



# AIA Austin

May 31, 2016

Dear U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx,

The American Institute of Architects Austin (AIA Austin) is pleased to support the City of Austin in its Every Place Counts Design Challenge application to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). We look forward to helping the City and region continue refining the design of I-35 through Central Austin in a way that connects the communities on either side of it and maintains affordability for residents.

This goal aligns with the DOT Ladders of Opportunity initiative to expand economic opportunity and socioeconomic mobility throughout America. It also aligns with our organization's mission, which is to improve our community by advancing the value of architecture.

As community stakeholders, the current state of I-35 impacts our mission because it disconnects the grid of Austin. We believe that redesigning I-35, with the technical expertise that would be awarded through this challenge and with extensive public involvement, would benefit our mission and the entire Austin community by working to reconnect the grid, and reduce the scale of the right of way to allow better bike/pedestrian connectivity.

We look forward to actively participating in the ongoing visioning process for I-35. We believe we can help the City achieve its goals by providing expertise, perspective, and knowledge as design professionals.

We look forward to being part of the City's winning submittal to DOT and the opportunity to make Austin a better place for everyone.

Sincerely,

Jim Susman  
Principal, STG Design  
2016 Board of Directors President  
AIA Austin