



Agenda Item # 2 - EXTENSION

BOA-003403-2025

View additional details on this proposal and all application materials using the following link:

[Applicant Materials for Consideration](#)

DETAILS

Location:
401 St. Louis Street

Applicant / Agent:
RGH (Stephen Howle, Agent)

Property Owner:
RGH

Current Zoning:
SD-WH Sub-District of the Downtown Development District

Future Land Use:
Downtown

Case Number(s):
6689

Unified Development Code Requirement:

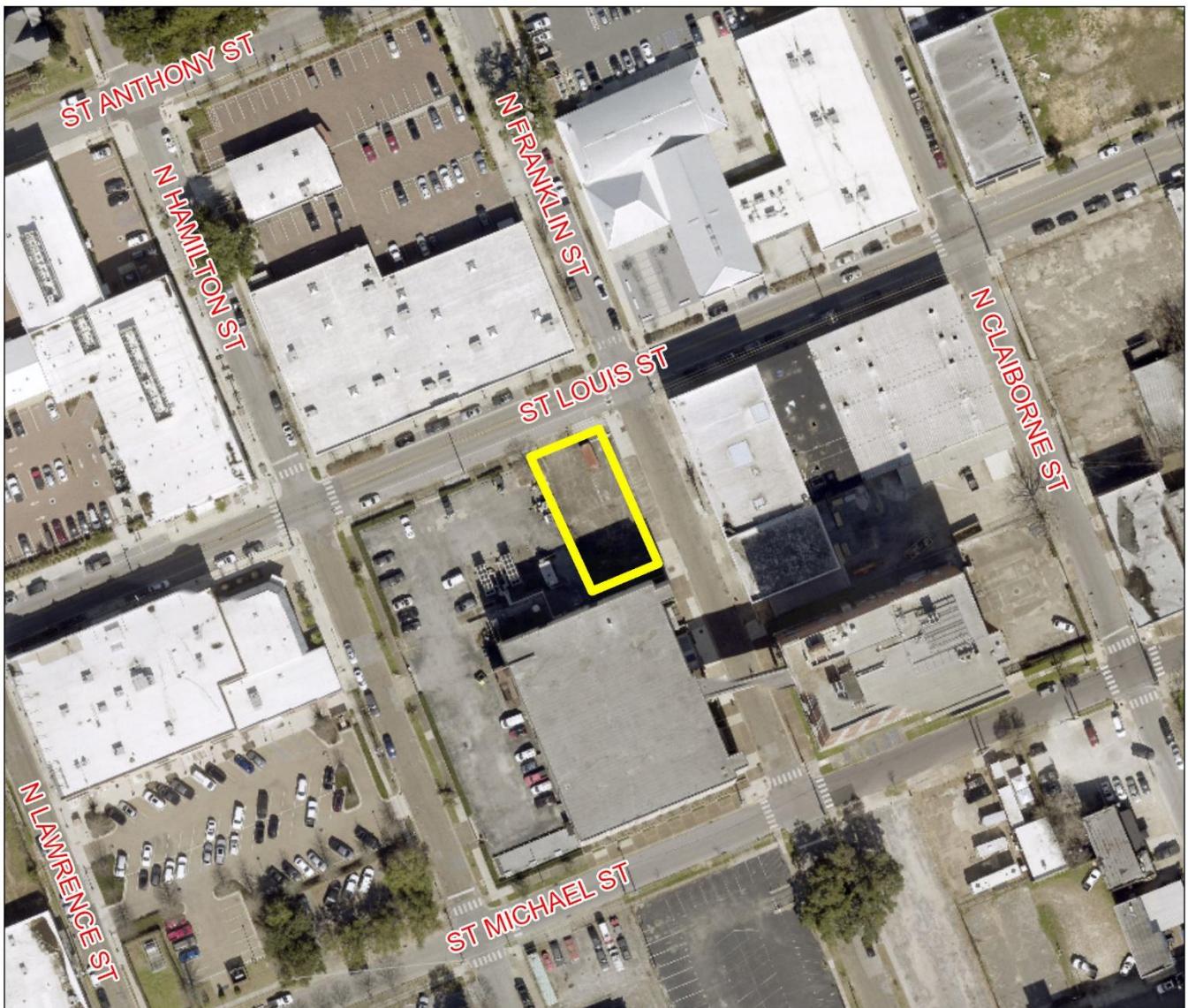
- The Unified Development Code (UDC) limits developments to one (1) curb cut per street frontage, requires developments to use an "A" street as the primary frontage, limits address numbers to a maximum of one (1) square foot, requires all building materials to be compliant, and requires one (1) of seven (7) frontage types in a SD-WH Sub-District of the Downtown Development District.

