



City of Jonesboro Metropolitan Area Planning Commission
Staff Report – RZ 24-17, 5715 & 5716 E. Johnson Ave.
300 S. Church Street/Municipal Center
For Consideration by Planning Commission on November 12, 2024

REQUEST: To consider a rezoning of two tracts of land containing 5.93 +/- acres

PURPOSE: A request to consider recommendation to Council for a rezoning from “R-1”, single family medium density district, to “C-3” general commercial district.

APPLICANT: Scott Bridger (MWS Bridger, LLC), 5715 E. Johnson Ave., Jonesboro, AR 72401

OWNER: Same

LOCATION: 5715 & 5719 E. Johnson Ave.

SITE DESCRIPTION: **Total Size:** Approx. 5.93 Acres
Street Frontage: Approx. 707 ft. on Johnson Ave

Existing Development: One single family home and vacant acreage.

SURROUNDING CONDITIONS:

ZONE	LAND USE
North	C-3 – Commercial
South	R-1 – Residential and Vacant
East	R-1 – Residential
West	C-3 – Vacant

HISTORY: Residential use

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 a **High Intensity** and **Moderate Intensity** Growth Sector.

High Intensity:

A wide range of land uses is appropriate in the high intensity zone, 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.

Typical Land Uses:

- 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

Height: 150 feet

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

Moderate Intensity:

A wider mix of land uses is appropriate in the moderate intensity sectors. Control of traffic is probably the most important consideration in this sector. Additionally, good building design, use of quality construction materials, and more abundant landscaping are important considerations in what is approved, more so than the particular use. Limits on hours of operation, lighting standards, screening from residential uses, etc. may be appropriate. Consideration should be given to appropriate locations of transit stops.

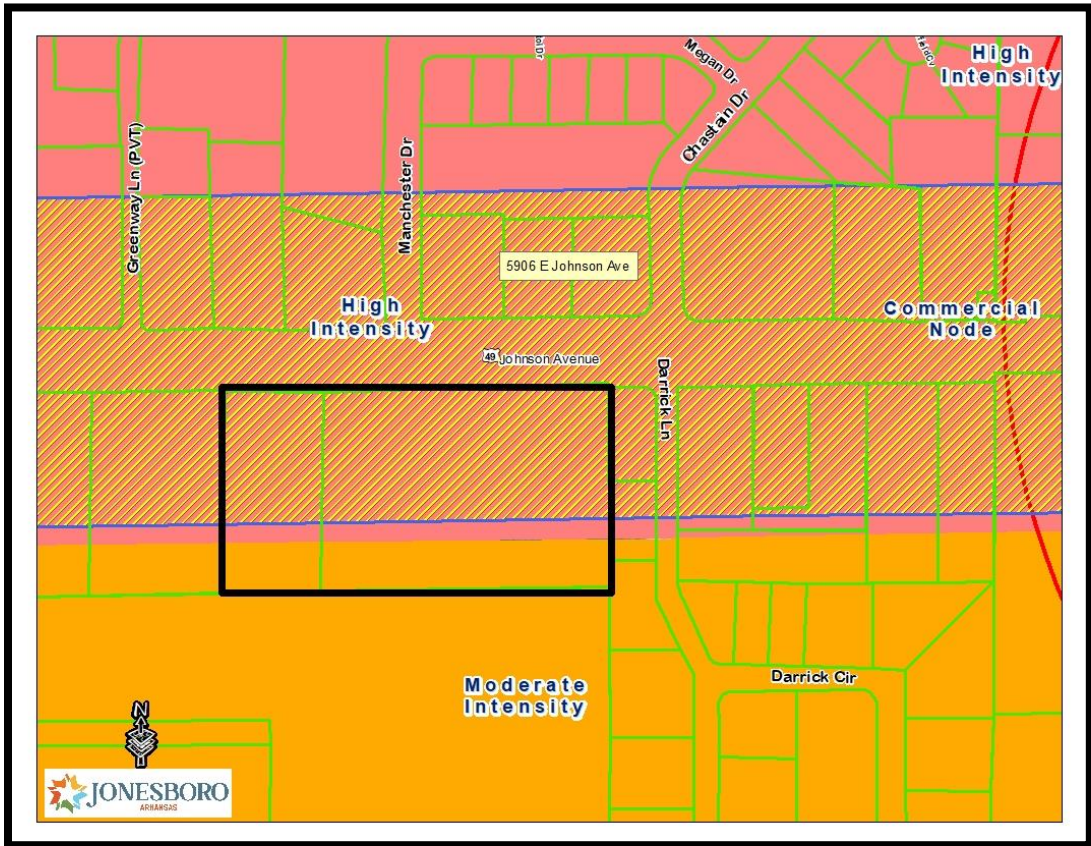
Typical Land Uses:

- Single Family Residential
- Attached Single Family, duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes
- Neighborhood retail, Neighborhood services Office parks
- Smaller medical offices
- Libraries, schools, other public facilities
- Senior living centers/nursing homes, etc.
- Community-serving retail
- Small supermarket
- Convenience store
- Bank
- Barber/beauty shop
- Farmer's Market
- Pocket Park

