

GWINNETT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

446 West Crogan Street, Suite 300 | Lawrenceville, GA 30046-2440 678.518.6000 GwinnettCounty.com

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT CASE REPORT

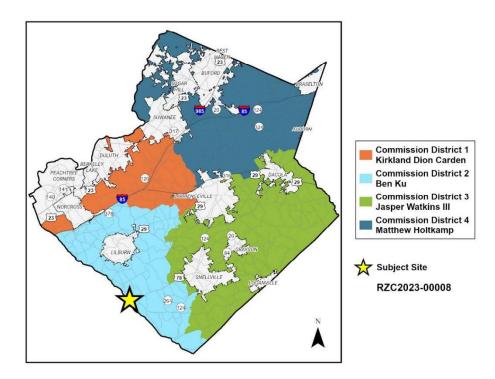
Case Number:	RZC2023-00008
Current Zoning:	C-2 (General Business District)
Request:	Rezoning to MU-R (Regional Mixed-Use District)
Additional Requests:	Variances
Addresses:	5525 Bermuda Road and 1955 West Park Place Boulevard
Map Numbers:	R6060 006 and 080 (partial)
Site Area:	31.10 acres
Units	255
Square Footage	163,208
Proposed Development:	Mixed-Use Development
Commission District:	District 2 - Commissioner Ku
Character Area:	Regional Activity Center

Staff Recommendation:

APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS

Planning Commission Recommendation:

PUBLIC HEARING TABLED TO MAY 2, 2023



Applicant: Gwinnett County 75 Langley Drive Lawrenceville, GA 30046 Owner: Gwinnett County 75 Langley Drive Lawrenceville, GA 30046

> CK Stone Mountain Parking Lot, LLC 300 Galleria Parkway SE, Suite 200 Atlanta, GA 30339

Contact: Daniel Robinson

Contact Phone: 678.518.6082

Zoning History

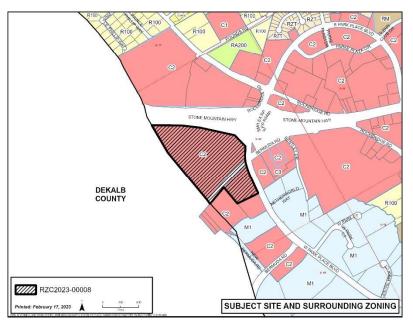
The subject site is zoned C-2 (General Business District). The site was rezoned from C-1 (Neighborhood Business District) to C-2 as part of an area wide rezoning in 1973. A portion of the parcel south of Bermuda Road (R6060 080) was rezoned as part of a larger rezoning, from O-I (Office-Institutional District), M-1 (Light Industry District), MH (Manufactured Housing), and C-2 (General Business District) to M-1 for office, distribution, service commercial, and light manufacturing, pursuant to RZ-284-83. This entire parcel was rezoned again in 1996 from C-2 and M-1 to C-2 to allow for a shopping center with reduced buffers, pursuant to RZ-96-071. A special use permit was approved for self-storage in 2014, pursuant to SUP2014-00021.

Existing Site Condition

The subject site is a 31.10-acre assemblage of a portion of two parcels located at the intersection of Bermuda Road and West Park Place Boulevard, south of Stone Mountain Highway and adjacent to Dekalb County. The parcel to the north of Bermuda Road (R6060 006) served as the location for the Tennis Stadium of the 2000 Olympic Games. The facility was demolished in 2016 and 2017. Since being demolished, the site has remained undeveloped and is now covered in grasses and pine trees. There is a sidewalk along the property frontage on West Park Place Boulevard. There are no driveways to the site from West Park Place Boulevard or Stone Mountain Highway. Three driveways along Bermuda Road give access to the site. However, there is a six-foot-tall chain link fence that surrounds the property. No sidewalk exists on Bermuda Road. The topography of the site is flat due to it being previously developed with a stadium, several tennis courts, and a large surface parking lot. The portion of the site that is south of Bermuda Road contains a parking lot for the self-storage facility located on the rear half of the property.

