



City of Austin

P.O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767-1088

March 22, 2021

The Honorable Celia Israel
State Representative District 50
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

Dear Representative Israel:

The City of Austin would like to thank you for filing H.B. 442.

As a growing city, we believe H.B. 442 is essential to helping us minimize traffic-related deaths and injuries within our communities. The City has been so concerned with these safety issues that it worked with multiple agencies and safety organizations to adopt Austin's Vision Zero's goal to reduce traffic deaths and serious injuries to zero by 2025. The City also incorporated the proactive use of evidence-based strategies into Austin's Strategic Direction 2023 Safety Outcome with the intent of further preventing injuries and death. H.B. 442 will help us address these issues.

In addition to the increased safety this legislation could bring to our community, we believe our residents and taxpayers will benefit financially. According to Austin Transportation Department's estimates, the passage of this bill would equate to approximately \$1 million in savings for a city the size of Austin. This savings is based on the lack of need for engineering studies and staff time to perform the work to simply reduce the speed limit by 5 mph in our neighborhoods.

The City believes that H.B. 442, in that it lowers the statewide prima facie speed limit in neighborhood streets and urban districts from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour, will greatly assist us in improving the safety of Texans and save lives, as well as assist our City and others with the financial barriers to increasing the safety of our roads. Again, we thank you for filing H.B. 442 and offer you our complete support of its passage.

Sincerely,

Rob Spillar, P.E.
Director, Austin Transportation Department