Board Consideration:

- Curb Cut Number, Building Orientation, Signage, Material, and Frontage Type Variances to allow three (3) curb cuts to North Franklin Street, to allow the proposed building to utilize a "B" street as the primary frontage, to allow an address number exceeding one (1) square foot, to allow non-compliant materials for garage doors, and to have non-compliant frontage types in a SD-WH sub-district in the Downtown Development District.

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**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
VICINITY MAP - EXISTING AERIAL**



The site is surrounded by commercial units.

APPLICATION NUMBER	6689	DATE	February 2, 2026	 NTS
APPLICANT	RGH (Stephen Howle, Agent)			
REQUEST	Curb Cut Number, Building Orientation, Signage, Material, and Frontage Type Variances			

SITE HISTORY

The site was previously zoned B-4, General Business District prior to the adoption of the Downtown Development District (DDD) in 2014, when the site was rezoned to SD-WH Sub-District of the Downtown Development District.

The subject site was before the Board of Zoning Adjustment at its August 4, 2025 meeting. The Board approved a Curb Cut Number, Building Orientation, Signage Material, and Frontage Type Variance to allow three (3) curb cuts to North Franklin Street, to allow the proposed building to utilize a "B" street as the primary frontage, to allow an address number exceeding one (1) square foot, to allow non-compliant materials for garage doors, and to have non-compliant frontage types in a SD-WH subdistrict in the Downtown Development District.

The site had a 1-lot Subdivision approved at its January 15, 2026 Planning Commission meeting.

STAFF COMMENTS

Engineering Comments:

No comments to the proposed extension; however, according to the submitted plans, the proposed project will require a Land Disturbance Permit to be submitted through Central Permitting. It also appears that there are proposed structures to be placed within the public Right of Way. Contact the Engineering Dept. to discuss requesting a Non-Utility Use Agreement with the City, this agreement must be approved prior to the issuance of any Land Disturbance permits.

Traffic Engineering Comments:

Driveway number, size, location, and design to be approved by Traffic Engineering and conform to AASHTO standards. Any required on-site parking, including ADA handicap spaces, shall meet the minimum standards as defined in Appendix A, Section 9.C of the City's Unified Development Code.

Urban Forestry Comments:

Property to be developed in compliance with state and local laws that pertain to tree preservation and protection on both city and private properties [Act 929 of the 1961 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature (Acts 1961, p. 1487), as amended, and City Code Chapters 57 and 65]. Private removal of trees in the right-of-way will require approval of the Mobile Tree Commission. Removal of heritage trees from undeveloped residential sites, developed residential sites in historic districts, and all commercial sites will require a tree removal permit.

Fire Department Comments:

All projects located within the City Limits of Mobile shall comply with the provisions of the City of Mobile Fire Code Ordinance, which adopts the 2021 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC).

Fire apparatus access roads shall be provided to within 150 feet of all non-sprinklered commercial buildings and within 300 feet of all sprinklered commercial buildings, as measured along an approved route around the exterior of the facility.

An approved fire water supply capable of meeting the requirements set forth in Appendices B and C of the 2021 IFC shall be provided for all commercial buildings.

