

# Planning Commission

## Staff Report

August 17, 2023



<b>Case No:</b>	23-ZONE-0026
<b>Project Name:</b>	MK Flooring
<b>Location:</b>	3902 Fern Valley Rd
<b>Owner(s):</b>	Ibrahima Ndiaye
<b>Applicant:</b>	Ibrahima Ndiaye
<b>Jurisdiction:</b>	Louisville Metro
<b>Council District:</b>	21- Betsy Ruhe
<b>Case Manager:</b>	Jay Lockett, AICP, Planner II

### REQUEST(S)

- **Change in Zoning** from R-4 Single Family to C-2 Commercial
- **Waiver** of Land Development Code section 10.3.5.A.7 to permit a detention basin to overlap the required Parkway Buffer by greater than 50%.
- **Detailed District Development plan** with binding elements

### CASE SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

The applicant is proposing to construct a contractor shop on approximately .69 acres in the Suburban Workplace form district. The subject site is located along Fern Valley Rd in south central Louisville Metro.

### STAFF FINDING

The proposed zoning district is consistent with the provisions of the Comprehensive Plan and the development is similar in use and intensity to other properties in the area. The waiver and District Development Plan are adequately justified and meet the standards of review.

### TECHNICAL REVIEW

MSD and Transportation Planning have approved the preliminary development plan.

## **STANDARD OF REVIEW FOR REZONING**

Criteria for granting the proposed form district change/rezoning: KRS Chapter 100.213

1. The proposed form district/rezoning change complies with the applicable guidelines and policies Plan 2040; OR
2. The existing form district/zoning classification is inappropriate and the proposed classification is appropriate; OR
3. There have been major changes of an economic, physical, or social nature within the area involved which were not anticipated in Plan 2040 which have substantially altered the basic character of the area.

## **STAFF ANALYSIS FOR CHANGE IN ZONING**

Following is staff's analysis of the proposed rezoning against the Guidelines and Policies of Plan 2040.

The site is located in the Suburban Workplace Form District

A Suburban Workplace is a form characterized by predominately industrial and office uses where the buildings are set back from the street in a landscaped setting. Suburban Workplaces often contain a single large-scale use or a cluster of uses within a master planned development. New larger proposed industrial uses are encouraged to apply for a planned development district.

In order to provide adequate transportation access in suburban workplaces connected roads, public transportation and pedestrian facilities should be encouraged. Walkways to workplace serving uses are encouraged for workplace employees. Development within Suburban Workplace Form Districts may need significant buffering from abutting uses.

The subject site is located along Fern Valley Road, a major arterial. There is a wide variety of employment opportunities, services and amenities in the area. An adequate population exists in the area to support a wide variety of commercial services. The use is consistent with other development in the form district and the immediate vicinity. Adequate transitions in the form of buffering and screening will be provided adjacent to uses of a lower intensity.

## **STANDARD OF REVIEW AND STAFF ANALYSIS FOR WAIVER**

- (a) The waiver will not adversely affect adjacent property owners; and

STAFF: The waiver will not adversely affect adjacent property owners. All required screening and planting will be provided around the site.

- (b) The waiver will not violate specific guidelines of the Comprehensive Plan; and

STAFF: Community Form Goal 1, Policy 9 calls to ensure an appropriate transition between uses that are substantially different in scale and intensity or density of development. The transition may be achieved through methods such as landscaped buffer yards, vegetative berms, compatible building design and materials, height restrictions and setback requirements. Community Form Goal 1, Policy 10 calls to mitigate the impacts caused when incompatible developments unavoidably occur adjacent to one another. Buffers should be used between uses that are substantially different in intensity or density. Buffers should be variable in design and may include landscaping, vegetative berms and/or walls and should address issues such as

outdoor lighting, lights from automobiles, illuminated signs, loud noise, odors, smoke, automobile exhaust or other noxious smells, dust and dirt, litter, junk, outdoor storage, and visual nuisances. Residential uses that develop adjacent to agricultural land uses may be required to provide screening and buffering to protect both the farmer and homeowners. Community Form Goal 1, Policy 12 calls for the proposal to Design parking, loading and delivery areas located adjacent to residential areas to minimize adverse impacts from noise, lights, and other potential impacts. The waiver will not violate the Comprehensive Plan, as all required screening and planting will be provided around the subject site. The easement and drainage infrastructure is being located in a way that works with the prevailing grade to effectively control stormwater.

