ORDINANCE NO. 20081211-082

AN ORDINANCE REZONING AND AMENDING THE ZONING MAP TO CHANGE THE ZONING DISTRICTS FROM THEIR CURRENT DESIGNATIONS TO TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) DISTRICT ON CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE EAST CESAR CHAVEZ, CENTRAL EAST AUSTIN, AND HOLLY NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN COMBINING DISTRICTS; AND ADOPTING THE PLAZA SALTILLO TOD DISTRICT STATION AREA PLAN AND REGULATING PLAN, INCLUDING MODIFICATIONS TO TITLE 25 OF THE CITY CODE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. The zoning map established by Section 25-2-191 of the City Code is amended to change the base zoning districts to transit oriented development (TOD) district on all those certain tracts of land (*the "Property"*) described in Zoning Case No. C14-2008-0029, on file at the Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department, as follows:

> Approximately 132 acres of land in the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas, more particularly described and identified in the tract map attached as Exhibit "A",

located in portions of the East Cesar Chavez, and Central East Austin, and Holly neighborhood planning areas, locally known as the area generally bounded by E. 7th St. and the E. 7th St. alley on the north; the east side of Chicon St. on the east; E. 3rd St., the alley between E. 3rd St. and 4th St., and E. 4th St. on the south; and the northbound frontage road of IH-35 on the west, in the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas, and identified in the tract table attached as Exhibit "B" and the map attached as Exhibit "C" (*the "Zoning Map"*).

PART 2. The zoning districts for the Property are changed:

(A) from the current base districts to transit oriented development (TOD) district; and

(B) to remove all current combining district designations, except that each district shall retain its current neighborhood plan (NP) combining district designation and any current historic landmark (H) combining district designation.

PART 3. The "Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Plan" attached as Exhibit "D" and incorporated into this ordinance is adopted as the station area plan for the Property under Section 25-2-766.22(A) (*Adoption of Station Area Plan*) of the City Code, including the "Regulating Plan for the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Plan" attached as Exhibit "E" (the "*Regulating Plan*") and incorporated into this ordinance.

PART 4. Under Section 25-2-766.22 (*Adoption of Station Area Plan*) of the City Code:

(A) the Regulating Plan establishes the zoning, site development, and design regulations applicable to the Property;

(B) the boundaries of the Plaza Saltillo TOD shown in Chapter 25-2 (*Zoning*), Appendix D, Exhibit 2, of the City Code are modified to be the boundaries shown in Exhibit "C;"

(C) amendments to the Regulating Plan are subject to the requirements of Section 25-1-502 (*Amendment; Review*) of the City for amendments of Title 25 of the City Code instead of the requirements for notice of rezoning under Section 25-2-261 (*Notice of Application Filing*) of the City Code; and

(D) the density standards of Article 2 (*Land Use and Building Density*) and the site development standards in Section 4.2 (*General Development Standards)* of the Regulating Plan are the only parts of the Regulating Plan that are requirements of Chapter 25-2 of the City Code for purposes of Section 25-2-472 (*Board of Adjustment Variance Authority)* of the City Code.

PART 5. The changes made by this ordinance take effect on March 1, 2009.

PART 6. This ordinance takes effect on December 22, 2008.

PASSED AND APPROVED

December 11, 2008 § Will Wynn
Mayor

APPROVED: David Allan Smith
City Attorney

ATTEST: Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk

EXHIBIT A - Plaza Saltillo Station Area Plan
Zoning Tract Map
C14-2008-0029

N
W E
S

500 250 0 500 Feet

Produced by City of Austin
Neighborhood Planning & Zoning Dept.
February 21, 2008

This map has been produced by the CIty of Austin for the sole purpose of aiding regional planning and is not warranted for any other use. No warranty is made regarding its accuracy or completeness.

