



ROUND ROCK 2030

APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY



GLOSSARY

Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU): A dwelling unit built on a legal lot in addition to a principal dwelling unit or structure. ADUs are subordinate in size, location, and use to the principal structure. The unit may be attached or detached from the principal residence, but must meet all residential building codes, including a permanent foundation.

American Community Survey (ACS): An annual survey of a sampling of households produced by the US Census Bureau providing population characteristics, households, housing and employment data.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): A civil rights law, passed in 1990, that prohibits discrimination based on disability and guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else.

Annexation: The process by which cities extend their municipal services, regulations, voting privileges, and taxing authority to new territory.

Apartment: A self-contained dwelling unit which is located within a structure which contains three or more such units which share common walls and/or floors/ceilings with other units.

Arterial Road: Continuous routes whose function is to serve high volume needs of local traffic and regional traffic. Speeds are relatively high on arterial streets, and access is controlled by planning the locations of intersecting streets, left turn lanes, and traffic signals.

Assisted Living: A residential facility providing 24-hour care in a protected living arrangement for residents and supervisory personnel. Typical uses include nursing homes and assisted living centers, congregate living facilities for seniors, foster homes, maternity homes, and homes for the physically and mentally impaired or the developmentally disabled. Assisted living requires licensing by the state and does not include post-incarceration facilities or facilities for those who are a danger to themselves or others.

Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA): The MSA within Central Texas consisting of Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties.

Autonomous Vehicle: A vehicle in which at least some aspects of a safety-critical control function occur without direct driver input.

Bike Share: A service in which bicycles are made available for shared use to individuals on a short term basis for a price or free.

Bond: Any form of security including a cash deposit, surety bond, collateral, property or instrument of credit in an amount and form satisfactory to the City Council.

Certificate of Appropriateness (CofA): Certification confirming that a proposed alteration, relocation or demolition of a historic property is consistent with the city's Design Guidelines for Historic Properties and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Certificate of Occupancy (CO): A certificate issued by the City Building Official which certifies that a structure has been erected in accordance with all relevant adopted city codes, the issuance of which allows the occupancy of a building.

Certified Local Government (CLG) program: A program jointly administered by the National Park Service and state historic preservation offices that offers preservation support services, technical assistance and grants to local governments that have met certification requirements for a strong historic preservation program.

Chicane: A series of alternating curves or lane shifts that are located in a position to force a motorist to steer back and forth out of a straight travel path. The curvilinear path is intended to reduce vehicle speed at which a motorist is comfortable travelling through the feature.

City of Choice: The stated vision of Round Rock's *Strategic Plan* adopted in 2009 *Game On, 2060*, is to make Round Rock "the City of Choice for the Talent that will shape the future – Round Rock will be the City of Choice for entrepreneurs, business leaders, researchers, educators and members of the various creative professions who want to combine professional accomplishment and achievement with a culturally rich, recreationally and socially diverse lifestyle." Subsequent plans, policies and initiatives are shaped to implement this vision.

Code Enforcement: Duties designated to the zoning administrator to cause property owners and others responsible for buildings and related land uses to bring their properties up to standards required by building codes, housing codes and other regulations.

Collector Road: An intermediate major vehicular thoroughfare that is typically designed to carry moderate volumes of traffic from local streets to arterial streets.

Commercial Center: A multi-occupant development of retail and/or office units built as a unified project, utilizing common facilities such as off-street parking and landscaping and shared driveways and utilities.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): A program that funds local community development activities with the stated goal of providing affordable housing, anti-poverty programs, and infrastructure development through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Complete Streets: Streets designed to accommodate all modes of travel and enable safe access for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and bus riders of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across a complete street.

Comprehensive Plan (or General Plan): The planning documents and related materials officially adopted by the city, as amended, containing the goals, objectives and policies pertaining to urban growth, community facilities, housing, infrastructure, parks, transportation and other subjects related to the development of the city. Also known as the General Plan in prior years.

Condominium: A form of real property ownership that combines separate ownership of individual living units with common ownership of other elements such as land or accessory buildings.

