



City of Jonesboro Metropolitan Area Planning Commission
Staff Report – RZ 21-05 4503 Southwest Drive
Municipal Center - 300 S. Church St.
For Consideration by the City Council on April 20, 2021

REQUEST: To consider a rezoning of one tract of land containing 1.76 acres more or less.

PURPOSE: A request to consider recommendation to Council for a rezoning from “R-1” Single Family Residential to “C-3” General Commercial.

APPLICANTS Debra Mangrum, 4503 Southwest Drive, Jonesboro, AR 72404
Tom Kirksey, 4503 Southwest Drive, Jonesboro, AR 72404

LOCATION: 4503 Southwest Drive, Jonesboro, AR 72404

SITE DESCRIPTION: **Tract Size:** Approx. 1.76 Acres
Street Frontage: 199.03 ft. – SW Drive, 386.12 ft.- Stillwater Drive
Topography: Slight Slope Hill toward House
Existing Development: Residential House

SURROUNDING CONDITIONS:

| ZONE | LAND USE |
|--------------|--|
| North | R-1 Single Family Residential - C-3 General Commercial District |
| South | R-1 Single Family Residential |
| East | R-1 Single Family Residential – C-3 General Commercial District LUO |
| West | R-1 Single Family Residential |

HISTORY: Land was Residential and House was built in the 1960’s.

ZONING ANALYSIS:

City Planning Staff has reviewed the proposed Zone Change and offers the following findings:

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN LAND USE MAP:

The Current/Future Land Use Map recommends this location as High Intensity Growth Sector and is in the Overlay District. A wider mix of land uses is appropriate in the **High Intensity Growth Sector**. From Multi-Family to fast food to Class A office space to outdoor display/highway oriented businesses like automotive dealerships, because they will be located in areas where sewer service is readily available and transportation facilities are equipped to handle the traffic. The proposed rezoning is consistent with the adopted Land Use Plan for the proposed zoning.

HIGH INTENSITY GROWTH SECTORS - RECOMMENDED USE TYPES INCLUDE:

- *Regional Shopping Centers*
- *Automotive Dealerships*
- *Outdoor Display Retail*
- *Fast Food Restaurants*
- *Multi-Family*
- *Service Stations*
- *Commercial and Office*
- *Call Centers*
- *Research and Development*
- *Medical*
- *Banks*
- *Big Box Commercial*
- *Hotel*

DENSITY: *Multi-Family 8 – 14 Dwelling Units Per Acre*

Multi-Family should only be allowed on collector and above streets that have been improved or scheduled to be improved in the next construction cycle of city projects unless the developer is willing to build the roads to Master Street Plan standers that serve the development.

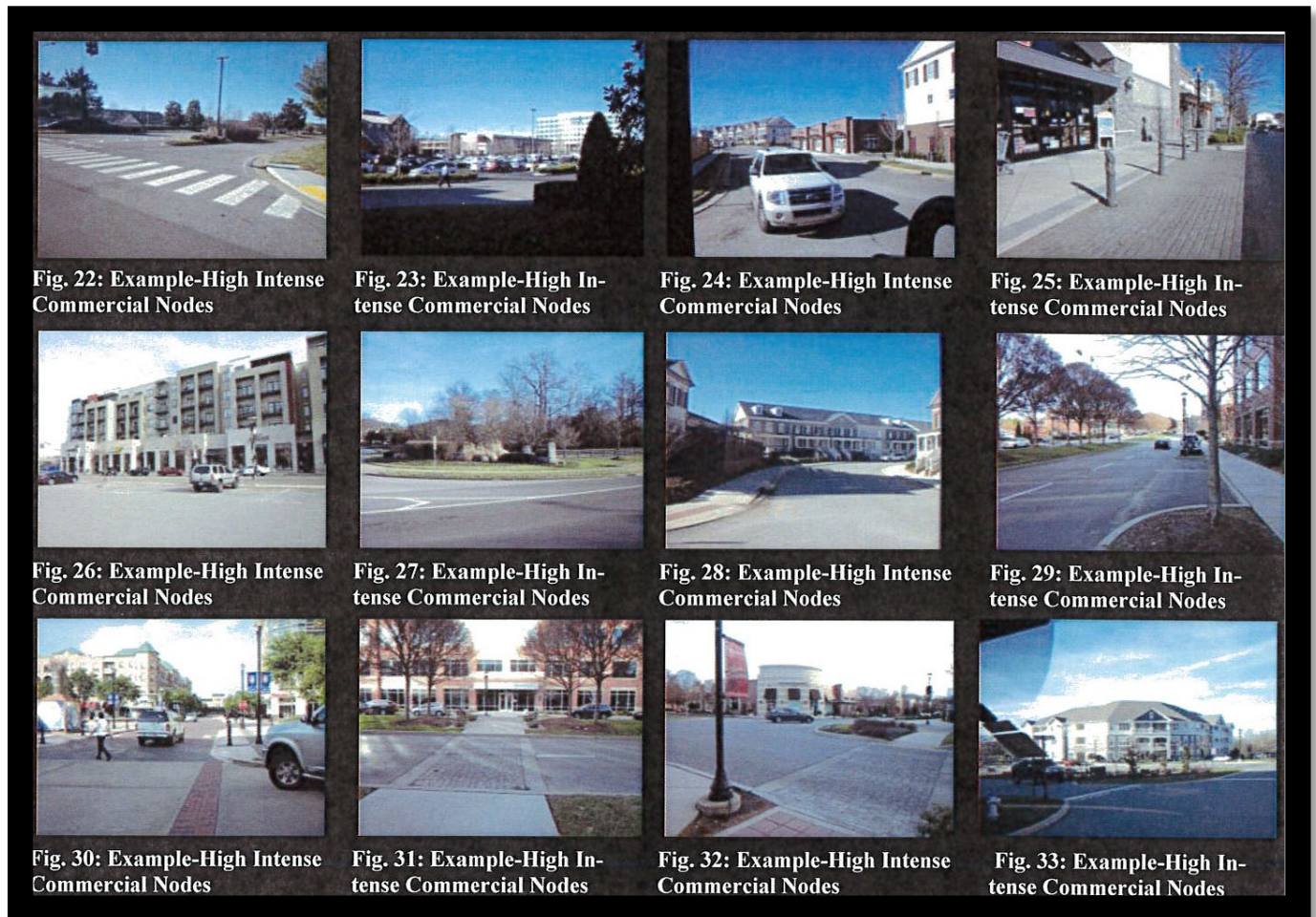
HEIGHT: *150 Feet*

TRAFFIC: *This will be located along arterial streets with high traffic volume.*

EXAMPLES:



The Sections Identified on the land use map as High Intensity consist primarily of areas where High Intensity Uses are already in place and strip development is common.



However, future strip development is discouraged, to be replaced by what the Urban Land Institute calls “pulsed nodes of development,” that are areas of mixed-use residential and commercial development interspersed with stretches of low-intensity land uses or open space as shown below.