Surrounding Use and Zoning

The subject site is located at the intersection of Bermuda Road and West Park Place Boulevard and is surrounded by a mixture of non-residential uses. To the north, across Stone Mountain Freeway is a large multi-tenant shopping center. The shopping center contains a large grocery store, movie theatre, restaurants, and several retail and service establishments in a separate building. To the east, across West Park Place Boulevard is an indoor roller-skating rink. To the south is a multi-tenant office warehouse building which currently contains an indoor recreation facility. To the west is Stone Mountain Park located in Dekalb County. The following is a summary of surrounding uses and zoning:



Location	Land Use	Zoning	Density
Proposed	Mixed-Use Development	MU-R	8.20 units per acre
North	Commercial	C-2	N/A
East	Commercial	C-2	N/A
South	Commercial	C-2	N/A
West	Stone Mountain Park	Dekalb County	N/A

Project Summary

The applicant requests the rezoning of a 31.10-acre site from C-2 to MU-R for a mixed-use development, including:

- A total of 255 apartments within three, four-story apartment buildings yielding a total net density of 8.20 units per acre.
- 302 parking spaces dedicated to the apartment buildings including six electric vehicle charging stations.
- Apartment amenities featuring a swimming pool near Building 400.
- A 151,000 warehouse club store with 798 dedicated parking spaces.
- A gas station for warehouse club members located near the West Park Place Boulevard limited access entrance.
- A 2,510 square foot fast food restaurant (Building 500) with 71 dedicated parking spaces including two electric vehicle charging stations and two drive-through lanes located near the West Park Place Boulevard limited access entrance. A patio area with outdoor seating is provided behind the restaurant.
- A 3,198 square foot fast food restaurant (Building 700) with 36 dedicated parking spaces and two drive-through lanes located at the corner of Bermuda Road and West Park Place Boulevard.
- A 4,000 square foot fast food restaurant (Building 800) with 60 dedicated parking spaces and a drive-through lane.
- A 10-foot-wide multi-use path along the West Park Place Boulevard frontage. The multi-use path enters the site at the full-access entrance on West Park Place Boulevard and Bermuda Road and terminates at a potential transit stop.

- Six-foot-wide internal sidewalks and crosswalks providing an internal pedestrian network.
- A water feature located on Bermuda Road. Plans/design of the water feature are not available at this time.
- Five monument-style signs located along the West Park Place Boulevard road frontage.
- A single master detention pond located to the west of the warehouse club store providing water quality for the entire site.
- Site access by way of three driveways located on West Park Place. A full-access entrance at Bermuda Road and two limited-access driveways. A traffic signal is proposed at the full-access entrance.
- A total of 4.74 acres of common area totaling 15.25% of the total project area including a 1.19acre green space located behind Building 700 and 800.
- Several bicycle parking spaces located throughout the development.
- A 10-foot landscape strip along Stone Mountain Freeway and West Park Place Boulevard. A fivefoot-wide landscape strip is provided along Bermuda Road.

Zoning and Development Standards

The applicant is requesting a rezoning MU-R, Regional Mixed-Use District. The following is a summary of applicable development standards from the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO):

Standard	Required	Proposed	Meets Standard?
Building Height	Maximum 45' without Density	60'	YES*
	Bonus		
FAR	Maximum 0.4 without density	0.71	YES*
	bonus		
Density	Maximum 8 units per acre	8.20 units per acre	YES*
	without Density Bonus		
Front Yard Setback	Minimum 20'	20'	YES
Side Yard Setback	Minimum 20'	20'	YES
Rear Yard Setback	Minimum 25'	25'	YES
Off-Street Parking	Minimum: 408 spaces	1,297 spaces	YES
Total	Maximum: 1,649 spaces		
Off-Street Parking	Maximum 20% located	>20%	NO**
Location	between building and ROW		
Drive-Through Lane	Bypass Lane Required	No Bypass Lane	NO**
		Provided	
Driveway Width	Maximum 40' Around Gas	45'	NO**
	Pumps		
Dumpster	Located Behind Building	In front of Building 500	NO**
Landscape Strip	10'	10'	YES
Project Area	Minimum 15 acres	31.10 acres	YES
Common Area	15%	15.25%	YES

MU-R (Regional Mixed-Use District)

* Bonus achieved through site design and amenities such as providing a transit shelter and regional detention pond.

**Applicant is requesting a variance.

Variance Requests

In addition to the rezoning request, the applicant is seeking variances from the following provisions of Title II of the UDO:

1. Section 210-225.5.2 Parking Management

In MU-R, no more than 20 percent of the required parking for a building shall be in parking lots located between the facade of the building and the street on which the building faces.

The applicant is proposing to allow more than 20 percent of the required parking to be located between the façade of Buildings 100, 700, and 800 and the street.

2. Section 230-120.13 Dumpsters

Dumpsters shall be located in the rear or side yard. Dumpsters are not allowed in front yards.

The applicant is proposing the dumpster for Building 500 to be located in front of the building.

3. Section 240-20.3 Required Area for Each Parking Space

Each automobile space shall be 9 feet wide and 18 feet deep as measured from face-of curb.

The applicant is proposing the parking spaces dedicated to the warehouse grocery store be 10'x20' in size.

