



PLANNING
DEPARTMENT

South Central Waterfront Combining District & Density Bonus Program

Urban Transportation Commission

April 2, 2024

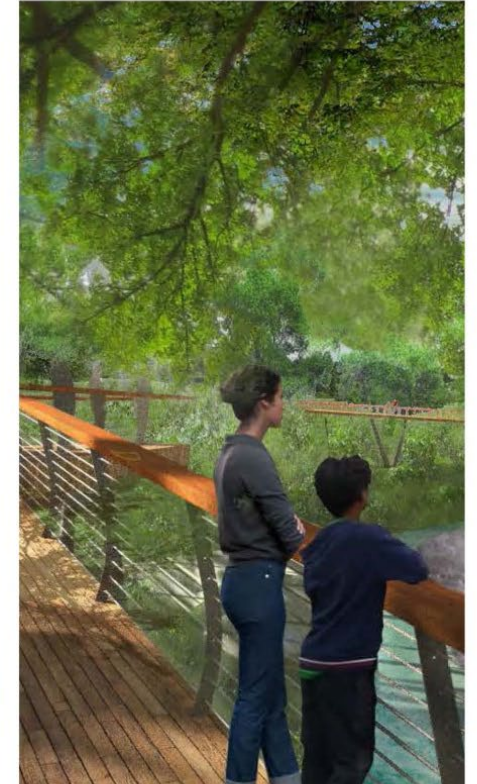


South Central Waterfront Vision Framework Plan

Adopted
June 6, 2016

Final Plan as Adopted on June 16th, 2016

SOUTH CENTRAL WATERFRONT VISION FRAMEWORK PLAN



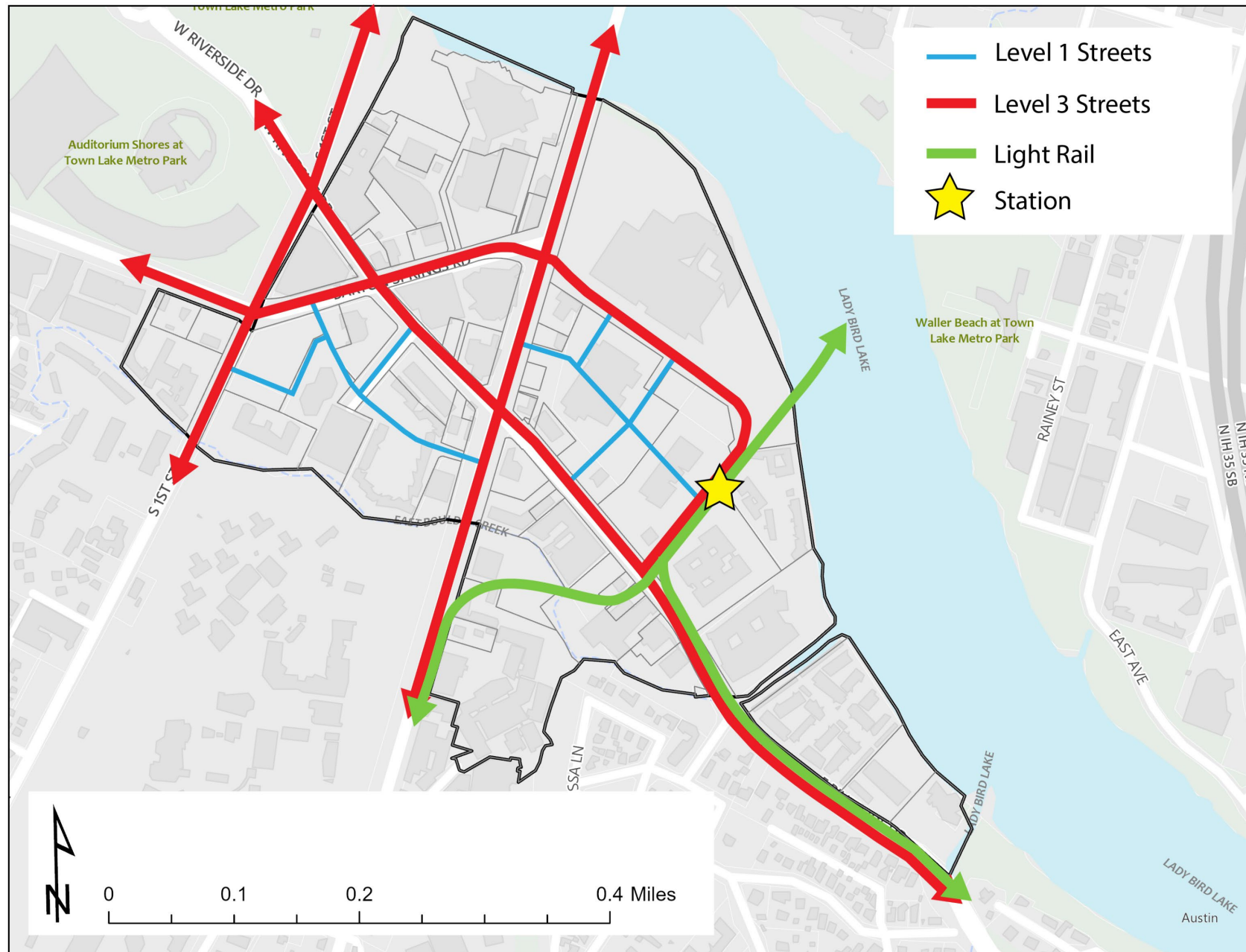
June 2016



Austin, Texas



Streets and Light Rail



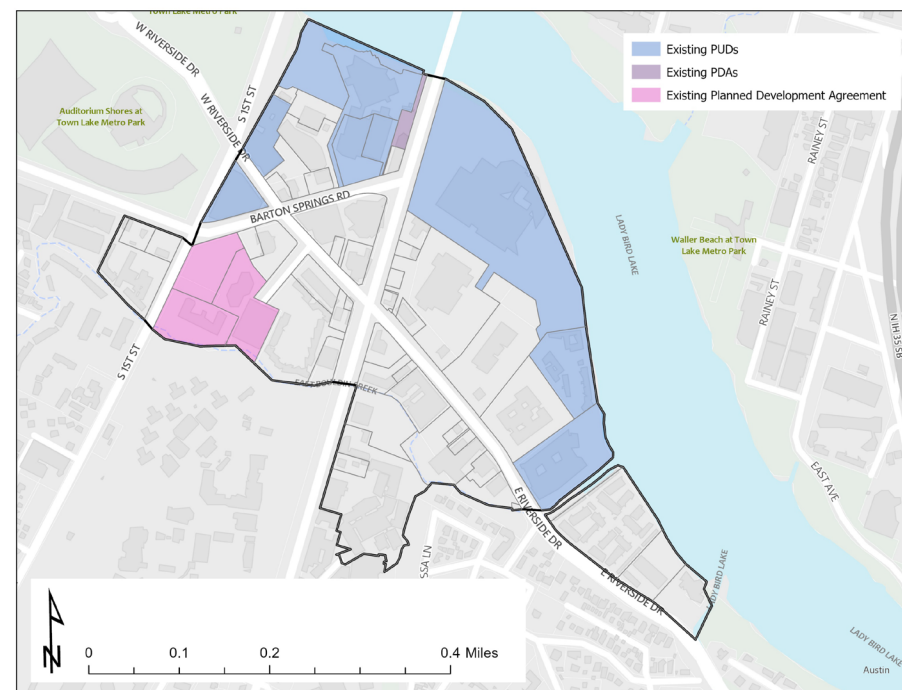


City Council Resolution 20220915-090

- Allow increased development only through the Density Bonus Program.
- Maximize community benefits and infrastructure investments.
- Create a Density Bonus Program “*akin*” to Downtown and that supports Project Connect.
- Allow entitlements for required infrastructure and community benefits.
- Ensure entitlements meet market demand.
- Create enhanced environmental standards and protections.
- Program to be re-evaluated/updated at least every five years.