High Intensity Commercial Nodes may contain most of the land uses listed under High Intensity, but they are to be clustered in 40-200 acre developments or combinations of developments situated within a 1/4-1/3 mile radius of the intersection of arterial roadways. Use of high quality materials, good design, on-street parking, landscaping, and open spaces will be key features of developments contained in these nodes. Good connectivity for bicycle and pedestrian transportation will be featured, as well as appropriately placed bus stops.

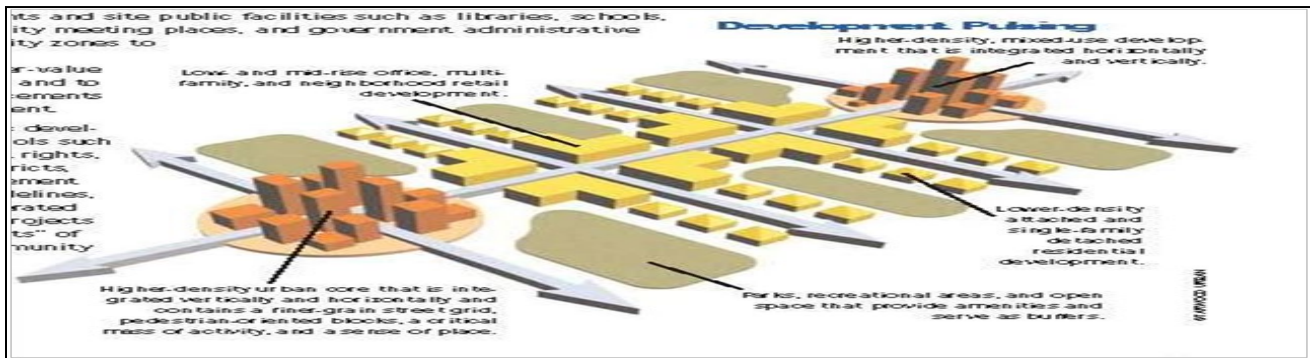
Typical Land Uses:

- *Multi-family*
- *Attached single family residential*
- *Retail*
- *Medical and Professional, Banks*
- *Commercial, Office, and Service*
- *Hotel*

Density: *6-14 units per acre for Multi-family*

Height: *150 feet*

Traffic: *This will be located along arterial streets with a high traffic.*



Definition: An Overlay District is hereby established within the city consistent with the objectives of the Land Use Plan adopted by the City. The overlay corridors are the main entryways” into the City of Jonesboro. These access points define how people perceive the City of Jonesboro when coming into our city. As the main entry points these areas should show the best of what Jonesboro has to offer. The purpose of the Overlay District is to protect and enhance the scenic quality of the City’s highways and primary corridors designated below, create design stands for developments, and provide effective land use planning and facilitate traffic flow.

Overlay areas: The following streets will be defined as overlay areas into the City of Jonesboro. These overlay areas will run along the listed streets and shall be adjacent to the streets for a distance of 300 feet from the street right-of-way. If a portion of the property falls within the boundary of the overlay area, the whole property will be held to the requirements of the overlay area.

Southwest Drive (Hwy 18/49) from West City Limits to Culberhouse Road

I-555/Hwy 63 the entire length inside the city limits of Jonesboro

West Washington from I-555 to Gee Street

Stadium Drive (Hwy 1) from city limits to I-555

Red Wolf from I-555 to Johnson

Nettleton from South city limits to Red Wolf

Johnson from North city limits to Red Wolf

Dan Avenue (Hwy 91) from Hwy 63 to Gee Street

Highland (Hwy 18) East city limits to Red Wolf

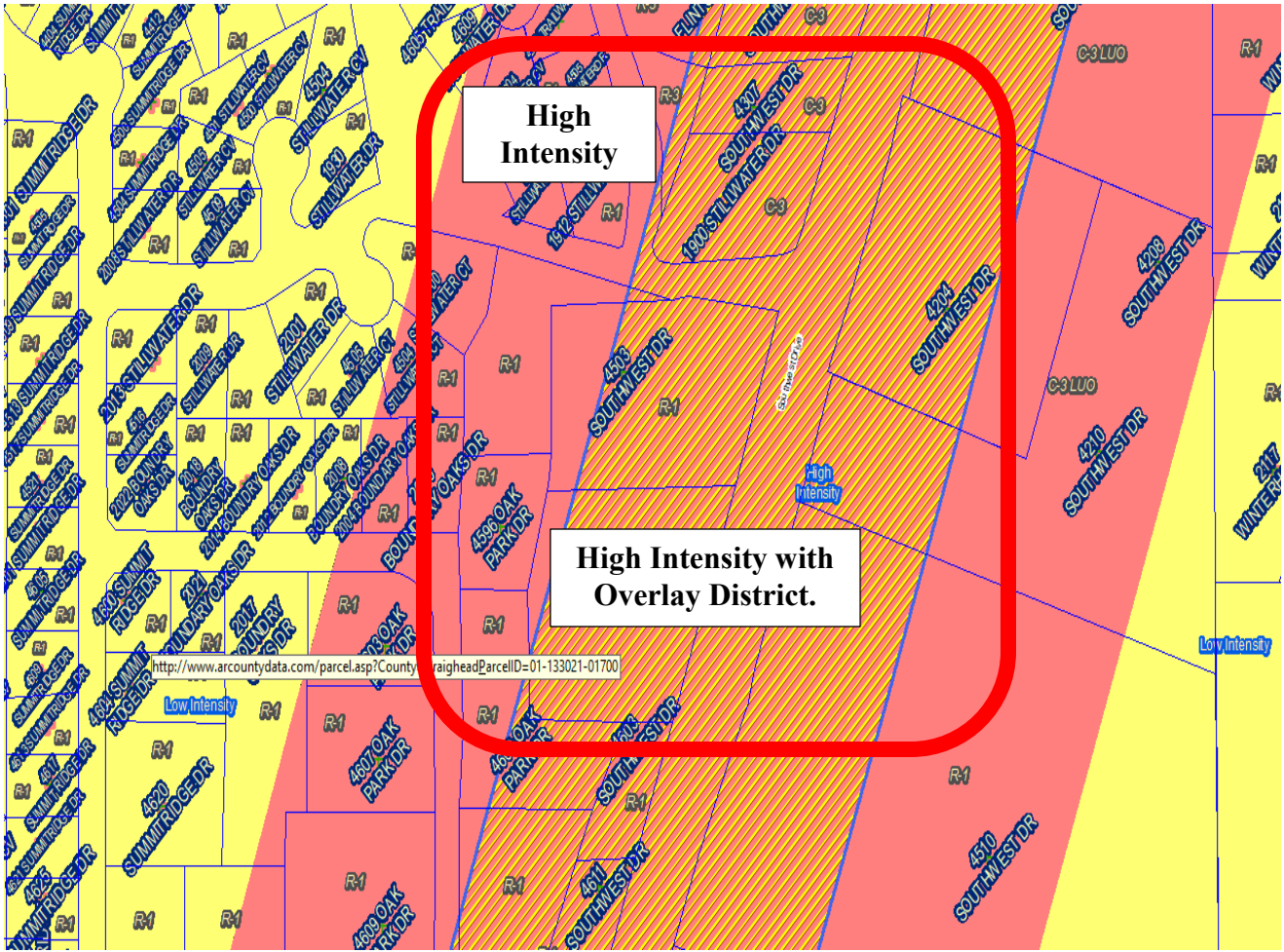
Church (Hwy 141) from North city limits to Johnson

Old Greensboro Road (Hwy 351) North city limits to Johnson (Hwy 49)

Landscape: In addition to the requirements for landscaping in the City of Jonesboro, the property inside the overlay, corridors will be required to add additional landscape. Buffers Yards: All area will be required to have front, rear, and side buffers yards. Front shall be 25' grass vegetative buffer. Side yards shall be 10' grass vegetative buffer, Rear yards shall be 10' grass vegetative buffer, and exterior side yards shall be 15' of vegetative buffer. In addition to the buffer areas, the front and exterior side yards shall have trees planted on 25-foot centers. Tree species to be planted within these corridors should be consist of plants that are native to the area.

