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May 19, 2025

Mayor Kirk Watson and Austin City Council
301 W. Second Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mayor Watson and Council Members,

Thank you for your service to all the people of Austin and for the proposed reaffirmation of the city's leadership on Safe Routes to Schools, which is Agenda Item 57 on the May 22, 2025 council agenda.

The City of Austin has been a leader in our state on how to invest in fixing our transportation system to reduce traffic deaths and serious injuries and giving people the freedom of safe, multimodal options, with cities across the nation learning from the high quality work that has gone into the Safe Routes to Schools program in Austin.

A key way to strengthen the Austin Independent School District and build healthier communities is to allow significant growth to occur in the City of Austin instead of spreading out across our region, and to build dense, mixed-use, walkable communities around all of our schools. The existing work on Safe Routes to Schools complements council's work to allow more people to live transit-oriented lifestyles in the City.

The leadership shown by city staff and hard work by staff and consultants means that the City of Austin is more prepared to provide safe infrastructure for our children than most other governments. However, we need to extend these benefits to High Schoolers, who should be most able to exercise their freedom to walk to the bus by themselves, ride a bike to school, or use their personal mobility device to travel around their school community.

Please continue being leaders in efficiently investing in safe, healthy schools for the children of Austin. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jay Blazek Crossley
Executive Director
Farm&City