Fire hydrant placement shall comply with the following minimum standards:

- Within 400 feet of non-sprinklered commercial buildings
- Within 600 feet of sprinklered commercial buildings
- Within 100 feet of fire department connections (FDCs) serving standpipe or sprinkler systems

Although the International Residential Code (IRC) functions as a stand-alone document for the construction of one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses, it does not govern the design or layout of emergency access or community-level fire protection infrastructure. Therefore, residential developments must also comply with the applicable requirements of the International Fire Code, including, but not limited to, those listed above concerning the design, construction, regulation, and maintenance of fire apparatus access roads and fire protection water supplies.

Planning Comments:

The applicant is requesting a six (6) month extension of the most recent approval of the Curb Cut Number, Building Orientation, Signage, Material, and Frontage Type Variances to allow three (3) curb cuts to North Franklin Street, to allow the proposed building to utilize a "B" street as the primary frontage, to allow an address number exceeding one (1) square foot, to allow non-compliant materials for garage doors, and to have non-compliant frontage types in a SD-WH sub-district in the Downtown Development District, approved by the Board at its August 4, 2025 meeting.

The Variance was approved subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Obtain a non-utility right-of-way use agreement to allow gallery columns to encroach into the right-of-way;
- 2) Obtain all required land disturbance, building, and sign permits; and
- 3) Full compliance with all municipal codes and ordinances.

This is the first extension request for this approval.

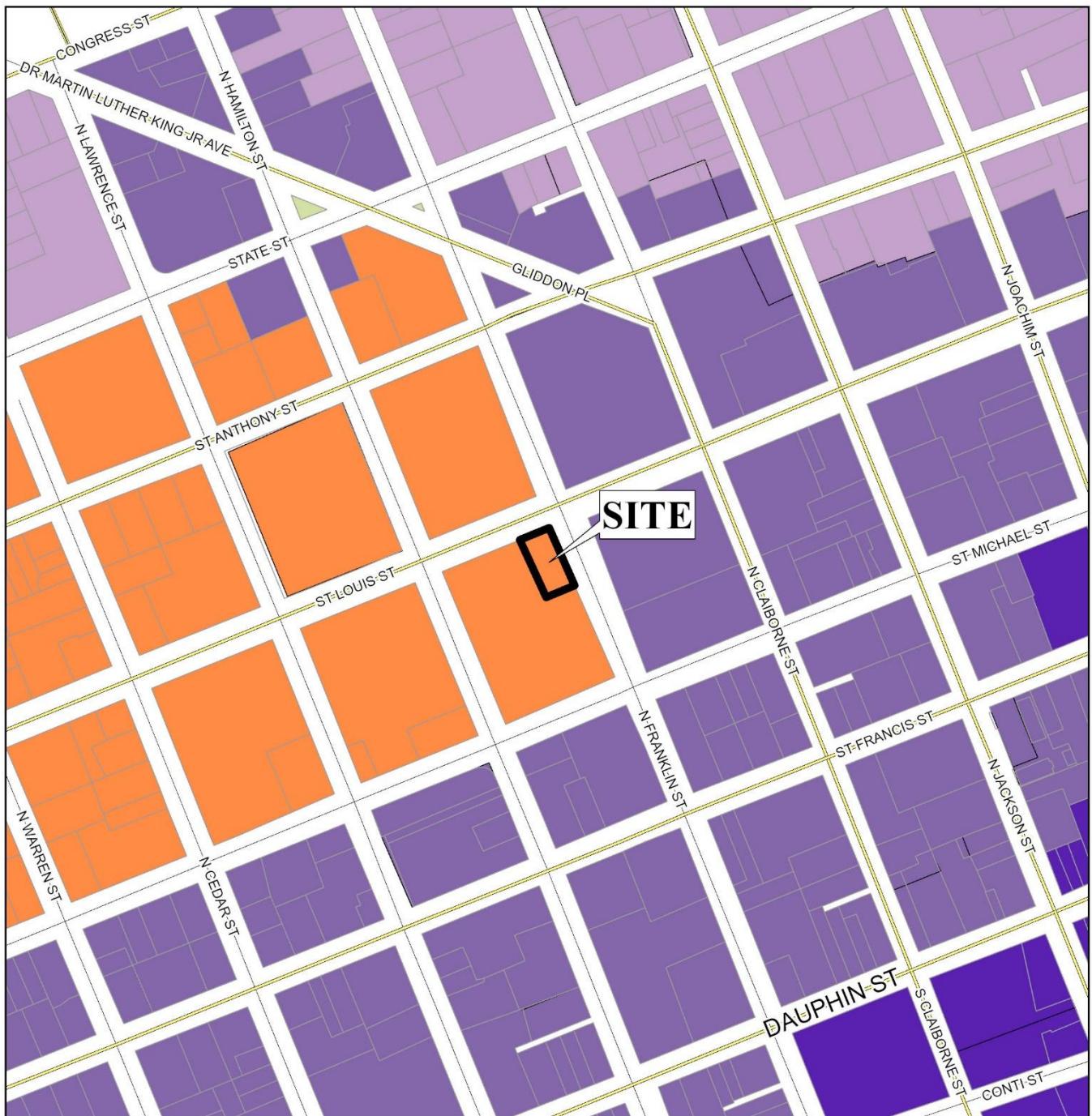
As justification for the request, the applicant states that they do not anticipate permitting will be completed prior to the expiration of the current variance approval.