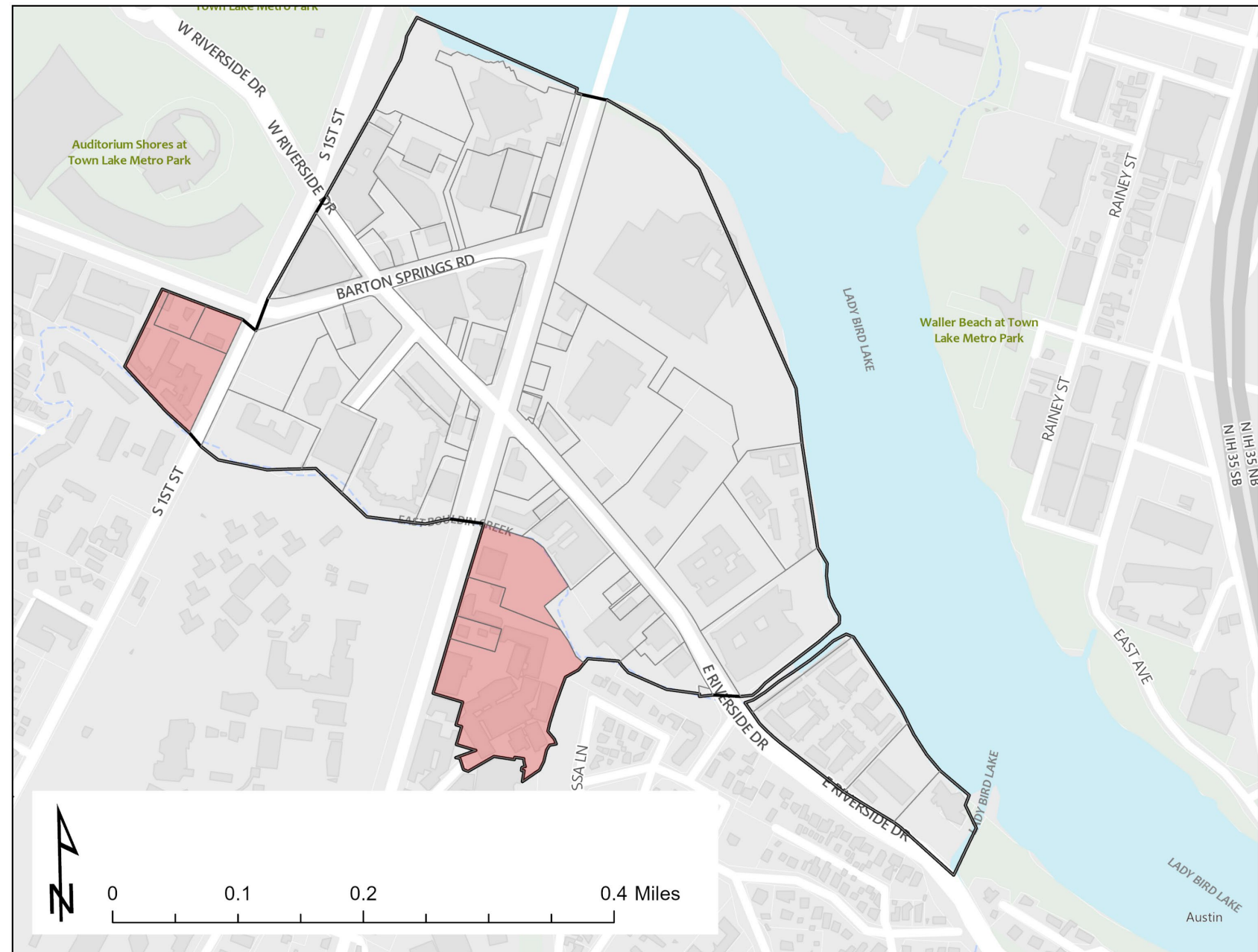
Approach Since Council Resolution

- The SCW regulations will be implemented by:
 - Council adoption of an **optional** set of regulations and bonus program through the creation of a **Combining District *and* a Density Bonus Program** (spring 2024).
 - City-initiated rezoning of non PDA, PUD, and Planned Development Agreement properties in the district (summer 2024).
- First reevaluation within 1-2 years.





District Boundary Expansion





Combining District

General Provisions

(Policies, procedures, and who can participate)

Land Use Standards

(Permitted and conditional land uses)

Development Standards

(What can be built and where)

Design Standards

(How it will look)

