



To: Mayor Watson & City Council Members

March 15, 2024

Dear Mayor Watson and City Council Members,

As AIA Austin President, a practicing Architect, and native Austinite, I've seen firsthand the benefits of trees in our City, and more specifically, in the right of way, where they have the opportunity to connect communities, provide shelter, and filter the air adjacent to our roadways. Where we have new city sidewalks and no street trees, it seems prudent and timely to point out the missed opportunity. With so many transformative projects on the horizon, it is imperative to put the right policy in place to ensure a better outcome for all inhabitants of our fair city—one that is in line with the values already established by the City. AIA Austin is prepared to provide education to our membership to help clients of all types understand the new policy and how to implement it successfully into projects.

We wholeheartedly endorse the "Green Infrastructure" Council resolution, which advocates prioritizing the planting of street trees within Austin's public rights-of-way. This initiative aims to create cooler and safer pathways, fostering a supportive environment for pedestrians, bicyclists, mobility device users, and transit users and we view this resolution as a crucial initial step towards these goals. By passing this resolution, City Council can significantly advance the Green Infrastructure Resolution's objectives, fostering a more sustainable and equitable city for all Austinites, now, and for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sophia Razzaque".

Sophia Razzaque, AIA
AIA Austin President