EXHIBIT B

PLAZA SALTILLO STATION AREA PLAN PROPERTIES TO BE REZONED TO "TOD-NP" OR "TOD-H-NP" C14-2008-0029			
TRACT # (1)	**TCAD PROPERTY ID # (2)**	**CITY OF AUSTIN ADDRESS (3)**	**EXISTING ZONING**
1	194699	700 SAN MARCOS ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	194700	LOT 3 BLK 4 OLT 1 DIV B ROBERTSON S & L M SOUTH PART	CS-CO-MU-NP
	194701	LOT 4 BLK 4 OLT 1 DIV B ROBERTSON S & L M SOUTH PART	CS-CO-MU-NP
	194702	916 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	194703	914 E 7TH ST	SF-3-NP
	194704	908 E 7TH ST	SF-3-NP
	194705	904 E 7TH ST	SF-3-NP
	194706	902 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	194707	900 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	194708	LOT 11 BLK 4 OLT 1 DIV B ROBERTSON S & L M SOUTH PART	CS-CO-MU-NP
	194711	701 N IH 35 SVRD NB 814 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
2	194784	1022 E 7TH ST	SF-3-H-NP
	194785	1010 E 7TH ST	SF-3-NP
	194786	LOT 9 BLK 1 OLT 2-3 DIV B ROBERTSON GEO L SUBD	CS-CO-MU-NP
	194787	1006 E 7TH ST	LR-MU-NP
	194788	E 32FT OF LOT 11 BLK 1 OLT 2-3 DIV B ROBERTSON GEO L SUBD	SF-3-NP
	194789	1004 E 7TH ST	SF-3-NP
	194790	1000 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
3	192896	1216 E 7TH ST	SF-3-NP
	192897	1214 E 7TH ST	NO-MU-H-CO-NP
	192898	1210 E 7TH ST 1212 E 7TH ST	GR-CO-MU-NP
	192899	1208 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	192900	1204 E 7TH ST	SF-3-H-NP
	192901	1202 E 7TH ST	SF-6-CURE-NP
	192902	703 WALLER ST 705 WALLER ST	SF-3-NP
4	192966	1308 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	192967	1306 E 7TH ST	GO-CO-H-MU-NP
	192968	1304 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	192969	1302 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	192970	1300 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
5	193236	1612 E 7TH ST	SF-3-NP
	193237	1610 E 7TH ST	GR-CO-MU-NP
	193238	1606 E 7TH ST	GR-CO-MU-NP
	193239	1604 E 7TH ST	GR-CO-MU-NP
	193240	1602 E 7TH ST	LO-MU-NP
	193241	1600 E 7TH ST 705 COMAL ST 707 COMAL ST	SF-3-NP

EXHIBIT B

TRACT # (1)	TCAD PROPERTY ID # (2)	CITY OF AUSTIN ADDRESS (3)	EXISTING ZONING
6	193248	LOT 5&6 BLK 2 OLT 6 RESUB BLK 2 DIVISION B	SF-3-NP
	193249	1620 E 7TH ST 1624 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	193250	1618 E 7TH ST	SF-3-NP
	193251	1616 E 7TH ST	GR-CO-MU-NP
	193252	1614 E 7TH ST	GR-CO-MU-NP
7	194693	619 N IH 35 SVRD NB 813 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
8	194756	901 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	194757	W 36FT OF LOT 11 BLK 3 OLT 1-A DIV A CONNERS ADDN	CS-CO-MU-NP
	194758	905 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	194760	LOT 7 *& E 11FT OF LOT 8 BLK 3 OLT 1A DIV A CONNERS ADDN	CS-CO-MU-NP
	194768	W 35FT OF LOT 8 BLK 3 OLT 1A DIV A CONNERS ADDN	CS-CO-MU-NP
	194769	E 20.5FT OF LOT 9 BLK 3 OLT 1A DIV A CONNERS ADDN	CS-CO-MU-NP
	194770	617 1/2 BRUSHY ST	NOT ZONED
9	194771	1007 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	194776	1001 E 7TH ST 1003 E 7TH ST 611 SAN MARCOS ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	194777	1021 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
10	194830	1109 E 7TH ST 1121 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
11	192881	1201 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	192882	1203 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	192883	1205 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	192888	1209 E 7TH ST 1211 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
12	192948	1301 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	192949	1303 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	192950	LOT 3 BLK 2 OLT 3 DIVISION A	CS-CO-MU-NP
	192951	1307 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	192952	1309 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	192953	1311 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	192954	610 NAVASOTA ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
13	193015	1401 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	193016	1403 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	193017	1405 E 7TH ST	CS-1-CO-MU-NP
	193018	1407 1/2 E 7TH ST 1407 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	193019	1409 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	193020	1411 E 7TH ST	CS-1-CO-MU-NP
14	193028	1501 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	193029	1505 E 7TH ST	CS-1-CO-MU-NP
	193030	1507 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	193031	1509 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	193032	612 COMAL ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	193033	610 COMAL ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	193034	608 COMAL ST	CS-CO-MU-NP