VARIANCE EXTENSION CONSIDERATIONS

Standards of Review:

The Board is typically amenable to granting extensions, especially a first request when the applicant is working towards site development. Granting of such extensions are always in compliance with the findings of facts associated with the original approval.

LOCATOR ZONING MAP



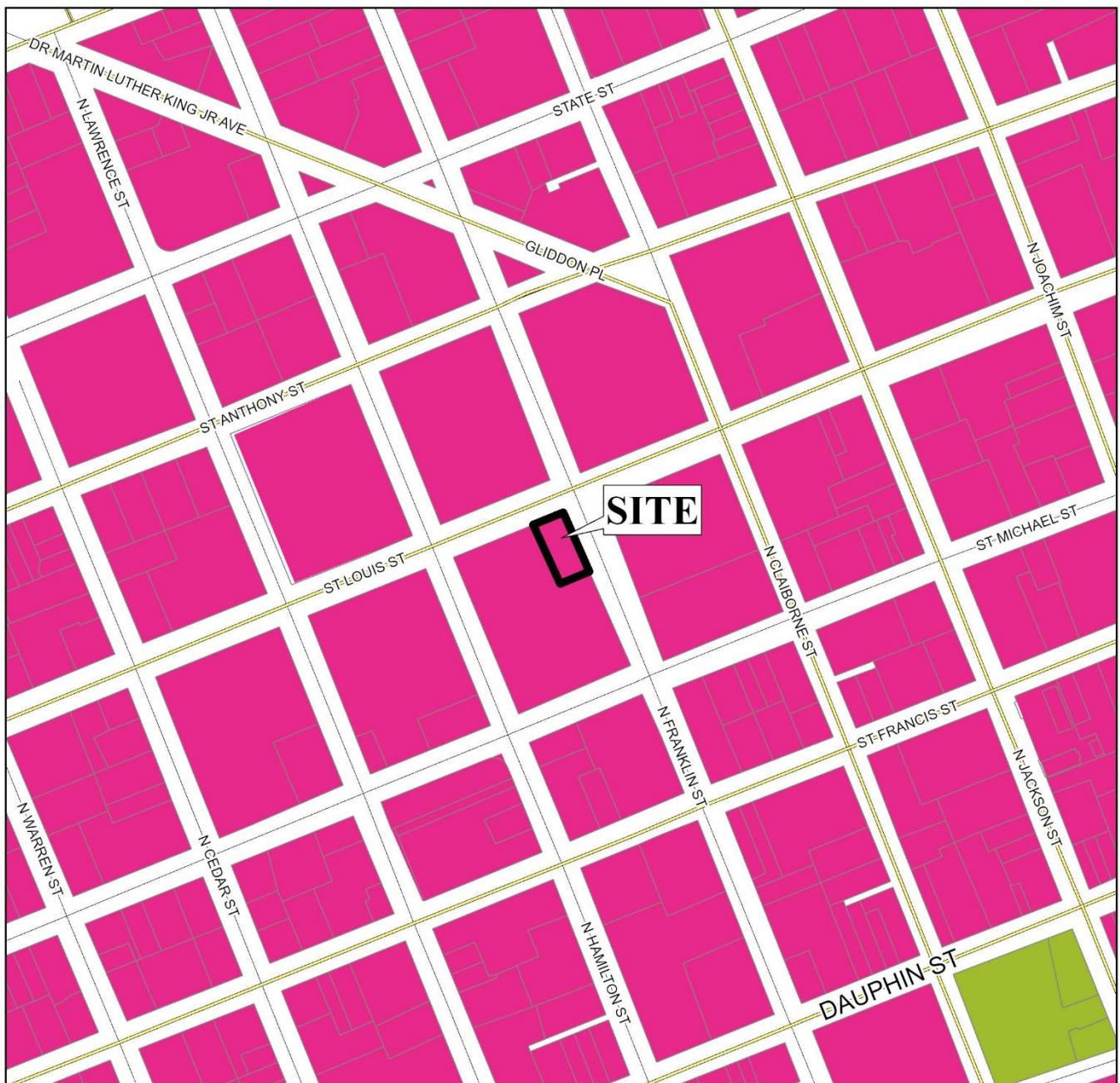
APPLICATION NUMBER 6689 DATE February 2, 2026

