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Thomas F. Rosenbaum, *President*
Sonja and William Davidow Presidential Chair and Professor of Physics



April 29, 2024

Mr. Joaquin Siques
Director, Pasadena Department of Transportation
221 East Walnut Street Suite 210
Pasadena, CA 91101

Dear Mr. Siques,

Congratulations on your appointment as Pasadena's Director of the Transportation Department. I hope you find this important and challenging role fulfilling.

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the safety of the daily commute for Caltech students, staff, and faculty to our campus. Over 40 percent of Caltech community members either bike or walk to their studies or work every day. I bring this matter to your attention because at least one of our community members has been involved in a vehicle-pedestrian collision within a crosswalk, and several others have reported near misses. Without proactive measures, I fear that more serious accidents are inevitable. Given this context, it is imperative that the streets bordering the Caltech campus be enhanced to ensure a safe environment for pedestrians and cyclists alike.

I respectfully request that all streets connecting the Caltech campus to adjacent neighborhoods be analyzed for safety issues and receive any recommended safety enhancements. A specific concern is Wilson Avenue, as Caltech owns properties on both sides of this thoroughfare, and students, faculty, and staff frequently need to cross it. The substantial pedestrian traffic necessitates improved safety measures on Wilson Avenue to moderate vehicular speed and facilitate safer crossings.

Finally, I am pleased to learn that Wilson Avenue, situated on the western side of our campus, will be developed as a Greenway bike route as part of the Pasadena Greenways Project. Wilson Avenue serves as a crucial cycling artery, granting our community members access to existing east-west cycling routes along Cordova Street, Union Street, and Arden Road. It is paramount that the Wilson Avenue bike lanes are designed with the highest safety standards in mind. Caltech wholeheartedly supports this project and advocates for adherence to the NACTO All Ages and Abilities guidelines.

For the well-being of the Caltech community, it is critical to establish a network of safe streets that accommodate all users. I wholeheartedly support the city's ongoing efforts to improve traffic safety throughout Pasadena and remain hopeful that additional safety measures will be implemented around the Caltech campus in the near future.

As always, Caltech stands ready to collaborate with city officials as committed partners in our shared goal of creating safer street designs that prioritize the welfare of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas F. Rosenbaum".

Thomas F. Rosenbaum

cc: Mayor Victor Gordo
Councilmember Jason Lyon
Mr. Miguel Marquez