



May 6, 2024

RE: Support for Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) funds for City of Austin's Our Future 35 Caps and Stitch Program

Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Buttigieg:

The Downtown Austin Alliance supports the City of Austin's application to the US Department of Transportation's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant opportunity.

As the managing entity for the Austin [Downtown Public Improvement District](#), which was formed in 1993, the Downtown Austin Alliance leads and participates in a broad range of programs and initiatives that create, preserve, and enhance the vibe, value, and vitality of downtown Austin for everyone. We represent over **1,000 property owners**, and our downtown supports over **117,000 employees**, **14,000 residents**, **700 storefront businesses** and **900 commercial properties**.

A Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant will secure all remaining construction funding needed to complete this large, complex project within Austin's Downtown, delivering multimodal mobility and safety benefits and magnifying the beneficial impact of the [FY23 USDOT Neighborhood Access and Equity-funded cap from Cesar Chavez Street to 4th Street](#).

[Austin's Cap and Stitch program](#) is a once-in-a-generation, transformative infrastructure project that will change the function and landscape of transportation and equitable development in downtown Austin. Additionally, this program aligns ideally with the Administration's goal to redress past barriers to opportunity and proactively create new connections and opportunities for disadvantaged and other communities that are underserved by transportation.

The Downtown Austin Alliance mission:
To create, preserve and enhance the vibe, vitality and value of downtown Austin for everyone.

The program will be unifying and mending the divide created by the original construction of I-35 and replacing it with new multimodal connections that will enhance system performance and safety.

The Downtown Austin Alliance has been leading, in partnership with the City of Austin, the Our Future 35 visioning and community work since 2019. We recognize the importance of reconnecting communities that have been historically divided by I-35 and providing opportunities for inclusive prosperity in connection with redevelopment.

We are pleased to support this important proposal that builds on deep collaboration between the City, State, downtown, regional partners, and a large array of community groups, advocacy groups and partner associations to deliver a legacy cap that will be an asset to the residents of Austin for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dewitt Peart". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Dewitt Peart
President & CEO
Downtown Austin Alliance