



June 14, 20123

My name is Danny Gamboa. I am the Executive Director of Healthy Active Streets. We are a community based organization serving the greater Los Angeles County area. I am writing to express my support for the Adopt A Bike program. We have participated in Metro's Adopt A Bike program since its inception. I believe that this program is a valuable asset to our community and helps to promote a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle.

Bicycles are a great way to get around town. They are a good form of transportation, environmentally friendly, and good for your health. Riding a bike can help you to lose weight, reduce your risk of heart disease, and improve your mood. It can also help to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution by reducing VMT.

Metro's Adopt A Bike Program provides bicycles to people who cannot afford to buy their own. This allows more people to enjoy the benefits of bicycling. In the future we plan to provide bicycle safety education and maintenance training along with the Adopt A Bike program. This would help to ensure that people who receive bicycles from the program are able to use them safely and effectively. To date we have given away 265 bicycles at no cost to participants via the Adopt a Bike program. Participants' zip codes have ranged throughout Los Angeles County.

I believe that the Adopt A Bike program would continue to bring value to our community. I urge you to continue to approve and fund this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danny Gamboa".

Danny Gamboa  
Executive Director  
Healthy Active Streets  
danny@healthyactivestreeets.org



June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Metro Adopt A Bike Program

My name is Sonia Rojas and I am the Community Schools Planning Coordinator at Centinela Valley Union High School District. I am writing to express my deep admiration and support for the incredible work that Healthy Active Streets (HAS) does in our Hawthorne and Lawndale communities. I wanted to convey my heartfelt appreciation for the positive impact HAS makes with the bike donations.

The Centinela Valley Union High School District consists of three traditional high schools (Hawthorne, Lawndale, and Leuzinger) a continuation high school (R.K. Loyde), and Centinela Valley Independent Study School. CVUHSD serves approximately 6,000 9-12th grade students from neighborhoods in the South Bay area of Los Angeles County. We also have a growing population of Homeless and Foster Youth due to the ramifications caused by the pandemic. 85% of CVUHSD students are considered socioeconomically disadvantaged. The district enrolls students from the economically disadvantaged cities of Hawthorne, Lennox, and Lawndale where the median household income is \$45,542 with 20.5% of families living below the poverty line (compared to the state averages of \$61,632 and 14.4%).

I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to collaborate with the HAS Team and see at firsthand the transformative effect of the bike donations on the lives of students in need. During our introductory meeting, we shared our mission and visions of our organizations and immediately connected due to the alignment of our goals and efforts. Their commitment to providing an essential resource, a method of transportation is truly commendable. The compassion and dedication with which HAS carries out their mission, to educate, organize, and provide resources to underserved communities in order to achieve their vision of regional mobility, equity, and environmental justice.

The generous bike donations provided by HAS have had a profound and lasting impact on our communities. HAS consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of the pressing needs and have taken proactive steps to address them. HAS and CVUHSD strategically selected homeless, foster youth, and low-income students who were in need and would truly benefit from receiving a bicycle. Ever since the bike distributions, attendance rates have increased, tardies and absences have decreased due to removing the transportation barriers, students are on-time (they used to be more than hour late due to transportation issues, this translates to better attendance, higher grades, overall better academic performance to empower them to take ownership of their environment, be positive contributors and global citizens while being active and fostering a better mental health. Staff members have shared how bike recipients are much happier in school, healthier due to biking home and to school. Some homeless and foster students shared this is their first real gift or anything they have ever owned.

We meet regularly to discuss how to reach more students and families in need. HAS very gracefully has volunteered to do different events during the weekends to engage the community by teaching them the ABC Check (Air, Brakes, and Chain) this Fall and we cannot wait to make this happen. We have also planned to have Bike Safety Training to ensure students are informed of the transit rules, how to properly ride a bike, and feel comfortable on the road.

I want to express my gratitude to HAS for their commitment to ensure that resources reach those who need them most. This is a testament to their commitment to making a difference. I firmly believe that HAS' work is essential in creating a more compassionate and equitable society. Their tireless efforts and dedication to improving lives deserve high recognitions and ongoing support.

In conclusion, I want to thank HAS for the invaluable contributions they have made to our community. Your donations have the power to uplift individuals, restore hope, and create lasting change. Hoping they can continue with the exceptional work. Thank you for supporting organizations like HAS who are truly committed to making a difference every day. This letter expresses our support and commitment to working with HAS - Healthy Active Streets to help achieve their vision of regional mobility, equity, and environmental justice while we uplift and serve our communities.

With sincere gratitude,

*Dr. Sonia Rojas*

**Sonia Rojas, Ed.D, P.P.S.**  
**Community Schools Planning Coordinator**  
**Educational Services Division**  
**Centinela Valley Union High School District**

***RE: Metro's Adopt A Bike program***

I am writing to express my strong support for the Adopt-A-Bike Program. This program, launched in 2021 by LA Metro in partnership with various community groups, provides residents of L.A. County who are most in need with the opportunity to adopt a previously owned bicycle. Our organization, Instituto de Avance Latino (IDEAL), had the opportunity to be one of the chosen CBOs for this program.

The Adopt-A-Bike Program is a valuable asset to our community. It provides a much-needed transportation option for people who might otherwise be unable to afford a bike. This can help them get to and from work, school, and other places. It can also help them stay active and healthy. In our time in this program, we have given over 300+ bikes to people in our community in 2 years.

One of the most impactful stories of the Adopt-A-Bike Program is about a woman who works at a shelter for victims of torture. She reached out to us after learning about the program online. We provided her with some bikes, which she then gave to people who had lost hope in humanity. These people had been betrayed and hurt by those they loved, and they were struggling to find a way to move on. The bikes gave them a sense of hope for the future. They were able to use the bikes to get around, get some exercise, and meet new people. This helped them to start rebuilding their lives and regain their sense of hope.

The Adopt-A-Bike Program is a simple but effective way to improve the lives of people in our community. It provides them with a transportation option they might not otherwise have and helps them stay active and healthy. The Adopt-A-Bike Program makes a real difference in the lives of our community members.

Sincerely,

*Joshua Rincon*

Josh Rincon  
Program Director at IDEAL CDC