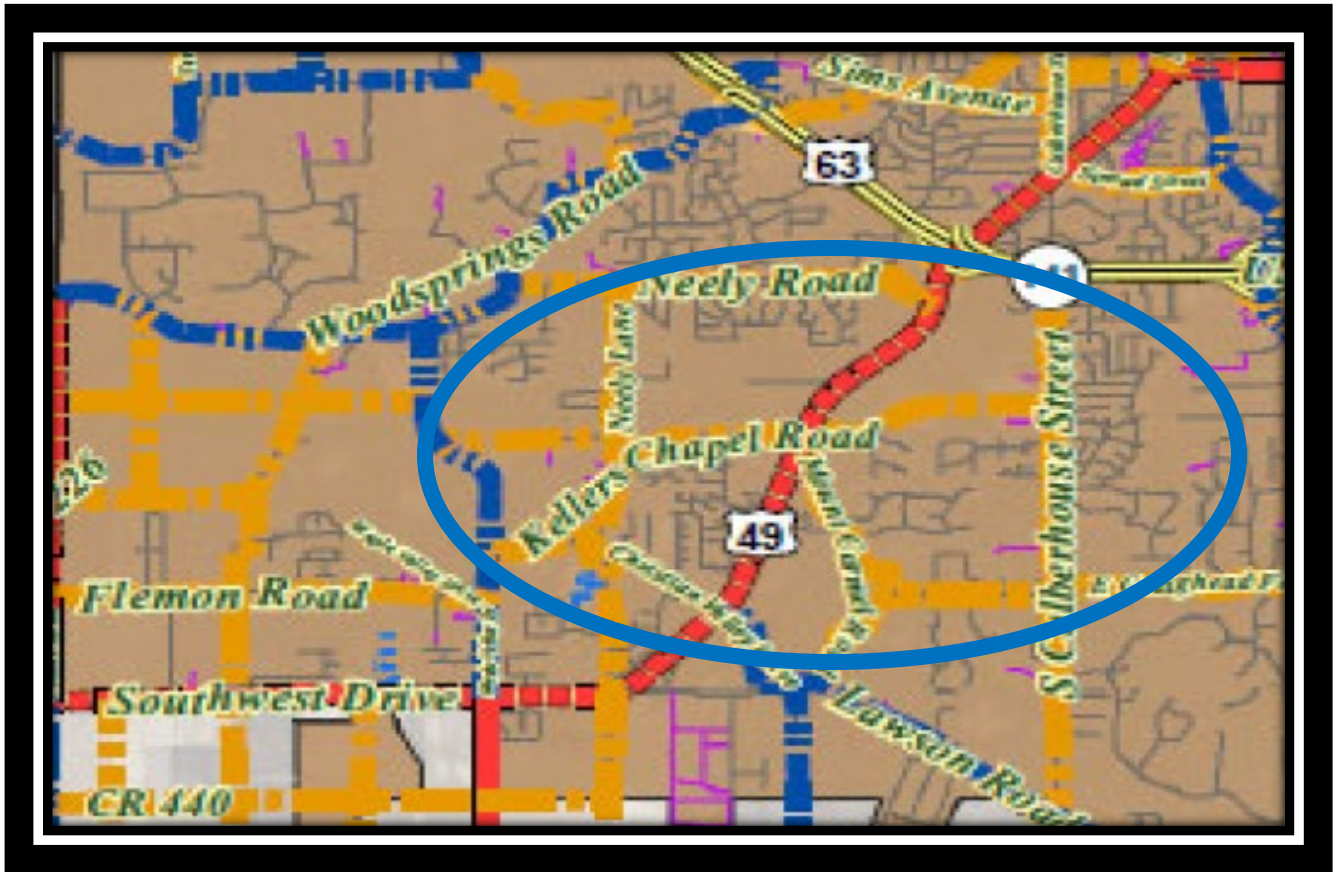
Signage: Monument signs shall be the only type of signage allowed off the buildings in the Overlay District. The monument sign shall be ground mounted and match the architectural features of the building. The maximum height of the monument shall be eight feet in height for a single tenant building, and twelve feet in height for a multi-tenant building. The advertising area of the sign cannot contain over 50 percent of the sign face as changeable copy. Changeable copy can be static or LED but cannot be flashing, rotating, or distracting to "motorists" and/or "road users". Signs shall be limited to no more than one sign per lot unless the lot width is greater than 300'. If greater than 300', the lot may be allowed an additional monument sign for every 300' of frontage.

Design Requirements: All new buildings within the Overlay District shall be required to have exterior features of at least 80% brick, wood or stone. Glass, architectural metals and stucco should only be used as accent features for the building. If parking lots are located in the fronts of the buildings, they should include landscaping islands at a ratio of one island for every ten parking spaces. All parking lot lighting within the overlay district shall be limited to full cutoff fixtures with a pole height not to exceed 18 feet. There shall be no light spillage onto adjacent property within this district.



