



Circulate San Diego
233 A Street, Suite 206
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 544-9255
@CirculateSD
www.circulatesd.org

February 25, 2022

Ms. Tracy Ferchaw, Associate Business Analyst
Smart Growth Incentive Program Grant Program
San Diego Association of Government
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101

Subject: Letter of Support for SANDAG's Smart Growth Incentive Program for the Mid-City Communities Plan Update: Smart Growth Study

Dear Ms. Tracy Ferchaw:

On behalf of Circulate San Diego, whose mission is to create excellent mobility choices and vibrant, healthy neighborhoods, I strongly support the City of San Diego's SANDAG Smart Growth Incentive Program application for the proposed Mid-City Communities Plan Update: Smart Growth Study. Receipt of funding would help advance the goals of the City of San Diego's General Plan and Climate Action Plan by supporting smart growth in a way that strikes a sensible balance between protecting our environment and enabling responsible growth of our city.

Circulate San Diego is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to making our neighborhoods more vibrant and sustainable through better land use planning and the advancement of transportation initiatives that support increased multimodal options and transportation choice. Through our planning activities, educational events, trainings, advocacy, and work with local, county, regional, and transit partners, Circulate San Diego is working to reclaim our streets through improved streetscape design, accessible pedestrian corridors, more bike lanes, better transit routes, and traffic calming measures.

The requested grant would provide funding for a robust public engagement process in diverse and historically underserved neighborhoods to identify concepts for land use, urban design, and mobility for the Mid-City Communities Plan update process. The Smart Growth Study will serve as a critical first step toward the ultimate completion of an update to the Mid-City Communities Plan, which would facilitate transit-oriented development and healthier, more sustainable communities centered on multimodal transportation and increased transportation choice.

This grant funding from SANDAG would support engagement, planning, and subsequent smart growth investment designed to be representative of the needs and desires of Mid-City residents, workers, and visitors. Developing a plan that is inclusive and cognizant of the sensitivities that may arise when working in historically

underrepresented communities is of the utmost importance to this planning effort and associated grant application. The grant funding would also provide opportunities to increase housing in communities of concern and higher-resourced areas of Mid-City.

The City of San Diego's application to prepare the Mid-City Communities Plan Update: Smart Growth Study is consistent with Circulate San Diego's mission. Circulate San Diego strongly supports the City of San Diego's grant application. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Braitman", followed by a horizontal line.

Dara L. Braitman, AICP
Director of Planning