- (c) The extent of the waiver of the regulation is the minimum necessary to afford relief to the applicant; and

STAFF: The extent of the waiver of the regulation is the minimum necessary to afford relief to the applicant.

- (d) Either:  
(i) The applicant has incorporated other design measures that exceed the minimums of the district and compensate for non-compliance with the requirements to be waived (net beneficial effect); OR  
(ii) The strict application of the provisions of the regulation would deprive the applicant of the reasonable use of the land or would create an unnecessary hardship on the applicant.

STAFF: The strict application of the provisions of the regulation would create an unnecessary hardship on the applicant, as significant additional grading would be required to direct water towards another part of the site. All required screening and planting will be provided around the subject site.

#### **STANDARD OF REVIEW AND STAFF ANALYSIS FOR (R)DDDP and/or AMENDMENT TO BINDING ELEMENTS**

- (a) The conservation of natural resources on the property proposed for development, including: trees and other living vegetation, steep slopes, water courses, flood plains, soils, air quality, scenic views, and historic sites;

STAFF: There are no significant natural or historic resources on the subject site.

- (b) The provisions for safe and efficient vehicular and pedestrian transportation both within the development and the community;

STAFF: Provisions for safe and efficient vehicular and pedestrian transportation within and around the development and the community has been provided, and Transportation Planning has approved the preliminary development plan.

- (c) The provision of sufficient open space (scenic and recreational) to meet the needs of the proposed development;

STAFF: All required open space provisions of the land development code are being provided on the subject site.

- (d) The provision of adequate drainage facilities on the subject site in order to prevent drainage problems from occurring on the subject site or within the community;

STAFF: The Metropolitan Sewer District has approved the preliminary development plan and will ensure the provision of adequate drainage facilities on the subject site in order to prevent drainage problems from occurring on the subject site or within the community.

- (e) The compatibility of the overall site design (location of buildings, parking lots, screening, landscaping) and land use or uses with the existing and projected future development of the area;

STAFF: The overall site design and land uses are compatible with the existing and future development of the area. Appropriate screening will be provided to screen adjacent properties and roadways.

- (f) Conformance of the development plan with the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code. Revised plan certain development plans shall be evaluated for conformance with the non-residential and mixed-use intent of the form districts and comprehensive plan.

STAFF: The development plan conforms to applicable guidelines and policies of the Comprehensive Plan and to requirements of the Land Development Code, except where relief is requested.

## **REQUIRED ACTIONS**

- **RECOMMEND** that **Louisville Metro Council APPROVE** or **DENY** the proposed **Change-in-Zoning** from R-4 to C-2.
- **APPROVE** or **DENY** the **Waiver**
- **APPROVE** or **DENY** the **Detailed District Development Plan** with binding elements