EXHIBIT B

TRACT # (1)	TCAD PROPERTY ID # (2)	CITY OF AUSTIN ADDRESS (3)	EXISTING ZONING
15	191959	1601 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	191960	1603 E 7TH ST	SF-3-NP
	191961	1605 E 7TH ST	LO-MU-NP
	191962	1607 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	191963	1609 E 7TH ST	SF-3-NP
	191964	1611 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	191965	1613 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	191966	1615 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	191967	1617 E 7TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	191968	1621 E 7TH ST	GO-MU-NP
	191969	1623 E 7TH ST 1625 E 7TH ST	GO-MU-NP
16	192017	1707 E 7TH ST	GO-MU-NP
	192018	1709 E 7TH ST	GO-MU-NP
	192019	1711 E 7TH ST	GO-MU-NP
	192020	1713 E 7TH ST	GO-MU-NP
	192021	1715 E 7TH ST	GO-MU-NP; CS-1-CO-MU-NP
	192022	1805 E 7TH ST	CS-1-CO-MU-NP
	192023	1807 E 7TH ST	CS-1-CO-MU-NP
	192024	1823 E 7TH ST	CS-1-CO-MU-NP
	192036	1701 E 7TH ST	GO-MU-NP
		1703 E 7TH ST	GO-MU-NP
17	191047	1900 E 6TH ST 1902 E 6TH ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
	191048	87.8'X120' OF BLK 2 OLT 7 DIV A H & T C R R ADDN	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191052	1914 E 6TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191053	1910 1/2 E 6TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191054	1901 E 7TH ST 1917 1/2 E 7TH ST 1917 E 7TH ST 613 CHICON ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
18	194692	601 N IH 35 SVRD NB	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
19	194761	910 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	194763	906 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	735208	601 BRUSHY ST 900 E 6TH ST 904 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
20	194772	1014 E 6TH ST 1016 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	194773	1010 E 6TH ST 1012 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	194774	1008 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	194775	1000 E 6TH ST 1006 1/2 E 6TH ST 1006 E 6TH ST	LI-CO-NP

EXHIBIT B

TRACT # (1)	TCAD PROPERTY ID # (2)	CITY OF AUSTIN ADDRESS (3)	EXISTING ZONING
21	194831	N 60FT OF LOT 10-11 BLK 3 OLT 2 DIV A TAYLORS SUBD	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	194832	S 68FT OF LOT 10-11 BLK 3 OLT 2 DIV A TAYLORS SUBD	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	194833	LOT 9 *& E 20FT OF LOT 8 BLK 3 OLT 2 DIV A TAYLORS SUBD	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	194834	1112 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	194835	1104 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	194836	1102 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	194837	1100 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	194838	603 MEDINA	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
22	192884	LOT 7-9 BLK 1 OLT 3 DIVISION A	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192885	1204 E 6TH ST 1206 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192886	1202 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192887	1200 E 6TH ST 607 WALLER ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
23	192955	1310 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192956	1308 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192957	1306 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192958	1304 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192959	1302 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192960	1300 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
24	193021	602 ONION ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	193022	600 ONION ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	193023	1412 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	193024	LOT 8 BLK 1 OLT 4 DIVISION A	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	193025	1408 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	193026	1400 E 6TH ST 1402 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
25	193035	1512 E 6TH ST 600 COMAL ST 602 COMAL ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	193036	LOT 8 BLK 2 OLT 4 DIVISION A	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	193037	1504 E 6TH ST 1506 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	193038	1500 E 6TH ST 1502 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
26	191970	1648 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191972	1620 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191973	1618 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191974	1612 E 6TH ST 1616 E 6TH ST 1618 1/2 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191975	1606 E 6TH ST 1610 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191976	1604 E 6TH ST 1608 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191977	1600 E 6TH ST 603 COMAL ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP

