



## CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Angel Taveras, Mayor

April 4, 2014

Linda Bailey, Executive Director  
NACTO  
120 Park Avenue, 14<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Director Bailey,

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 planning 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.

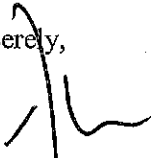
In Providence we have a lot of exciting changes happening! We are currently in our third and final phase of our Downtown Circulator project, creating a better flow for pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers, and transit users alike. We are also in the midst of a comprehensive zoning re-write to better reflect the economic and cultural potential of our city, the demands of residents and businesses as well as the overall livability and sustainability goals we have set. Another exciting venture Providence has embarked on is a feasibility study, in partnership with RIPTA to examine the costs and benefits of improving transit within the central core of the city, connecting the city's largest employers with our neighborhoods.

At a time when cities are striving to react to these trends, the *Urban Street Design Guide* offers a concrete vision for improving the safety and livability of our streets. 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. We see the Guide as an indispensable tool in planning modern city streets, especially as we work toward a common vision with our partners at all levels of government.

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The City of Providence 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 'Rubén Flores-Marzán', written over a vertical line that serves as a separator between the signature and the typed name below.

Rubén Flores-Marzán, AICP, LPP  
Director