Definitions

Density Bonus

Procedures/Requirements

“Gate Keeper” Requirements

Affordable Housing

Environmental Protection

Improved Streetscape and Built
Environment

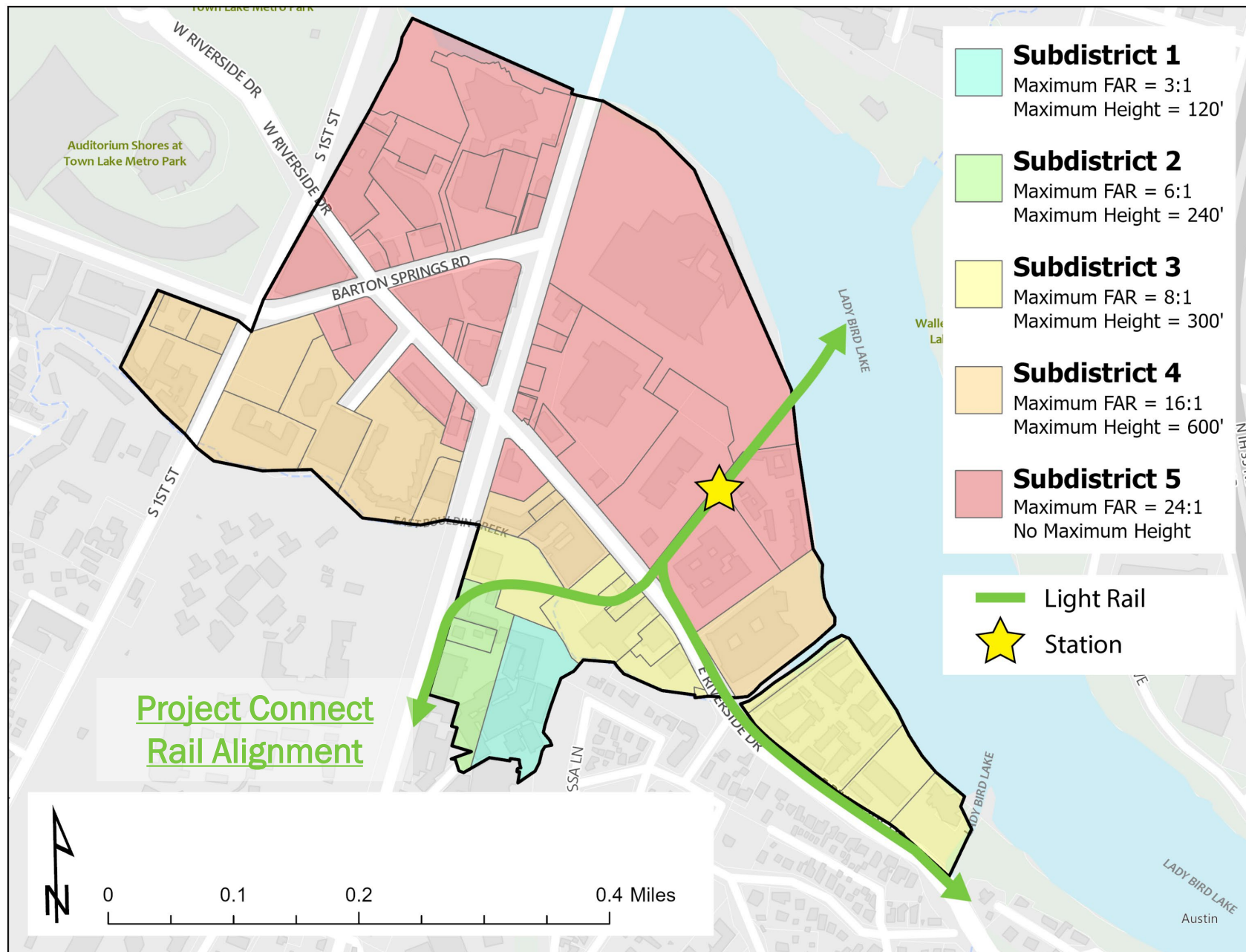
