



CONGRESS  
FOR THE NEW  
URBANISM  
CENTRAL TEXAS  
CHAPTER

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Board of Directors  
Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
2910 E 5th Street  
Austin, TX 78702

Dear Capital Metro Board Members:

The Congress for the New Urbanism – Central Texas Chapter is keenly interested in Capital Metro's emerging Plaza Saltillo transit-oriented development project, as it represents arguably the most important redevelopment and TOD site to Austin. We applaud Capital Metro for taking action to develop a compact, walkable, diverse and affordable mixed-use area around this MetroRail station. As the [Charter of the New Urbanism](#) states: "neighborhoods should be diverse in use and population; communities should be designed for the pedestrian and transit as well as the car."

We attest that urban design excellence, as prescribed by our Charter, maximizes long-term investment returns. The greatest long-term economic and community value is created by projects that embody the very best in walkable, people-focused architecture and urban placemaking, in this case with a distinctly Austin character that can be embraced by the community.

Excellent architecture and urban design also are critical to achieving the widest possible set of Imagine Austin community goals. Good urbanism is the bridge between that vision and the physical transformation of our city. On this publicly owned land, our whole community deserves a place. TOD's are criticized for working against affordability and for focusing on an upscale demographic. Plaza Saltillo will be a closely-watched opportunity to demonstrate in Austin that a TOD can fully respect the existing residents of a neighborhood, while providing homes, shops and services affordable to people at many income levels. Let's create a place so wonderful it becomes beloved – a place that the neighborhood will fight to preserve in 50 years.

We look forward to seeing this Plaza Saltillo TOD exemplify excellence in urbanism and the tremendous potential of beautiful, compact, transit-connected places to serve the people of Central Texas.

Sincerely,

Cid Galindo  
President  
CNU-CTX Board of Directors

cc: Linda Watson, President and CEO, Capital Metro

*Attached: Charter for the New Urbanism*