



  
Advocating Walkable Communities for Everyone

California WALKS  
1904 Franklin Street, Suite 709  
Oakland, CA 94612  
Tel: (510) 292-4435  
Fax: (510) 292-4436  
[www.californiawalks.org](http://www.californiawalks.org)  
[info@californiawalks.org](mailto:info@californiawalks.org)

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF TERRY L. PARKER**  
**ON BEHALF OF CALIFORNIA WALKS**  
“Reforming Caltrans”  
February 11, 2014 Informational Hearing  
Senate Transportation Committee

Dear Chair DeSaulnier and Members of the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee:

As Secretary of the California WALKS Board of Directors, I am pleased to offer our support for full funding and implementation of recent recommendations put forth by California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) Secretary Brian Kelly (see [California Transportation Infrastructure Priorities](#)), as well as by the independent external [State Smart Transportation Initiative’s \(SSTI\) review](#) of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

The California WALKS Network—a coalition of local walk, senior, youth, blind and disability advocacy organizations across the state—works for everyone in California to walk and cross safely for everyday transportation. Though Caltrans has many essential multimodal “building block” efforts underway—including Complete Streets Implementation Action Plan, Smart Mobility Framework, California Transportation Plan 2040—that would ensure achievement of SB 391 and SB 375 objectives, the Department needs full staffing for implementation success. Accordingly, Cal WALKS strongly supports legislative action to ensure that Caltrans is fully funded to implement an integrated and sustainable multimodal transportation system that complements strategic growth and creates a sustainable California.

Despite accounting for 13.5% of all trips and nearly 25% of all traffic fatalities, walking is consistently underfunded—with walking and biking **combined** comprising less than 2.3% of the State’s planned transportation spending over the next decade. While both reports recognize that reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fostering compact and livable development need to replace a backward-looking focus on road-building, the Department of Finance’s (DOF) [5-Year Infrastructure Investment Plan 2014](#) continues historic patterns of roadway investment and disinvestment in walking, biking and public transit. Cal WALKS awaits and strongly supports the Legislature’s leadership to usher in a new multimodal era in the State, with full funding to implement Caltrans’ multimodal efforts.

Cal WALKS supports adoption of a new strategic Caltrans’ plan under CalSTA. A multimodal California Transportation Plan 2040 can achieve the State’s sustainability and mobility objectives under SB 391, SB 375, and AB 32—we strongly urge the Legislature to work with the Governor and DOF to fund its full implementation for the health, mobility, and well-being of all Californians.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Parker, Board Secretary  
California WALKS Board of Directors

cc: Chief Consultant: Carrie Cornwell; Consultants: Erin Riches, Mark Stivers and Eric Thronson.  
CalSTA Agency Secretary Brian Kelly