In-Lieu Fees and Dedications

On-Site Community Benefits Eligible for Bonus Area



Subdistricts

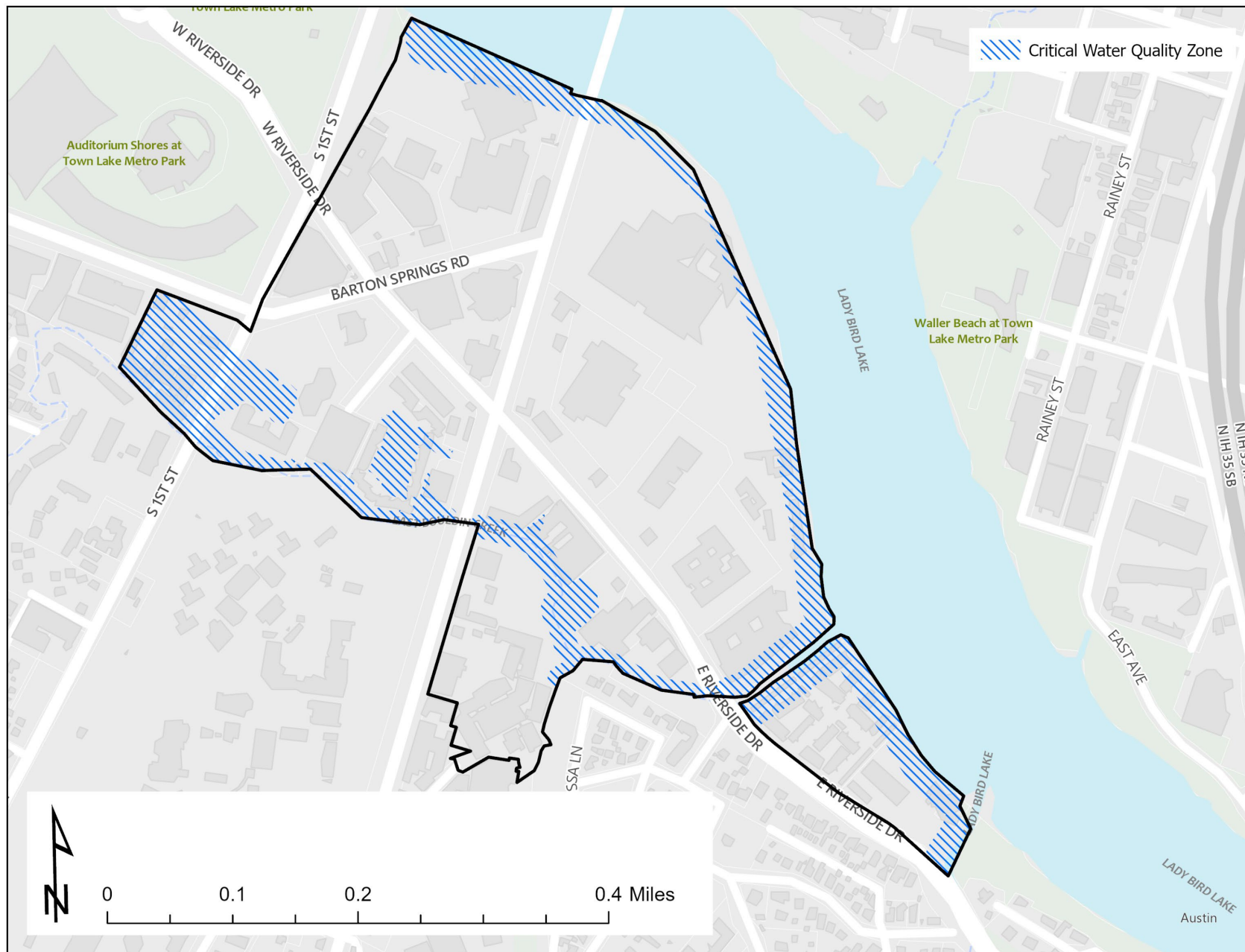
Council approval is required to exceed FAR maximums and heights