4. Section 240.70.1.C Interior Driveways

Interior driveways, with or with parking, shall be 10 to 12 wide for one-way traffic, and 22 to 24 feet wide for two-way traffic.

The applicant is proposing driveways exceeding 24 feet in width in multiple locations on the site.

5. Section 240.70.1.E Interior Driveways

Interior driveways surrounding gasoline pumps shall be increased to 40 feet in total width (as measured from the base of the gasoline pump islands).

The applicant is proposing the interior driveway between the gas pumps and the edge of pavement to be 45-feet-wide.

6. Section 240.80.3 Stacking Lanes

If separate stacking lane is curbed, an emergency by-pass or exit shall be provided.

The applicant is not proposing to include by-pass lanes in any drive-through lane.

Internal and External Agency Review

In addition to these Development Standards, the applicant must meet all other UDO requirements related to infrastructure improvements. Internal and External agency review comments are attached (Exhibit E). Standard site and infrastructure improvements will also be required related to transportation, stormwater, water, and sewer utilities. Recommended improvements not already required by the UDO have been added as staff recommended conditions.

Staff Analysis

Rezoning Request Analysis: According to the UDO, if a proposed amendment is for the rezoning of property and involves a change in zoning classification, the Department shall evaluate the request and make a recommendation with respect to the standards governing exercise of zoning power as defined in Section 270-20.5. After this evaluation, staff makes the following findings based on the standards from the UDO:

A. Whether a proposed rezoning will permit a use that is suitable in view of the use and development of adjacent and nearby property.

The site is surrounded by a mix of commercial uses. Allowing apartments, retail, and restaurant uses within a mixed-use development would be suitable in view of the use of adjacent and nearby property and would complement the surrounding area and uses. The proposed development is located in a heavily commercialized area easily accessible to Stone Mountain Highway. There are large multi-tenant buildings and shopping centers in close proximity. The proposed mixed-use project would take under-utilized properties such as a parking lot and an empty parcel of land and turn it into lively development which could spur other redevelopment in the area.

B. Whether a proposed rezoning will adversely affect the existing use or usability of adjacent or nearby property.

The proposed rezoning would not adversely affect the existing use or usability of adjacent or nearby property. The property is located in an intensely developed non-residential area. The addition of apartments, retail, and restaurant uses within a mixed-use development would provide an additional housing option and commercial services to the area. In fact, additional residents and dining and shopping options in the area would be a benefit for the existing residents and businesses in the area. In addition, there is existing infrastructure capable of handling the additional traffic that would be generated by the proposed development.

C. Whether the property to be affected by a proposed rezoning has a reasonable economic use as currently zoned.

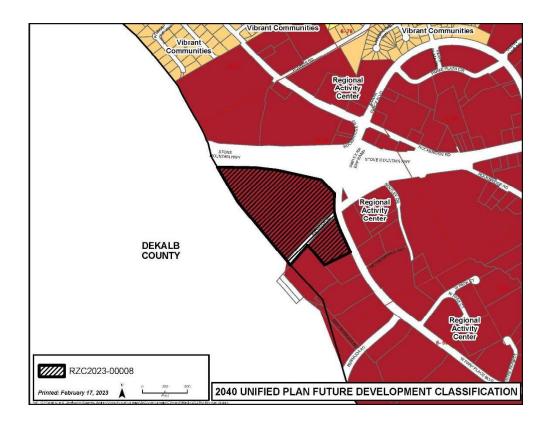
The property has reasonable economic use as currently zoned.

D. Whether the proposed rezoning will result in a use which will or could cause an excessive or burdensome use of existing streets, transportation facilities, utilities, or schools.

This rezoning request would create impacts on public facilities in the form of traffic, utility demand, and stormwater runoff. However, appropriate conditions, site development requirements, and planning would mitigate these impacts. The rezoning would impact school enrollment. Agency review comments related to any potential improvements concerning this rezoning request are attached (Exhibit E).

E. Whether the proposed rezoning is in conformity with the policy and intent of the Unified Plan and Future Development Map.

The 2040 Unified Plan and Future Development Map indicates that the subject property lies within the Regional Activity Center. This Character Area is intended for areas that have intense commercial and office/employment activity, as well as some residential elements. Regional Activity Centers are to be the major activity centers for Gwinnett County and the region and should include a combination of retail, office, and residential uses at high densities. Buildings should be set close to the street for pedestrian orientation and engagement. Uses should include a mix of uses to be easily accessible in a walkable distance. The Regional Activity Center is meant for intense mixed-use development. The applicant proposes a mixed-use development with residential and commercial components. Furthermore, the proposed development provides internal sidewalks and improves the existing 5-foot-wide sidewalk on West Park Place Boulevard to a 10-foot-wide multi-use path which improves the pedestrian environment in the area. Therefore, the proposed development meets the intent of the Unified Plan and Future Development Map.



