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Elevated Chicago
225 N. Michigan Ave.,
Suite 2200
Chicago, Ill. 60601
312.616.8000
ElevatedChicago.org

June 11, 2021

Chicago Plan Commission
121 N. LaSalle St, 10th Floor
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Chair Córdova and Chicago Plan Commission (CPC) members,

On behalf of Elevated Chicago, please accept this letter in support of the adoption of the City of Chicago's Equitable Transit-Oriented Development (ETOD) Policy Plan by the CPC. As a coalition of organizations working to advance ETOD, Elevated Chicago supports equitable public, private, and civic investments and actions that produce healthy, resilient, and culturally vibrant communities near transit.

In close collaboration with the Mayor's Office, Elevated Chicago helped convene the ETOD Working Group tasked with developing the policy plan required by the 2019 TOD ordinance to address the inequitable distribution of TOD benefits in Chicago. The ordinance included an explicit equity focus and a requirement to evaluate the performance of recent TOD projects and develop recommendations for policy change. In fulfillment of this requirement, the ETOD Policy Plan presents a roadmap to realize racial equity, community wealth building, climate resilience, and public health goals through ETOD. Implementation of the Plan recommendations will center BIPOC communities in TOD, supporting increased access to jobs, climate resilience, public health goals, community safety, decreased displacement, and a reduced racial wealth gap. These outcomes can only be achieved by building the City's capacity to support ETOD, embedding ETOD principles into Chicago's citywide planning process, and making ETOD required, easier, and more equitable.

The Plan was co-created collaboratively and inclusively, by a diverse group of technical experts, community leaders and ETOD advocates that grew from a small committee of 10 people to over 80 members. The current membership includes leaders from community-based organizations, civic stakeholders, and government agencies, as well as developers, artists, and community organizers. We have been pleased to see early adopters embrace these policy recommendations, including the departments of Public Health, Housing, Transportation, and Planning & Development, the Chicago Transit Authority, and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, as well as many private and nonprofit developers committed to equitable development in our city. And we have been inspired by hundreds of Chicago residents and leaders expressing their support during the public comment period and providing constructive feedback, which the City has incorporated in the final version of the Plan.

For all these reasons, Elevated Chicago and its partners strongly support the adoption of the ETOD Policy Plan by the CPC, and we urge the City to fully implement it and properly resource it. If you have any questions or would like to



further discuss our support, do not hesitate to contact me at roberto@elevatedchicago.org or 773.827.2053.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'R' followed by a long horizontal line.

Roberto Requejo
Program Director

CC:

Kendra Freeman, Vice President, Metropolitan Planning Council, and Co-Chair,
Elevated Chicago, Steering Committee

Christian Diaz, Housing Director, Logan Square Neighborhood Association, and Co-
Chair, Elevated Chicago, Steering Committee

ETOD public Comment

John Jones <sustainableenglewood@gmail.com>

Wed 6/16/2021 1:59 PM

To: CPC <CPC@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Sustainable Englewood Initiatives

June 16, 2021

Good morning, Chairman, Vice Chairman and members of the Chicago Plan Commission.

My name is John Paul Jones, Founder of Sustainable Englewood Initiatives a locally based advocacy group working on social and economic equity matters within the Greater Englewood district.

We are writing to add our organizational support to the latest ordinance on Equitable Transit Oriented Development (ETOD). Since the Mayor Harold Washington administration we have valued the land use and equitable development options TOD can present to low income- transit depended communities.

This ordinance will add value to our continual hope to better leverage Greater Englewood's abundant transportation asset. It's our collective hope that TOD options will lead the way toward the construction of the CTAs Redline Extension, restoration of the 63rd Racine historical station, restoration of the 63rd and Wallace Metra Heritage Station, construction of the 59th street Elevated New ERA Trail (2 miles) corridor, station enhancement at the rebuilt 63rd State CSX Terminal and the new 71st Hamilton (Emmett Till road) railroad underpass.