Connectivity: The ease of travel between two points. The degree to which streets or areas are interconnected and easily accessible to one another by direct routes.

Coworking: The use of an office or other working environment by people who are self-employed or working for different employers, typically so as to share equipment, ideas, and knowledge.

Decennial Census: Census conducted every 10 years as required by the US Constitution for the purpose of political redistricting. The decennial Census counts every individual, not a sample.

Density: The amount of development per acre permitted on a parcel under the applicable zoning. Common measures of density include population per square mile, dwelling units per acre or square feet of retail space per acre.

Decibel: The unit of measurement for sound pressure at a specific location.

Developed: A lot that has a fully constructed building or other site improvements, such as parking, whether occupied or not.

Development Agreement: A legally binding agreement between two or more parties detailing the obligations of the parties pertaining to a specific property or development and frequently containing provisions or requirements not contained with the code of ordinances or development code.

Development Review: Staff and/or commission review of proposed development projects to ensure that all development standards are met before a building or construction permit may be issued.

Development Standards: Building and site design criteria that a proposed development project must meet before a permit may be issued.

Diverging Diamond: A road design, usually used at the intersection of arterial roads and freeways, in which the two directions of traffic on the non-freeway road cross to the opposite side on both sides of the bridge at the freeway in order to improve traffic flow by reducing the number of traffic signals for vehicles on the arterial.

Duplex: Two dwelling units in a single structure.

Dwelling Unit: A building or portion of it designed and used for residential occupancy by a single household and that includes exclusive sleeping, cooking, eating and sanitation facilities. The term "dwelling unit" does not include hotels, motels, lodging houses, sheds or similar accessory structures, campers or camp trailers, any recreational vehicle, or vehicle or portable structure having no permanent foundation other than wheels, jacks, or skirtings.

Easement: A legal right to use another owner's land for a specific purpose such as the construction of utilities, drainage ways, and roadways. An easement is recorded in the property deed and is passed on to future owners.

E-Commerce: Commercial transactions conducted electronically on the internet.

Entitlement: The right to a develop a parcel of land in a particular way, which is secured by zoning, future land use designation, or a development agreement with the local government.

Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ): The unincorporated area that is contiguous to the city limits and that is located within a certain distance of that boundary as specified by the Texas Local Government Code.

Floodplain: That area defined as having a specific risk of flooding in any given year as designated on the Flood Insurance Study (FIS), as prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Form-Based Design Standards: Design standards that are part of a zoning ordinance or other regulating plan that emphasize the physical form of a structure/project rather than the land uses allowed within that structure or site.

Future Land Use Map (FLUM): A map illustrating the general location and area of different land use categories within the current city limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), guiding both zoning and infrastructure decisions.

Gateway Feature: A feature that emphasizes the entrance to an area with a particular identity, such as a historic district, housing subdivision, etc.

General Plan: *See Comprehensive Plan.*

Green Building: Building practices and materials that are more energy-efficient and/or less environmentally damaging than conventional construction.

Greenfield: Land which has not been developed and therefore contains no development-imposed constraints.

Historic Landmark: An individual structure and/or site considered historically significant and that is legally designated as such with the application of H (Historic Overlay) zoning.

Historic Integrity: The degree to which a historic property retains physical evidence of the past and has not been altered in ways that detract from its original character.

Impact Fee: A fee charged by local governments to developers as a total or partial reimbursement for the cost of providing additional public facilities or services needed as a result of new development.

Improvement (Public): Any built feature, facility or service, together with its associated public site, right-of-way or easement, necessary to provide transportation, drainage, public or private utilities, parks or recreational areas, energy, or similar essential public services and facilities.

Infill Development: Development or redevelopment of vacant or underutilized land within areas that are already mostly developed, taking advantage of existing infrastructure.

Infrastructure: Public services and facilities including sewage-disposal systems, water-supply systems, other utility systems, roads, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and parks.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS): Applications of advanced communications, computers and sensing equipment used to collect real-time information about a transportation conditions in order to improve efficiency, safety, and service.

