March 10, 2015

Dear Members of the Vision Zero Coalition,

Safety has and will continue to be our City’s top priority – whether it is preventing crime in our neighborhoods or engineering safety improvements into our City streets.

Vision Zero prioritizes safety on our City’s streets for all modes of transportation – whether you walk, bicycle, ride Muni or BART, take a taxi or carpool or drive a car or large truck. We are multi-modal people in a multi-modal City, and therefore we must balance all the needs of all road users while remaining steadfast to our commitment to safety for all road users. With limited right of way in our historic City, we must be balanced in our approach.

Vision Zero is the most comprehensive and ambitious street safety policy in San Francisco’s history, and I am proud to lead this effort and advance the work of Vision Zero. To highlight what we have accomplished together:

- Secured a dedicated funding source through Proposition A, the largest transportation bond in San Francisco history and 2nd largest bond ever after the rebuild of San Francisco General Hospital. The last major investment in transportation and street safety infrastructure was nearly five decades ago. This past November, voters approved this $500 million transportation bond that is providing critical infrastructure improvements, including more than $300 million dedicated to projects that will help us achieve Vision Zero and making our City’s streets safer.

- Released a Vision Zero Two-Year Action Strategy. The Action Strategy will guide our work over the next two years to ensure that our City’s streets are safe for all those who travel on them. Outlined in more than 20 detailed pages of specific actions the City will pursue (i.e. complete safety treatments along at least 13 miles of the high injury street network, continued focus on the Focus on the Five enforcement campaign, and expand Safe Streets SF education campaign), 13 City leaders joined adopting the Action Strategy to advance our goal of Vision Zero.

As you know, the City and County of San Francisco has increased the five-year capital investment plan by 187 percent for street safety improvements in just the last year. To date this year, we have had two traffic fatalities, which is a 67 percent reduction from year-to-date 2014 to 2015. But we know any death on our streets is unacceptable. We are making progress in our Vision Zero efforts to eliminate all traffic fatalities in San Francisco by 2024, but we must keep working together to advance our shared commitment to reducing traffic fatalities to zero in San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

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