Decriminalize Walking
Repeal Unjust ‘Jaywalking’ Laws
Assembly Bill 1238 - The Freedom to Walk Act
Key Areas

- Background on the Birth of AB 1238
- California's Legislative Process
- Our Approach
- Lessons Learned
- Next Steps
The Birth of AB 1238

- CalBike shopped the idea of the bill around both with the state legislature and with advocates.
- Ultimately the legislator who authored the bill is Assemblymember Ting and eventually Assemblymember Laura Friedman, and Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez came on as co-authors.
California Legislative Process

- **Bill was introduced by February 19, 2021**
  - The actual language wasn't due until a few weeks after. CalBike, LCCRSF and Author's office worked on the language.

- **Bills must pass their house of origin by June 4, 2021**
  - AB 1238 was assigned to the Transportation and Appropriations Assembly Committees. It passed the Assembly Transportation Committee on April 26, Passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 20 and it made it out the full Assembly Floor on June 2, 2021.

- **Bills must pass the second house by September 10, 2021**
  - AB 1238 was assigned to the Senate Transportation and Appropriations Committees. It passed the Senate Transportation Committee on June 29. Passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 26. Passed the Senate floor on September 8, 2021.

- **Bills must be signed or vetoed by Governor by October 10, 2021**
  - AB 1238 was vetoed by the Governor on Friday, October 8, 2021.
Our Approach

✓ Infrastructure

- Initially CalBike, LCCRSF and the Author's office worked on the bill language
- CalBike developed a landing page and some of the initial messaging
- Core Team synergy around the Summer

✓ Organizing Strategy

- Statewide coalition
- Connecting with Legislators directly and via social media
- After the bill made it out of both houses we focused on op-eds, sending letters to the Governor, meeting with the Governor's office, social media and Twitter Town Hall
Lessons Learned

Make sure you understand what you are getting into
Ask questions and make sure you get answers

Elevate Survivor Stories
I wish we would have done a better job of not just sharing the data but also highlighting the stories of folks who received a "jaywalking" ticket

Don't Settle
Don't let other people's limitations inform your decisions
Next Steps