Feedback to the city of Minneapolis 2040 Plan

While the residents have been provided an opportunity to provide feedback regarding the 98 or so “Policies”, the avenue to provide feedback regarding the so called Built-Form maps is less obvious; yet in many instances these Built Form Maps seem to directly contradict the goals of the Policies.

For example, the Policies state that Preference is to be given to walking/pedestrians, secondly to bicycles, and third to cars and other forms of motorized vehicles. However, the Built Form Maps show the intention to allow higher density housing across a large swath of the south side of the city.

The Built Form maps are incompatible not only with the policy of encouraging non-motorized transport, but also incompatible with the stated policy of having more tree canopy and green space.

In my neighborhood, new commercial buildings have been going up that are built almost right up to the sidewalks. The city routinely gives the developers waivers not only regarding setback/green space, but also regarding building heights. These waivers given by the city council seem to be given without regard for the pressures put on our traffic flow, sewer systems, police and fire departments, air and soil quality. We are paving over our green spaces and reducing our quality of life for residents Affordable housing can be achieved without reducing our green spaces and without constantly caving into the demands of developers. It is likely that Minneapolis residents who live near Lake of the Isles or Lake Bde Maka Ska do not want to turn their areas into a Centennial Lakes type neighborhoods, surrounded by (expensive) high-rise apartments and commercial buildings – and managed plantings, with no wild/natural areas.

Looking at the pictorial representation of the Interior 1 areas – which reportedly is going to be the least dense area - one sees rows of tightly packed 2.5 story houses, each almost identical to the one next to it, and pavement everywhere, with an occasional small tree - almost like an after-thought. Is this really the 2040 Plan the city of Minneapolis is wanting to adopt? How is this compatible with the stated policies?