Land Use Plan

MASTER STREET PLAN/TRANSPORTATION



Master Street Plan Map

Master Street Plan/Transportation

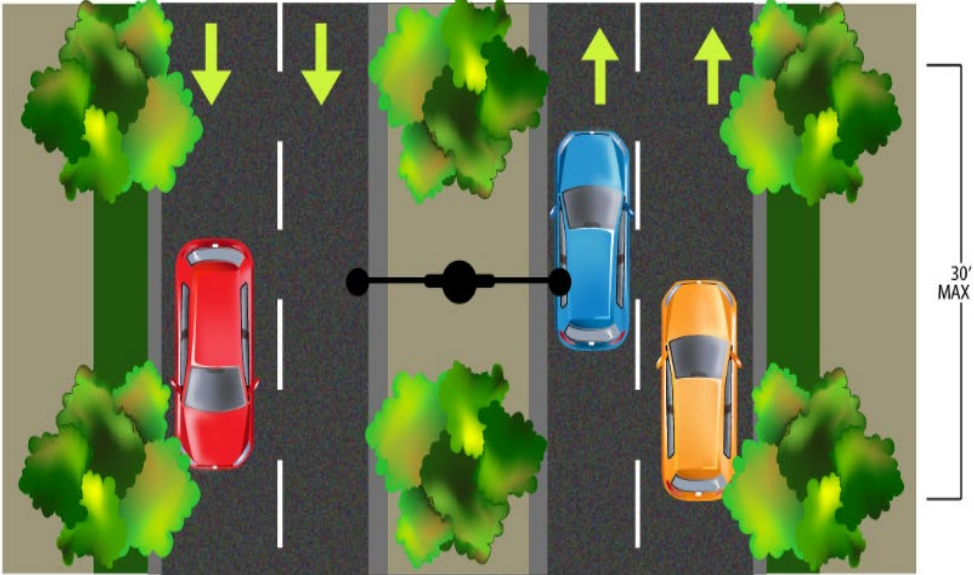
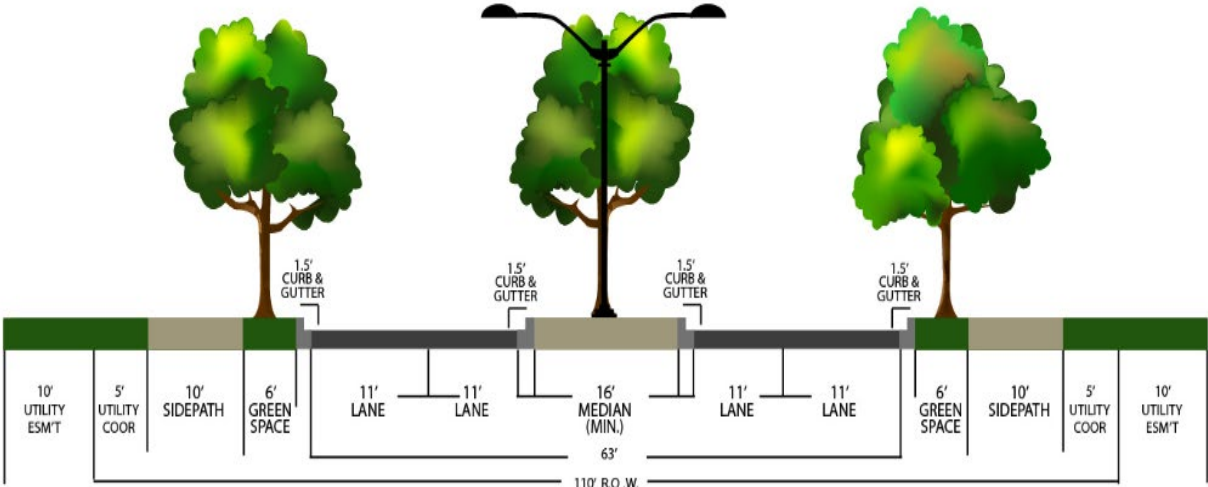
The subject property is served by Southwest Drive and Stillwater Drive. Stadium Blvd on the Master Street Plan is classified a Principal Arterial. Principal Arterials provide both long distance connections through the urban areas and to major traffic generators within the community. Roadways are designated principal arterials to imply the need to focus more on moving traffic rather than providing direct access to adjacent land. Stillwater Drive is classified as a local Street. The Local Street function is to provide access to adjacent property. The movement of traffic is a secondary purpose. The use of a Local Street in a residential area by heavy trucks and buses should be minimized. The standard Local Street is to be used in all cases.

The primary function of a Principal Arterial is to serve through traffic and to connect major traffic generators or activity centers within an urbanized area. Since these roads are designed for through traffic and are generally located three or more miles apart, dedication of additional right-of-way is required to allow for future expansion to four through lanes plus left and right turn lanes. At intersections with Collector Streets or other Arterials (principal or minor), additional right-of-way may be required if the anticipated turning movements warrant extra lanes.

DESIGN: The standard Principal Arterial is to be used in all cases except where City Staff and the MAPC find that an unusual condition occurs. In such cases, the Other Principal Arterial Design Option provided in this section may be used. Cross-section selection shall be based on traffic impact analysis. Design in accordance with AASHTO policy on Geometric design of highways and streets (current edition).

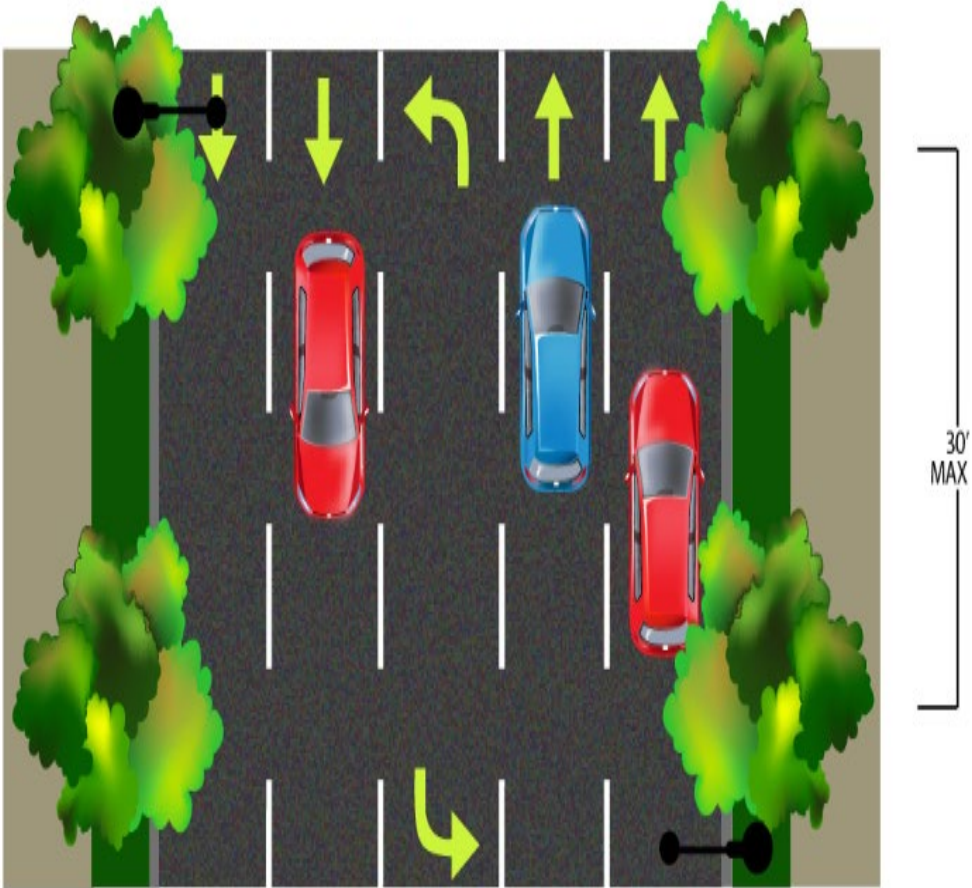
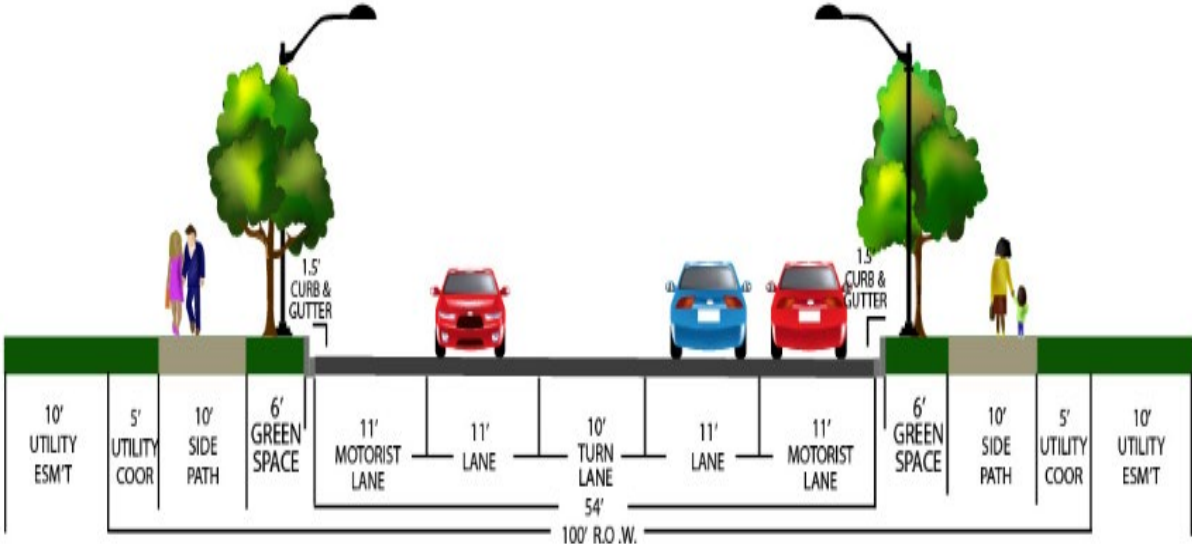
Note: Where VPD is >12,000 and speed is ≥ 35 mph principal cross section should be utilized.

