



16922 Airport Blvd., Mojave, CA 93501
661-749-0940

April 13, 2015

**State of California
Active Transportation Program (ATP) Grant
Mojave Pedestrian Improvements – Sidewalks to School.**

To Whom it may concern,

The Mojave Foundation would like to extend our urgent support for the sidewalk projects being proposed by Kern County. We had four pedestrian deaths in Mojave last year, one of which was a 16-year old girl walking to school, and this project promises to assuage the majority of the traffic safety concerns facing our children. There are 760 children at Mojave Elementary and High School, about 60 percent of whom walk to school every day. They are currently walking home in the dark, in the middle of the road, which is especially dangerous during the daylight-savings time of the winter months.

Mojave is an underserved community with 4,000 people, and 40% poverty, and the bulk of our residents walk as their primary mode of transportation. Furthermore, out of the 18 streets in downtown Mojave, not a single one has a contiguous sidewalk to accommodate foot traffic. This makes critical services, such as the bank and Salvation Army, virtually unobtainable for our disabled and elderly residents, and is a significant safety hazard for the community. Not only would this project make our children safer, it would increase commerce, improve mobility for the elderly and disabled, and encourage greater pride in the community. We appreciate you considering this project as part of your funding strategy and urge you approve this sidewalk project in Mojave. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 248-835-5239, or Todd@MojaveFoundation.org.

Very respectfully,

Todd Quelet
Founder & Executive Director
The Mojave Foundation