



August 17, 2015

Rocky Mountain Institute
1820 Folsom Street
Boulder, Colorado 80302
P: (303) 245-1003

Dear RMI Transportation Team,

As the legislators representing the City of Austin and Travis County, we were pleased to learn that Austin is one of two cities remaining in your search for a Lead Implementation City with which to create a mobility system of the future.

Austin is uniquely suited for such a partnership with RMI. Our community regularly ranks among the best for a thriving business climate, vibrant culture, technological innovation and a prosperous regional economy. At the same time, Austin's traffic is ranked among the worst in America.

Central Texas is currently making large investments in updating and expanding area roadways. Austin is a test city for Google's Autonomous Vehicles and Google Fiber and home to RideScout. It was Car2go's first U.S. and second worldwide location. And there is a sizable and engaged bicycle community and a successful and growing bike share program.

Capital Metro, our transit authority, has seen an ongoing increase in ridership on their special services lines as well as those routes particularly serving commuters. The agency is also engaged in corridor planning with regional partners, including municipalities outside its current taxing and service district.

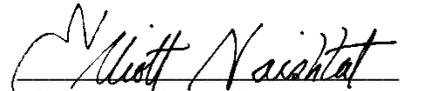
As elected officials with great interest in helping our community address the substantial mobility challenges facing our region, we understand the necessity of regional and collective effort to develop, test, re-evaluate, fine tune and implement multi-modal solutions.

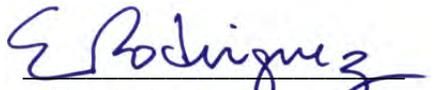
Austin's entrepreneurial community is thriving and presents an excellent opportunity to engage the private sector in helping address these challenges. The east side of downtown, along Waller Creek, is in the early stages of redevelopment. The new UT Dell Medical School and innovation zone are also developing in this area, which would provide an ideal test bed for mobility options.

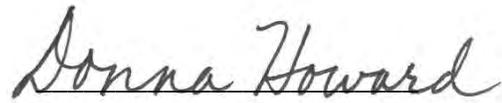
A partnership with RMI can be integral to Austin leading the region, the nation and the world toward the mobility system of the future. We recognize that an "everything and the kitchen sink" approach is necessary and support innovation and private sector efforts to help solve our mobility challenges. We remain committed to providing our assistance and supporting efforts to improve mobility and look forward to an Austin-RMI collaboration.

Sincerely Yours,


Kirk Watson, Senator


Elliott Naishtat, Representative


Eddie Rodriguez, Representative


Donna Howard, Representative


Celia Israel, Representative