



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**SEP 22 2024**

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 936 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to complete a study identifying the 15 locations on the state highway system with the highest rates of vehicle collisions and to propose projects to improve road safety at each of these locations by January 1, 2026.

Caltrans is already implementing various initiatives to prioritize road safety improvements, including its Safe System Approach. This innovative approach aims to reduce fatal and serious injuries for all road users by taking a comprehensive view of safety, focusing on multiple layers of protection, from building safer roads to post-crash care. While I support efforts to expedite traffic safety enhancements, this bill conflicts with Caltrans' data-driven approach to identifying and developing a holistic traffic safety framework for its projects. Prioritizing locations based solely on overall collision rates, without considering crash severity and other associated collision factors, may fail to address the areas of greatest safety concern.


Existing safety planning efforts that proactively identify and implement safety projects, such as the California Strategic Highway Safety Plan, can already effectively achieve the goals that this bill seeks to accomplish. I encourage the Legislature to partner with Caltrans to advance the implementation of these efforts.



For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

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 line extending to the right.