



CONGRESS
FOR THE NEW
URBANISM
CENTRAL TEXAS
CHAPTER

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June 13, 2016

Mayor Adler, Mayor Pro Tem Tovo, and Council Members Houston, Garza, Renteria, Casar, Kitchen, Zimmerman, Pool, Troxclair, and Gallo

Re: South Central Waterfront Vision Framework Plan (Item 74 on 6.16.16 Agenda)

Honorable Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Council Members,

The Congress for the New Urbanism, Central Texas Chapter (CNU-CTX) Board strongly supports City Council's adoption of the South Central Waterfront (SCW) Vision Framework Plan as an amendment to the Imagine Austin comprehensive plan.

Imagine Austin: (a) outlines the core principles that should guide us as we move forward, and the SCW Vision Framework Plan provides a place-specific roadmap for how these principles can manifest in this rapidly changing district; (b) directs us to *Grow as a Compact and Connected City*, and the SCW Plan lays out a specific path forward to designing and building new complete, green streets, streetscapes and trails to transform this district into a vibrant, walkable mixed-use neighborhood; (c) instructs us to *Integrate Nature into the City*, and the SCW Plan provides for the expansion of nearly 20 acres of new open spaces, public plazas, and trails; (d) calls for us to *Sustainably Manage Water, Energy and other Environmental Resources*, and the SCW Plan provides a public realm based on green infrastructure, and district-wide systems for water management, rainwater capture rain gardens, district cooling, solar building, and district PEV charging; (e) challenges us to *Provide Paths to Prosperity for All*, and to *Develop as an Affordable and Healthy Community*, and the SCW Plan calls for establishing a collection of innovative financial tools which could fund hundreds of units of affordable housing in the SCW district, pay for a great public realm to be enjoyed by everyone, and expand the city's tax revenues which would benefit Austinites everywhere; and, finally (f) *Imagine Austin's* core principles requires us to *Think Creatively and Work Together*, and the SCW Plan lays out a bold collection of policy, management and economic incentives to create the public/private partnerships that achieve the SCW Vision.

The SCW is rapidly changing. Without a plan, future development will unfold in piecemeal fashion on a patchwork of parcels, leaving little chance of expanding open spaces, increasing connectivity, or providing any affordable housing. But if we act boldly and soon, this impending change can provide Austin an historic opportunity to transform the SCW into a great new vibrant district, and provide us a model for how we can transform other changing areas in our city.

Sincerely,

Laura Toups, Vice President
The Congress for the New Urbanism, Central Texas Chapter