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AARP Foundation Joins Accessibility Lawsuit against Cal-Trans

OAKLAND, CA -- On February 15, 2007, the AARP Foundation joined a federal lawsuit demanding safe access to state highway rights-of-way – sidewalks and crosswalks – as well as to “park & ride” facilities adjacent to state highways throughout California.

Lead AARP Foundation attorney Daniel Kohrman explained that “far too many of these state facilities are unsafe or inaccessible to older Californians and those with disabilities. AARP is committed to ensuring its members and all Californians have access to society’s mainstream, including streets and sidewalks in their communities, and the shops and offices along them.”

The lawsuit, *Californians for Disability Rights (CDR), et al. v. California Department of Transportation, et al.* [Case # C-06-5125] is pending in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California in Oakland, before Judge Sandra Brown Armstrong.

AARP Foundation attorneys are joining a legal team led by Disability Rights Advocates (DRA) of Oakland.

The clients in the lawsuit include plaintiff Dmitri Belser, who is vision-impaired and regularly encounters danger crossing major streets – which also are state highways – near his home in Berkeley. Plaintiff Ben Rockwell of Long Beach uses a wheelchair and regularly faces severe risks at intersections along the Pacific Coast Highway. Other plaintiffs include Californians for Disability Rights, a membership organization of persons with disabilities, and the California Council for the Blind.

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