APPLICANT RGH (Stephen Howle, Agent)

REQUEST Curb Cut Number, Building Orientation, Signage, Material, and Frontage Type Variances



FLUM LOCATOR MAP



APPLICATION NUMBER 6689 DATE February 2, 2026

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REQUEST Curb Cut Number, Building Orientation, Signage, Material, and Frontage Type Variances

Low Density Residential	Neighborhood Center - Traditional	Light Industry	Water Dependent
Mixed Density Residential	Neighborhood Center - Suburban	Heavy Industry	Institutional
Downtown	Traditional Corridor	Mixed Commercial Corridor	
District Center		Parks, Open Space	

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NTS

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

VICINITY MAP - EXISTING ZONING



The site is surrounded by commercial units.

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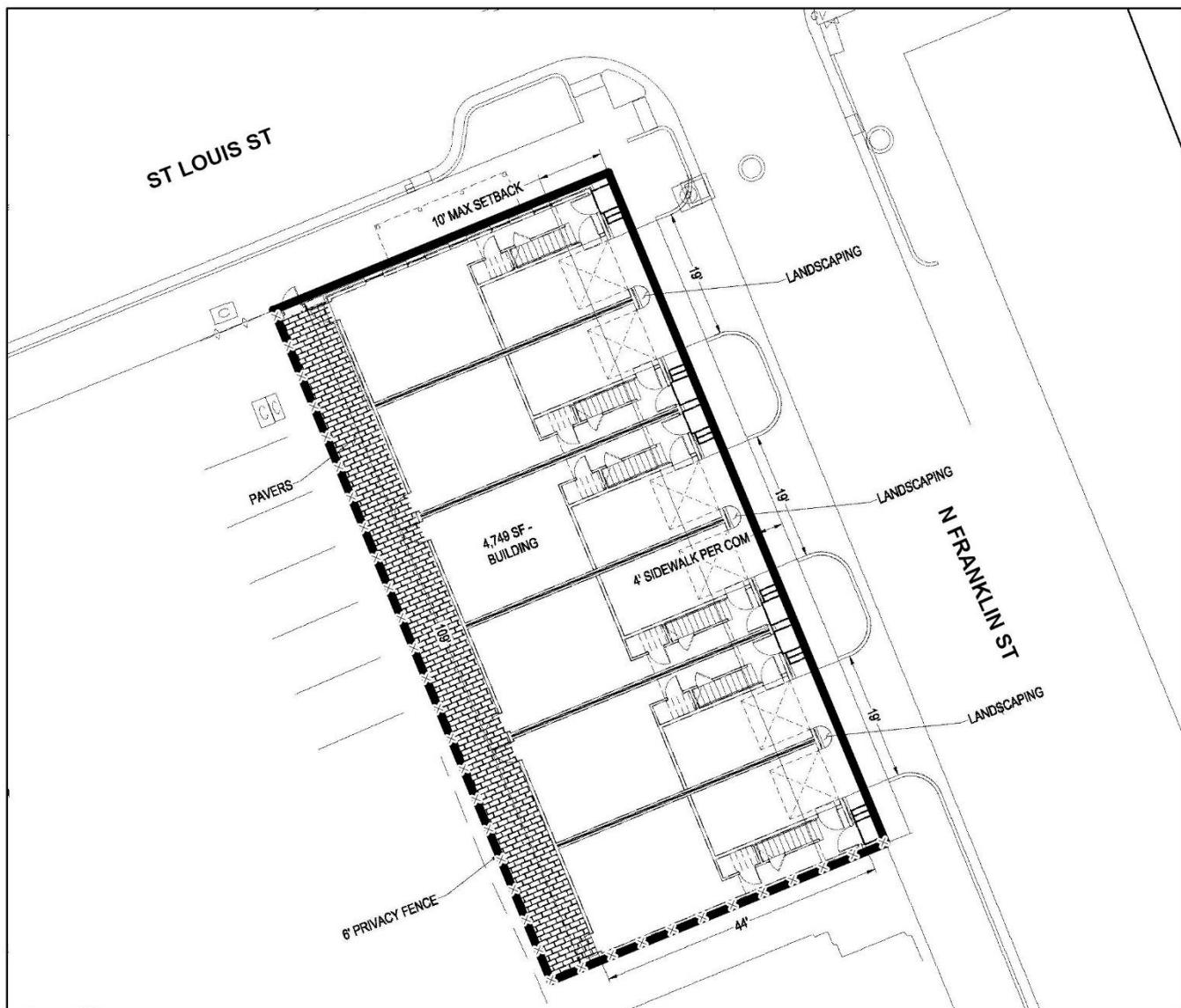
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	R-A		R-3		B-1		B-2		B-5		ML		I-2		OPEN		T-3		T-5.2
	R-1		R-B		T-B		B-3		CW		MH		PD		SD		T-4		T-6
	R-2		H-B		LB-2		B-4		MM		I-1		MUN		SD-WH		T-5.1		



SITE PLAN



The site plan illustrates the setbacks, proposed landscaping, proposed building, and fencing.

