



December 4, 2013

David Vega-Barachowitz
Director, Designing Cities Initiative
National Association of City Transportation Officials
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

Dear Director Vega-Barachowitz,

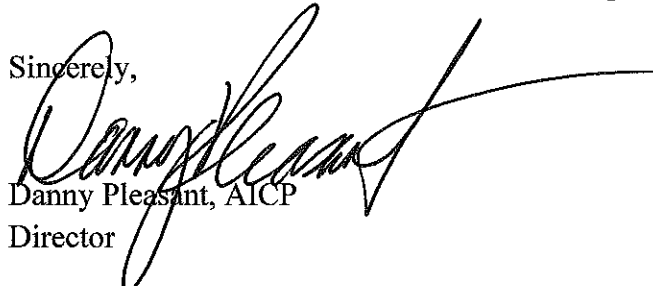
The National Association of City Transportation Officials' *Urban Street Design Guide* offers excellent ideas for designing streets that are safer for pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers, and transit users. We in the transportation profession increasingly appreciate how our work can help create not just more and better transportation options, but also more vibrant and livable communities. The vision of city streets embodied in the NACTO Guide clearly embraces these goals.

As we increasingly strive to provide sustainable transportation networks we must continue to look beyond traditional engineering solutions. Conventional "road" design guidelines have created unintended consequences that we are striving to overcome decades later. For this reason, we (Charlotte) adopted a set of context-based complete street classifications and designs in 2007, and have incorporated those into ordinance and into our everyday practices.

We are always looking for innovations. The NACTO Guide provides a thought-provoking and flexible toolbox of "best practice" designs for us to apply in the most intensely developed areas of our City, particularly where we have the densest street network.

The guidance, vision, and flexibility provided by the *Urban Street Design Guide* can and will complement our own adopted guidelines. We see the Guide as highly valuable for planning and designing city streets for all users. The Charlotte Department of Transportation strongly endorses the *Urban Street Design Guide* as an integral and effective reference source for designing streets and public spaces.

Sincerely,


Danny Pleasant, AICP
Director