

Austin Independent School District



Transportation Department

Austin City Council

May 20, 2009

Dear Council Member,

This letter is in reference to the continued partnership between Austin Independent School District's Transportation Department and the City of Austin's Child Safety Program. The citizens of Austin, which include the parents and students of AISD, expect both of our organizations to cooperate and share responsibility for creating a safe environment for children to go to and from school. We believe our team approach earnestly strives to achieve this expectation.

We both attend all school meetings that have been requested by the Campus Advisory Committees or Principals to address their safety concerns, make field investigations together to walk and/or drive a route to ensure it is safe and is achievable for students to walk or ride their bicycles, both are working on the Environmental Transportation Subcommittee, both support and/or cosponsor the Back To School Bash, both have given input on AISD's Safety Committee, both are serving on the City of Austin's Safe Routes to School Committee, both serve on Safe Kids Austin, both work together to create safe routes to school for new schools or schools with changing boundaries, and we share information on all safety issues involving children going to and from school.

Our latest partnership to continue our mission of creating a safe environment for children to travel to and from school and providing a cleaner environment for our community is our support of a pedestrian bridge behind Hart Elementary at North Acres Park. We believe the addition of the bridge will promote more walking and biking programs for the Hart Elementary community. Children who engage in physical activities before school arrive at school more alert and ready to learn. AISD Transportation will also be able to reduce about 8 buses currently provided to the community due to our hazardous policy definition. Fewer buses will not only save our taxpayers money but will also result in fewer pollutants in our community, creating a healthier environment for our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Hafezi', with a long, sweeping underline.

Kris Hafezi, AISD Director of Transportation