



December 12, 2013

Janette Sadik-Khan

President

National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)

55 Water Street, Floor 9

New York, NY 10041

Dear Ms. Sadik-Khan,

The City of Seattle is pleased to endorse the NACTO *Urban Street Design Guide* as an effective tool for designing streets and public spaces. The guide offers illustrative graphics to complement several of the Seattle Department of Transportation's key initiatives.

The National Association of City Transportation Officials' *Urban Street Design Guide* is consistent with Seattle's goals and policies in that it offers a concrete vision for improving the safety and livability of our streets for all users. City streets demand a unique approach, and the guidance, vision, and flexibility articulated in the *Urban Street Design Guide* will be a useful tool in planning our streets, especially as we work toward a common vision with our partners at all levels of government.

There are many Seattle initiatives that align with the design guidance offered in the *Urban Street Design Guide*, including:

- 1) **Complete Streets Implementation.** The *Urban Street Design Guide* will serve as an implementation tool for our Complete Streets program. The City of Seattle's Complete Streets ordinance passed in 2007 and ensures integration of modal plan recommendations into SDOT capital projects. The *Urban Street Design Guide* will provide best practice design guidance as these recommendations are developed into engineering specifications.
- 2) **Right-of-Way Improvements Manual Update.** Seattle is experiencing high levels of private investments, and transportation trends over the past decade indicate that traffic volumes are decreasing, while population is increasing in the



City. Retrofitting our streets to create high-quality public space that fosters a livable and multimodal City is essential. The 2014 update of our Right-of-Way Improvements manual offers an opportunity to compare our existing standards to the best practice standards in the *Urban Street Design Guide*.

- 3) **Pedestrian Master Plan Update.** The five year update to the 2009 Pedestrian Master Plan (PMP) will take place in 2014. This document guides capital investment in the pedestrian realm and prioritizes safety, equity, vibrancy and health, which are consistent with the key principles in the NACTO *Urban Street Design Guide*. The PMP update offers an opportunity to incorporate new strategies that NACTO has proven effective through best practice research.
- 4) **Public Space Management Program.** The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) has recently developed a Public Space Management Program to support better use of under-utilized public space. The goals of this program are consistent with the intent of the Interim Design Strategies of the NACTO *Urban Street Design Guide*.
- 5) **Local Agency Guidelines.** SDOT will work with The Washington State Department of Transportation to incorporate the *Guide* into their design guidance documents and standard practices.

Thank you for the excellent work on the guide, and for the opportunity to provide this endorsement.

Sincerely,



Peter Hahn
Director, Seattle Department of Transportation



Dongho Chang, PE, PTOE
City Traffic Engineer, Seattle Department of Transportation