F. Whether there are other existing or changing conditions affecting the use and development of the property which give supporting grounds for either approval or disapproval of the proposed rezoning.

This area of the County has experienced higher vacancy rates than most other parts of the County. A redevelopment such as what is being proposed would help revitalize and encourage reinvestment in the area. In addition, large projects such as this, should be located in areas with existing infrastructure capable of handling the additional trips which would be generated. This area of the County has access to multiple major arterial roads and state highways. Compatible surrounding land uses and existing infrastructure gives supporting grounds for the approval of the proposed rezoning.

Variance Request Analysis: The standards for granting variances are outlines in Section 270-100.7 of the Unified Development Ordinance. Staff makes the following findings related to the variance requests:

The applicant is requesting a number of variances regarding the site design of the development. Three of the variances are for the site design of the smaller commercial outparcels. Due to site constraints, the applicant is requesting a variance to allow more than 20% of the parking to be located between some of the proposed buildings and West Park Place Boulevard. With appropriate conditions, and additional landscape screening the potential negative impacts of this design can be mitigated. The applicant is also seeking a variance to allow a dumpster to be located within the front yard of Building 500. The dumpster enclosure is currently located near the front of the building by the drive-through lane. The typical placement of the dumpster enclosure would be closer to where the proposed transit stop is located. Placing the dumpster enclosure in the proposed location is less obtrusive despite it being in front of the building. Finally, the applicant is seeking a variance to not include a by-pass lane for the drive-throughs. Two of the three drive-throughs feature two stacking lanes. It has become more common for quick service restaurants to feature multiple drive-through stacking lanes which require more space than a single lane. Having multiple stacking lanes would provide vehicles adequate space to move around if a car was unable to move forward in one of the lanes. Building 800 only has a single drive-through lane. However, the lane is only curbed for a small section which would allow vehicles to exit the stacking lane in most locations on the site.

The other variances are for the warehouse-club portion of the site. The first variance is to allow parking spaces in excess of the standard 9'x18'. The applicant is requesting parking spaces to be 10'x20'. Warehouse clubs often sell large items such as furniture, TVs, and large bulk items. Many times, larger vehicles are needed to transport the items. Providing spaces that would better accommodate larger SUVs and pickup trucks is reasonable for an establishment such as this. Again, due to larger vehicles frequenting this type of establishment, the applicant is seeking a variance to provide wider interior driveways throughout the development and around the gas pumps. The applicant proposes driveway widths that range from 24-feet-wide to 30-feet-wide throughout the development and a 45-foot-wide driveway around the gas pumps which exceeds the standard by five feet. The wider driveway would allow larger SUVs and pickup trucks to more easily navigate around the site and gas station. These variance requests are reasonable for this type of development.

Staff Recommendation

Based on the staff's evaluation of the request and the standards governing exercise of zoning power, the Department of Planning and Development recommends **APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS** of the rezoning request.

In addition, staff recommends **APPROVAL** of the following variances:

- 1. Section 210-225.5.A.2, to allow more than 20% of the parking to be located between Buildings 100, 700, and 800 and West Park Place Boulevard.
- 2. Section 230-120.13.A, to allow a dumpster enclosure in front of Building 500.
- 3. Section 240-20.3.A, to allow parking spaces for Building 100 to be 10'x20' in size.
- 4. Section 240.70.1.C, to allow interior driveways to exceed the maximum width for two-way traffic.
- 5. Section 240.70.1.E, to allow a 45-foot-wide interior driveway around the gas pumps.
- 6. Section 240.80.3.G, to allow a drive-through facility without providing a by-pass pane.

Approval as MU-R (Regional Mixed-Use District) subject to the following condition:

1. The proposed development shall be constructed in general conformance with Exhibit B: Site Plan dated received March 16, 2023, and Exhibit C: Building Elevations dated received March 24, 2023, with revisions required by conditions and the Unified Development Ordinance, subject to the review and approval of the Department of Planning and Development.