Critical Water Quality Zones

Existing Overlays remain, with some elements being superseded by SCW Combining District





Land Uses

Permitted land uses support:

- Transit
- Pedestrian use
- Mixed-use
- Creative Enterprise
- Recreation and Entertainment Activity





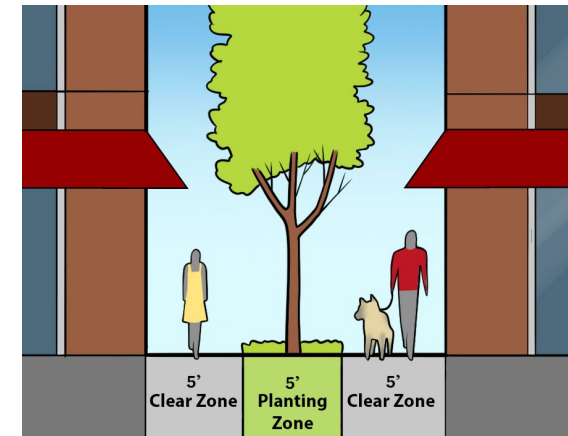
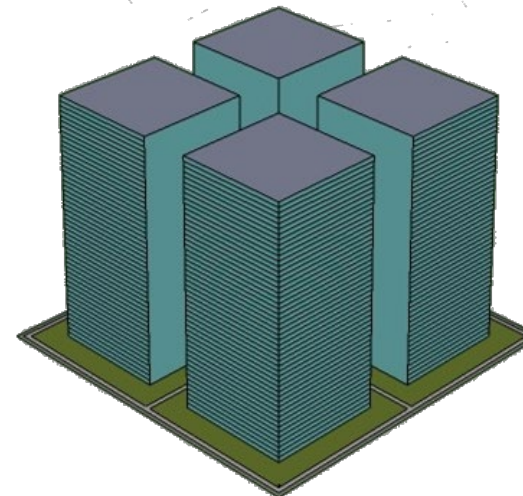
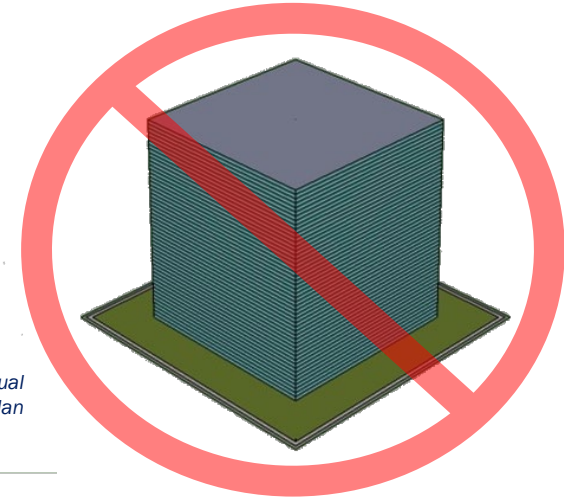
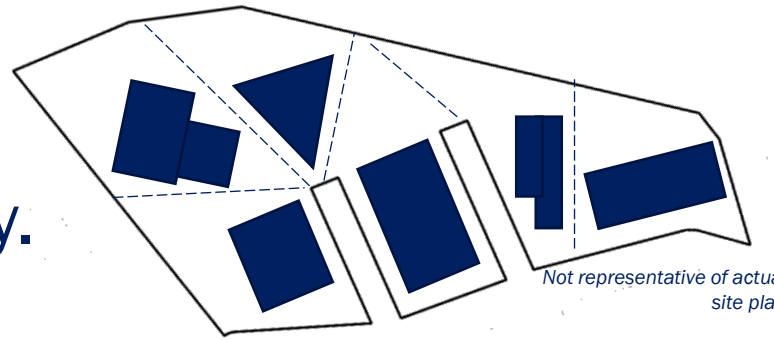
Parks & Open Space

