

**Subject:** thoughts on the CLUP

From: Laura Houk  
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 7:36 AM  
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>  
Subject: thoughts on the CLUP

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Thank you so very much for your intensive time and effort on this process and your care for the City going forward. I appreciate your attention to my personal perspectives expressed here as well as to the opinions of my neighbors.

Please ensure that all this work and public input is not in vain.

Please continue to support the current process of this Commission to develop and finalize the CLUP. It has already been delayed long enough.

I ask that the Commission consider the needs of one group of current Ann Arbor residents who are often ignored in this conversation -- children. Most of our planning conversations center the priorities of current adults. This is natural, as we are charged with making the decisions. However, the children of our city, more than any adult, will live with the choices we make today.

Many children who live in Ann Arbor hope to continue to live here as adults, but many of them will not be able to afford housing. This is especially true of those who choose to become teachers, nurses, social workers, university employees, or any of many other essential roles that keep our city learning, healthy, and vibrant. Ann Arbor should have housing for all our children who want to stay in their hometown.

These kids are part of our city now, have made valuable contributions already, and should be able to continue to do so if they choose. Our city as a whole will be better if we make it possible for them to stay.

As a parent, I worry that my teenage offspring will have to move away due to housing unaffordability. My children have lived here their entire lives, the oldest chose to stay here for college, they are contributing citizens of our city, and they want to build their adult lives here. I understand and empathize that many older residents are concerned about changes to the city they know and love. However, our kids are literally the future of our community. If we make it impossible for younger adults to make homes here, then we relegate ourselves to being a city of older, wealthier people. Let's not limit our city in this way. Let's make room for people of all generations and income levels. I don't want to grow old in a city with *\*only\** other old people!

To help make it possible for more of our children to stay here, please consider the following principles in the CLUP:

- Allow taller residential and mixed use buildings, particularly in transition districts.
- Make transition districts as large and diverse as possible to allow for more areas and uses to be included.
- Keep zoning simple with as few complexities and subdistricts as possible, allowing flexible uses.

Our CLUP should be a document that allows us to dream big and gives us the flexibility to create the future that we and our children imagine.

It should guide us, not limit us.

Again, thank you for your tireless work and advocacy on behalf of all residents, current and future.

Laura Houk

