



City of Austin

City Manager's Office

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October 28, 2014

Mr. Greg Malatek, P.E.
Austin District Engineer
Texas Department of Transportation
7901 North Interstate Highway 35
Austin, Texas 78753
Mailing: P.O. Drawer 15426
Austin, Texas 78761-5426

RE: IH35 Corridor Development Project, Modified Existing Alternative for Downtown Austin

Dear Mr. Malatek:

On Thursday, October 2, 2014, the Austin City Council passed a resolution directing the City Manager to communicate the City of Austin's preference that the "modified Existing" Alternative, also known as the elevated version of IH 35 through the center of Austin, not proceed into the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA process. I understand that this means that only one "Build Alternative" known as the "Depressed Option" would continue along with the No-Build into the final NEPA process.

The Citizens of Austin, both now and for the past 17 years, have indicated a strong and documented preference for a depressed option for IH 35 through the heart of our community. The current depressed option being considered by TXDOT and various community stakeholder groups would allow for the introduction of freeway caps, much like the Klyde Warren Park cap in Dallas. The City is very interested in securing the opportunity to pursue similar caps in downtown Austin as we plan for the maximum multi-modal access into and out of downtown on new and improved cross-bridges.

I and my staff have enjoyed a productive working relationship with the Austin District of TXDOT and hope this strong working partnership continues.

Again, thank you for your work on the IH35 Corridor.

Sincerely,

Marc A. Ott
Austin City Manager

CC: Robert Goode, Assistant City Manager
Robert Spillar, Director, Austin Transportation Department