EXHIBIT B

TRACT # (1)	TCAD PROPERTY ID # (2)	CITY OF AUSTIN ADDRESS (3)	EXISTING ZONING
27	192026	1816 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192027	W 29FT OF LOT 40 OLT 6 DIV A MORSE & SMITH RESUB	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192028	1812 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192029	1802 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192030	1800 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192031	1708 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192032	1706 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192034	1702 E 6TH ST 1704 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192035	1700 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
28	191643	LOT 15 *LESS SW TRI BLK 1 OLT 1 DIV A CONNERS ADDN	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191644	517 N IH 35 SVRD NB 805 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191645	510 BRUSHY ST 809 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
29	191689	509 BRUSHY ST 901 E 6TH ST 903 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191690	907 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191691	510 SAN MARCOS ST 911 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
30	191717	1001 E 6TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191718	1003 E 6TH ST 1007 E 6TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191719	LOT 16-18 BLK 1 OLT 2 DIV A TAYLORS SUBD + 1/2 VAC ALLEY	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191720	1015 E 6TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191721	LOT 14 *& S 97FT OF W16FT & N38FT OF W12FT OF LOT 13 BLK 1 OLT 2 DIV A TAYLORS SUBD + 1/2 VAC ALLEY	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191722	1017 E 6TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
31	191761	1101 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191762	1103 E 6TH ST 1105 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191763	1107 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191764	1109 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191765	1111 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
32	191808	1201 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191809	LOT 2 BLK 4 OLT 3 DIVISION A	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191810	1209 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191811	1213 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191812	1211 E 6TH ST 1217 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191813	1221 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
33	191860	1313 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191859	LOT 4 *& W5FT OF LOT 5 BLK 3 OLT 3 DIVISION A	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	731166	1305 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP

EXHIBIT B

TRACT # (1)	TCAD PROPERTY ID # (2)	CITY OF AUSTIN ADDRESS (3)	EXISTING ZONING
34	191917	1401 E 6TH ST 1403 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191918	1405 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191924	1409 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
35	191938	1509 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191939	1511 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191940	LOT 9 BLK 3 OLT 4 DIVISION A PLUS 1/2 ADJ VAC ALLEY	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191941	500 COMAL ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191942	1501 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP; CS-MU-CO-NP
36	191956	1600 1/2 E 5TH ST 1601 E 6TH ST 501 COMAL ST	CS-MU-CO-NP; CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	191957	1617 E 6TH ST 1621 E 6TH ST 1645 E 6TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP; CS-1-MU-CO-NP
37	192001	1701 E 6TH ST 1703 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192002	1705 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192003	1707 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192004	1709 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192005	1715 E 6TH ST 1717 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192006	1801 E 6TH ST 1803 E 6TH ST 1805 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192007	1809 E 6TH ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192008	1811 E 6TH ST 1813 E 6TH ST 1815 E 6TH ST 1817 1/2 E 6TH ST 1817 E 6TH ST 502 CHICON ST 504 CHICON ST 506 1/2 CHICON ST 506 CHICON ST 510 CHICON ST	CS-1-MU-CO-NP
	192010	1706 E 5TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	192012	1704 E 5TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	192013	1702 E 5TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	192014	1700 E 5TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	499312	500 1/2 CHICON ST 500 CHICON ST 502 1/2 CHICON ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	499314	LOT 2 BLK A 500 CHICON	CS-MU-CO-NP