Exhibits:

- A. Site Visit Photos
- B. Site Plan
- C. Building Elevations
- D. Letter of Intent
- E. Internal and External Agency Review Comments
- F. Maps

Exhibit A: Site Visit Photos



Former Tennis Center parcel (north side of Bermuda Drive)



Parcel south of Bermuda Drive

Exhibit B: Site Plan

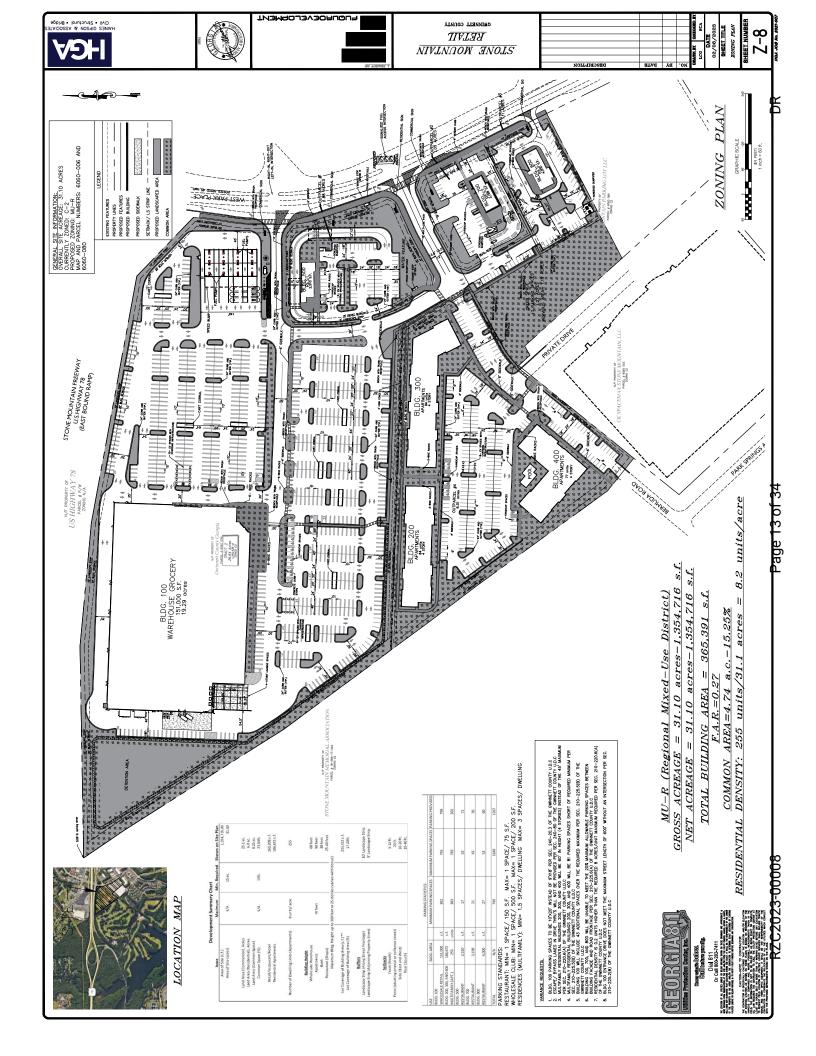


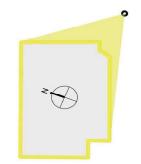
Exhibit C: Building Elevations











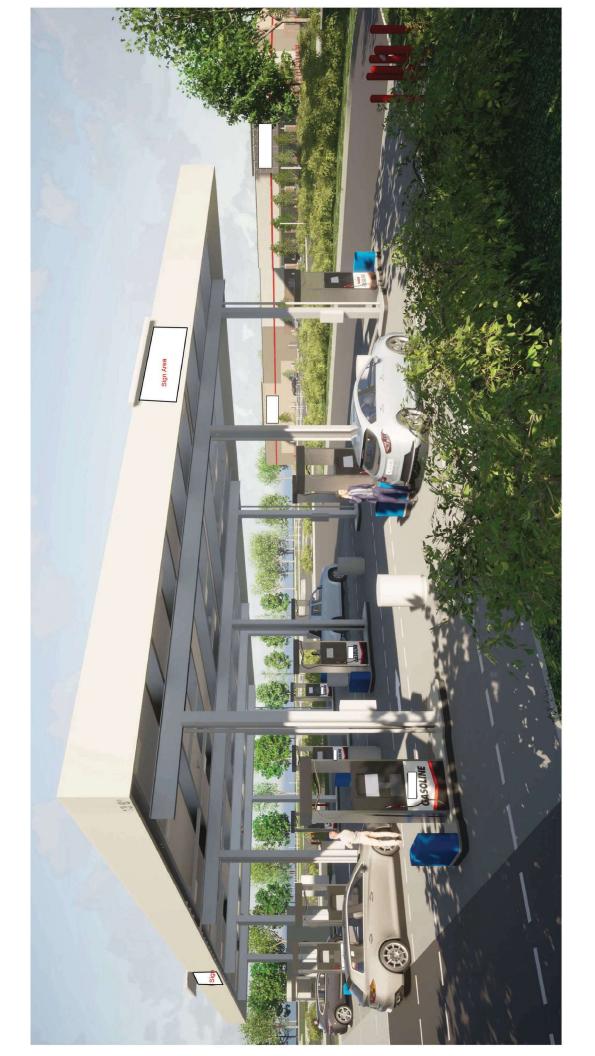
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Bldg 100 Elevations