- Required publicly accessible Open Space (5% of site)
- Parkland dedication may be credited towards Parks Fee-in-Lieu amount
- Buildout of parks amenities is a community benefit available for bonus area
- Both parkland dedication and buildout must meet PARD criteria and be accepted by the PARD Director



Density Distribution Areas (DDAs)

- Floor-to-Area Ratio (FAR) is calculated separately for each DDA and FAR maximums apply separately.
- DDAs shall be no greater than 90,000 sq. ft.
- Internal circulation routes are required along DDA boundaries for internal pedestrian circulation.





SCW Density Bonus Program

On-site Requirements:

- Enhanced Environmental Standards
- Streetscape and Built Environment Standards
- 5% of housing on-site up to 3:1 FAR must be affordable.

May be:

- Affordable rental units at 60% MFI,
- Or if Condos:
 - Affordable ownership units (condos) at 80% MFI, or
 - A fee-in-lieu for ownership units.

At full buildout, it is estimated:

The SCW Bonus Program
could produce

481 On-site Affordable Units
compared to

527 Affordable Units
*anticipated in
the 2016 Vision Plan.*



Bonus Program Structure

(For Additional FAR Beyond Base)

Gate Keeper Requirements

Onsite Affordable Housing
(Fee for Non-Residential)

Enhanced
Environmental Protections

Streetscape &
Built Environment

First

Then

(To Reach Up to FAR / Height Subdistrict Maximums)

70% In-Lieu Fees & Dedications

Affordable Housing

(extra on-site affordable units credited; Affordable Housing Investment Area)

Parks

(dedications credited; boundary as defined by typical Parks fees)

Infrastructure

(supports SCW directly)



30% On-Site Community Benefits

*Affordable Creative Space

Open Space & Park Buildout

Child / Adult Care

Grocery Store

Cultural Uses

Music Venues

Transit-Supportive
Infrastructure

Public Art



**For artistic rendering purposes only*

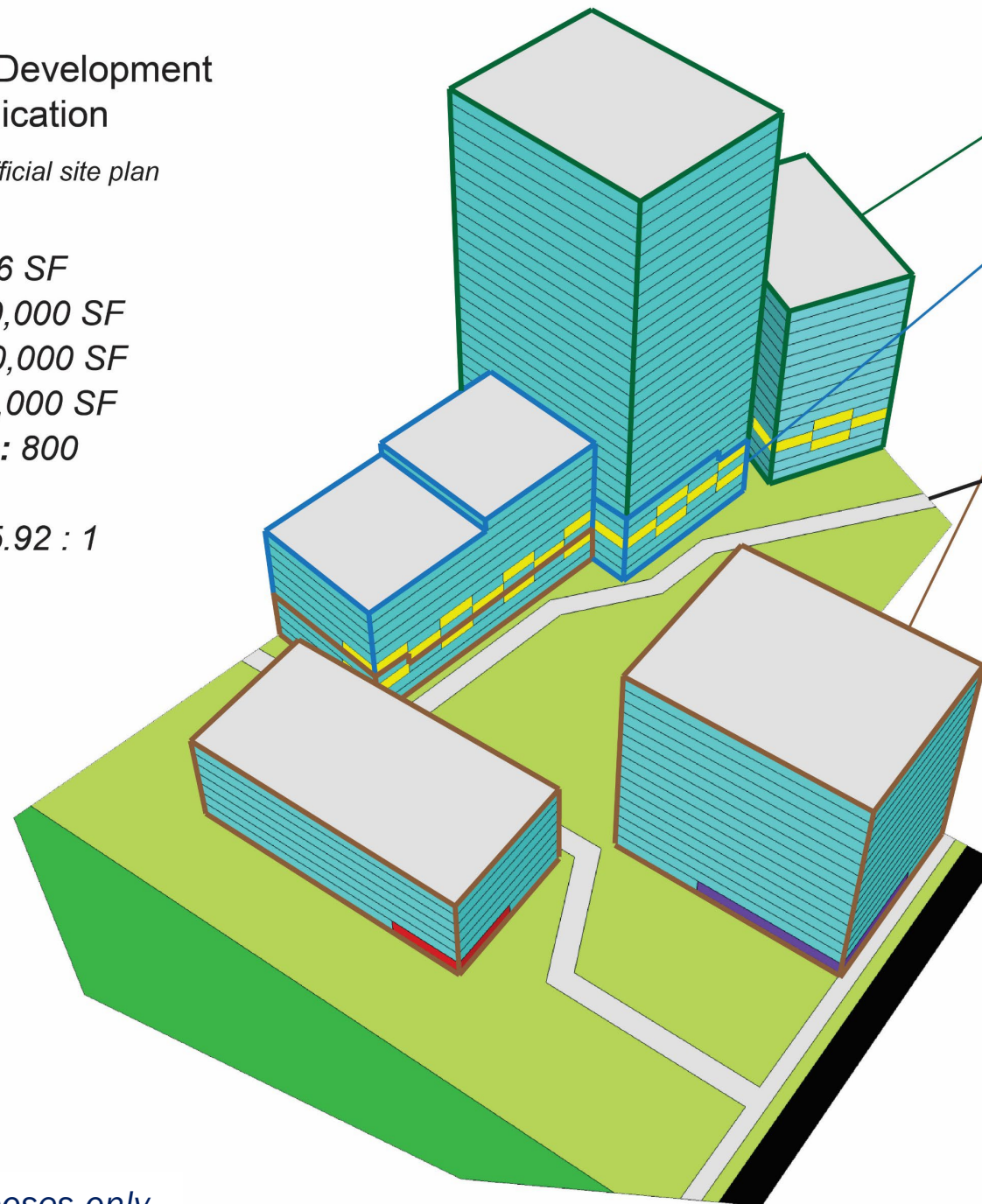
Stephanie Bower | Architectural Illustration

