

July 14, 2023

Austin City Council
Austin City Hall
301 W 2nd St
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mayor Watson and City of Austin Council Members:

First, thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to the residents of Austin and our Central Texas region. On behalf of CapMetro, I applaud your latest partnered efforts to bring forth meaningful solutions that substantively tackle Austin's housing and affordability challenges. Specifically, Items 126 and 158 on next week's Council agenda.

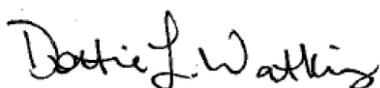
If approved by the Council, the amendments and streamlined processes initiated by these resolutions would go a long way in modifying key levers in our current land development code yielding net positives for housing, affordability, while creating a much more conducive environment for better transit. Land use is a critical element considered by federal agencies awarding grants for transit projects, including programs such as CapMetro Rapid and commuter rail projects included in Project Connect. These Council resolutions could result in an increase in our region's federal grant competitiveness, an exciting prospect as we look forward to continuing to implement significant, community-shaping, mobility-enhancing transit expansion programs alongside our partners.

We understand as cities like Austin grow, it becomes increasingly important to develop policy, programs, and networks that support affordable density, and allow people to get to the places they need to go. We are appreciative and supportive of our staff partners in the various City departments working in this often-challenging policy space. CapMetro is encouraged by the progress these resolutions would bring to bear in accessing new tools and simplified mechanisms for our ongoing and shared work around equitable transit-oriented developments.

My team and I will stay apprised of discussions next Thursday and stand ready to support you in seeing this through. Please count us as a full partner in championing these measures and future efforts to holistically address our land development code.

Again, I appreciate your leadership, service, and commitment to our community.

Sincerely,



Dottie L. Watkins
President & CEO, CapMetro

cc: Jesús Garza, Interim Austin City Manager
CapMetro Board of Directors