



**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY GROUP**

**Of The Ventana Chapter**

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Dear Mayor Cummings and City Council Members,

At its last meeting the City Transportation and Public Works Commission unanimously approved a recommendation to redirect \$200,000 in Measure D funds to implement modifications to streets to make them safer for bicyclists and pedestrians during this pandemic. Many environmentally-oriented cities throughout the west coast and nation are initiating similar "slow streets" initiatives in response to the COVID-19 crisis and rising pedestrian and cycling activities by their residents.

According to the State Office of Traffic Safety, in recent years Santa Cruz has suffered an average of 100 injuries to bicyclists and 36 injuries to pedestrians each year. We are concerned that the increase in bicycling and walking as a response to the pandemic may result in even more injuries to bicyclists and pedestrians if the City does not take immediate action as recommended by your Commission.

We consider this request urgent, since human safety is at stake. During your budget hearings later this month, please approve the Commission's recommendation to redirect \$200,000 in Measure D funds for a "slow streets" initiative in Santa Cruz and ask the Commission to establish and implement a process for receiving and recommending specific "slow streets" requests from neighborhoods by August 2020.

Thank you,

Respectfully submitted,

Micah Posner, Executive Committee Chair

Sierra Club, Santa Cruz Group