

# CONGRESS FOR THE NEW URBANISM

## CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

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November 30, 2012

TO: Mayor Lee Leffingwell  
Mayor Pro Tem Sheryl Cole  
Council Member Chris Riley  
Council Member Mike Martinez  
Council Member Kathie Tovo  
Council Member Laura Morrison  
Council Member Bill Spelman

RE: East Riverside Corridor Regulating Plan

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Council Members:

The East Riverside Corridor Regulating Plan comes before you for final adoption on December 6, 2012. Members of The Congress for the New Urbanism, Central Texas Chapter (CNU-CTX) have been actively involved in the process since its inception. At this late hour, we are concerned that two important elements of the plan could be lost:

1. The prohibition on drive-thru facilities, which tend to be incompatible with pedestrian uses and amenities
2. The planning area's already defined boundary, which provides a well-defined and cohesive planning area of sufficient size to support the economics of a robust corridor

We urge the City to preserve both of these key elements, in the interest of creating a more walkable corridor that prioritizes the needs of people over cars. The Congress for the New Urbanism is the leading national organization developing and promoting Walkable Urbanism. Walkable Urbanism advances quality of place and quality of life through urban design. The principles that inform it are described in CNU's seminal document, the Charter for the New Urbanism (attached).

Walkable Urbanism reduces dependency on the automobile for day-to-day life of the citizenry. This reduced dependency benefits both the individual driver and the community in many ways. Drive-thru facilities and auto-centric development are detrimental to Walkable Urbanism and we respectfully request that the City Council maintain the prohibition of new drive-thru facilities for any use along the corridor.

To achieve the economic and transit-supportive goals, and urban form requirements, of the regulating plan, the complete corridor area and boundary must remain intact. This Regulating Plan is the template for the urban fabric that creates cohesive places and sustainable communities. We respectfully request that the defined East Riverside Corridor Boundary, as has been presented on many occasions over the past several years, remains intact.

**CONGRESS FOR THE NEW URBANISM**  
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We applaud the efforts of the City of Austin staff and the support of the Planning Commission to bring the East Riverside Corridor Regulating Plan to fruition. Through the Imagine Austin comprehensive plan visioning process, it has become apparent that Austin desires urban density and Walkable Urbanism along its corridors, and that preserving the internal consistency of this Regulating Plan is an important step in that direction.

Thank you for your patience and understanding of these matters that are important to the urban goals for this East Riverside Corridor project for Austin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean Compton".

Sean Compton, LEED AP  
President  
Congress for the New Urbanism - Central Texas Chapter

Attachment: Charter of New Urbanism