PRINCIPAL ARTERIAL STREET 1
VPD > 12,000



PRINCIPAL ARTERIAL STREET 2

Existing Routes

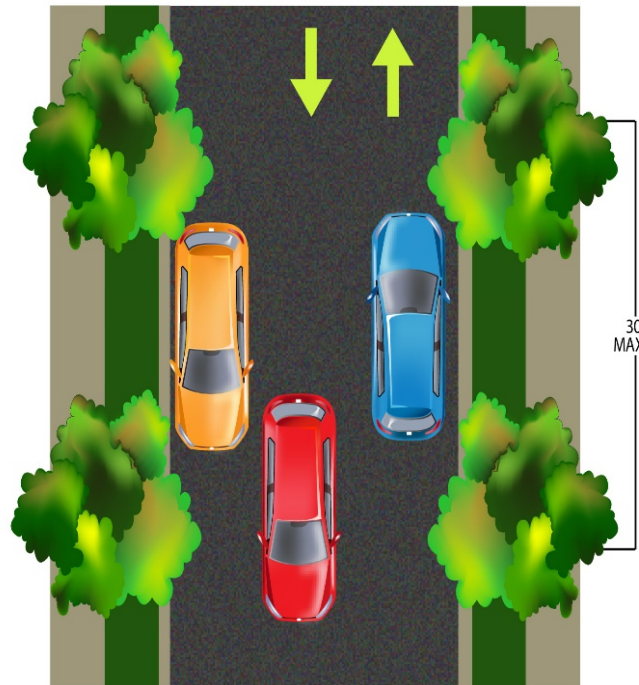
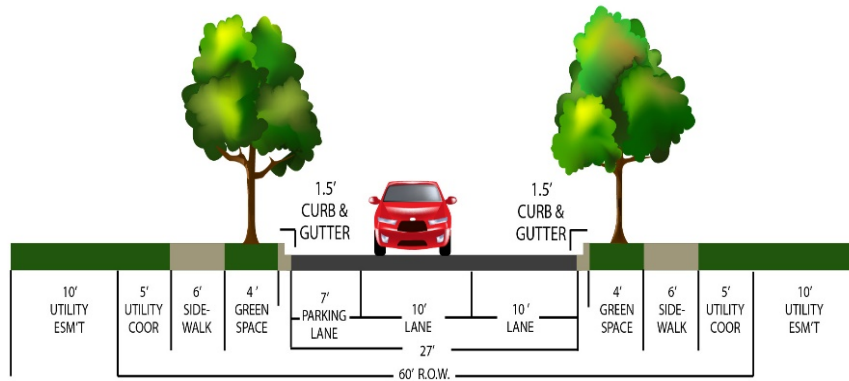


The Local Street function is to provide access to adjacent property. The movement of traffic is a secondary purpose. The use of a Local Street in a residential area by heavy trucks and buses should be minimized.

DESIGN: Local Street Option 1 is to be used when on-street parking is provided within the development. Option 2 is to be used when on-street parking is not provided within the development. Option 3 is to be used in commercial mixed-use areas.

