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## Ashby high-rise deal on the table

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As the moratorium on Buckhead Investments' agreement not to pursue permits passed Friday, the developers said discussion of a new compromise will stop them from being "proactive" concerning the Ashby high-rise project for the time being.

"We have a proposal on the table that we have shown to selected elected officials," Matthew Morgan said with the two-week agreement hours from ending. "We haven't heard (anything) yet."

The developers would not say whether the compromise would make the project drastically smaller than originally planned.

Two days earlier, at a Houston City Council meeting, Mayor Bill White presented three clarifications of a decades-old driveways ordinance that he said would disallow the 23-story project at 1717 Bissonnet St. from being built, even without a new traffic ordinance.

Neither Morgan nor his partner, Kevin Kirton, wished to comment on the city's action.

Kirton, however, said of a pending foundation permit, "So long as we feel like the compromise is being considered, we are not going to be proactive in getting a response from the city."

The developers said they do not have a timetable concerning how long the compromise can be discussed, but, Morgan said, "If we haven't heard soon, we will move ahead with our current plans.

Reasonably soon is when we need to hear back."

White said in a memorandum

that developments falling into certain categories will undergo "more intense scrutiny" as a result of the driveway ordinance being applied.

Affected proposed projects would be those with driveways leading to

local streets rather than thoroughfares, those in which 60 percent of the property is within 500 feet of residences and those that attract 50 additional vehicles during peak hours.

The city has delayed action on an ordinance designed to provide traffic relief to residential areas caused by high-rise developments at least through July 1 in order to receive public comments on traffic relief.