

**TOWN OF FAIRFAX
STAFF REPORT**

To: Mayor, Members of the Town Council
From: Michele Gardner, Deputy Town Clerk *mg*
Date: May 1, 2013
**Subject: Authorization for the Mayor to sign letter to Assembly Member Gatto in support
AB 1194 Safe Routes to School funding**

RECOMMENDATION

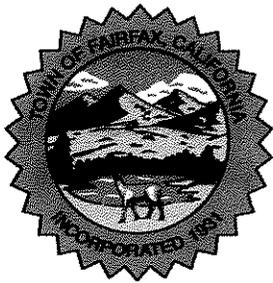
Consider and discuss authorizing the Mayor to sign the attached letter.

DISCUSSION

The attached letter was drafted by Council Member Bragman, urging Assembly Member Mark Gatto to support Assembly Bill 1194 to continue funding for Safe Routes to School.

ATTACHMENTS

May 1, 2013 letter to Assembly Member Mark Gatto from Mayor John Reed



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

142 BOLINAS ROAD, FAIRFAX, CALIFORNIA 94930
(415) 453-1584 / FAX (415) 453-1618

Mayor
John Reed

Vice Mayor
David Weinsoff

Town Council
Larry Bragman
Renee Goddard

Town Manager
Garrett Toy

May 1, 2013

The Honorable Mike Gatto
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 3152
Sacramento, CA 94249
VIA Facsimile: (916)319-2170

Re: Support for AB 1194 Safe Routes to School in California's Budget

Dear Assembly Member Gatto:

The Fairfax Town Council strongly supports Assembly Bill 1194, which would maintain Safe Routes to School as an independent program at level-funding of \$46 million. AB-1194 provides for continued funding of both infrastructure projects and non-infrastructure education and enforcement programs under a state-managed competitive grant process.

Since the enactment of California's Safe Routes to School program over a decade ago, children in California have increased their walking trips by 10 percent. Over the same period, the number of serious injuries and fatalities to children walking and bicycling inflicted by auto collisions has steadily declined. The impressive increase in children walking concurrent to safety improvements indicates that Safe Routes to School is working.

The current rate of children walking and bicycling to school in California is nearly one-third of all students, which is more than twice the national average. In many metro areas of the state, such as Los Angeles, the rate of students walking and bicycling to school is even higher, despite higher traffic and personal safety risks in those regions.

The Town of Fairfax was the first jurisdiction to commit to a robust Safe Routes to school program and we have seen vastly increased numbers of our students walking and bicycling to local schools. We have also seen a concomitant reduction in traffic congestion. Clearly this is a program that works!

We respectfully urge you to support AB 1194. Please ensure that the Safe Routes to School Program does not lose momentum toward safety and sustainable mobility for all children.

Sincerely,

JOHN REED

Mayor, Town of Fairfax

Cc:

Assembly Member Eric Linder, Vice-Chair

Assembly Member Tom Ammiano

Jeanie Ward-Waller, California Advocacy Organizer, Safe Routes to School National Partnership