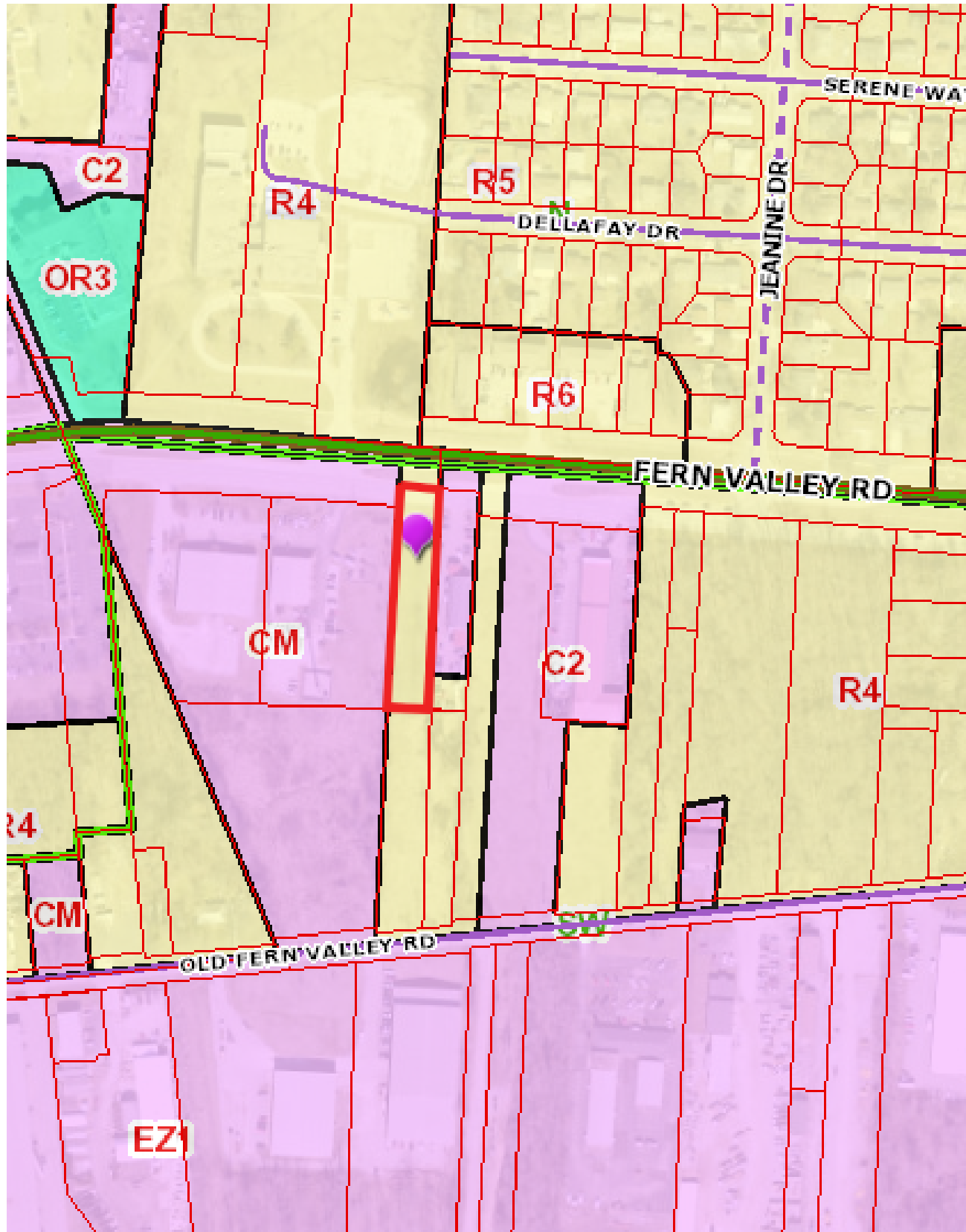
## **NOTIFICATION**

Date	Purpose of Notice	Recipients
6-27-23	Hearing before LD&T	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> tier adjoining property owners and current residents Registered Neighborhood Groups in Council District 21
7-21-23	Hearing before PC	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> tier adjoining property owners and current residents Registered Neighborhood Groups in Council District 21
6-31-23	Hearing before PC	Sign Posting on property
	Hearing before PC	Legal Advertisement in the Courier-Journal

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Zoning Map
2. Aerial Photograph
3. Staff Plan 2040 Checklist
4. Proposed Binding Elements

1. Zoning Map



2. Aerial Photograph



### 3. Staff Plan 2040 Checklist

- + Exceeds Guideline
- ✓ Meets Guideline
- Does Not Meet Guideline
- +/- More Information Needed
- NA Not Applicable