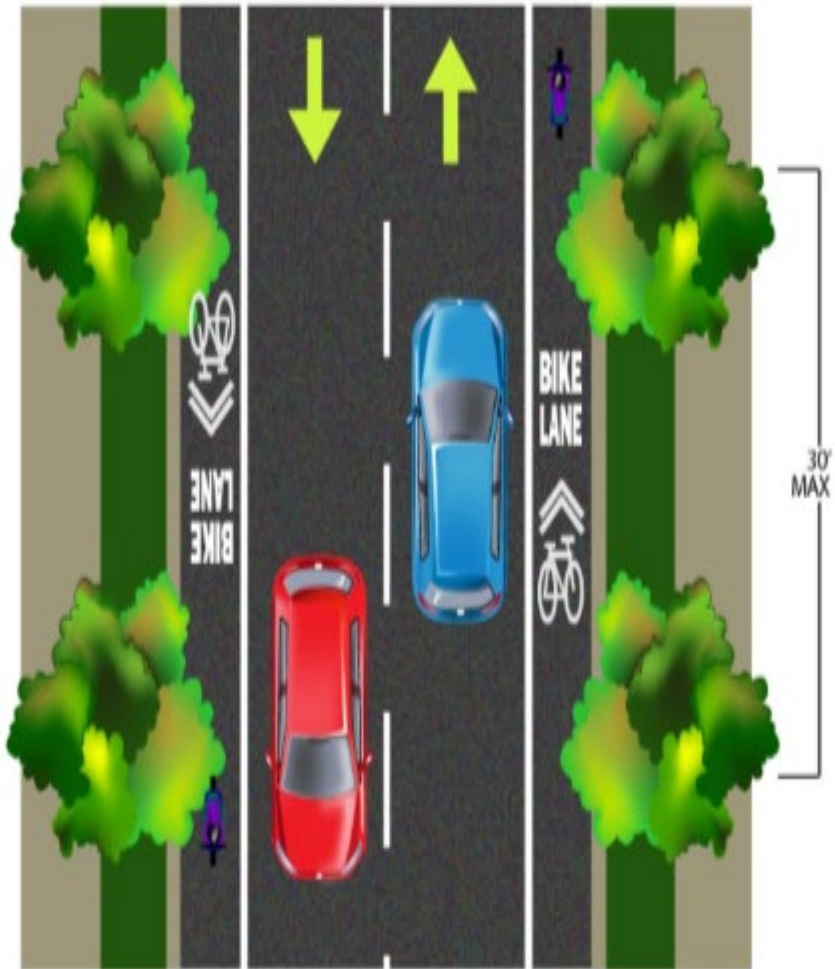
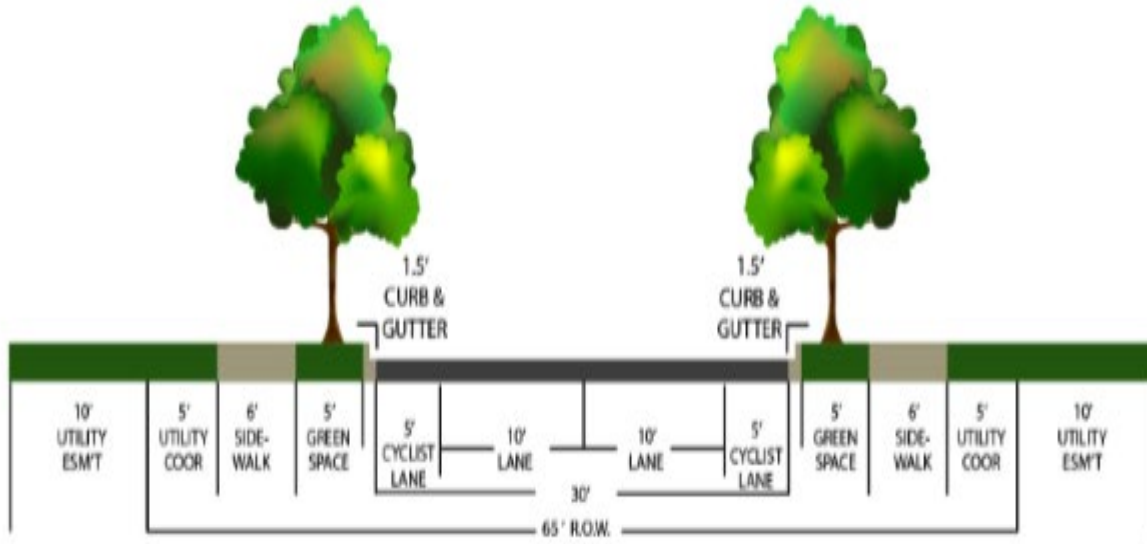
Note: Where VPD is < 3,000 or speed is < 25 mph, bikes may share the travel lanes.

LOCAL STREETS OPTION 1
VPD < 3,000

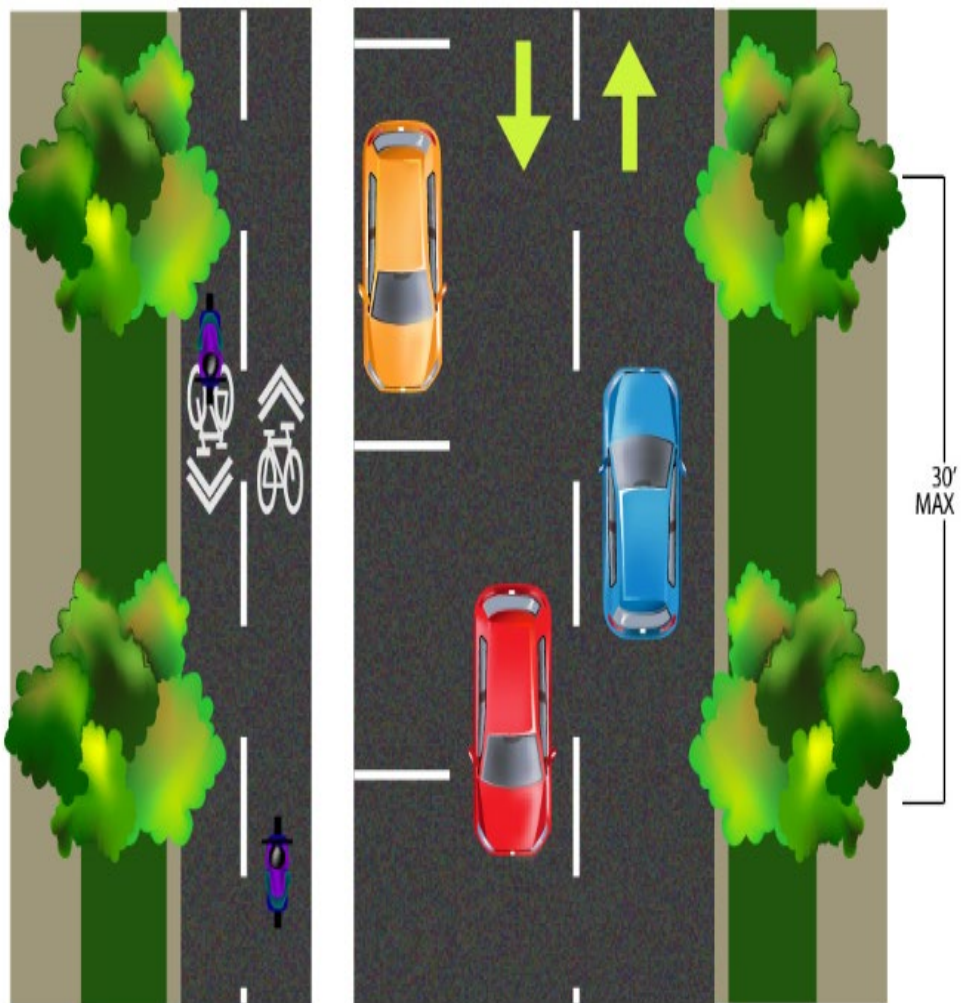
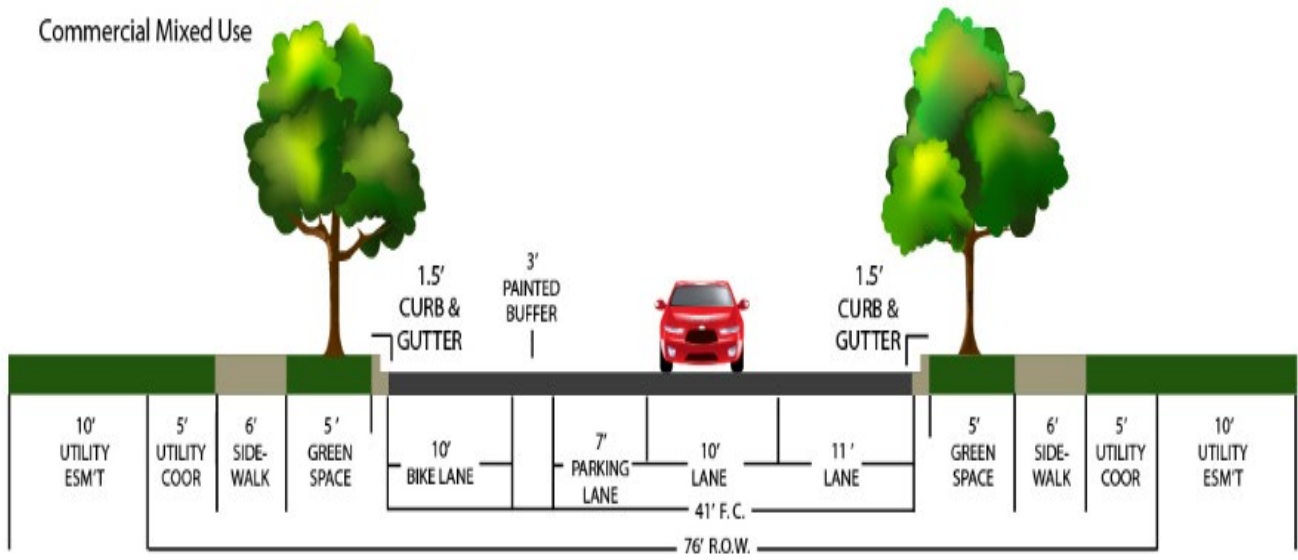