EXAMPLE from
500 S Congress Development
Assessment Application

Not representative of official site plan

Site Area: 261,796 SF
Retail Space: 150,000 SF
Office Space: 400,000 SF
Hotel Space: 200,000 SF
Residential Units: 800

Estimated FAR: 5.92 : 1



**FAR from Fees and
Community Benefits**

**FAR Boost to 3:1 from
Gatekeeper Requirements**

**Base Entitlement under
SCW Combining District**


**Site divided into 3 Density
Distribution Areas with
walkways along divisions**

Community Benefits Overview

 **21 On-Site Affordable Units
Required**

\$7,132,306 paid in Fees for
Housing, Parks, and Infrastructure

229,384 SF of Bonus through
Community Benefits such as:

 **9,000 SF** of Open Space
In addition to **13,090 SF** required

 **8,000 SF** of Grocery Store

 **2,500 SF** of Music Venue

\$17.1K for Public Art

^ Required dispersion of affordable units throughout the
residential units

**For artistic rendering purposes only*



Key* Recommended Changes

- Expanded boundaries
- Height limits added to 4 of 5 Subdistricts
- Properties proximal to rail station adjusted to higher FAR
- Added Affordable Creative Space community benefit
- Affordable Housing Investment Area adjusted: expanded boundary, limits investment within reach of public transit.
- Bird-friendly design criteria required in bonus for light pollution reduction and collision deterrence

Public Comment Stats

Outreach to **80+ Stakeholder Groups**

489 Survey Participants

3 Public Meetings during public comment period

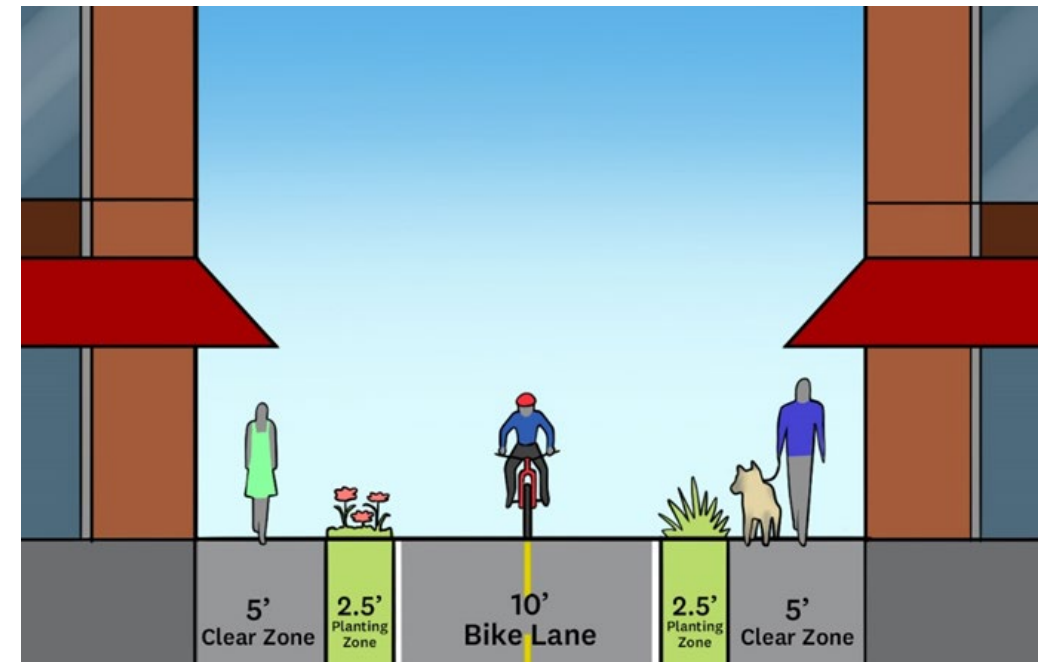
5 presentations to Boards and Commissions to date

