

Subject:

Strong Opposition to Comprehensive Plan

From: Adam Linkner**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2025 7:16 PM**To:** Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>**Subject:** Strong Opposition to Comprehensive Plan

Good afternoon. My name is Adam Linkner, I live in Ann Arbor, and I wanted to reach out to (1) express my strong opposition to the proposal to remove single family zoning, and (2) let you know that I feel that the community engagement for feedback on zoning changes has been woefully insufficient.

For (1), I was born in Ann Arbor, grew up in Ann Arbor, went to the University of Michigan, and live in Ann Arbor with my wife and child that has just started attending AAPS. For roughly a decade I lived in out-of-state areas that had more dense zoning, and in particular mid-level zoning such as 3-story multi-family accommodations. A primary reason I am living in Ann Arbor is to live in a beautiful single-family home neighborhood, with old homes and tree-lined neighborhoods. I am extremely disturbed by the idea of removing the single-family housing and allowing developers to buy up lots (and given that there is no maximum number of units, potentially numerous lots or whole blocks) to tear down the houses and trees and build apartment/condo complexes in place of the 100-year-old homes. I am supportive of smart growth and rezoning (such as along transit corridors or downtown areas), but broadly removing single-family zoning is something I strongly oppose. I cannot stress enough how much I, and nearly all of my neighbors that live in the affected communities, oppose this idea.

For (2), I believe I am one of the more civically engaged persons in Ann Arbor. I read Mlive every day, am on numerous non-profit boards, and engage in city-based discussions regularly. However, I did not learn about this plan until about a month ago, at which point I immediately reached out to the planning commission. And others around me that are highly engaged similarly were not aware of it. While I know the city and planning commission claim that it sought public input on this plan, it seems that there was no substantive outreach to the communities that would be affected prior to this plan being nearly finalized. If there were to be outreach into the communities that would be most affected by the single-family zoning changes because of their closer proximity to student housing and downtown (e.g. Burns Park, Ann Arbor Hills, Old West Side, Water Hill), I believe you would find overwhelming opposition to the proposal.

I am also concerned that once the zoning change occurs (and I understand that there are multiple-steps to the zoning changes itself), it is a genie that cannot be put back into the bottle. And if the city wants to move forward with this plan then I would ask that you put it to the voters, who I am confident would reject the proposal, which is further reason not to force these zoning changes onto all of us.

Thank you.

Best,

Adam