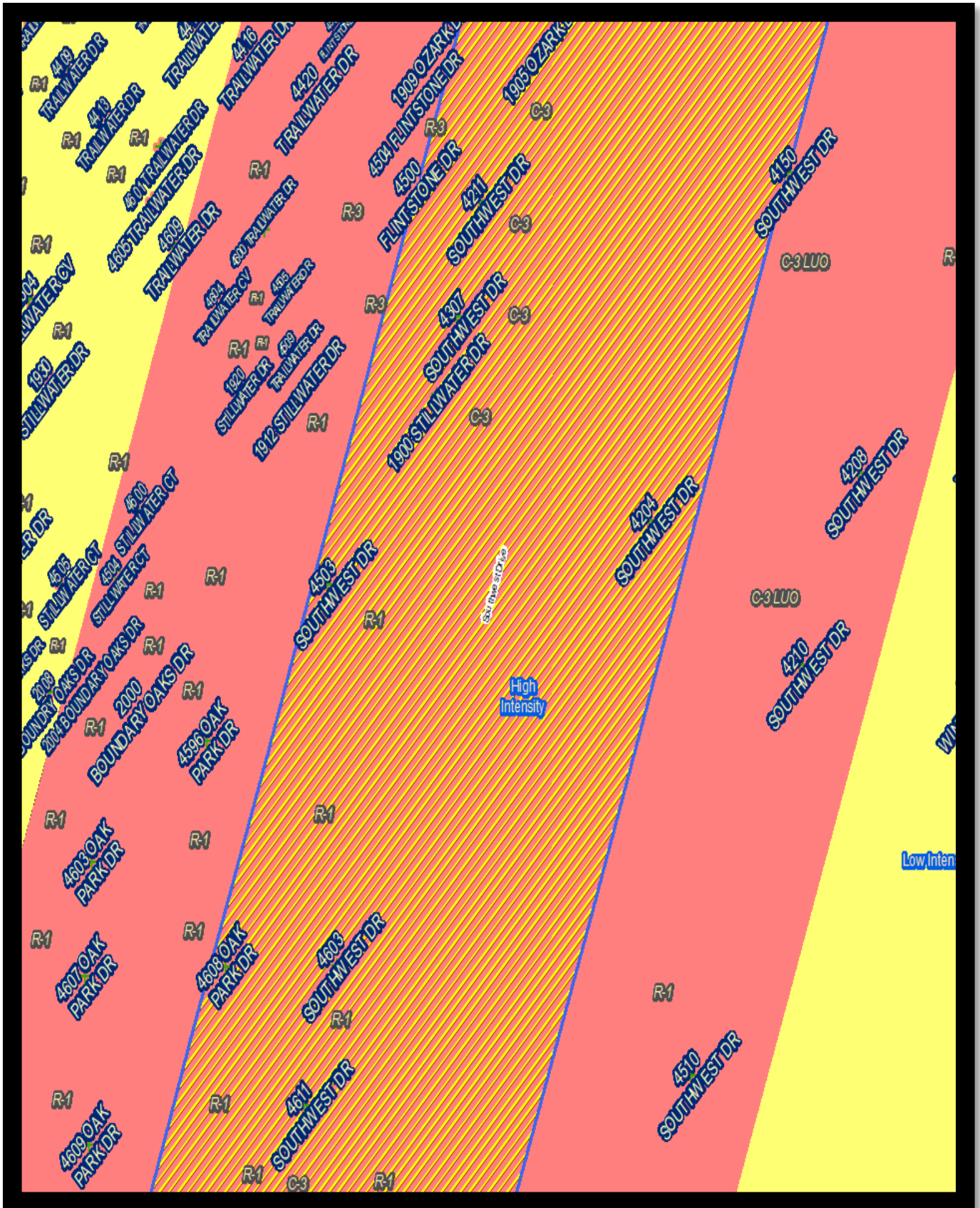
Note: Where VPD is < 3,000 and speed is < 25 mph bikes may share the travel lanes.

LOCAL STREETS OPTION 2



LOCAL STREETS OPTION 3
Commercial Mixed Use











Zoning Map

Approval Criteria- Chapter 117 - Amendments:

The criteria for approval of a rezoning are set out below. Not all of the criteria must be given equal consideration by the MAPC or City Council in reaching a decision. The criteria to be considered shall include, but not be limited to the following list on the next page.

| Criteria | Explanations and Findings | Comply Y/N |
|---|--|---|
| (a) Consistency of the proposal with the Comprehensive Plan/Land Use Map | The proposed district rezoning is consistent with the Adopted Land Use Plan, which was categorized as a High Intensity Growth Sector and lies in the Overlay District. |  |
| (b) Consistency of the proposal with the purpose of Chapter 117-Zoning. | The proposal will achieve consistency with the purpose of Chapter 117, with compliance of all District standards. |  |
| (c) Compatibility of the proposal with the zoning, uses and character of the surrounding area. | Compatibility is achieved with this rezoning considering there are C-3 General Commercial Zoning in this area. |  |
| (d) Suitability of the subject property for the uses to which it has been restricted without the proposed zoning map amendment; | Without the proposed zoning map amendment, this property will not develop as anything other than residential. |  |
| (e) Extent to which approval of the proposed rezoning will detrimentally affect nearby property including, but not limited to, any impact on property value, traffic, drainage, visual, odor, noise, light, vibration, hours of use/operation and any restriction to the normal and customary use of the affected property; | No detrimental or adverse impacts are predicted, if proper planning is implemented. Commercial is located near and around this property. |  |
| (f) Impact of the proposed development on community facilities and services, including those related to utilities, streets, drainage, parks, open space, fire, police, and emergency medical services | Minimal impact if rezoned due to the fact that businesses and residential currently exist in this area. |  |

Staff Findings:

Applicant's Purpose

The proposed area is currently classified as an R-1 Single Family Residential District. The applicant wants to rezone the property to C-3 General Commercial District. The owners feel this would be constituent with the Land Use Plan Since there is commercial property already in that area.

Rezoning this property is consistent with the *Jonesboro Comprehensive Plan* and the *Future Land Use Plan*.

