**SALUTATION IN LETTER**

July 25, 20XX

To whom it may concern,

The North Lamar neighborhood plan contact team supports the efforts of the City of Austin to improve sidewalks and pedestrian access along North Lamar.

We represent the residents, property owners, and businesses to the east side of North Lamar Boulevard from US183 to Braker Lane. Our neighborhood recently completed a two-and-a-half year facilitated planning effort that identified safe and effective pedestrian transportation as a very high priority. Our vision for our neighborhood includes complete regulation-sized sidewalks along both sides of Lamar, curb cuts at all intersections, regularly spaced crosswalks with median refuges, and accessible transit stops.

Many of us depend on pedestrian, bicycle and public transportation to get to work and school, to take our children to the doctor, and to run routine errands like groceries and laundry. In addition, many people desire to walk and bike more, if it were safe. We’d like to get more exercise and patronize local businesses. We’d like to use the new Lamar BusRapid route to conveniently travel to our regional park and trail system, free museums and cultural activities at the University of Texas, and city government downtown. Especially, we’d like more opportunities to walk around and encounter our neighbors, to build a better community. A safe, effective, and comfortable sidewalk system will contribute greatly to our quality of life.

Even people who primarily travel by car prioritized safer pedestrian access along North Lamar for their own safety and piece of mind. During our planning process, many drivers described their distraction through worry for pedestrians, including children, walking in the shoulder or roadside ditches, and attempting to cross at intersections without signals. The persistently high number of vehicle-pedestrian crashes in this segment of Lamar shows that their concern is well placed.

The neighbourhood groups on both side of North Lamar are already working together and with various government entities and nonprofits. We anticipate contributing directly to an improved transportation system through installing and maintaining attractive and functional landscaping, and coordinating multicultural outreach and education for drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists.

I encourage the City of Austin to continue to seek opportunities to grow our sidewalk system. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hinely

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