#### Suburban Workplace: Non-Residential

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
1	Community Form: Goal 1	6. Discourage non-residential expansion into existing residential areas unless applicant can demonstrate that any adverse impact on residential uses will be mitigated. Evaluation of impacts may include, but not be limited to, displacement of residents, loss of affordable housing units, traffic, parking, signs, lighting, noise, odor, and stormwater. Appropriate transitions from non-residential to residential uses should depend on the pattern of development of the Form District and may include natural vegetative buffers, landscaping or the use of higher density residential between lower density residential and/or non-residential.	✓	The proposal does not represent an expansion of non-residential uses into residential areas, as the subject site is within an area containing a variety of non-residential uses and zoning districts.
2	Community Form: Goal 1	7. Locate higher density and intensity uses near major transportation facilities and transit corridors, employment centers, in or near activity centers and other areas where demand and adequate infrastructure exists or is planned.	✓	The proposed district is appropriately located adjacent to like zones and uses.
3	Community Form: Goal 1	8. Encourage industries to locate in workplace Form Districts or in areas readily served by infrastructure and transportation facilities, including transit, rather than isolated industrial sites.	✓	The proposal is in a workplace form adjacent to a variety of commercial, office and industrial uses readily served by infrastructure and transportation facilities.
4	Community Form: Goal 1	15. When reviewing proposals for siting hazardous uses and uses with air, noise and light emissions, ensure disadvantaged populations are not disproportionately impacted.	✓	The proposal concentrates like uses and zones and would not permit industrial development or hazardous uses.

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
5	Community Form: Goal 1	16. Consider impacts on human health, quality of life and the environment including prevailing meteorological conditions and the potential to transport noxious odors, particulates and emissions when reviewing new developments and redevelopments. Special attention should be paid to air and water quality when residences, schools, parks or vulnerable populations will be impacted. Mitigate impacts to areas that are disproportionately affected.	✓	Adequate screening and buffering will be provided adjacent to uses of lesser intensity.
6	Community Form: Goal 1	17. Mitigate adverse impacts of traffic from proposed development on nearby existing communities.	✓	The site is served directly by Fern Valley Rd, a major arterial roadway.
7	Community Form: Goal 1	18. Mitigate adverse impacts of noise from proposed development on existing communities.	✓	The site is in an area with a mix of industrial, office and commercial uses. The applicant will be required to provide adequate screening and buffering adjacent to the existing residential use.
8	Community Form: Goal 1	21. Require that industries which handle hazardous or flammable materials or are potentially offensive such as junkyards, landfills and quarries are sited to protect public health, safety and welfare and are located away from residential areas and population centers.	✓	The site is in an area with a mix of industrial, office and commercial uses. The applicant will be required to provide adequate screening and buffering adjacent to the existing residential use. The change in zoning will not permit industrial uses.
9	Community Form: Goal 2	1. Locate activity centers in appropriate areas in all Form Districts. Design and density should be compatible with desired form, adjacent uses, and existing and planned infrastructure.	✓	The proposal is located in an existing industrial and commercial activity center.
10	Community Form: Goal 2	5. Locate retail commercial development in activity centers where it can be demonstrated that sufficient population exists or is anticipated to support it.	✓	The proposed zoning district allows for a variety of commercial uses. The subject site is located in workplace form in an area with a variety of industrial, office and commercial uses
11	Community Form: Goal 2	6. Encourage a more compact development pattern in activity centers that result in efficient land use and cost-effective infrastructure investment.	✓	The proposal is in a workplace form adjacent to similar a variety of commercial, industrial and office uses and is served by adequate infrastructure and transportation facilities.
12	Community Form: Goal 2	7. Encourage activity centers to include a mixture of compatible land uses in order to reduce traffic congestion by requiring fewer trips, support and enhance alternative modes of travel, and encourage vitality and a sense of place.	✓	The proposal is in a workplace form in an area with a variety of industrial, office and commercial uses. The site is readily served by infrastructure and transportation facilities. The zoning district allows for a mix of compatible commercial uses.