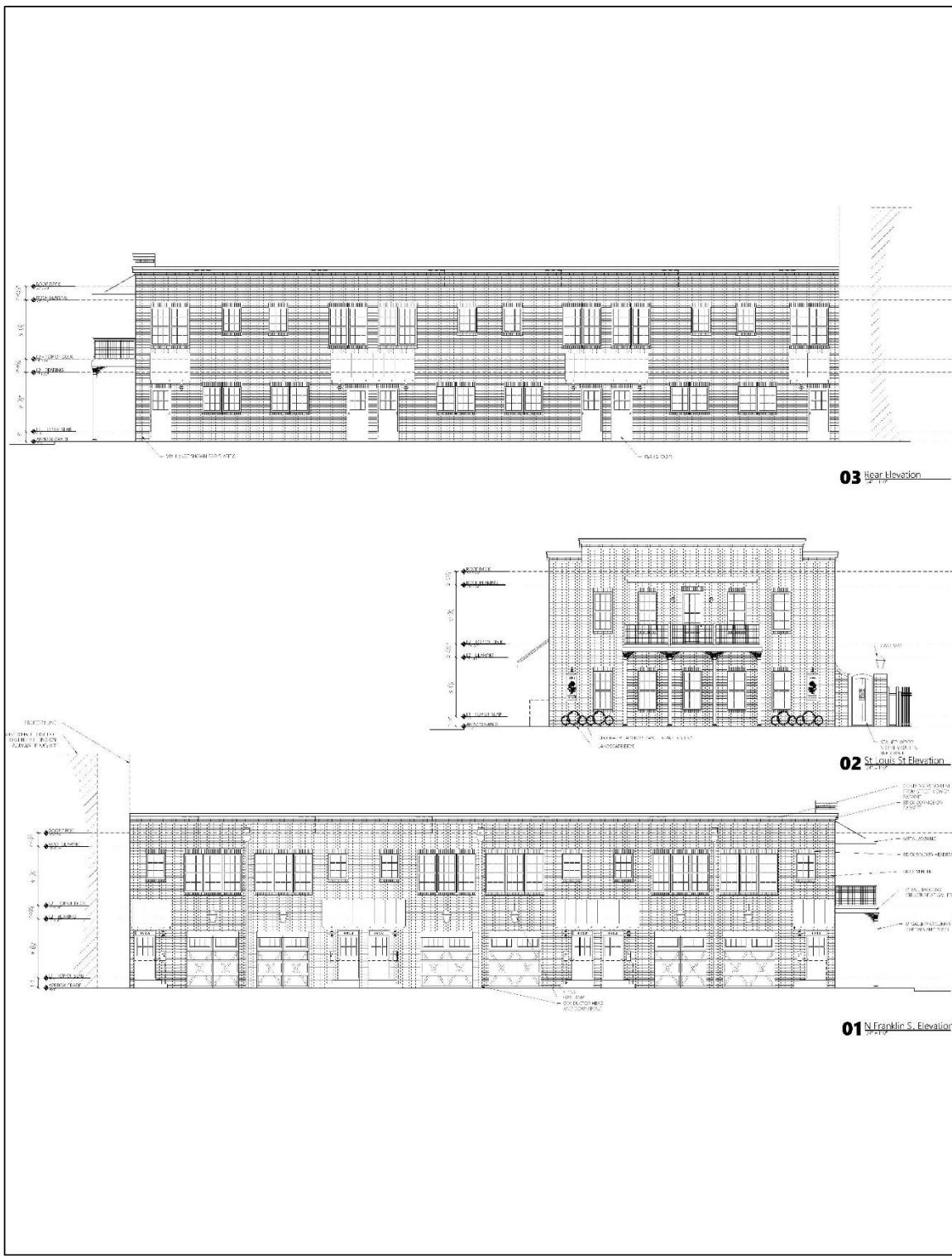
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DETAIL SITE PLAN



APPLICATION NUMBER	6689	DATE	February 2, 2026
APPLICANT	RGH (Stephen Howle, Agent)		
REQUEST	Curb Cut Number, Building Orientation, Signage, Material, and Frontage Type Variances		

FUTURE LAND USE MAP CORRESPONDENCE TO ZONING

A primary purpose of the Future Land Use Map is to guide zoning decisions. In many cases the designation on the FLUM may match the existing use of land, but in others the designated land use may differ from what is on the ground today. For example, a parcel that is in commercial use today but designated as any of the "mixed use" types on the map could redevelop with a mix of residential and commercial uses (such as retail, office, entertainment, etc., depending on the location).

Each future land use designation on the FLUM will have at least one corresponding zoning district, allowing a more precise application of the FLUM based on specific local conditions. In most cases, there are multiple combinations or types of zoning techniques that can accomplish the future land use designation's objectives.

The correspondence between the FLUM and the zoning district structure is described in the matrix below. This tool gives the City the flexibility over the long-term to determine appropriate changes to the zoning map based on various factors.