EXHIBIT B

TRACT # (1)	TCAD PROPERTY ID # (2)	CITY OF AUSTIN ADDRESS (3)	EXISTING ZONING
38	191044	ACR 6.0867 OF LOT 3 OLT 7 & LOT 3-4 OLT 8 H & T C ADDN	CS-CO-MU-NP
	191045	1905 E 6TH ST 1909 E 6TH ST 501 CHICON ST	CS-CO-MU-NP
39	191646	810 E 5TH ST	CS-MU-H-CO-NP
40	191692	500 SAN MARCOS ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191693	906 E 5TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191694	900 E 5TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
41	191723	1000 E 5TH ST 1002 E 5TH ST 1004 E 5TH ST 1006 E 5TH ST 1008 E 5TH ST 1010 E 5TH ST 1012 E 5TH ST 1014 E 5TH ST 502 MEDINA	CS-MU-CO-NP
42	191766	502 WALLER ST 504 WALLER ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191767	1110 E 5TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191768	1108 E 5TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191769	1100 E 5TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
43	191815	503 WALLER ST 505 WALLER ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
44	191861	500 NAVASOTA ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
45	191919	502 ONION ST 504 ONION ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191920	1412 E 5TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191921	1406 E 5TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191922	1402 E 5TH ST 1404 E 5TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191923	1400 E 5TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
46	191642	81.5X84FT OF LOT 1-7 *ALL OF LOT 8-11 *& 118X167' AV OLT 1 DIV O CENTRAL ROW	CS-MU-CO-NP
47	191688	408 SAN MARCOS ST 412 SAN MARCOS ST 901 E 5TH ST 911 E 5TH ST 920 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
48	191716	LOT 23-33 *& 178X275 OLT 2 DIV O CENTRAL ROW	CS-MU-CO-NP
49	191760	414 WALLER ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
50	191807	1204 1/2 E 4TH ST 1204 E 4TH ST 413 1/2 WALLER ST 415 WALLER ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
51	191855	1300 E 4TH ST 1302 E 4TH ST 410 NAVASOTA ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191856	1308 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191857	1304 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP

EXHIBIT B

TRACT # (1)	TCAD PROPERTY ID # (2)	CITY OF AUSTIN ADDRESS (3)	EXISTING ZONING
52	191916	413 1/2 NAVASOTA ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
53	191915	1400 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
54	191930	408 COMAL ST 412 COMAL ST	P
55	191931	1516 E 4TH ST 404 1/2 COMAL ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191932	1508 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191933	LOT 3 BLK 2 OLT 4 DIV O PECK R H	MF-5-NP
	191934	1510 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191935	1500 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191936	1512 E 4TH ST	MF-4-NP
	191937	1506 E 4TH ST	MF-4-NP
56	708961	1601 E 5TH ST 411 COMAL ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
57	191947	1610 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191948	1608 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191949	1606 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191950	1604 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191951	1602 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191952	1600 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
58	191953	1806 E 4TH ST 1808 E 4TH ST 408 CHICON ST 410 1/2 CHICON ST 410 CHICON ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191954	1700 1/2 E 4TH ST 1700 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP; MF-4-NP
	191955	1624 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
59	191088	1906 E 4TH ST 1935 E 5TH ST 411 CHICON ST	P-NP
60	191640	300 BRUSHY ST 807 E 4TH ST 815 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP

