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MEMORANDUM
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD

DATE: September 28, 2022
TO: Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Natural Resources Advisory Board
SUBJECT: Support for Draft Active Modes Plan with Modifications and Alignments

Dear Mayor and Council-members,

The Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) is expressing support for the draft Active Modes Plan (AMP) as presented by staff at a regular meeting on August 17, 2022, with recommended modifications and alignments.

The Board views the AMP as critical to the goals and outcomes outlined within Our Climate Future (OCF), and believes that heavy investment in this area is beneficial to residents, especially with the focus on eliminating serious injuries and fatalities. In order to support the environmental goal of reducing 2030 greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 2005 baseline levels, and being carbon neutral by 2050, transportation emissions must be reduced significantly. The way residents get around in our great City simply has to look and feel different than it does today.

As outlined in OCF, primary drivers of progress toward the carbon reduction goal include “Choices by individuals to ride bikes, walk, or take the bus [...]” and ultimately, Big Move #4: Convenient Transportation Choices: “It is safe, easy, fast and affordable to get around without a car.” As such, the board believes the AMP should be calibrated to deliver 50% active mode share, and budgetary support should be aligned with this goal.

NRAB believes Council must empower staff with a revised framework for the City’s broader transportation budget, allowing for adequate funding of active modes and transit, considering vehicle travel has historically been the primary focus for the City, based on dollars invested. The AMP has an opportunity to make priorities clear as far as incentivizing behaviors and travel options. The plan should be thoughtful but to the point on where to promote active modes and deprioritize single occupant vehicle travel, through changes to parking, potential related fees, and areas where it makes sense to limit access. Doing so will allow the plan to deliver on the aforementioned critical impact areas, and clearly support equity, mitigation, and resilience.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to engage on this matter.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Krause".

Kevin Krause
Vice-Chair, Natural Resources Advisory Board

cc: Kelly DiMartino, City Manager
Lindsay Ex, Environmental Services Director
Cortney Geary, Active Modes Manager
Honore Depew, NRAB Staff Liaison and Climate Program Manager
Julie Pignataro, City Council Liaison to the NRAB