



March 21, 2022

The Honorable Laura Friedman, Chair
Assembly Committee on Transportation
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2336 (Friedman) – Vehicles: Speed Safety System Pilot Program – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Friedman:

SPUR is pleased to support AB 2336, which authorizes a pilot program to use speed cameras to reduce the number of dangerous speeding vehicles in our cities.

Speed accounts for nearly a third of all traffic fatalities. According to FHA, speed cameras can reduce crashes on urban streets by 54%. Speed cameras in New York City reduced speeding in school zones up to 63%. An NTSB review of speed cameras around the world found that cameras can reduce fatal collisions by a low of 17% to a high of 71%. This is why the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act authorizes cities to use federal dollars to purchase speed cameras.

AB 2336 was designed with equity in mind. Unlike the red light program, which results in hefty \$500 fines, AB 2336 has significantly lower fines starting at \$50 for going 11 miles per hour (mph) over the speed limit. Cities will be required to reduce fines for those under the poverty line by 80% or offer community service. The bill also requires cities to reduce fines by 50% for individuals 200% above the federal poverty line. Cities will be required to spend the revenue on engineering safer streets, cannot shift existing expenditures to backfill the new revenue, and will have to send the money to the state Active Transportation Program if they do not invest in safety measures within three years.

Slowing drivers down is imperative for reducing traffic deaths and injuries. In the perfect world, all our streets would be redesigned to encourage much slower speeds by narrowing lanes, installing traffic calming and other queues to maintain safe speeds. But these reforms will take years to implement. We cannot accept thousands of traffic deaths and injuries – disproportionately impacting low-income people of color -- while we retrofit our roadway infrastructure. AB 2336 authorizes an important enforcement tool with a proven safety record while requiring revenue collected by the program to engineer safer streets for all road users. This balanced approach will help California significantly reduce the 3,800 traffic fatalities it suffers from on an annual basis. For these reasons, we are proud to support AB 2336.

Sincerely,

Jonathon Kass
Transportation Policy Manager, SPUR