



April 8, 2021

Mr. Tucker Ferguson
TxDOT Austin District, District Engineer
Ms. Susan Fraser
TxDOT Austin District, Mobility 35 Program Manager

Dear Mr. Ferguson and Ms. Fraser,

Thank you for your continued work on the I-35 Capital Express Central project. The American Institute of Architects, Austin Chapter (AIA Austin) is a professional organization with over 1,300 members in Central Texas. Our mission includes influencing public policies that shape our built environment and enhancing our community's prosperity and quality of life. As such, we have followed this project and participated in the process since 2012 (see attached letter from 2016), and we appreciate the opportunity to provide additional feedback during this round of scoping.

AIA Austin recognizes the added emphasis on safety that is now reflected in the draft Purpose and Need. However, at this time there is limited information available about the proposed alternatives. As design professionals, we look forward to seeing more technically detailed schematics that will better inform our future feedback.

We are specifically interested in seeing the incorporation of slow and narrow urban streets at the level of the city grid that promote the safe use of mass transit and active transportation. Therefore, your draft evaluation criteria should be amended to include alternative surface design, creating pedestrian-friendly spaces, increased connectivity, and safety, along with supporting future land uses.

In addition to the three alternatives you show in your open house, which appear to be very similar, we would ask you to evaluate all of the community alternatives. We also support the letters you received in December from our elected officials and from City of Austin staff and request that you please follow those recommendations as you move forward with this project.

This project will have a substantial and long-lasting impact on our city, and we encourage you to evaluate options that are driven by urban design and will result in an improved built environment throughout the I-35 corridor.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephi Motal". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Stephi Motal, AIA
President, AIA Austin