



Department of Transportation

JANETTE SADIK-KHAN, Commissioner

December 9, 2013

Linda Bailey
National Association of City Transportation Officials
55 Water Street
New York City, NY 10041

The National Association of City Transportation Officials' *Urban Street Design Guide* represents a vision for world-class city street design that meets the goals of our city leaders and the desires of our communities. As transportation directors, we find ourselves today in the midst of unprecedented change, as the demands placed upon our streets and the desires of our citizens have set in motion a new paradigm for and perception of the street itself. Pressures from public health to climate change to mobile technology are together reshaping and redefining our profession, while at the same time opening opportunities for innovation that were inconceivable only a decade ago.

City streets demand a unique approach unmet by conventional design guidelines. As Transportation Commissioner of New York City, one of my first efforts was to develop a comprehensive Street Design Manual tailored to the special characteristics of New York City streets. This effort has not only translated into a series of game-changing projects and initiatives, but has brought disparate agencies together around a common vision for safe and livable streets.

Now, we need this kind of guidance at the national level. The *Urban Street Design Guide* offers a concrete vision for improving the safety and livability of our streets for pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers, and transit users. City streets demand a unique approach unmet by conventional design guidelines. The guidance, vision, and flexibility articulated in the *Urban Street Design Guide* instigate a new and important direction for cities. The Guide is an indispensable tool in planning modern city streets, especially as cities work toward a common vision with our partners at all levels of government.

New York City officially endorses the NACTO *Urban Street Design Guide* as an integral and effective tool for designing streets and public spaces.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janette Sadik-Khan".

Janette Sadik-Khan
Commissioner