



# City of Austin

**Steve Adler, Mayor**

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Executive Committee  
Austin Neighborhoods Council  
PO Box 301975  
Austin, Texas 78703

I am proud to have been endorsed by the Austin Neighborhood Council in 2014 and care deeply about our city and our neighborhoods, which is one of the reasons I ran for Mayor. Our neighborhoods are a big part of the spirit and soul of our city, and maintaining neighborhood character is critical for Austin's continued success.

In response to the points raised in two resolutions adopted by the ANC Executive Committee dated Sep. 13th and 14th, I offer the following:

Austin's two most critical issues are mobility and affordability, and these two issues are inextricably linked. We cannot make progress on one without making meaningful progress on the other. We make Austin more affordable by aggressively addressing traffic congestion, improving access to opportunity, and reducing household transportation costs. That is why we must approve Proposition One, the \$720 million transportation bond this November, as this bond program is critical to creating more equitable prosperity in our city.

In addition to making transformative investments in mobility, we must continue our focus on addressing the need for affordable housing in our city. Until we produce enough housing that is affordable, the cost to rent or own safe, decent housing will continue to grow beyond our residents' incomes. Our draft Strategic Housing Plan suggests that we need at least 75,000 new housing units over the next decade at all levels of affordability to begin to meet this challenge. In order to achieve this number of new units without exacerbating sprawl or destroying our natural environment, we must have reasonable density in reasonable places. I believe the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan strikes the right balance on this issue by guiding our city to focus growth on designated activity corridors and centers, while respecting our neighborhood plans (p. 207, IACP). As I have said on many occasions during and since my mayoral campaign, not only at ANC meetings but also from the Council dais and most recently from the podium at a 400-person Chamber of Commerce event, I further believe that the need to increase housing supply in activity centers and corridors does not justify undermining the character of our single family neighborhoods. To those that urge more permissive housing tools being applied indiscriminately in all parts of all our single family neighborhoods, I suggest our city does not require that additional measure of housing supply to meaningfully impact our affordability challenges. I further assert that there is not enough housing supply to

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be gained outside of the potential areas of transition within our single family neighborhoods to justify the public outcry that will no doubt erupt when residents organize to defend their neighborhood's character.

Neighborhoods should have substantial influence on how areas of transition between single family neighborhoods and more intense uses are designed and applied to increase housing while protecting those neighborhoods. We can increase housing in our city without destroying neighborhood character, if we do it wisely. We just need to be smart about it.

You have asked that I do my part to protect neighborhoods in conjunction with the proposed transportation bonds and CodeNEXT. Below are the principles and priorities that guide me:

- We need sensible and context-sensitive transitions between single family neighborhoods and other more intense uses and so I oppose the creation of arbitrary rules that apply everywhere, such as strict  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile transitions between neighborhoods and activity corridors. We must consider each neighborhood's context, character, shape, and size, as well as input from affected neighborhoods, to determine appropriate transition rules.
- I oppose changes through CodeNEXT that would result in elimination of current single family zoning outside of the areas of transition in single family neighborhoods, without sufficient notice, input, and consent of affected neighborhoods.
- I will continue to advocate for and abide by the "Contract With the Voters" established by Council for this bond election by duly enacted Resolution, which requires a transparent public process to ensure adequate opportunities for neighborhood input and participation in crafting the final designs and implementation of the corridor plans.

As you know, I will continue to encourage you to give me your creative ideas for making our city more livable and equitable for all. I am committed to protecting neighborhood character for all Austinites.

Sincerely,



Steve Adler  
Mayor of Austin