

CONGRESS FOR THE NEW URBANISM

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

CHAPTER OFFICE

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April 15, 2011

Mayor Lee Leffingwell
Mayor Pro Tem Mike Martinez
Austin City Council Members
City of Austin Planning Commission
City of Austin Downtown Commission
City of Austin Design Commission

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City of Austin
Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78716

Re: Support for Adoption of Downtown Austin Plan

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, Council Members, and Commissioners:

The Congress for the New Urbanism, Central Texas Chapter (CNU-CT) wishes to voice its support for the adoption of the Downtown Austin Plan. Our group has had many lively discussions about how to support implementation of the Plan, and we will be bringing specific ideas forward in the coming weeks and months.

As defined by the Charter of the New Urbanism, CNU-CT advocates for reinvesting in our central cities and restoring existing urban centers by building compact, walkable, mixed use, neighborhoods instead of auto-dependent and non-sustainable sprawl.

There is no better example of this in the region than Downtown Austin. It is a vibrant and eclectic urban neighborhood woven together by a network of active and walkable streets. It is the greatest single generator of taxes for the city, county, school district, and other local taxing districts. Downtown's diverse cultures, new and historic buildings, parks, residential, civic, office, and retail uses all contribute to its role as the region's economic engine, focus of cultural interest, and source of civic pride.

But there is still work to be done. It is the responsibility of the Downtown Austin Plan to connect the dots, anticipate the issues, balance possible solutions, provide guidance for where and how Downtown will grow and develop, and generally ensure that Downtown Austin continues to be one of the best places in the country to live, work, learn, shop and play. The Downtown Austin Plan steps up to this responsibility. It advances the principles of good urbanism and strengthens the community.

Upon adoption, we will advocate for rigorous implementation of the Plan's recommendations for the transportation network, the built environment, historic

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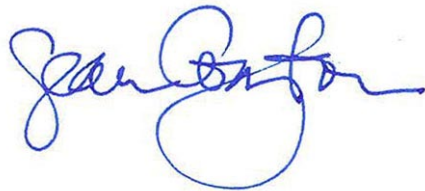
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preservation, parks, social services, parking, and especially for the creation of an economic development corporation to facilitate implementation of the Plan.

The Downtown Austin Plan provides the necessary framework for moving forward. It is now the role of the public and private sectors to work together to implement the recommendations and strategies identified in the Plan. If our organization and its diverse professional membership can assist in any way to advance implementation of the Plan, we stand prepared to help.

Sincerely,



Sean Compton, LEED AP
President, Central Texas Chapter CNU

Cc: Marc Ott, City Manager
Sue Edwards, Assistant City Manager
Greg Guernsey, Director, Planning and Development Review Department