

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**



d. Office of the Director

January 23, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Vega-Barachowitz,

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) endorses the NACTO Urban Street Design Guide as an integral and effective tool for designing streets and public spaces. At a time when cities are striving to react to changing demands and challenges, from public health to climate change to rapid growth in population, 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 that can be challenging to accommodate within conventional design guidelines. The guidance, vision, and flexibility articulated in the Urban Street Design Guide support a new and important direction for cities. We see the Guide as an important tool in planning modern city streets, especially as we work toward a common vision with our partners at all levels of government.

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 we begin a major update of our Design & Engineering Manual, the Urban Street Design Guide comes at an important opportunity for us in terms of incorporating the latest techniques into our design approach and standards.

We congratulate you and the NACTO staff on putting together such a thoughtful and thorough document that can contribute to the continued livability of the District of Columbia and cities around the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Bellamy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "B".

Terry Bellamy
Director

cc: Ronaldo Nicholson, Chief Engineer
 Dr. Katherine Jefferson, Associate Director, Transportation Operations Administration
 Sam Zimbabwe, Associate Director, Policy, Planning & Sustainability Administration
 James Cheeks, Chief Traffic Engineer, Transportation Operations Administration