

**From:** Julie Weatherbee <[juliew@umich.edu](mailto:juliew@umich.edu)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 09, 2023 2:23 PM

**To:** Planning <[Planning@a2gov.org](mailto:Planning@a2gov.org)>

**Subject:** Support for South Town Proposal

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for the South Town project. This project represents a significant step forward in promoting sustainability and responsible development practices in our community, and I believe that it deserves support.

The project's emphasis on sustainability is particularly noteworthy, with mass timber construction, all-electric utilities, and solar and geothermal energy sources. In addition, a lot of bike parking and less car parking will encourage people to adopt more sustainable transportation methods. This and the location on a transit corridor with great nearby resources will promote more sustainable living practices, which is something we say we want as a city, but rarely get in developments. Even the commitments to dark sky lighting and bird safe windows are important.

As many of you know, one of my pet peeves is buildings that turn away from the street, so having an activated streetfront on all sides of this project is important to me. I appreciate that it embraces the neighborhood, even as it changes the neighborhood, and I think this is a model we can look at going forward.

I believe that the benefits of this project far outweigh the desire to keep the neighborhood the same moving forward. This project proposes enough reasonably-sized units that it will provide significantly more housing than what is there now. We now know that we need to make big changes to our cities to make any changes in affordability and to combat climate change. With its sustainable design, number of units (including a lot of smaller options), ample good bike parking, location on a transit corridor with a lot of resources nearby, and attention to accessibility, this project represents a significant step forward for our community, and I urge you to give it your full support.

Sincerely,

Julie Weatherbee  
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