#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
13	Land Use & Development Goal 2: Community Form	8. Encourage residential land uses in designated centers. Encourage residential and office uses above retail and other mixed-use multi-story retail buildings.	✓	The proposed zoning could permit a variety of residential development as well as mixed use development.
14	Community Form: Goal 2	9. Encourage new developments and rehabilitation of buildings that provide commercial, office and/or residential uses.	✓	The proposal allows for the a new commercial development within an established commercial and industrial activity center.
15	Community Form: Goal 2	10. Encourage outlot development in underutilized parking lots of existing development to promote utilization of existing infrastructure provided specific criteria for elements such as location, scale, signs, parking, lighting, and landscaping are met. Outlot development shall encourage street-level retail with residential units above.	NA	The proposal is not part of a larger commercial center and is not an outlot.
16	Community Form: Goal 3	9. Encourage development that respects the natural features of the site through sensitive site design, avoids substantial changes to the topography, and minimizes property damage and environmental degradation resulting from disturbance of natural systems.	✓	The site does not appear to contain significant natural resources.
17	Community Form: Goal 3	10. Encourage development to avoid wet or highly permeable soils, severe, steep or unstable slopes where the potential for severe erosion problems exists in order to prevent property damage and public costs associated with soil slippage and foundation failure and to minimize environmental degradation.	✓	The site does not appear to contain environmental constraints.

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
18	Community Form: Goal 3	11. Encourage land uses within the Ohio River Corridor that are appropriate for and related to river corridor activities and that are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Ohio River Corridor Master Plan. Reserve appropriate riverfront sites such as the Upper River Road industrial area for river-related development. Allow development of commercial leisure businesses related to the river, such as boating services and restaurants in appropriate locations. Encourage new development in the Ohio River corridor and along key greenway and street connections to provide for public access in new riverfront development and to maintain views of the river from public rights-of-way.	NA	The proposal is not located in the Ohio River corridor.
19	Community Form: Goal 3	12. When reviewing proposed developments consider changes to flood-prone areas and other features vulnerable to natural disasters such as sinkholes and landslides. Ensure appropriate measures to protect health, safety and welfare of future users of the development.	✓	MSD has approved the preliminary development plan.
20	Community Form: Goal 4	1. Preserve buildings, sites, districts and landscapes that are recognized as having historic or architectural value and ensure that new land uses are compatible in height, massing, scale, architecture style and placement when located within the impact area of such resources.	✓	The proposed site does not have any known historic or cultural value.
21	Community Form: Goal 4	2. Encourage preservation of distinctive cultural features including landscapes, natural elements and built features.	✓	The proposed site does not have any known historic or cultural value.
22	Mobility: Goal 1	4. Encourage higher densities and intensities within or near existing marketplace corridors, existing and future activity centers, and employment centers to support transit-oriented development and an efficient public transportation system.	✓	The proposal is in a workplace form in an area with a variety of industrial, office and commercial uses.

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
23	Mobility: Goal 3	2. To improve mobility, and reduce vehicle miles traveled and congestion, encourage a mixture of compatible land uses that are easily accessible by bicycle, car, transit, pedestrians and people with disabilities. Housing should be encouraged near employment centers.	✓	The proposal is in a workplace form in an area with a variety of industrial, office and commercial uses. The zoning would permit a variety of housing options as well as mixed use development in an area with a variety of employment opportunities.
24	Mobility: Goal 3	3. Evaluate developments for their ability to promote public transit and pedestrian use. Encourage higher density mixed-use developments that reduce the need for multiple automobile trips as a means of achieving air quality standards and providing transportation and housing choices.	✓	The proposal is in a workplace form in an area with a variety of industrial, office and commercial uses. The zoning allows for a variety of uses that are compatible with the goal to reduce vehicle miles traveled.
25	Mobility: Goal 3	4. Encourage development of walkable centers to connect different modes of travel. Siting of these multi-modal centers shall consider the effects of the following: 4.1. nodal connections identified by Move Louisville; 4.2. impact on freight routes; 4.3. time of operation of facilities; 4.4. safety; 4.5. appropriate linkages between neighborhoods and employment; and 4.6. the potential for reducing travel times and vehicle miles traveled.	✓	The development will provide for new sidewalk along the rights-of-way, and encourage improvements to walkability within and area that contains a variety of land uses.
26	Mobility: Goal 3	5. Evaluate developments for their impact on the transportation network (including the street, pedestrian, transit, freight movement and bike facilities and services) and air quality.	✓	The proposal is in a workplace form in an area with a variety of industrial, office and commercial uses. readily served by infrastructure and transportation facilities.
27	Mobility: Goal 3	6. Ensure that those who propose new developments bear or share in rough proportionality the costs of transportation facilities and services made necessary by development.	✓	The proposal is in a workplace form in an area with a variety of industrial, office and commercial uses. readily served by infrastructure and transportation facilities.

