From: <u>Jonathan Matz</u>

To: <u>California Transportation Commission@CATC</u>

Subject: Comment on Tab 6 for April 29 Special Meeting

Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 4:51:58 PM

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Dear Commissioners:

I regret that I am unable to attend the special Commission meeting scheduled for April 29. However, I wish to write in support of CTC staff's recommendations in item 6 (Amendment to the 2021 Active Transportation Program Schedule, Resolution G-20-55, Amending Resolution G-20-31).

An extension of the ATP deadline until September is absolutely necessary to allow smaller agencies and jurisdictions to salvage the applications they have been working on. The Safe Routes Partnership provides technical assistance in applying to the ATP to many small cities across the state, and our point of contact in those communities have frequently been reassigned or unable to access critical files due to the pandemic and work-from-home orders. Similarly, Safe Routes to School projects have been disrupted, as school closures and emergency response have affected agencies' abilities to coordinate with principals, districts and public health departments on community engagement and non-infrastructure. While there is no guarantee that schools will open before September, or that staff will have the capacity to again collaborate on ATP applications even if they are, we must give small communities the chance to gain their footing and complete these critical applications; otherwise, only the largest agencies and communities will be able to submit applications in ATP Cycle 5.

Thank you for your consideration,

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Support Safe Routes in 2020