Chapter 117 of the City Code of Ordinances/Zoning defines C-3 General Commercial District as follows:

Definition of C-3 General Commercial District - The purpose of this district is to provide appropriate locations for commercial and retail uses, which are convenient and serve the needs of the traveling public. The district also provides locations for limited amounts of merchandise, equipment and material being offered for retail sale that are more suitable for storage and display outside the confines of an enclosed structure. Appropriate locations for this district are along heavily traveled Arterial Street. Development of groupings of facilities shall be encouraged, as opposed to less desirable strip commercial.

Departmental/Agency Reviews:

The following departments and agencies were contacted for review and comments. Note that this table will be updated at the hearing due to reporting information that will be updated in the coming days:

| Department/Agency | Reports/ Comments | Status |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Engineering | No issues were reported | |
| Streets/Sanitation | No issues were reported | |
| Police | No issues were reported | |
| Fire Department | No issues were reported | |
| MPO | No issues were reported | |
| Jets | No issues were reported | |
| Utility Companies | No issues were reported | CWL |
| Code Enforcement | No issues were reported | |

MAPC RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS: PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON APRIL 13TH, 2021

Debra Mangrum and Tom Kirksey is requesting MAPC Approval for a Rezoning from “R-1” Single Family Residential to “C-3” General Commercial District for 1.76 +/- acres of land located at 4503 Southwest Drive.

APPLICANT: Jim Gramling with Gramling Law Firm for Debra Mangrum and Tom Kirksey. This 1.76 acres on Southwest Drive is across the street from the Valley View Church of Christ, C-3 to the north and east of the property with R-1 to the west and south. All of the property that borders my client’s property is owned by Gary Ezell who my client has spoken to and he has no opposition to this request. I generally like to have neighborhood meetings anytime we are going against residential property but did not because of the Covid restrictions. I did send letters to everyone on the notice list letting them know they could set up an appointment. There are also Facebook groups my client posted to offering to meet with anyone who had questions or concerns. To date we have not had communication with anyone. Valley View Church of Christ asked what was going there, I told them we had no plans and he had no objection to it. This meets all relevant criteria and we are asking as an additional condition that the applicant, Ms. Mangrum, be allowed to live on the property until it sells. To the extent there is concern, this is in an Overlay District, so that imposes some significant requirements. Buffering, signage, additional landscaping, and even the quality of the building has to be 80% brick, stone, or wood. Whatever goes there will have to conform to the Overlay District requirements, which should alleviate some concerns of an eye sore or nuisance going in on the property.

COMMISSION: Lonnie Roberts stated he be asking for public comments, but he turning it over to City Planner.

STAFF: Ryan Robeson stated this does meet all the requirements of the rezoning amendment and master land use plan and we would recommend approval with the following requirements.

- 1. The proposed site shall satisfy all requirements of the City Engineer, all the requirements of the current storm water drainage design manual and flood plain requirements regarding any new development.**
- 2. A final site plan subject to all ordinance requirements shall be submitted, reviewed, and approved by the Planning Department prior to any re-development of the property.**
- 3. Any change of use shall be subject to Planning Department approval in the future.**
- 4. The final site plan illustrating compliance with site requirements for parking, signage, landscaping, fencing, buffering, outdoor storage, dumpster enclosures, sidewalks, etc. shall be submitted to the Planning Department prior to any re-development of the property.**
- 5. This property is located in the Overlay District and must comply with those design standards.**

COMMISSION: Lonnie Roberts ask for Public Comments on this Rezoning Request.

PUBLIC: Latasha stated I live right behind the property, unsure what this type of meeting approves.

COMMISSION: Lonnie Roberts stated this would go to City Council and be heard 3 times at the City Council Meeting. We are a recommending body; we do not actually approve it.

PUBLIC: Latasha asked what do us as a neighborhood need to do to figure out what is going there.

STAFF: Carol Duncan stated legally we are not allowed to ask them specifically what is going to be placed there. The developer could voluntarily tell you if he knew but we can't require them to tell that, so you have to assume that anything that is allowed under the designation that is being rezoned to, which is C-3 General Commercial, would be allowed to go there.

PUBLIC: Latasha asked as for any neighbors surrounding that property, what we need to do if we want to contest it.

STAFF: Carol Duncan stated I would personally recommend if you have certain things that you would like to not see there, that you talk to Mr. Gramling that is what he usually does in a neighborhood meeting. You are telling them here now that you are speaking against it, but you and neighbors should be at the first reading at City Council if it is approved from this body.

PUBLIC: No one called in on the phone and no more public comments.

COMMISSION: Lonnie Roberts asked for commissioners comments.

COMMISSION ACTION:

Mr. Jim Little made a motion to approve Case: RZ: 21-05, as submitted, to the City Council with the stipulations that were read by the Planning Department:

1. The proposed site shall satisfy all requirements of the City Engineer, all the requirements of the current storm water drainage design manual and flood plain requirements regarding any new development.
2. A final site plan subject to all ordinance requirements shall be submitted, reviewed, and approved by the Planning Department prior to any re-development of the property.
3. Any change of use shall be subject to Planning Department approval in the future.
4. The final site plan illustrating compliance with site requirements for parking, signage, landscaping, fencing, buffering, outdoor storage, dumpster enclosures, sidewalks, etc. shall be submitted to the Planning Department prior to any re-development of the property.
5. This property is located in the Overlay District and must comply with those design standards.

6. The Owner will be allowed to occupy the residence until the property is sold.

The MAPC find to rezone property “R-1” Single Family Residential District to “C-3” General Commercial District for 1.76 +/- acres of land. Motion was seconded by Mr. David Handwork.

Roll Call Vote: 8 - 0, Aye’s: Kevin Bailey; Jerry Reece; Jimmy Cooper; Jim Little; Mary Margaret Jackson; David Handwork

Nay’s: 0

Absent: Paul Ford and Dennis Zolper

Conclusion:

The Planning Department Staff finds that the requested Zone Change submitted for subject parcel, should be evaluated based on the above observations and criteria of Case RZ 21-05 a request to rezone property from “R-1” Single Family Residential District to “C-3” General Commercial District; the following conditions are recommended:

1. That the proposed site shall satisfy all requirements of the City Engineer, all requirements of the current Stormwater Drainage Design Manual and Flood Plain Regulations regarding any new construction.
2. A final site plan subject to all ordinance requirements shall be submitted, reviewed, and approved by the Planning Department, prior to any redevelopment of the property.
3. Any change of use shall be subject to Planning Department approval in the future.
4. A final site plan illustrating compliance with site requirements for parking, signage, landscaping, fencing, buffering, outdoor storage, dumpster enclosure, sidewalks etc. shall be submitted to the Planning Department prior to any redevelopment of this property.
5. The property is located in the Overlay District and will comply those design standards.
6. The Owner will be allowed to occupy the residence until the property is sold.

Respectfully Submitted for City Council Consideration,
The Planning and Zoning Department

Sample Motion:

I move that we place Case: RZ 21-05 on the floor for consideration of recommendation by MAPC to the City Council with the noted conditions, and we, the MAPC find that to rezone property from “R-1” Single Family Residential District to “C-3” General Commercial District will be compatible and suitable with the zoning, uses, and character of the surrounding area.



