

September 30, 2018

Dear Hon. Mayor Robert Garcia

Councilwomen Lena Gonzalez
Councilwomen Jeannine Pearce
Councilwomen Suzie Price
Councilmen Daryl Supernaw
Councilwomen Stacy Mungo
Councilmen Dee Andrews
Councilmen Roberto Uranga
Councilmen Al Austin
Councilmen Rex Richardson

I apologize that I am unable to attend this meeting on such an important matter that is very dear to my heart but, I had made a commitment to one of peers which conflicts with tonight's meeting.

This weekend, I learned that the Long Beach City Council is considering an ordinance prohibiting class II bikes from bike paths. As a class II bike owner and weekly rider, I was disappointed and surprised that this is being considered. I have always loved riding bikes but over the years, health conditions were interfering with my passion. My auto-immune disease makes it difficult for me to ride against the wind and sometimes, going upgrade. When I learned about the class II bikes, I was overwhelmed. I research out the type of class II bike that would best fit me. It didn't take long before I had my class II bike and begin enjoying my weekend rides. As a senior (I turn 70 years old in 2019), I look forward to joining others every weekend. Many of them are in the same situation that I am, health problems that will not allow them to ride the standard bikes.

Since starting my weekend bike rides this year, I have managed to put over 1000 miles on my class II bike. A good share of that was done in Long Beach. However, if you prohibit class II bikes from bike paths, many of my trips (I can't speak for others) will be only on the streets among cars traveling much faster than I can pedal and quite possibility not seeing me resulting in possible bike vs auto accidents with potential injuries.

Let's look at what the bike paths are for before making hasty decisions. First, they are for bikes and other forms of riding activities. This includes: roller skaters, skate boards, razors, bikes (both pedal and pedal assist), and rental bikes. All of these forms of riding activities travel at various speeds and this is something bike path users understand. We all share the paths.

I understand your concerns but, class II bikes are not motorized scooters and function differently. Did you know that class II bikes are environmentally friendly? Did you know that these bikes are

pedal assist which means; we get exercise and help if we need it. In fact, if I put a variety of bikes and class II bikes together, you would have difficulty in most cases of telling them apart. They are bikes and ride the same way with one exception; they are pedal assist which is actually very different from motorized scooters.

Please consider this before making your decision. When you restrict people from enjoying their outdoor activity, you encourage them to stay indoors promoting television programs, video games, Internet searches, etc. We should and must continue to promote outdoor activities, getting involved with others, joining groups with the same interest, and remember – as we all age health conditions make it difficult for many of us to do the things we enjoyed. I have found a way to bring my bike days back to me with my class II bike.

As a senior, this is a weekend event I look forward to enjoying (along with the many restaurant stops for lunch). Please reconsider this ordinance as restricting class II bikes from the safety of bike paths will only put us on the streets. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Wendy Grose, DNP