



4TH SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

**Building on Success: Projects, Programs, People
August 13-15, 2013 ■ Sacramento, California**

August 20, 2013

Jerry Way
Director
City of Sacramento Department of Public Works
915 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Way:

Last week, more than 650 Safe Routes to School professionals from around the country traveled to Sacramento for the Safe Routes to School National Conference. While here, attendees greatly enjoyed walking and bicycling around the beautiful city of Sacramento and learned from each other about the best ways to ensure the safety of our children on the trip to and from school.

At our keynote dinner, Congresswoman Doris Matsui welcomed us all and spoke about her commitment to making walking and bicycling safe so that we can lead active and healthy lives. Attendees then saw a video made by youth activist Vanessa Hernandez about the death of Michelle Murigi more than 18 months ago. After seeing the video, many conference attendees were moved to sign the petition asking for a traffic signal at the intersection of 58th and Fruitridge and asked what else they could do to help.

We all have intersections like this in our communities across the country, and in our work we seek to address these types of safety challenges so that children need not fear for their safety as they walk and bicycle to and from school and in daily life. On behalf of the conference attendees, the Local Government Commission and the Safe Routes to School National Partnership urge the City of Sacramento to prioritize improvements at the intersection where Michelle Murigi was so tragically killed.

We understand that the City of Sacramento hopes to have a traffic light and safety countermeasures in place by the end of this year at this intersection. Prioritizing this project will assure that the hundreds of children who use that intersection each day can get to school

safely. We applaud your commitment to implementing the project this year, so that another anniversary of Michelle's death doesn't pass without rectifying this unsafe intersection for her classmates and friends.

We appreciate your commitment to finding a solution and look forward to hearing how the City of Sacramento resolves this critical safety problem that affects so many young people. Further, we urge you to do a review of the streets and intersections around all schools in Sacramento to identify and proactively fix similar safety concerns before another tragedy occurs.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.



Kate Meis
Executive Director
Local Government Commission



Deb Hubsmith
Director
Safe Routes to School National Partnership

cc: Terry Preston, *WALK*Sacramento