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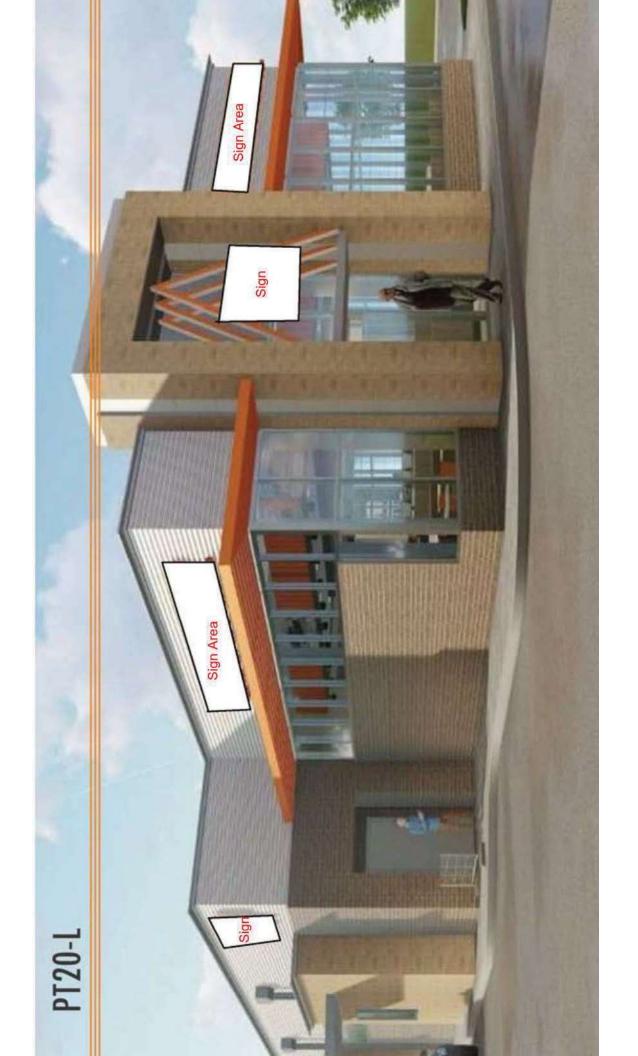


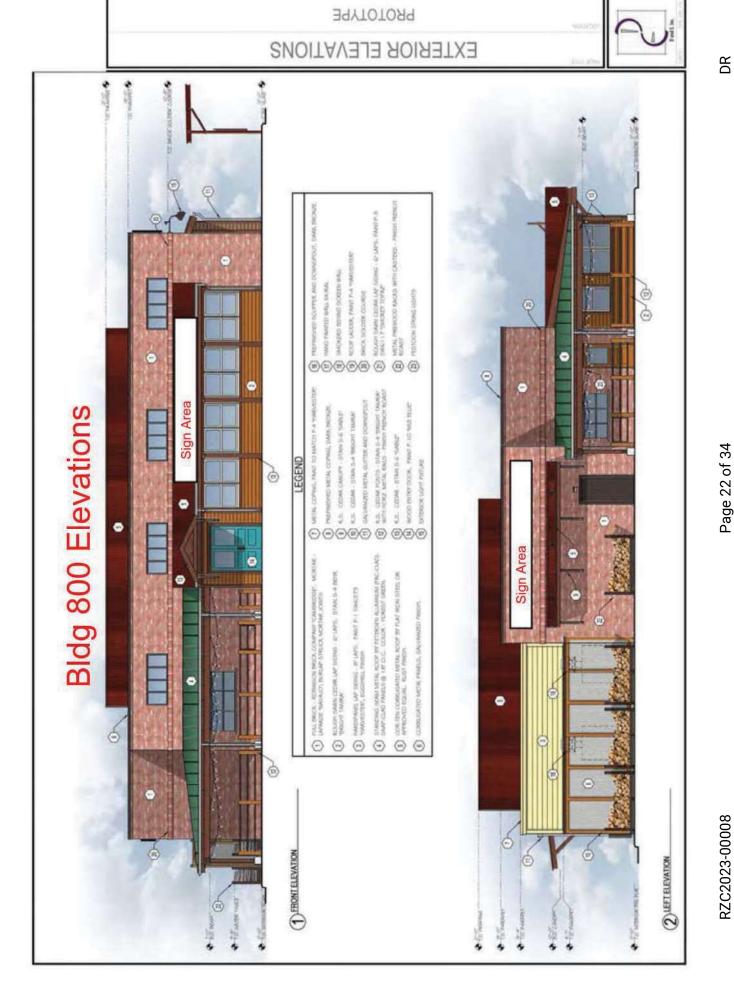
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EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS

