



June 26, 2024

Chairman Tony Shidid  
City Plan Commission  
1500 Marilla Street  
Dallas, Texas 75201

RE: Forward Dallas comprehensive land use plan

Dear Chairman Shidid,

The Dallas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Dallas) endorses Forward Dallas – the proposed comprehensive land use plan update. This visionary plan is a significant step forward for our city and has the potential to advance opportunities for the built environment in the next decade, foster greater equity, and lay the groundwork for quality-of-life improvements for everyone in Dallas.

As architects, we understand the need for robust planning tools. Dallas staff, consultants, and volunteers have carefully crafted the future land use plan and map after countless hours of research and community input. As a result, the draft plan takes into consideration current land uses as well as future development potential and best practices.


AIA Dallas appreciates that the next iteration of Forward Dallas will enable Dallas to develop and grow in a way that respects current traditional neighborhoods, historic sites or landmark communities, and places where more commercial activity or infill density would be welcomed. The plan strikes the right balance between current and future interests, and we recommend that the City Plan Commission, and subsequently, the Dallas City Council, consider adoption soon.

Following the adoption of this plan, AIA Dallas would like to work with the Planning + Development Department to address critical next steps such as:


- Recognition of the upcoming historic preservation plan and provisions to allow its full integration once it has been completed;
- Development of unique area or neighborhood plans; and
- Development of more focused design and scale standards through form-based or other code amendments.

AIA Dallas is ready and able to work with you on the continuing development and implementation of the goals of Forward Dallas. We look forward to collaborating with Dallas' staff and elected leadership to design Dallas' future under the updated comprehensive land use plan.

Sincerely,



Zaida Basora, FAIA  
Executive Director, AIA Dallas



Peter Darby, AIA  
President, AIA Dallas