Therefore, we urge the Plan Commission to vote "Yes" on the City's ETOD ordinance.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

John Paul Jones

SEI

sustainableenglewood@gmail.com

June 16, 2021
Chicago Plan Commission
121 N. LaSalle St, 10th Floor
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Chair Córdova and Chicago Plan Commission (CPC) members,

Please accept this letter in support of the adoption of the City of Chicago's Equitable Transit-Oriented Development (ETOD) Policy Plan by the CPC. As a licensed architect practicing in Chicago, I believe transportation, in particular public transportation is among one of the more important community planning and improvement topics needing to be addressed.

As crafted, the ETOD Policy Plan presents a roadmap to realize racial equity, community wealth building, climate resilience, and public health goals through ETOD. Implementation of the Plan recommendations will center BIPOC communities in TOD, supporting increased access to jobs, climate resilience, public health goals, community safety, decreased displacement, and a reduced racial wealth gap. These outcomes can only be achieved by building the City's capacity to support ETOD, embedding ETOD principles into Chicago's citywide planning process, and making ETOD required, easier, and more equitable.

The Plan was co-created collaboratively and inclusively, by a diverse group of technical experts, community leaders and ETOD advocates that grew from a small committee of 10 people to over 80 members. The current membership includes leaders from community-based organizations, civic stakeholders, and government agencies, as well as developers, artists, and community organizers. We have been pleased to see early adopters embrace these policy recommendations, including the departments of Public Health, Housing, Transportation, and Planning & Development, the Chicago Transit Authority, and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, as well as many private and nonprofit developers committed to equitable development in our city. And we have been inspired by hundreds of Chicago residents and leaders expressing their support during the public comment period and providing constructive feedback, which the City has incorporated in the final version of the Plan.

For all these reasons, I strongly encourage your adoption of the ETOD Policy Plan by the CPC, and we urge the City to fully implement it and properly resource it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken DeMuth', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ken DeMuth AIA



June 16, 2021

Chicago Plan Commission
121 N. LaSalle St, 10th Floor
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Chair Córdova and Chicago Plan Commission (CPC) members,

On behalf of the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC), please accept this letter in support of the adoption of the City of Chicago’s Equitable Transit-Oriented Development (ETOD) Policy Plan.

Since 1934, MPC has been an independent change-maker working to build a better, bolder, more equitable future for everyone. We believe that every neighborhood has promise, every community should be heard, and every person can thrive. As a regional research and policy change organization, MPC advances equitable transit-oriented development through advocacy, data analysis, and technical assistance to public agencies and communities. TOD, when implemented with a racial equity lens, can help to reduce socioeconomic gaps between neighborhoods, connect people to new communities and new opportunities and ensure that development in transit-served locations benefits people regardless of their income or background.

The Metropolitan Planning Council has worked to strengthen the transit-oriented ordinance since 2015, providing analysis, policy recommendations, tools, and technical assistance to increase knowledge and elevate the benefits of development near transit across different markets. MPC advocated for ordinance language that included an explicit equity focus and a requirement to evaluate the performance of recent TOD projects and develop recommendations for policy change. As a member of the ETOD Working Group that was tasked with developing the policy plan required by the 2019 TOD ordinance, we pushed for a collaborative process and continue to work with the City and our Elevated Chicago colleagues to support implementation.

The ETOD Policy Plan presents a roadmap to operationalize racial equity, community wealth building, climate resilience, and public health goals through ETOD. These outcomes can only be achieved by building the City’s capacity to support ETOD, embedding ETOD principles into Chicago’s citywide planning process, and making ETOD required, easier, and more equitable.

The Plan was co-created collaboratively and inclusively, by a diverse group of technical experts, community leaders and ETOD advocates that grew from a small committee of 10 people to over 80 members. The current membership includes leaders from community-based organizations, civic stakeholders, and government agencies, as well as developers, artists, and community organizers. We have been pleased to see early adopters embrace these policy recommendations, including the departments of Public Health, Housing, Transportation, and Planning & Development, the Chicago Transit Authority, and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, as well as many private and nonprofit developers committed to equitable development in our city.

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And we have been inspired by hundreds of Chicago residents and leaders expressing their support during the public comment period and providing constructive feedback, which the City has incorporated in the final version of the Plan.

For all these reasons, the Metropolitan Planning Council strongly supports the adoption of the ETOD Policy Plan by the CPC, and we urge the City to fully implement it and properly resource it.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kendra J. Freeman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kendra J. Freeman
Vice President