into a park with housing, small retail, protected bike and pedestrian paths, a designated bus lane, and car lanes for local traffic. Transforming this freeway into a "Marina Central Park" could reduce pollution, create needed affordable housing and green space, and expand access to active and safe transportation.

While some have raised concerns about the project, I believe a feasibility study with its comprehensive community engagement would help us better understand the proposed project and its impacts. This information will help us determine how best to proceed. I am also encouraged that Caltrans, which owns the freeway, is a co-applicant for these funds.

Thank you for your consideration of this important application. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (310) 318-6994.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ben Allen'.

BEN ALLEN
Senator, 24th District