




## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**CC:** Marc A. Ott, City Manager  
Robert Goode, P.E., Assistant City Manager

**FROM:** Robert Spillar, P.E., Director, Austin Transportation Department 

**DATE:** September 17, 2015

**SUBJECT:** **NACTO Designing Cities 2015, transportation conference in Austin Oct. 28-31**

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Austin will host the NACTO Designing Cities 2015 conference on October 28-31. This leading national transportation conference focuses on how cities can make their streets safer, more livable, and more economically vibrant. The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) is one of country's most innovative transportation organizations, and Austin is one of 40 member NACTO cities. Mayor Steve Adler will deliver the conference kick-off talk, and he also will introduce the keynote luncheon speaker, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter.

On behalf of NACTO, Austin Transportation Department invites you to participate in the NACTO conference. It is bringing to Austin a wealth of the best and brightest ideas from around the nation for improving a city's multimodal street network. Austin is receiving positive exposure in the national stage by hosting this cutting-edge conference on the design of transportation systems for cities, and it would be wonderful to have our elected officials present.

A [schedule of events](#) and registration information is online at [nacto.org](#). Advance conference registration is required. Austin elected officials and their staff can apply for full conference scholarships from NACTO; email [corinne@nacto.org](mailto:corinne@nacto.org) (by Sept. 25) to request a scholarship.

Concurrently, Austin Transportation is hosting **Better Streets Week**, Oct. 25-31, which is bringing conference speakers and free tours and events to the entire community. Speakers include leading national voices such as Janette Sadik-Khan, Victor Dover, Gabe Klein, and Chuck Marohn, as well as local experts. The Better Streets Week schedule, with information on free registration for about 20 events, will be released by Oct. 1.

### Conference Events of Special Interest

#### Wednesday, 10/28

2:30 PM Opening Plenary, Mayor Steve Adler, with NACTO Chair Janette Sadik-Khan  
4-5:30 **Key Sessions: The People's Perspective on Transportation; Zoning for Complete Streets;**

**Building Safe Pedestrian Networks; Chuck Marohn of Strong Towns on “Making the Fiscally Conservative Case for Investing in Urban Streets”**

6:30-9 PM Opening Reception, Palm Door on Sixth Street, social for attendees and local partners

**Thursday, 10/29**

9-10 AM Morning Plenary, National Panel of Transportation Directors, with Rob Spillar

10:15-11:45 **Key Sessions: Strategies for Successful Transportation Ballot Measures; Gaining Public Support; Planning for Growth: Designing Public Spaces**

12-1 PM **Luncheon Keynote, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter on transforming a city’s streets and civic realm**, introduced by Mayor Adler

1:30-3 PM *Biking and walking tours, led by City staff experts as educational “Walkshops”*

6-9 PM **Community Keynote, Janette Sadik-Khan, NACTO Chair, Bloomberg Foundation, and former NYC-DOT Commissioner**. Event hosted by the Downtown Austin Alliance with food and drink at Brazos Hall. (Free public talk, but ticketed separately by the DAA.)

**Friday, 10/30**

9-12 AM **Transit Track: Learning from innovative cities like LA, Seattle, and Denver about designing streets for transit** (hosted with Capital Metro); **NACTO Camp “unconference”**

1:30-3 PM *Biking and walking tours, led by City staff experts as educational “Walkshops”*

3:30-5 PM **Key Sessions: Transit Innovation Hour; Protecting People Walking and Biking Through Intersections; Bold Transportation Visions: Move Seattle and Go Boston 2030**

5-6 PM **Closing Plenary: “Great Streets, Great City” by Victor Dover**, urban designer and author of *Street Design: The Secret to Great Cities and Towns*

**Saturday 10/31**

9-12 AM *Biking and walking tours, led by City staff experts as educational “Walkshops”*

**Conference Benefits for the City of Austin and the Community**

- Unites Central Texas agencies around the many co-benefits of sustainable transportation – for mobility, safety, public health, the environment, the economy, affordability, equity, and creating great public spaces.
- Recognizes Austin for its commitment to sustainable, innovative mobility solutions.
- Attracts 450+ forward-thinking transportation professionals (public and private) to Central Texas to share ideas and experiences
- Draws top Transportation Directors and Commissioners from the 40 NACTO Member Cities, and other leading North American cities
- Provides a platform for the entire city to learn about and discuss best practices in mobility and safe street design, and how to apply these ideas to Austin, as required by the City of Austin Complete Streets Policy