



Circulate San Diego
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May 8, 2024

Mayor Todd Gloria
City of San Diego
202 C Street, 11th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

SUBJECT: Fix the Fatal Fifteen Most Dangerous Intersections – Cost Estimate \$1.5M

Dear Mayor Gloria:

On behalf of Circulate San Diego, whose mission is to create excellent mobility choices and vibrant, healthy neighborhoods, I am writing to urge you to fix The Fatal Fifteen – the most dangerous intersections in the City of San Diego.

After our letter of April 24, Circulate received inquiries from Councilmembers regarding the estimated cost of the proposed Fatal Fifteen fixes. Based on Circulate's planning department, estimates from prior years, work of the Independent Budget Analyst, and information from the Transportation department, recent fixes like those proposed here have cost an estimated \$100,000 per intersection. This would total \$1.5 Million to fix the Fatal Fifteen.

As outlined in our September 2023 budget letter,¹ our community's most vulnerable road users are in crisis. On average, nearly 50 pedestrians and cyclists lose their lives in traffic crashes within the city each year.² While this issue is a national concern, we believe it is within your power to resolve it locally. Our letter highlights the worst intersections, The Fatal Fifteen, and makes cost-effective recommendations for their improvement.

Your predecessor Mayor Faulconer funded fixes for the Fatal Fifteen intersections, for which he was widely praised in the press.³ These repairs and improvements are modest in cost, but will provide a high return in lives saved.

¹ Circulate San Diego, Policy Letter: Re: Fix the Fatal Fifteen - Circulate San Diego's Recommended Items for Councilmember Budget Priority Memoranda - Fiscal Year 2025, September 25, 2023, available at https://www.circulatesd.org/2023-09-25_budget_priorities_fix_the_fatal_fifteen.

² Data from Transportation Injury Mapping System, 2018-2022. <https://tims.berkeley.edu/>

³ Circulate San Diego, Blog Post: "BLOG: BREAKTHROUGH FOR VISION ZERO AND THE FATAL 15," April 12, 2018, available at <https://www.circulatesd.org/breakthroughforvisionzero>.

We appreciate and understand that this is a tight budget year. You and your staff have a difficult task balancing the many needs and priority our city faces. However, transportation funding in this Proposed Budget is actually \$6.5 million higher than it was in the FY 24 budget. We are not asking for “new money,” but instead to spend a fair share of transportation funds where the data shows they can do the most to reduce human harm and the loss of lives.

Despite being included in budget memos from councilmembers, these vital requests were unfortunately omitted from the Proposed Budget. It is crucial to recognize that these budgetary allocations are essential not just for bicycle and pedestrian safety, but for the well-being of all road users. Therefore, we strongly advocate for their inclusion in the May Revise.

Below is a list of the Fatal Fifteen, the most dangerous intersections in the City of San Diego. These are based on an analysis of the Transportation Injury Mapping System between 2018 and 2022, and they represent the 15 intersections with both more than three pedestrian or cycle involved traffic crashes, and the most pedestrian and cyclist fatalities.

Fatal Fifteen– FY 2025	
Intersection	District
Clairemont Mesa Blvd & Doliva Dr	2
Rosecrans St & Moore St	2
University Av & Alabama St	3
Federal Blvd & Euclid Ave	4
Mira Mesa Blvd & Black Mountain Rd	6
Mira Mesa Blvd & Aderman Ave	6
Westview Pkwy & Mira Mesa Blvd	6
Palm Av & 16th St	8
Imperial Av & 26th St	8
Market St & 19th St	8
University Ave & 44th St	9
University Ave & College Ave	9
El Cajon Blvd & 46th St	9
El Cajon Blvd & Altadena Ave	9
El Cajon Blvd & 60th St	9

We recommend that the FY 2025 budget include the following improvements be installed at all of these intersections where they do not already exist:

- Stripes – Paint ladder or zebra stripes across the crosswalk for increased visibility
- Signal – Install a countdown signal
- Sound – Make sure the signal has audible prompts to let people know when it is safe to cross

Some of these intersections have some of these improvements already installed, but all of them lack at least one, and many lack all three.

Ultimately, the preservation of lives is an investment well worth making. Vision Zero is not some “nice to have” during good budget years. The City of San Diego will spend large sums of money on transportation in this coming budget, and we are merely asking that a reasonable share of that spending be made to do the most good and to save the most lives.

Sincerely,

Will Moore,
Policy Counsel,
Circulate San Diego

CC:

- Council President Sean Elo-Rivera
- Council President Pro Tem Joe LaCava
- Councilmember Dr. Jennifer Campbell
- Councilmember Stephen Whitburn
- Councilmember Henry Foster
- Councilmember Marni von Wilpert
- Councilmember Kent Lee
- Councilmember Raul Campillo and
- Councilmember Vivian Moreno
- Heidi Vonblum, Director, Planning Department
- Bethany Bezak, Director, Transportation Department