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May 21st, 2025

Re: Safe Streets Austin's support for proposals related to the Safe Routes to School program (agenda item 57)

Dear Mayor Watson, Mayor Pro Tem Fuentes, and Austin Council Members,

Safe Streets Austin is a grassroots 501c3 organization working to transform Austin's streets, bikeways, and trails into safe, vibrant, and equitable places for people of all ages and abilities to walk, bike, roll, and gather.

We write in support of [agenda item 57](#) on the May 22nd Austin City Council agenda regarding proposals for advancing the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. Maximizing safety, comfort, and transportation options for Austin's children should be the highest priority for our streets. Self-reliant movement around our city provides freedom to young people and the ability to shape their own lives and develop independence from an early age.

SRTS is one of Austin's most successful and popular programs for providing these essential opportunities to young people and we support the program's evolution, including the following:

- Expand the SRTS program to high schools.
- Make SRTS projects quicker and easier to implement.
- Update SRTS project lists in response to new schools and population changes around existing schools.
- Prioritize street/infrastructure design in all projects.
- Include young people at the relevant school(s) as priority stakeholders during any project's community engagement and design phases, and publish their feedback as part of project reports.
- Organize bike buses and conduct community outreach for any project to maximize use of the new facilities as early as possible.
- Ensure newly implemented projects remain in place — with only minor modifications — for at least six months before major modifications are made.

Importantly, we encourage Council to work with AISD and other stakeholders to bring universal bicycle education to every Austin school and every student, so that all children can independently bike in the city.

Thank you for your leadership in this important matter and for centering the needs of young people in our transportation system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diego Martinez-Moncada".

Diego Martinez-Moncada
Executive Director, Safe Streets Austin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Greenfield".

Adam Greenfield
Advocacy Director, Safe Streets Austin