

visionzeroATX

24 February 2016

To: *Kitty Von Bertele*
Steering Committee
Open Government Partnership

We are writing in support of the City of Austin joining the Open Government Partnership's (OGP) Subnational Government Pilot Program. Our group, Vision Zero ATX, is a community organization pushing to end traffic fatalities and serious injuries on Austin's roadways. Our members have been working with the City of Austin to develop a data-driven action plan to address traffic crash injury through the lenses of engineering, education, law enforcement, evaluation, and equity. It is our belief that this effort can only succeed through our municipal government's transparency of policy and of information. We are encouraged by the interest in transparency and collaboration shown throughout this traffic safety planning process by our local leaders and by municipal staff.

We believe that efforts such as Vision Zero will continue to push the boundaries of what solutions our community can implement by developing and strengthening channels of communication between the City of Austin and community groups such as ours. Austin has been noted as one of the most economically and socially segregated cities in the United States. For community-building initiatives like ours to succeed, government processes must be open and accessible to all parts of our community. The City of Austin is in a great position to support the OGP's pilot program as it has demonstrated its commitment to open government through a sophisticated open data structure and its creation of a dedicated Office of Innovation. In addition, we believe the City of Austin is ripe to leverage the opportunity to learn from peer governments in adopting and innovating upon best practices in terms of open and transparent government.

We look forward to seeing our city government continue to adopt best practices in transparency. We hope the City of Austin will be able to do so as a part of the Subnational Government Pilot Program through the Open Government Partnership. Thank you for the opportunity.



Nic Moe
Vision Zero ATX