



April 3, 2018

City Hall, Room 2W10

1300 Perdido Street

New Orleans, LA 70112

Dear Mayor-Elect Latoya Cantrell,

We, the housing developers, advocates, and non-profit organizations are in strong support of the New Orleans Complete Streets Coalition and Bike Easy's goal of improving the safety and accessibility of walking and biking in the City of New Orleans with a new Complete Streets policy focused on improving the health and economic equity of every neighborhood and every resident in New Orleans.

Improving biking, walking, and transit infrastructure will benefit community health and connection, economic engagement with local businesses, as well as improve the resilience of our environment. To keep up the momentum for improving transportation safety and accessibility, we're asking you to *prioritize and strengthen the existing Complete Streets Policy* to:

- Incorporate a focus on improving health equity
- Set higher design standards for low-stress street designs that are safe and comfortable for people of all ages and abilities, no matter how they travel or where they live
- Plan for creating comprehensive walking, biking, and transit networks that integrate with one another and connect people to job centers, parks, schools, healthy food outlets, churches, and more
- Integrate best water management practices into street design, building and repairs, which will reduce flooding and subsidence while extending the life of the roadway
- Create meaningful public engagement and accountability mechanisms, including data-driven annual reports that measure implementation success against established performance metrics

We believe deeply that biking and walking benefits communities. With Complete Streets policy at the heart of how we rebuild our roadways we will improve health equity, the local economy, our neighborhoods' quality of life, the resilience of our local environment, and the safety of all our people in the roadway. When physically active for at least thirty minutes a day we reduce our risk of heart disease, obesity, diabetes, and other chronic diseases. Providing an array of transportation options in historically underserved low-income neighborhoods reduces health disparities and costs for families. Increasing the ease of walking, biking, with improved transit services leads to less air pollutants, reducing a hazard for those with asthma and other lung

A Shared Initiative, Inc.
Alembic Community Development
Alliance for Affordable Energy
Asakura Robinson Company
Broadmoor Improvement Association
Committee for a Better New Orleans
Crescent City Community Land Trust
Desire Community Housing Corporation
Dillard University
Enterprise Community Partners
Family Resources of New Orleans
Finance Authority of New Orleans
First NBC Bank
Foundation for Louisiana
GCR Inc.
Global Green USA
Greater New Orleans Foundation
Green Coast Enterprises
GNO Fair Housing Action Center
Greater New Orleans, Inc.
Gulf Coast Housing Partnership
Harmony Neighborhood Development
Home by Hand, Inc.
Housing Authority of New Orleans
Iberia Bank
Iris Development
Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative
Jefferson Community Action Programs
Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative
Jerusalem Economic Development Corp.
JPMorgan Chase Bank
LA Association of Affordable Housing Providers
Louisiana Appleseed
Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Orgs.
Louisiana Homebuyer Education Collaborative
Louisiana Housing Alliance
Louisiana Housing Corporation
Lower 9th Ward Homeownership Association
McCormack Baron Salazar
Neighborhood Development Foundation
Neighborhood Housing Services
New Day Homeowner Services
New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity
New Orleans Redevelopment Authority
Northshore Housing Initiative
Office of Housing Policy & Community Development
Perez, APC
Preservation Resource Center
Project Homecoming
Providence Community Housing
Puentes New Orleans
Rebuilding Together New Orleans
Redmellon
Renaissance Neighborhood Development Corporation
Renaissance Property Group
SBP
Service Providers and Professionals Assoc.
Spottswood CDC
St. John the Baptist Housing Authority
St. Roch Community Development Corporation
Tulane/Canal Neighborhood Development Corporation
Tulane City Center
United Way of Southeast Louisiana
University of New Orleans
Urban Focus
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Volunteers of America
Wells Fargo
Whitney Bank

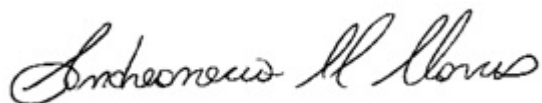
diseases. Bike commuting leads to workers taking fewer sick days. Local businesses will also often see improved sales with the introduction of bike lanes and traffic calming measures.

Safety for children, the elderly, and disabled are accounted for in Complete Streets design practices, giving more people the ability to get out and moving throughout their community. This increased activity and mobility of community members, as a result of infrastructure change, has been shown to increase economic vitality, attract more young residents, and is vital to increasing access and equity. As is recognized in the Resilient New Orleans Strategy and #EquityNewOrleans, streets built to be shared in every neighborhood is essential to extending equity to every New Orleans citizen. With almost 20% of New Orleans households having no access to a motor vehicle, improved mobility options can better connect people to jobs, parks, schools, and healthy food.

Our streets are the public spaces we rely on most in times of crisis, such as the ever-present threat of flooding. Ensuring residents can safely travel during and after instances of moderate to severe rainfall is of critical importance. Communities with low rates of car ownership are especially vulnerable to unsafe traffic conditions and health risks exacerbated by the likelihood of flooding, prolonged exposure to heat, and other environmental factors. Complete, green streets mitigate property damage and other impacts of localized flooding. Permeable paving, bioswales in the neutral grounds and rights of way, and similar practices will further reduce flooding and the subsequent damage to property. These approaches reduce subsidence in buildings and the streets themselves, which in turn extends their lifespan, making them more cost-efficient. Trees and native plants create shade to cool city streets, making them more comfortable for biking, walking, and reducing heat-related illness or heat island effects in cities.

With the surge in infrastructure investment underway, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve New Orleans residents' safety, accessibility, and ease of travelling their city. In doing so we will bolster our economy, our health, our environment, and our quality-of-life. Please act with urgency to strengthen the Complete Streets policy of the City of New Orleans, creating communities where streets are built to be shared by all.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Andreanecia M. Morris".

Andreanecia M. Morris

President/Chair, Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance