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Mayor

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Director of Administration

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Environmental Collaboration Office

November 13, 2023

To the Honorable Members of the
Zoning, Neighborhoods, and Development Committee
City of Milwaukee
City Hall, Room 301-B

Dear Committee Members:

With your support the, Common Council adopted Milwaukee's Climate and Equity Plan (CCFN # 221233). The Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO), Department of City Development, other city departments and external partners are working collaboratively to implement its bold goals that support reducing greenhouse gas emissions while supporting racial and economic equity. One of the "10 Big Ideas" in the City of Milwaukee's Climate and Equity Plan that was adopted by the Common Council this June is:

People-Centered Transportation and Urban Design

The Climate and Equity Plan identified that *"car-dependent neighborhoods lock us into a baseline of harmful emissions while creating other negative climate impacts in the process... To meet the City's goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it is imperative that single passenger driving decreases and investments are made in dense development that reduces the need to drive."*

To achieve this Big Idea, the Climate and Equity Plan calls for updates to Milwaukee's zoning code to prioritize transit-oriented development, expand housing choice, and to further evaluate lowering or removing parking minimums from the zoning code.

Changes in land use policy must be pursued in tandem with improvements to our transportation policy to meet the ambitious goal set by the Climate and Equity Plan to reduce daily average Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) by 20% from 24.4 miles per capita to 19.5 miles per capita. While the topics of land use and transportation are commonly viewed separately, they are inextricably linked.

Growing MKE is a consistent with the Climate and Equity Plan. Growing MKE adds specificity the Climate and Equity plan by identifying a range of potential zoning code updates that will increase housing choice within Milwaukee, including permitting additional styles of housing and increased density in neighborhoods that are well served by transit and well connected to regional job centers. Implementing these proposed updates will improve neighborhood walkability, transit access, and reduce VMT.

ECO and our partners are committed to advancing the recommendations of the Climate and Equity Plan and will continue to collaborate with the Department of City Development during the development and implementation of the Growing MKE recommendations. These proposals represent a significant step forward in our work towards a more sustainable and climate change resilient city.

Thank you for your support of this critical work,

Sincerely,

Erick Shambarger
Director of Environmental Sustainability
City of Milwaukee