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CTC LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR ADOPTION OF BIKE PLAN AND COMMENTS REGARDING NEEDED CHANGES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Dear Mr Crimmins:

The Citizens' Transportation Coalition (CTC) submits this letter in strong support of the adoption by the Mayor and City Council of the Houston Bike Plan. We think the plan is well documented and distinguishes both short-term and vision projects, with short-term being indicated as a 5-year timeframe. CTC does think that 5 years is an aggressive timeframe, but multi-modal transportation needs and transportation alternatives are changing very rapidly.

CTC also adds herein a few comments regarding regulatory framework for implementation of the plan.

The Bike Plan is a planning guide and not a mandate. This is true of a plan as a regulatory matter, and this Bike Plan so states on its face. "This map is intended for planning purposes. The map does not guarantee projects will be funded or designed as shown. Further efforts to design facilities and fund projects are required." This notation is similar to federal and state major project transportation plan maps and H-GAC's Bike Plan.

Bike Advisory Committee. An important technical component of the plan is the Bike Advisory Committee. This committee should be mandated in the regulations or IDM. CTC thinks this position should have enumerated technical qualifications and obligations to serve the city and its residents. Open meetings should be mandatory. Groups like this are common with technical functions such as electrical power grid design standards and planning (NERC), and the city will benefit greatly from the technical expertise provided by a qualified committee.

Public Involvement; Open Meetings. A well publicized opportunity for Public Involvement should be mandated at all design and construction phases; and notice and written comment periods must be provided for changes in regulations and design criteria.

Regulatory Harmonization of Transportation Regulations and Guidances. With regard to implementation of the plan, CTC urges the Mayor, City Council, Legal, and PWE/Planning to recognize the need first to analyze and harmonize the numerous **existing** ordinances, regulations, and guidances (including policy statements and design manuals for MTFP, street design, bike path design, CIP and budgeting, etc) to see where we are, and then to determine, with input from the public and PWE/Planning, what further regulations and guidances are needed to implement the plan and harmonize with other transportation goals. CTC recommends that Legal has the expertise to spearhead this important role for implementation from analysis of current provisions to submission of the new provisions to Mayor and City Council.

CTC's Mission and Multi-modal Implementation Principles. CTC is a Houston-based, 501(c)(3) all-volunteer, nonprofit multi-modal transportation organization, founded in 2004. Our stated corporate mission is to serve as an advocate for broad-based transportation modes; to urge and participate in educational and planning processes; to identify neighborhood transportation aspirations; to influence the best transportation options to achieve those aspirations; and to engage our communities in designing a complete multimodal transportation system that serves us all.

Best Regards,

/s/ Dexter R. Handy, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF Retired
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