# ALLIED
## Neighborhoods Association

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August 31, 2020

To: Historic Landmarks Commission

Re: Downtown and Waterfront City Right-of Way/First Phase, Bike Share Program (September 2, 2020 Agenda, Item 2)

Allied Neighborhoods Association appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the first phase of the electric bike share program agenda item.

**1) Downtown State Street**. Our main concern is the stretch of State that is currently closed to vehicular traffic. (Please note, we are not talking about whether this area should be permanently closed to cars - that's a discussion for some other time in the future.)

There's division in the community about whether bicycle use (generally) is appropriate and compatible with pedestrian use in the roadway in this stretch of State. There are safety concerns for pedestrians (children, seniors, folks with disabilities, etc.) with bicycles currently in the mix, and especially as bikes can come from behind at any moment, without warning. Third Street Promenade in Santa Monica is often mentioned as a successful example of a pedestrian plaza, but please remember Third Street does not allow bikes and is pedestrian only.

Council discussed electric bike share in December 2019, before the pandemic. Now things have changed, and businesses are operating outside on the brick sidewalks and in the street. Council needs to decide whether bikes are appropriate and compatible with the business and pedestrian uses in the street before HLC decides on this application by a department of the City. At 10 bike docks per block, that's roughly 100 electric docks added to the activity in this stretch of State (with 500 docks proposed on downtown State, the immediate adjacent area, and West Beach).

The plans don't seem to reflect the COVID-19/vehicular closure change on downtown State, as there is not a page (of the 39 pages) that shows any business activity in the street or on the sidewalk.

**2) The Waterfront area.** We urge HLC to take a close look at the location of the tall kiosks to ensure they are not located on the beach side of Cabrillo, creating a visual impact to the scenic view of the beach and ocean.

Please review plans (both downtown and waterfront) for consistency with the Pedestrian Master Plan. For example, area number 11 (middle photo), our concern is about the substantially reduced size of the pedestrian area that remains.

We suggest the HLC motion include a continuance. This will allow Council time to consider the appropriateness of mixing bikes with pedestrians in the area of downtown State currently closed to vehicular traffic – as well as, closely studying resulting reductions of sidewalk widths throughout the project area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Allied Neighborhoods Association

Cc: City Council
Ariel Calonne
Paul Casey