



AIA Dallas

A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

RE: AIA Dallas Feedback on CityMAP Report

Date: August 26, 2016

AIA Dallas appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft report released by TxDOT on June 10, 2016, and the brief follow-up meeting with the CityMAP team on August 17, 2016 to further clarify the process, content and intent of the project. We commend the CityMAP team for the extensive stakeholder engagement and agree with the final report recommendation on the need for a more comprehensive process going forward.

Future improvements to highway infrastructure around downtown provide the opportunity to knit neighborhoods back together, mitigate negative local impacts, address economic disparity, and improve the vibrancy of our urban core. There are three specific areas that AIA Dallas believes should guide the team's next steps in order to best achieve these outcomes:

1. **Steering Committee.** AIA Dallas agrees with the CityMAP team that a steering committee of partner agencies and industry organizations, including AIA, facilitated by the CityMAP team, should be created to lay out the framework for the prioritization and scenario evaluation effort. This steering committee would also continue as convener for additional stakeholder engagement as scenarios get evaluated and proposed for funding and implementation.
2. **Scenario evaluation.** Each proposed scenario should be further evaluated utilizing priorities that balance regional transportation needs with community needs, by emphasizing local connectivity, economic development and placemaking—inclusive of district identity considerations, pedestrian and transit interaction and integration, housing diversity, and neighborhood vibrancy and livability.
3. **Advocacy for Implementation.** AIA Dallas believes that a robust implementation program will be necessary to successfully execute many of the large scale and forward thinking concepts outlined in CityMAP. Chapter 9 needs greater specificity to ensure that the ideas contained in CityMAP are carried through to execution. In addition to establishing a steering committee and establishing priorities for scenario evaluations, consideration should be given to the formation of a multidisciplinary public oversight group/task force to vet future decisions, as well as other concrete steps that are necessary to fully implement the thinking outlined in the document.

The ideas in this document should be more directly related to the decision-making framework of the various public agencies involved. This is mentioned in general terms throughout the document as well as in the implementation chapter. However, this is a critical and necessary step that requires close attention to ensure successful implementation of the ideas in the document. The CityMAP team should engage in an advocacy effort with the City of Dallas, Dallas County, NCTCOG, NTTA, DDI and DART to make sure that their planning conversations and infrastructure improvements are coordinated with this effort, especially with multimodal systems being contemplated such as High Speed Rail and various trail connections. The City of Dallas, particularly within Economic Development, Planning & Urban Design, Mobility & Street Services (formerly Public Works), should take a close look at this report and evaluate how its own plans and policies are consistent with or depart from what is outlined in CityMAP.