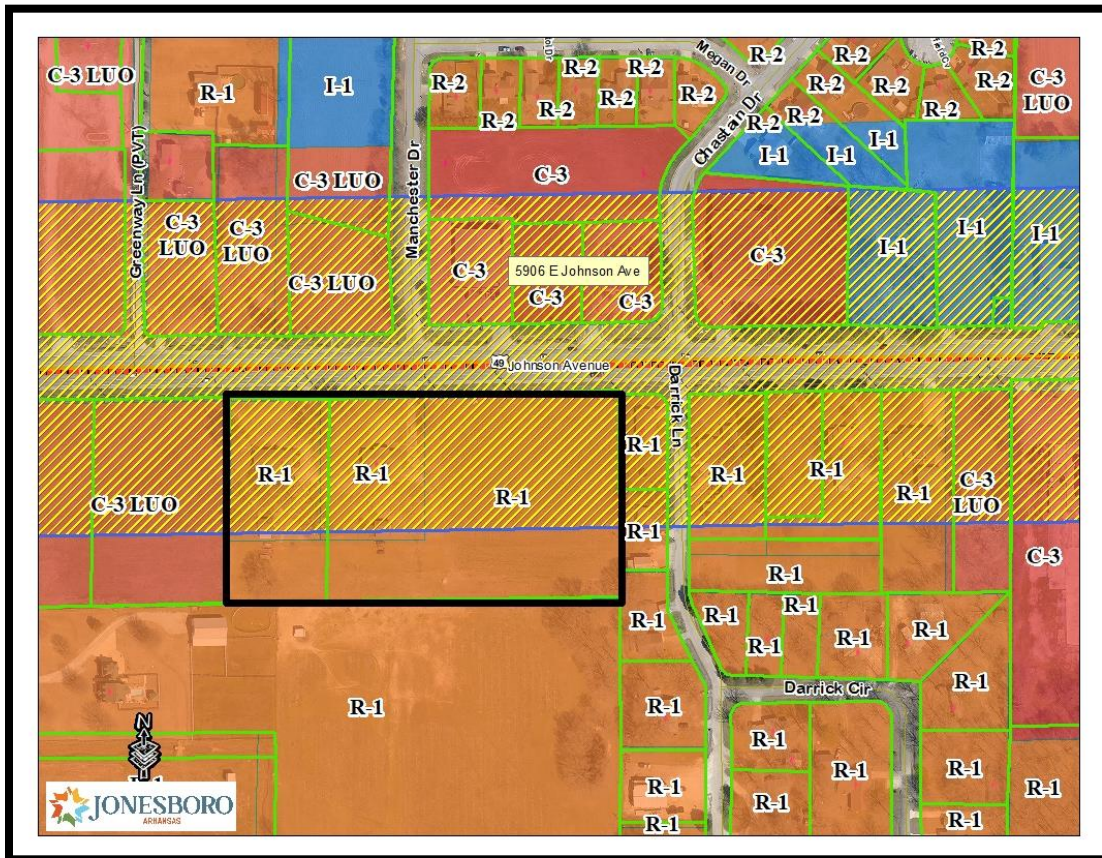
Density: No more than six dwelling units per acre for Multi-Family. Multi-Family should only be allowed on collector and above streets that have been improved or scheduled to be improved in the next construction cycle of city projects unless the developer is willing to build the roads to Master Street Plan stands that serve the development.

Height: 4 stories

Traffic: Approximately 300 peak hour trips (Commercial Only)