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RZC2023-00008

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РКОТОТУРЕ

Exhibit D: Letter of Intent



GwinnettCounty.com

LETTER OF INTENT

In order to accommodate the redevelopment of the subject property as a mixed-use development, Gwinnett County is proposing to rezone the property to the MU-R zoning classification of the Gwinnett County Unified Development Ordinance (the "UDO"). Additional variances and/or waivers are also proposed in order to achieve an integrated mixed-use development with appropriate parking spaces, building setbacks, building heights, and to provide safe and efficient pedestrian and vehicular circulation.

The subject property is located along Stone Mountain Highway (U.S. Route 78) at its intersection with West Park Place Boulevard, is currently zoned C-2, and is located in the Regional Activity Center Character Area as set forth on the Gwinnett County 2040 Unified Plan (the "2040 Plan"). The surrounding area is heavily developed with an intense mixture of land uses including industrial, office, commercial, and multifamily residential land uses. Additional recreational uses are also present in the immediate area including the Netherworld Haunted House and Stone Mountain Park. The proposed development would complement the mixture of surrounding land uses and provide additional residential critical mass to support surrounding commercial and employment uses including multiple large shopping centers along both sides of Stone Mountain Highway and the recently-constructed Amazon facility, which is located just to the southeast of the property along West Park Place Boulevard.

The proposed development is within the 2040 Unified Plan's Regional Activity Center Character Area. For this character area, the 2040 Plan encourages a mix of land uses as well as design elements that are pedestrian-friendly and incorporate transit facilities, where appropriate. The proposed development includes an internal network of sidewalks that connects to a 10-foot wide multi-use path running along the right-of-way of West Park Place Boulevard. The proposed development would also accommodate the County's expansion of the transit network by providing two options for transit stops. These transportation facilities would expand the proposed development's connectivity to nearby shopping and employment centers and reduce residents' and patrons' dependence on vehicles for travel.

Exhibit E: Internal and External Agency Review Comments



TRC I	Meeting Date:	2.15.2023
	rtment/Agency Name:	Transportation
Revie	wer Name:	Brent Hodges
Revie	ewer Title:	Construction Manager 1
Revie	wer Email Address:	Brent.Hodges@gwinnettcounty.com
Case	Number:	RZC2023-00008 / RZC2023-00009
Case	Address:	5525 Bermuda Road and 1955 West Park Place Boulevard
	Comments:	X YES NO
1	West Park Place Boulevard is a minc	or arterial. ADT = 19,053.
	5.9 miles to the nearest transit facilit Rockbridge Road (Citgo).	ty (#2335429) Lawrenceville Highway and
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
	Recommended Zoning Conditions:	YES X NO
1		
2		
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4		
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Note: Attach additional pages, if needed