Landscape: The improvement and enhancement of an area of land with any combination and placement of plant material (trees, shrubs, vines, groundcover, turf, or flowers), natural elements (berms, rocks, stones, boulders, or water) and/or structural features (not limited to walkways, walls, fences, pools, fountains, outdoor art work, or benches).

Lot: A single, legally created parcel of land intended as a unit for transfer of ownership or for development and having frontage on a dedicated street.

Livability: The degree to which the overall built environment facilitates daily life.

Live/Work Unit: A structure with a combination of uses where work activities associated with the operations of a business or trade occur as allowed in the zoning district, and includes a dwelling unit for the occupant. Such units shall have only one kitchen, at least one bathroom, and shall be occupied by the person operating the business.

Local Road: Local streets give access to smaller, often destination-oriented areas, such as neighborhoods, subdivisions or local business districts. Pedestrian activity can be expected to be higher on local streets, while traffic volumes are lower, so lower speed limits are appropriate.

Location Criteria: Criteria that must be met for locating a particular land use in a certain zoning district.

Masonry: A type of construction or veneer made up of natural or man-made brick, stone, or glass products laid unit by unit and set in mortar.

Median Household Income: The household income value for which half of households in a specified area have greater household income and half have less.

Median Home Price: For a given area, the purchase price at which half of homes cost more and half cost less.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): An agreement between two or more parties outlining the intent of each party to meet certain obligations. MOUs are not legally binding but are typically followed some time later by a development agreement or contract which ties the parties to their obligations. MOUs are created when the two parties agree to enter a business relationship but still have to work out the details of the relationship.

Micromobility: Compact devices designed for personal mobility which do not have a license plate, including scooters, skateboards, and other devices.

Mid-Rise Apartments: Apartment buildings between four and twelve stories, tall enough to require elevators and too tall for wood frame construction.

Missing Middle: A range of mid-density housing types that are compatible in scale with single-family neighborhoods, including duplexes, fourplexes, accessory dwelling units (ADUs), bungalow courts, etc. Building more missing middle housing is seen as a way to preserve a residential neighborhood scale while increasing unit density to support a more walkable environment and increase affordable housing.

Mixed-Use: The combining of complementary residential and commercial uses in the same building, on the same site, or on the same block.

Mobility: The ability to move freely and easily. In the context of transportation planning, the ability to efficiently from one location to another using a range of transportation modes.

Multifamily: A general term for housing with multiple dwelling units per building on one parcel of land, such as apartments or condominiums. Unit densities vary considerably.

Multimodal: Using more than one mode of transportation to reach a destination.

Municipal Utility District (MUD): A political subdivision of the State of Texas authorized by the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to provide water, sewage, drainage and other utility-related services within the MUD boundaries.

NOAA Atlas 14: A historical rainfall study produced by the National Weather Service. The study shows that Central Texas is more likely to experience larger storms than previously thought and severe flooding is also more likely.

Office: The use of a building or a portion of a building for the provision of executive, consulting, professional, management, or administrative services.

Open Space: Land within or related to a development, not individually owned or dedicated for public use that is designed and intended for the common use or enjoyment of the residents of the development.

Parklet: A small park-like area included as part of a streetscape.

Permit: An official document or certificate issued by the authority having jurisdiction, authorizing performance of a specified activity.

Placemaking: Actions that improve a location's sense of place, usually through the accumulation of many incremental projects or activities.

Planned Unit Development (PUD): A zoning district unique to one or more properties containing single or mixed-use as approved in the PUD's adopting ordinance, and which typically contains alternative development standards not accommodated by strict interpretation of a base zoning district.

Platting: The subdivision of a land parcel into separate legal lots. The plat document includes streets, easements, utility corridors, building setbacks and any other legal encumbrances.

Preserve America Community: A designation program that recognizes communities that protect and celebrate their heritage; use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization; and encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs.

Redevelopment: Construction activities that result in a significant modification to a previously developed site. Any one of the following activities will be considered redevelopment: (1) Replacing a previously demolished building with a newly constructed building; (2) Demolishing a parking lot and replacing it with a newly constructed parking lot; or (3) The removal and replacement of water and wastewater utilities to serve a more intense development.

