



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

Supporting Local Workforce Development Efforts and the Austin Infrastructure Academy

WHEREAS, improving our Nation's infrastructure is a bipartisan priority for cities and towns across the country, and a well-trained workforce is essential to building and maintaining infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive, first-of-its-kind analysis of the workforce needs for coming mobility and infrastructure projects in Austin demonstrated a significant gap in the available workforce to build and maintain those projects; and

WHEREAS, investing in workforce development is critical to ensuring our communities can effectively execute infrastructure projects and capitalize on the federal investments we receive; and

WHEREAS, focusing on opportunities to build careers in mobility and construction as part of infrastructure projects can strengthen our cities' families at the same time we strengthen our cities' infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Infrastructure Academy, an emerging public-private network, integrates public project sponsors, job creators, workforce training providers, and local trade unions into a mobility and infrastructure partnership to ensure local residents have educational pathways that lead to family-supporting careers; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Infrastructure Academy will create opportunities in fields, such as infrastructure development, that typically have lower barriers to entry and can provide prevailing wages and career pathways for communities that are currently underrepresented; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Infrastructure Academy will focus on alleviating barriers to training, including access to childcare, so all Austinites can pursue the needed training to thrive in infrastructure careers; and

WHEREAS, infrastructure projects supported through workforce development programs foster community relationships and make communities like Austin more affordable and more equitable;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the implementation of workforce development programs supporting infrastructure projects in cities and towns across the country similar to the Austin Infrastructure Academy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these programs shall serve as a training hub contributing to community-based and union-based training programs designed to support real-time needs identified by both job creators and job seekers.