



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 825 without my signature.

This bill, with limited exceptions, would prohibit local jurisdictions from banning bicycling on sidewalks located adjacent to streets and roads without bike lanes, until January 1, 2031.

I appreciate the author's commitment to address bicycle safety and enforcement issues; however, the approach in this bill would create serious safety issues - both for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Most sidewalks are not designed for bicyclists to safely use them, and riding on sidewalks would significantly increase the risk of collisions with pedestrians.

Under my Administration, investments to fix and build safe and connected bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure on and across state highways has quadrupled, and Caltrans is planning for even greater levels of investments using historic federal funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

In addition, the state budget recently included investments in the Active Transportation Program (ATP) with an infusion of \$1 billion above and beyond the ongoing funding available for this important program. In its administration of the ATP, the California Transportation Commission has overwhelmingly focused investments to improve biking and walking in disadvantaged communities.

Increasing the vulnerability of pedestrians is not a solution to addressing the safety needs of bicyclists. We need to continue our efforts to deliver the



necessary infrastructure in all of our communities for safe bicycle and pedestrian travel.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gavin Newsom", written over the printed name. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'G' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gavin Newsom