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
28	Mobility: Goal 3	9. When existing transportation facilities and services are inadequate and public funds are not available to rectify the situation, the developer may be asked to make improvements, roughly proportional to the projected impact of the proposed development, to eliminate present inadequacies if such improvements would be the only means by which the development would be considered appropriate at the proposed location.	✓	Transportation planning has approved the preliminary development plan.
29	Mobility: Goal 3	10. Ensure that necessary improvements occur in accordance with long-range transportation plans and level of mobility criteria for all modes of travel.	✓	Transportation planning has approved the preliminary development plan.
30	Community Facilities: Goal 2	1. Locate development in areas served by existing utilities or capable of being served by public or private utility extensions.	✓	All utilities will be provided as required. Any necessary easements must be provided per utility agency requirements.
31	Community Facilities: Goal 2	2. Ensure that all development has an adequate supply of potable water and water for fire-fighting purposes. Locate only very low-density land uses on sites that use on-lot sewage disposal systems or on a private supply of potable water.	✓	An adequate water supply exists for the site.
32	Community Facilities: Goal 2	3. Ensure that all development has adequate means of sewage treatment and disposal to protect public health and to protect water quality in lakes and streams as determined by the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD).	✓	MSD has approved the preliminary development plan.
33	Economic Development: Goal 1	1. Limit land uses in workplace Form Districts to compatible uses that meet the needs of the industrial subdivision or workplace district and their employees.	✓	The proposal is in a workplace form in an area with a variety of industrial, office and commercial uses readily served by infrastructure and transportation facilities.
34	Economic Development: Goal 1	2. Encourage industries, to the extent possible, to locate in industrial subdivisions or adjacent to an existing industry to take advantage of special infrastructure needs.	✓	The proposal is in a workplace form in an area with a variety of industrial, office and commercial uses readily served by infrastructure and transportation facilities.

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
35	Economic Development: Goal 1	3. Locate commercial uses generating high volumes of traffic on a major arterial street, at the intersection of two minor arterials, or at a location with adequate access to a major arterial and at locations where nuisances and activities of the proposed use will not adversely affect adjacent areas.	✓	The site is located on a major arterial roadway.
36	Economic Development: Goal 1	4. Utilize industrial sites near the airport and the Ohio River to support the growth and development of uses whose infrastructure and production needs require such a location or for land uses that support airport-oriented or river-oriented industrial uses.	NA	The proposal is not located in the Ohio River corridor.
37	Economic Development: Goal 1	5. Require industrial developments to locate with the appropriate transportation connectivity, near an arterial street or within existing industrial subdivisions.	✓	The proposal is in a workplace form in an area with a variety of industrial, office and commercial uses readily served by infrastructure and transportation facilities. The proposal would not permit industrial uses.
38	Livability: Goal 1	17. Determine site susceptibility to erosion; identify the presence of on-site carbonate conditions and features that are vulnerable to site disturbance; identify the extent of existing groundwater use and the impacts of the project on groundwater resources, flow patterns, and existing and proposed surface drainage. Then mitigate potential hazards to such systems resulting from the project.	✓	Soil erosion does not appear to be an issue with the proposal.
39	Livability: Goal 1	21. Mitigate negative development impacts to the integrity of the regulatory floodplain by encouraging development patterns that minimize disturbance and consider the increased risk of more frequent flooding events.	✓	The site is not located in the floodplain. MSD review and approval required.
40	Livability: Goal 1	24. Ensure, to the extent feasible, that critical facilities and those that store or use hazardous wastes are located outside the regulatory floodplain. Where essential community facilities must be located within a floodplain (e.g., pumping stations), ensure that these facilities are designed, located and operated in a manner that minimizes loss of services during flood events as well as limits, to the extent possible, floodplain disturbance.	✓	The site is not located in the floodplain.