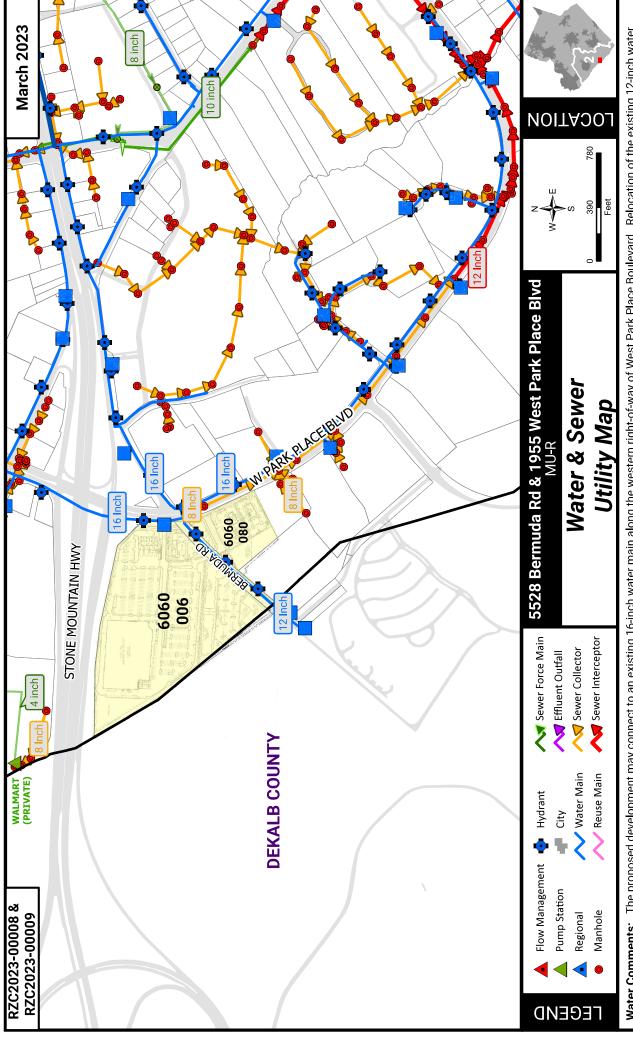
Revised 7/26/2021



TRC	Meeting Date:	
Depa	rtment/Agency Name:	DWR
Revie	ewer Name:	Mike Pappas
Revie	wer Title:	GIS Planning Manager
Revie	wer Email Address:	Michael.pappas@gwinnettcounty.com
Case	Number:	RZC2023-00008 & RZC2023-00009
Case	Address:	5528 Bermuda Road & 1955 West Park Place Boulevard
	Comments:	X YES NO
1	of-way of West Park Place Boulevard. Reloca of-way of Bermuda Road may be necessary to	
2		ently under review for this development. Pending available n existing 8-in gravity sewer on West Park Place Boulevard,
3		
4		
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6		
7		
	Recommended Zoning Conditions:	YES X NO
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Note: Attach additional pages, if needed

Revised 7/26/2021



The proposed development may connect to an existing 16-inch water main along the western right-of-way of West Park Place Boulevard. Relocation of the existing 12-inch water main on the southern right-of-way of Bermuda Road may be necessary to accommodate site design. Water Comments:

Sewer Comments: A Sewer Capacity Certification is currently under review for this development. Pending available capacity, the development may connect to an existing 8-in gravity sewer on West Park Place Boulevard, south of Bermuda Road. Water Availability: Water demands imposed by the proposed development may require upsizing or extensions of existing water mains in order to meet Gwinnett County Standards and fire flow demands. Any cost associated with such required improvements will be the responsibility of the development. Current Gwinnett County Standards require a minimum of 12" pipe size for commercial developments and a minimum of 8" pipe size for residential developments. Additionally, connection to a minimum of 12" and 8" mains are required for commercial and residential developments. Additionally, connection to a minimum of 12" and 8" mains are required for commercial and volumes are available for the development.

Sever Availability: A Sever Capacity Certification must be obtained from Gwinnett County to confirm the existing system can serve the development. Sever demands imposed by the proposed development may require upsizing and/or extensions of existing sever mains. aed/or the upsize of the intervision of a new pump station. Any cost associated with such required improvements will be the responsibility of the development. The development and/or extensions of existing sever mains.

Water and Sever Design and Construction Requirements: Extensions of the water and/or sanitary sever systems within the subject development must conform to this department's policies, Gwinnett County's ordinances, and the Water Main and Sanitary Sever Design and Construction Standards and Sever Design and Sever Design and Construction Standards and Sever Applicable under the applicable applicable applicable applicable applicable applicable applica

		Residentia Prepared fo		g Impact on tt County BO	I Rezoning Impact on Local Schools r Gwinnett County BOC, March, 2023	s S					
											Proposed Zoning
			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25		Approximate Student Projections
	School	Forecast	Capacity	+/- Cap.	Forecast	Capacity	+/- Cap.	Forecast	Capacity	+/- Cap.	from Proposed Developments
	Grayson HS	3,277	3,000	277	3,375	3,000	375	3,477	3,000	477	ε
RZM2023-00002	Bay Creek MS	1,318	1,150	168	1,345	1,150	195	1,385	1,150	235	3
	Trip ES	1,241	1,200	41	1,266	1,200	66	1,291	1,200	91	5
	Discovery HS	2,862	2,525	337	2,905	2,525	380	2,949	2,525	424	7
RZM2023-00004	Richards MS	2,052	2,200	-148	2,093	2,200	-107	2,124	2,200	-76	6
	Cedar Hill ES	901	1,000	66-	888	1,000	-112	879	1,000	-121	11
	Shiloh HS	2,250	2,275	-25	2,330	2,275	55	2,365	2,275	06	25
RZC2023-00008	Shiloh MS	1,669	1,600	69	1,653	1,600	53	1,670	1,600	70	18
	Annistown ES	705	625	80	716	625	91	723	625	98	33

Exhibit F: Maps