4 B&C presentations remaining (3 “Actions” will be requested)

* Change log with comprehensive adjustments available for review

Key Recommended Changes (continued)

- Added mobility options to internal circulation routes.
- Shade provisions increased: cantilevered, affixed and freestanding.
- PARD can require up to 25% property dedication.
- Require public access easements for publicly-accessible open space.
- (Temporarily) Modified certain non-residential community benefits to 0 SF Bonus while city establishes compliance practices.



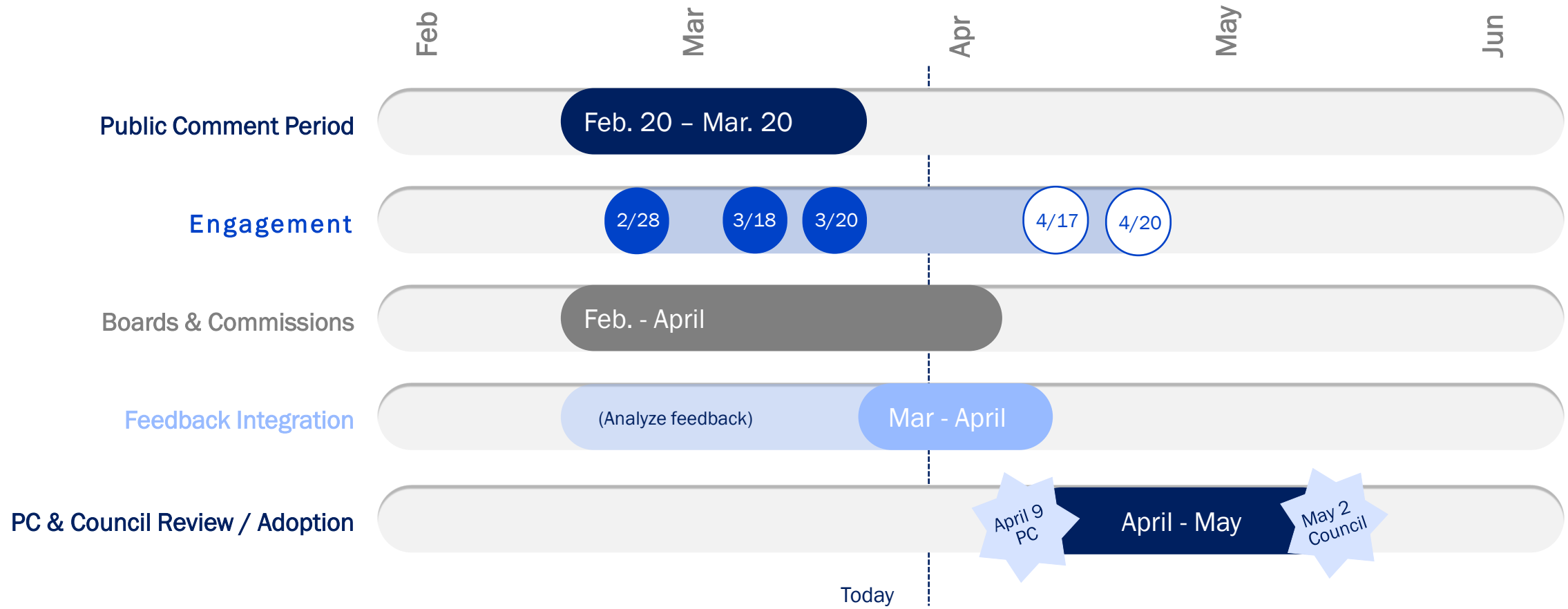


Future Considerations (within 6 mo. - 2 years)

- For certain non-residential community benefits, re-examine density bonus once compliance options have been determined by staff.
- Explore all financial tools to achieve the vision.
- Re-evaluate fees once citywide density bonus analysis is complete.
- Explore the addition of Transfer of Development Rights.
- Explore opportunities for below market rent with adjustments over time for Council priorities.
- Explore construction code adjustments for South Central Waterfront (to mimic CBD)



Timeline





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Thank You