

Elaine Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

Congratulations on your recent confirmation. Mobility is a crucial issue to American workers, communities, and our national economy. The USDOT Secretary of Transportation has a great opportunity and responsibility to keep our streets safe and accessible for everyone, no matter their age, race, ethnicity, ability, or how they chose to travel.


Each year thousands of people are struck and killed by cars while walking along America's streets. In Austin, we saw record numbers of traffic fatalities in 2016, many of these on federally funded roads. People of color and older adults are disproportionately represented among these deaths, and fatal collisions are more likely to occur in low income neighborhoods. These facts deserve clear and immediate attention.

You have stated that safety is a priority for you—that is fantastic. As you work to make our transportation system safer, please attribute equal importance to people walking and biking as well as driving in your considerations. USDOT is already doing great work to support safe street design. We encourage you to continue this work in your new role.

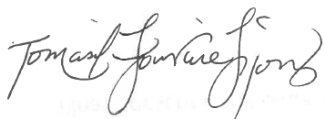
Welcome to your new role again, and thank you for making safety such an important issue.

Sincerely,

The City of Austin Bicycle Advisory Council



BAC Chair



BAC Vice Chair