



August 23, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Support for Streets for All Marina Central Park Application for FY23
Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to express my support for Streets for All's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program. This \$2 million proposal would support a feasibility study for Marina Central Park, a newly created space that would be constructed in place of the Marina Freeway (California State Route 90).

Originally envisioned as part of a much larger freeway project, the 3.1-mile Marina Freeway between Lincoln Blvd. and Slauson Ave. in Culver City opened in 1968. The freeway destroyed homes in both Culver City and the Del Rey Neighborhood of the City of Los Angeles, and made access to Centinela Creek difficult. The freeway also exacerbates air and noise pollution and impacts water quality through polluted run-off. Furthermore, because the eastern segment was never built, the freeway essentially became a "freeway to nowhere," traversing a very short distance for an eight-lane highway. The daily traffic volumes prove that an eight-lane freeway is not needed for this corridor.

Tearing down the Marina Freeway, which sits on 100 acres of right-of-way with 50 acres of concrete and steel, represents an opportunity to address past harms, build housing, and create community space for all Angelenos. As currently envisioned, Marina Central Park would be one of the largest parks in the Los Angeles region. It is my understanding that this project would provide nearly 4,000 units of new housing – including potentially 100% affordable housing – and mixed-use development, which can reduce vehicle miles traveled. It would address community access to much-needed open space with connected paths, jogging trails, a dedicated bike path, a bus rapid transit corridor, and

dedicated lanes for limited car use. Lastly, it would help restore access to and re-naturalize Centinela Creek to improve a community asset that can be enjoyed by the community.

For these reasons, I ask for your full and fair consideration of Streets for All's proposal. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



KAREN BASS
Mayor