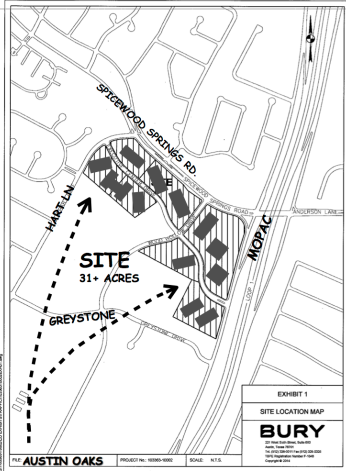


Candidate Forum Questions

These questions are provided as a starter for any volunteer citizens attending local meetings on the PUD and development along MOPAC. These are meant to be an "aide" to help individuals develop questions. Feel free to augment this list and add your own!

QUESTIONS to ASK COUNCIL CANDIDATES & INCUMBENTS in ALL DISTRICTS:



Three unique approaches to the same question -- ALL ARE CRITICAL to the DISCUSSION and AUSTIN moving FORWARD as a CITY to smarter more creative density designs and solutions!

- 1) There is a 1.6 million square foot Planned Unit Development proposed for south of Spicewood Springs Rd between Hart Lane and Mopac that's bigger than Barton Creek Mall. By the City's CODE, PUDs cannot adversely impact existing infrastructure like roads and schools, which this one does since its redeveloping property that's already built with offices. My concern is this can be done ***all over Austin*** and is professed as imminent along Mopac, as mentioned in the Statesman. Given, that Austin needs density, but as citizens, we want it to make sense. ***Since you are running for office (or seeking re-election) and ZONING is discretionary and up to the elected officials on the city council, ultimately, to decide our fate, would you vote to support the rezoning or would you oppose it? Just give me a yes or no answer.***
- 2) Planned Unit Development zoning is required to be ***superior*** to conventional zoning. However, according to the city's code, a project can be "called" superior, as an example, for simply putting in additional bike racks. This is an unfortunate loophole in the code which can be gamed by developers. There is a 1.6 million square foot Planned Unit Development proposed for south of Spicewood Springs Rd between Hart Lane and Mopac that's bigger than Barton Creek Mall. My concern is that this proposal and others like it in the future may not be being held to a higher standard to yield truly SUPERIOR and INNOVATIVE designs worthy of AUSTIN. While we need density, ***we also must preserve what is wonderful about Austin and require truly creative development that is unique and fitting of AUSTIN***, lest it become like all the other unique cities over-run by growth and "me-too" developers clamoring for a buck in the boom town. ***Since zoning is discretionary and up to the council to decide, would you vote to support the rezoning or would you oppose it? Just give me a yes or no answer.***
- 3) There is a 1.6 million square foot Planned Unit Development proposed for south of Spicewood Springs Rd between Hart Lane and Mopac -- with two 17-story high rises and eight 5-story buildings razing 40+ heritage oaks using a PUD zoning loophole! The city, in general, does not like this category of zoning since the standards for them are considered pretty weak and difficult to enforce. My concern is this kind of zoning is a sort of continuation of what has been going on -- and instead of learning and innovating from the challenges this has brought about; and that we are not adapting our zoning decisions to guiding developers to more Austin-appropriate developments. We need density, but it has to make sense. ***Since zoning is discretionary and up to the council to decide, would you vote to support the rezoning or would you oppose it? Just give me a yes or no answer.***

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