

From: Meredith Miller <mlmmlm@umich.edu>
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 2:45 PM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>; City Council <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Support for SouthTown Housing Project

Good afternoon,

I'm writing to **advocate for the rezoning of the properties associated with the plans for building 216 housing units on South State and Stimson**. As a resident of Ann Arbor and someone who researches, teaches, and designs housing, I appreciate the many perspectives and issues that must be negotiated to ensure mixed-use developments that are beneficial and not detrimental to a neighborhood and city.

Compared to recent developments in town, the design proposal for SouthTown is unique in its sensitivity to balancing greater density of housing units with urban context, an innovative design with care for the environment, and great public transit access. The use of a low-embodied carbon construction system (mass timber) and leading the transition to all-electric utilities would be **a huge win for not just Ann Arbor's climate goals**, but would serve as a leading example for future sustainable development across the region.

But most critically, **Ann Arbor and the metro area has become inaccessible** for so many people who work here or would simply like to live here. The more housing projects that get cancelled, the more Ann Arbor is sending a message to these people that they are not wanted... Affordable housing is certainly in need here, but the more housing supply we can create at all price points, the pressure on the lower end of the market can be alleviated.

If we want to view our community as inclusive and working toward greater accessibility and affordability, we need to be bold and smart in the changes we make to the physical and social fabric of our city. Open up - don't shut out.

Thank you,

Meredith Miller
(Founding Member of the Collective for Equitable Housing, Taubman College of Architecture & Urban Planning)

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