Land Use Map



Zoning Map

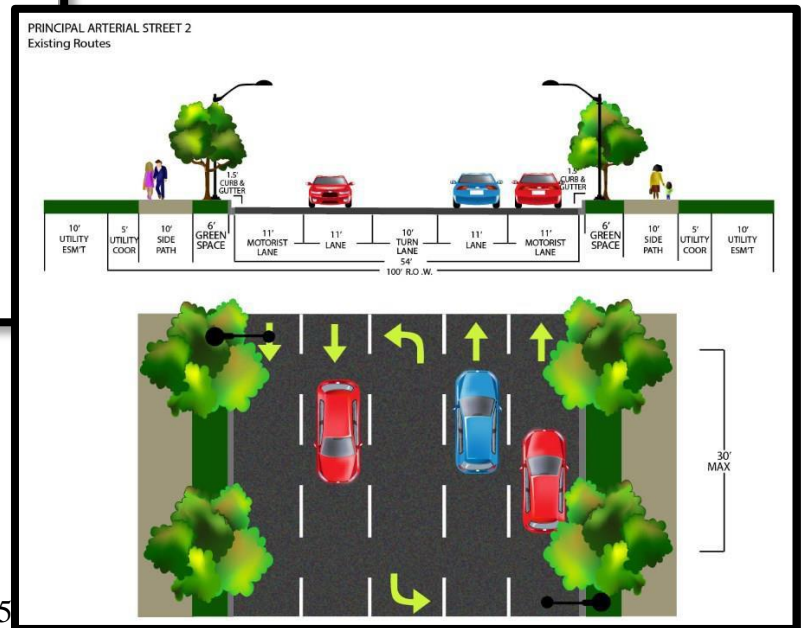
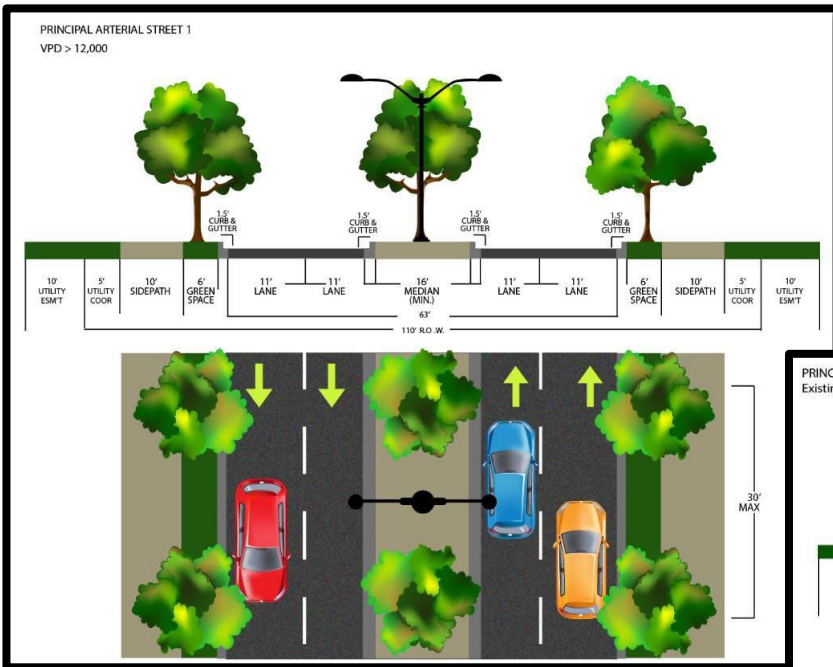
Master Street Plan/Transportation

The subject property will be served by East Johnson Avenue. The Master Street Plan classifies East Johnson Avenue as a Principal Arterial.

Principal Arterials provide both long distance connections through the urban area 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. Traffic management techniques used to maintain a high level of traffic capacity on these roadways include the use of medians, restricting curb cuts per some spacing policy, and limiting the use of traffic signals to the intersection with other significant roadways.







FUNCTION: 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).



Approval Criteria- Chapter 117 - Amendments:

The criteria for approval of a rezoning are set out below. Not all 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.

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. The majority of this property is in the high intensity growth sector.	
(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 the surrounding area includes commercial zoning and uses.	
(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 cannot develop as a commercial use.	
(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;	With proper planning there should not be any adverse effects caused by the 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 because the area is already equipped to handle commercial uses.	

Staff Findings:

Applicant's Purpose

The proposed area is currently classified as "R-1", single family medium density district. The applicant is applying for a rezoning to allow commercial uses at this location.

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 as follows:

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	

Conclusion:

The Planning Department Staff finds that the requested zone change submitted for the subject parcel should be evaluated based on the above observations and criteria of Case RZ 24-17; a request to rezone property “R-1”, single family medium density district, to “C-3” general commercial district. The following conditions are recommended:

1. 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. The site shall comply with all overlay district standards.

Respectfully Submitted for Planning Commission Consideration,
The Planning and Zoning Department

Sample Motion:

I move that we place Case: RZ 24-17 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 medium density district, to “C-3” general commercial district, will be compatible and suitable with the zoning, uses, and character of the surrounding area.

RZ-24-17 Rezoning: 5715 & 5719 East Johnson Avenue

Scott Bridger is requesting a rezoning from R-1, single-family medium density district, to C-3, general commercial. This rezoning request is for 5.9 acres and is located at 5715 & 5719 E. Johnson Drive.

Lonnie Roberts (Chair): Do I have the proponent for this item?

Scott Bridge (Proponent): Hello, my name is Scott Bridger and I live at 5715 E Johnson and I am requesting a rezoning for the parcels at 5715 and 5719. From R-1 to C-3 general commercial.

Lonnie Roberts: Alright, city planner do you have the staff comments for this one?

Derrel Smith (City Planner): Yes sir, we reviewed it meets all the criteria to approve a rezoning, so we would recommend approval with the following stipulations, that the proposed site, shall satisfy all requirements of the city engineer, all requirements of the current stormwater drainage design manual, and floodplain regulations regarding any new construction. 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. Any change of use shall be subject to the planning department approval in the future, and the site shall comply with all the overlay district standards.

Lonnie Roberts: Alright, and with this being a rezoning request, is there anyone here to give public input regarding this request? If not, I'll move on to commissioners any questions for the proponent or city staff? Any comments to be made?

COMMISSION ACTION:

Mr. Dennis Zolper made a motion to approve Case RZ: 24-7 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 requirements of the current storm water 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. The site shall comply with all overlay district standards.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Jeff Steiling.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: 7 – Dennis Zolper, Jeff Steiling, Jim Little, Jimmy Cooper, Kevin Bailey, Monroe Pointer, & Stephanie Nelson

Nay: 0 -

Absent: 1 – Paul Ford