



HOW IS AUSTIN HANDLING THE INFLUX OF CHARTER SCHOOLS?



What is a Charter School?

An open enrollment charter school is *a privately owned public school*, and defined under the Texas Education Code

The City of Austin's own regulations exempted schools from development regulations

The Charter School "Loophole"

Public Educational facilities (primary or secondary) are "not required to comply with he following requirements of this title:"

- Impervious cover (except Barton Springs Zone)
- Cut or fill
- Landscaping
- Compatibility
- Subdivision
- Traffic Impact Analysis

Interlocal Agreements

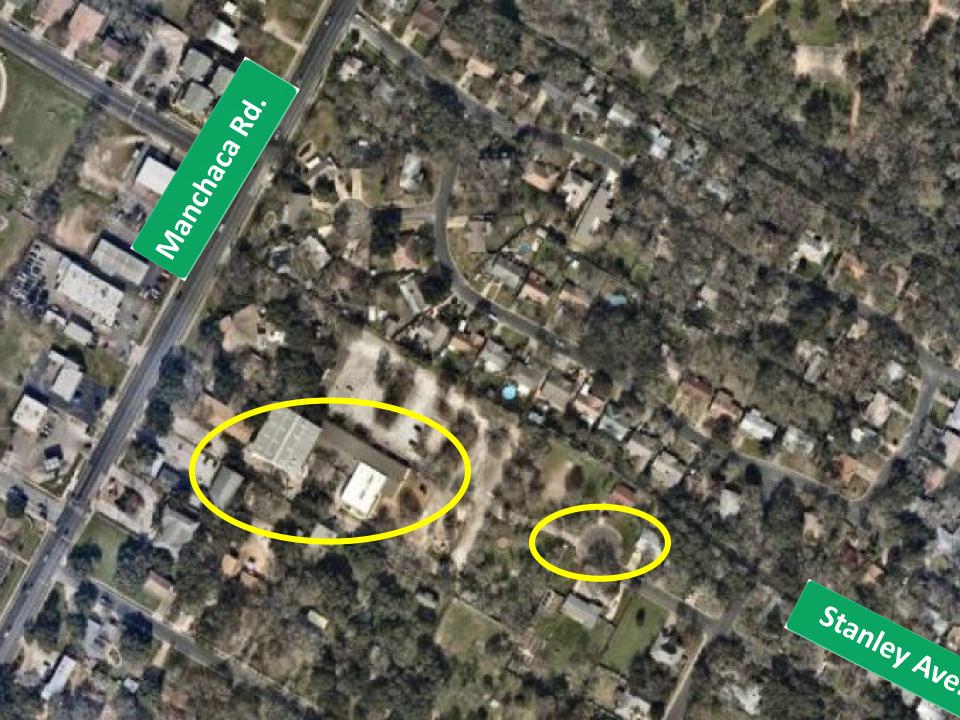
- □ No TIA required
- □ Limits impervious cover to 50-60 percent
- Sets building height limits and setbacks
- Sets parking requirements

Charter School Challenges



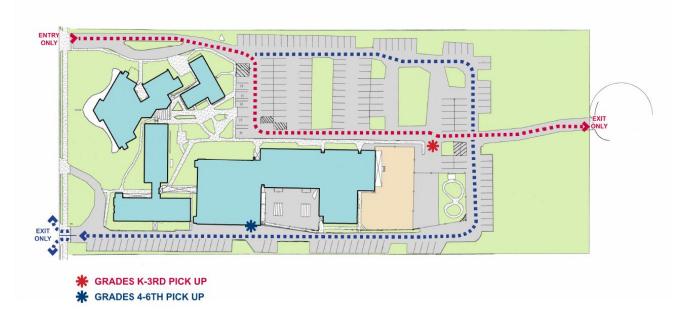
- Two years from obtaining Charter from the State to classroom ready.
- No funding provided for facility construction
- Do not have the ability to issue bonds

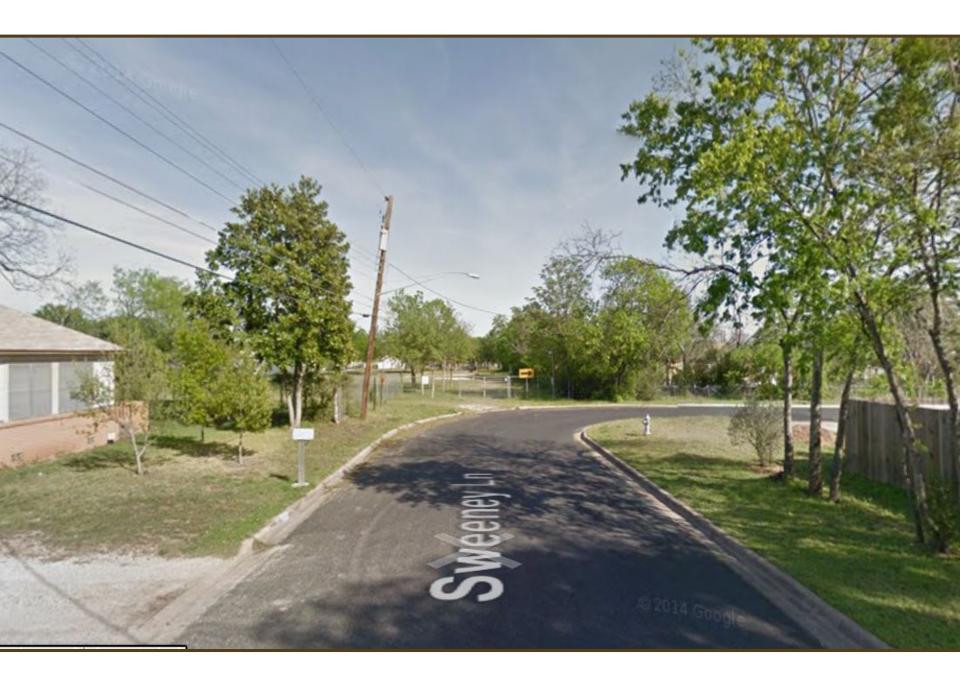
































The City's Path to Ordinance Changes

- October 2013 Initiation attempted at
 Subcommittee, blocked by charter school lobby
- August 18, 2015 Initiation successful at
 Subcommittee after neighborhood complaints
- August 25, 2015 Full Planning Commission initiation
- □ April 17, 2016 Council sets the public hearing for May 5, 2016

The City's Path to Ordinance Changes

- May 5 Council postpones to June 9
- May 17 Codes and Ordinances Subcommittee of the Planning Commission
- Stakeholder meeting
- May 24 Full Planning Commission hearing
- Stakeholder meeting
- □ June 9 City Council, 1st reading
- □ June 23 City Council, 2nd & 3rd reading; ordinance adoption.

The City's Path to Ordinance Changes









The 'Compromise'

Neighborhood "Gives"

- Increased impervious cover in some watersheds
- □ No FAR limitations

The 'Compromise'

Charter School "gives"

- Fiscal postings required
- Neighborhood Traffic Analysis required
- Compatibility applies except for screening

The 'Compromise'

City "gives"

- Agreed to shortened review timeframes
- Site plan and building permit fees waived
- Exempt from Commercial Design Standards

Questions?

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