



CONGRESS
FOR THE NEW
URBANISM
CENTRAL TEXAS
CHAPTER

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September 19, 2014

Mayor Lee Leffingwell
and members of the Austin City Council
301 W. Second Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Honorable Mayor and Council,

For the past year, representatives of the Central Texas chapter of The Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU-CTX) have been active participants in the Downtown I-35 Stakeholder Working Group established to provide input on the Texas Department of Transportation's recently announced plans for improvements of I-35 through downtown Austin. A primary concern of ours has been with TxDOT's stated purpose of *improving* North-South mobility while *maintaining* existing East-West connections in the downtown area.

The position of CNU-CTX is that, given the magnitude and long-term implications of this public effort, Austin and downtown deserve improved North-South connectivity *and* improved East-West connectivity. We are not alone in this position. A resolution under consideration by the I-35 Downtown Stakeholder Working Group explicitly expresses the community's desire to see East-West connections at Second, Third and Fifth Streets that do not exist today. Unfortunately, on this critical issue, TxDOT has not come forward with any proposals to adequately address this community concern.

Therefore, CNU-CTX respectfully requests that the Council direct city staff to work with TxDOT to plan for meaningful *improvement* of East-West connectivity across I-35 in the downtown area.

CNU is a multi-disciplinary organization recognized globally as a leader in city-building and urban transportation, particularly the re-integration of highways into urban environments. The board of directors of our Central Texas chapter stands ready to provide assistance and expertise on this opportunity that is so critical to the future of our great city.

Regards,

Cid Galindo, President
Congress for the New Urbanism, Central Texas Chapter