The designation of an area with a FLUM land use category does not mean that the most intense zoning district consistent with that category is “automatically” assigned to a property. Instead, an area retains its existing zoning category until it is changed through a landowner-initiated rezoning application, or a rezoning that follows an area plan. This is because the FLUM is a long-term designation, while a change in zoning considers current conditions – such as market demands, availability of infrastructure, or impacts on the immediate neighborhood.

Zoning correspondence matrix

DOWNTOWN (DT)

Downtown is called out as a separate land use designation due to its distinct role, layout and fabric. As a land use district, Downtown is the ultimate mixed-use environment. Land development and redevelopment will emphasize variety, mixed uses, and unity of form within buildings or complexes. As the City's and region's center for commercial and service employment, Downtown supports intense development and a dynamic combination of uses: specialty and regional retail shopping and offices; business support services; urban housing at higher densities (starting at 10 du/ac); civic, educational and cultural destinations; entertainment options; and other public amenities including active and passive park space. The successful integration of a mix of housing types and densities will be critical to achieve a vibrant, active Downtown Mobile.

Development Intent

- › Support new, redeveloped and adaptively reused buildings that frame attractive, human-scaled streetscapes, memorable and safe public spaces, bicycle and pedestrian-friendly streets and allow for convenient access to jobs, housing, and entertainment.
- › Support infill development that provides better utilization of land, reduces surface parking, and is compatible with its surroundings.
- › Building siting, form, and scale will vary by context within Downtown as defined in the zoning.
- › Protect and enhance the historic and cultural heritage of the City.

Land use mix

Primary Uses

- › Commercial
- › Office
- › Civic
- › Residential, Multifamily

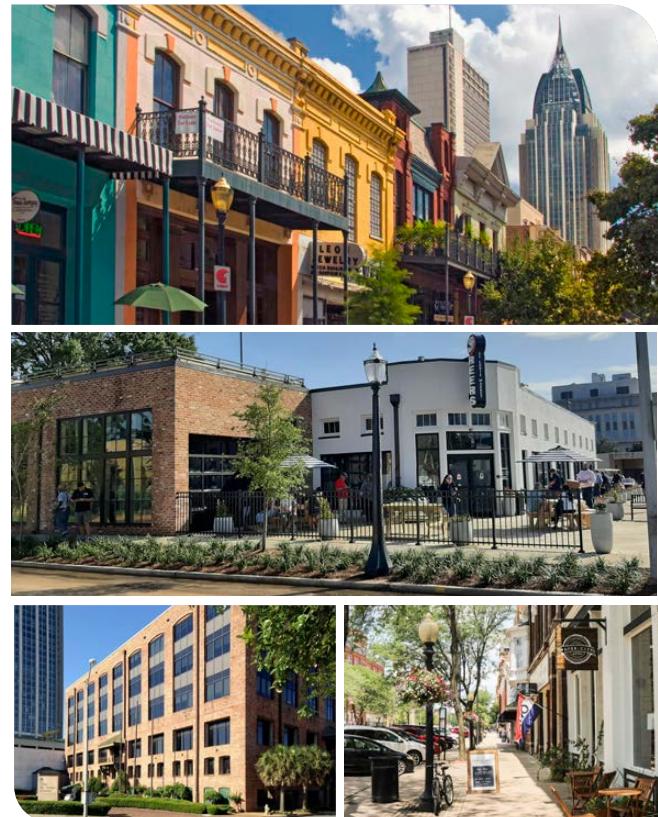
Secondary Uses

- › Residential, Attached
- › Residential, Single Family
- › Parks

Housing mix

- › Residential units above ground-floor retail
- › Multifamily buildings
- › Attached residential such as duplexes, multiplexes, and townhomes
- › Single family homes

Character Example



Downtown includes a wide range of building types including high-rise offices, one and two-story mixed use buildings, various civic buildings, and historic single family homes. Detailed expectations for future development vary throughout Downtown and are contained in the Downtown Development District code.

Rendering: Dover Kohl