

**Subject:**

CLUP comment

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**From:** Shannon Hughes Hautamaki  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 3:56 PM  
**To:** Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>  
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Dear Planning Commission,

Thank you so much for your hard work and long hours over the last few months on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Your dedication and love for the community is evident in your respect for each other and each and every public commentator, even in instances of disagreement. (It takes me nearly a week to watch your 6-hour-long meetings!)

For my husband and I nearly 12 years ago, Ann Arbor was the "attainable" housing coming from the northern Virginia area just outside of D.C. where prices were/are even more expensive than Ann Arbor.

My own parents faced this D.C. area affordability problem in the late 1980s, so we moved to the suburbs on a street with no sidewalks, where it was in fact illegal to walk on the side of the road, where our pets were often injured or killed by cars, and where I didn't learn to ride a bike until I was 12 because there was no place to learn. I was not at all interested in potentially raising a family in the same dangerous, car-centric, and frankly isolating environment.

So to Ann Arbor, nearer to my husband's family, we moved. It has been a wonderful fit. My two sons, ages 7 and 10, walk to their elementary school every day, have friends in the neighborhood they can safely get to by their own two feet. Even living very near the college campus, which does come with some occasional annoyances, has overall been a blessing and has helped us keep our sense of humor. My two sons have received many a "Go Blue" and high-fives (and once even autographs) from student athletes while at Argus, which they also just walk to.

The big tradeoff for my family moving to Ann Arbor has been living over 500 miles from my parents, still in the D.C. area, who are to quote them, "devastated" that they miss so much of my sons' childhood. I can imagine I'd feel the same way if Ann Arbor was so expensive in the future my children and grandchildren had to live far away from me. We must do something to keep prices "attainable," if not affordable, so today's children have the opportunity to remain or one day return to Ann Arbor.

Therefore, I am not interested in retaining single family zoning as it will keep prices high and force people who love Ann Arbor to live in less safe, less walkable and bikeable environments, away from the city's many educational and cultural amenities and, importantly, their jobs in Ann Arbor -- merely because they were not fortunate enough to get into the housing market here over a decade ago like my family I did. I encourage you to stay the course that you're on in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and to enact the changes necessary to keep housing prices in check and accessible to as many people as possible.

Respectfully,  
Shannon Hautamaki  
1110 Brooklyn Avenue