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
41	Housing: Goal 1	2. Promote housing options and environments that support aging in place. Encourage housing for older adults and people with disabilities to be located close to shopping and transit routes and, when possible, medical and other supportive facilities.	✓	The proposed zoning could permit a variety of residential development as well as mixed use development. Transit is available along Preston Highway approximately 1700 feet to the west.
42	Housing: Goal 2	1. Encourage inter-generational, mixed-income and mixed-use development that is connected to the neighborhood and surrounding area.	✓	The proposed zoning could permit a variety of residential development as well as mixed use development. Transit is available along Preston Highway approximately 1700 feet to the west. and is well connected to the wider transportation network of the community.
43	Housing: Goal 2	2. Locate housing within proximity to multi-modal transportation corridors providing safe and convenient access to employment opportunities, as well as within proximity to amenities providing neighborhood goods and services. Higher density, accessible residential uses should be located along transit corridors and in or near activity centers.	✓	The proposed zoning could permit a variety of residential development as well as mixed use development. Transit is available along Preston Highway approximately 1700 feet to the west. and is well connected to the wider transportation network of the community.
44	Housing: Goal 3	2. As neighborhoods evolve, discourage displacement of existing residents from their community.	✓	No residents will be displaced as a result of this development. The site is currently vacant.
45	Housing: Goal 3	3. Encourage the use of innovative methods such as clustering, mixed-use developments, co-housing, and accessory apartments to increase the production of fair and affordable housing.	✓	The proposed zoning could permit a variety of residential development as well as mixed use development.

#### **4. Proposed Binding Elements**

1. The development shall be in accordance with the approved district development plan, all applicable sections of the Land Development Code (LDC) and agreed upon binding elements unless amended pursuant to the Land Development Code. Any changes/additions/alterations of any binding element(s) shall be submitted to the Planning Commission or the Planning Commission's designee for review and approval; any changes/additions/alterations not so referred shall not be valid.
2. Construction fencing shall be erected when off-site trees or tree canopy exists within 3' of a common property line. Fencing shall be in place prior to any grading or construction to protect the existing root systems from compaction. The fencing shall enclose the entire area beneath the tree canopy and shall remain in place until all construction is completed. No parking, material storage or construction activities are permitted within the protected area.
3. Before any permit (including but not limited to building, parking lot, change of use, site disturbance, alteration permit or demolition permit is requested:
  - a. The development plan must receive full construction approval from Construction Review, Louisville Metro Public Works and the Metropolitan Sewer District.
  - b. The property owner/developer must obtain approval of a detailed plan for screening (buffering/landscaping) as described in Chapter 10 prior to requesting a building permit. Such plan shall be implemented prior to occupancy of the site and shall be maintained thereafter.
  - c. Final elevations shall be reviewed and approved by Planning Commission staff and shall be substantially the same as presented at the Planning Commission public hearing.
4. A certificate of occupancy must be received from the appropriate code enforcement department prior to occupancy of the structure or land for the proposed use. All binding elements requiring action and approval must be implemented prior to requesting issuance of the certificate of occupancy, unless specifically waived by the Planning Commission.
5. The applicant, developer, or property owner shall provide copies of these binding elements to tenants, purchasers, contractors, subcontractors and other parties engaged in development of this site and shall advise them of the content of these binding elements. These binding elements shall run with the land and the owner of the property and occupant of the property shall at all times be responsible for compliance with these binding elements. At all times during development of the site, the applicant and developer, their heirs, successors; and assignees, contractors, subcontractors, and other parties engaged in development of the site, shall be responsible for compliance with these binding elements.
6. The applicant shall plant two type A or B trees within 15 feet of the structure.