Retrofit: To add materials and/or devices to an existing building or system to improve its operation, safety, or efficiency. Retrofitting usually involves making significant modifications to accommodate a part or system that it was not originally designed to include.

Revitalization: Measures taken to improve the economic prospects of a given area. While redevelopment refers to the physical reinvention/repurposing of an area, revitalization also includes non-material interventions such as business support and promotion or social services.

Rideshare: A car service with which a person uses a smartphone app to arrange a ride in a usually privately owned vehicle.

Right-of-Way (ROW): A strip of land acquired by reservation, dedication, prescription, or condemnation and intended to be occupied by a street, trail, water line, sanitary sewer, and/or other public utilities or facilities.

Real Terms: A monetary value that has been adjusted to account for inflation.

Round Rock Development Code (RDC): The zoning and development standards contained in the city's Code of Ordinances which is a collection of all of a city or other jurisdiction's official laws, procedures, administrative responsibilities, the appointment and duties of boards and commissions, and so on.

Senior Housing: Housing that is occupied solely by seniors; or that houses at least one person who is age 55 or older in at least 80 percent of the total number of residential units, and which adheres to a policy that demonstrates an intent to house persons who are 55 years of age or older. Sometimes referred to as independent living or age-restricted housing.

Sense of Place: The feeling that a particular location has a unique identity, distinct from anyplace else. This is partly the result of physical landscape or building features, but also influenced by events, culture, and history.

Setback: The horizontal distance between the front, side, or rear property line and the closest portion of a building on a lot.

Sierzega Unit: Equipment used to measure traffic speed and volume.

Single-Family: A single dwelling unit located by itself on a single lot with no other dwelling units attached.

Single-Family Garden Style: A type of development in which single-family dwelling units are arranged around a system of private access drives and which contains amenities for the residents.

Single-Loaded Street: A street with buildings on one side and designated open space on the other.

Stormwater: The runoff or flow of water caused by rainfall. Unlike wastewater systems, stormwater management systems do not treat stormwater before it is discharged into local waterways.

Streetscape: The overall impression created by all aspects of a street's design and construction; how close buildings are to the street, whether there are sidewalks, bike lanes, landscaping, the speed of traffic, how compact or spread out its features are, and so on.

Stub Street: A temporary street ending that may eventually connect to a future subdivision, or arterial or collector street.

Subdivision: An area of land divided into legal lots for sale recorded in a plat document identifying streets, easements, utility corridors, building setbacks and any other legal encumbrances.

Sustainable Development: A pattern of physical development and resource use that aims to meet human needs while preserving the environment, often stated as development meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Texas Local Government Code: Codes of legal conduct for each type of local government in Texas, defining each government's powers and limitations.

Townhouse: A residential structure consisting of three or more dwelling units sharing one or more wall(s) with an abutting unit, each unit occupying space from ground to roof and having front and rear walls open directly to the outside for access.

Transit: The conveyance of persons or goods from one place to another by means of a local or regional public transportation system.

Utility (Public): An enterprise which provides to the public a utility service deemed necessary for the public health, safety and welfare; and includes all buildings, structures and facilities relating thereto.

Walkable: Places that are designed to make walking a safe, efficient and attractive means of travel.

Walk-Up Multifamily: A multifamily development consisting of two-or-three-story apartment buildings without elevators, in which each unit is accessed by a shared protected exterior stairwell or breezeway.

Wastewater: Solids, liquids, or gaseous materials discharged into an approved wastewater collection and treatment system.

Water Conservation: Actions that prevent the waste of water, promote the most efficient use of water, and apply the least amount of water that is required to maintain healthy individual plant material or turf, reduce dust, and control erosion.

Xeriscaping: Landscaping that requires little or no irrigation.

Zoning: A municipal power in which the community is divided into districts or zones within which permitted and special uses are established as are regulations governing lot size, building bulk, placement, and other development standards.