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Houston Mayor Bill White said it is in the public's interest for Houston to encourage a range of living options, including mid-rise condos, for residents who wish to live within city limits.

Citing overall congestion concerns, White said if residents can live closer to their jobs, traffic flow would be eased as Houston develops.

"I like the idea of a pedestrian plaza. I do wonder why we always, in the city of Houston, build and encourage development around the car."