

To the Planning Commission and City Council:

From Bradley Pritts

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As always my thanks to all of you as you struggle with these issues!

I continue to follow the discussions of the Comprehensive Plan. And I remain concerned that no meaningful effort to effectively engage with residents has been discussed. As has been noted, the past efforts at “community engagement” have had more elements of a sales job for a planned outcome rather than genuine solicitation of goals and concerns.

The recent outcry during public comment from many different sides of the discussion is evidence that many Ann Arbor people care about these issues and want to engage in them. To a limited extent, Planning Commission and Council have made modest adjustments to the document. Nonetheless, in my opinion little of this input has been seriously considered. Among other issues, the means of communication through written and oral public comment is difficult to process, and provides no opportunity for meaningful interaction.

Clearly many residents have strong feelings on these goals and tactics. Regardless of the eventual completion of a document, it is likely to be met with resistance by many. Meaningful dialog, while messy, has some hope of building a shared vision which will in the end be easier to implement.

It is not too late to begin a **genuine effort to seek public input** rather than offering a show of **symbolic engagement**.

Let's pause the plan long enough to do so!

Thanks for your consideration.

Brad Pritts

There is no journey gone so far that we cannot stop and change direction. –

Steven Schwartz, composer of Wicked! And Godspell; this line from his show Children of Eden.