EXHIBIT B

TRACT # (1)	TCAD PROPERTY ID # (2)	CITY OF AUSTIN ADDRESS (3)	EXISTING ZONING
61	191672	LOT 21-22 BLK 15 OLT 1 DIVISION O PLUS 1/2 VAC ALLEY	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191673	LOT 18-20 BLK 15 OLT 1 DIVISION O PLUS 1/2 VAC ALLEY	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191674	LOT 16-17 BLK 15 OLT 1 DIVISION O PLUS 1/2 VAC ALLEY	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191675	915 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191676	919 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191677	N 69FT OF LOT 10-11 BLK 15 OLT 1 DIVISION O PLUS 1/2 VAC ALLEY	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191678	S 69FT OF LOT 10-11 BLK 15 OLT 1 DIVISION O	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191679	LOT 9 BLK 15 OLT 1 DIVISION O PLUS 1/2 VAC ALLEY	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191680	LOT 8 BLK 15 OLT 1 DIVISION O PLUS 1/2 VAC ALLEY	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191681	LOT 7 *& E12 FT OF LOT 6 BLK 15 OLT 1 DIVISION O PLUS 1/2 VAC ALLEY	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191682	S 63FT OF LOT 4-5 *& S 63FT OF W 13FT LOT 6 BLK 15 OLT 1 DIVISION O	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191683	N 75FT OF LOT 4-5 *& N 75FT OF W 13FT LOT 6 BLK 15 OLT 1 DIVISION O PLUS 1/2 VAC ALLEY	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191684	LOT 3 BLK 15 OLT 1 DIVISION O PLUS 1/2 VAC ALLEY	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191685	900 E 3RD ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191687	305 BRUSHY ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
62	191714	LOT 12-22 BLK 14 OLT 2 DIVISION O	CS-MU-CO-NP
63	191715	LOT 1-11 BLK 14 OLT 2 DIVISION O	CS-MU-CO-NP
64	191748	1101 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
		1103 E 4TH ST	
	191749	1105 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
		1107 E 4TH ST	
	191750	LOT 16-17 BLK 13 OLT 2 DIVISION O	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191751	LOT 14-15 BLK 13 OLT 2 DIVISION O	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191752	LOT 12-13 BLK 13 OLT 2 DIV O DIVISION O	CS-MU-CO-NP
65	191759	LOT 1-2 BLK 13 OLT 2 DIVISION O	CS-MU-CO-NP
66	191795	1201 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191796	LOT 11 BLK 7 OLT 3 DIV O PECK R H	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191797	LOT 10 BLK 7 OLT 3 DIV O PECK R H	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191805	LOT 8-9 BLK 7 OLT 3 DIV O PECK R H	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191806	S 69FT OF LOT 7 BLK 7 OLT 3 DIV O PECK R H	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191798	N 69FT OF LOT 7 BLK 7 OLT 3 DIV O PECK R H	CS-MU-CO-NP
67	191803	1206 E 3RD ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191804	1200 E 3RD ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
68	191843	1301 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191844	1305 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191845	1307 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191846	1309 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191847	1313 E 4TH ST 306 NAVASOTA ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191854	1303 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP

EXHIBIT B

TRACT # (1)	TCAD PROPERTY ID # (2)	CITY OF AUSTIN ADDRESS (3)	EXISTING ZONING
69	191902	1401 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191903	1405 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191904	1407 E 4TH ST	CS-MU-CO-NP
	191905	1409 E 4TH ST	LI-CO-NP
	191906	LOT 7 BLK 4 OLT 4 DIV O PECK R H	LI-CO-NP
70	191929	310 COMAL ST	CS-MU-CO-NP

(1) The tract number refers to the numbered tracts on the Plaza Saltillo Station Area Plan Zoning Tract Map.

(2) Each Travis Central Appraisal District (TCAD) Property ID number represents a separate property, as recorded by the Travis Central Appraisal District.

(3) The City of Austin (COA) addresses listed for each property are those addresses on file with the city pertaining to that property. If a COA address was not availlable for a property the TCAD legal description was used.

Exhibit C

ZONING

N

SUBJECT TRACT

ZONING BOUNDARY

PENDING CASE

OPERATOR: S. MEEKS

1" = 600'

ZONING CASE#: C14-2008-0029

ADDRESS: PLAZA SALTILLO TOD STATION AREA PLAN

SUBJECT AREA: 132 ACRES

GRID: J21-22 & K21-22

MANAGER: S. LOPEZ

CITY OF AUSTIN FOUNDED 1839

This map has been produced by G.I.S. Services for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.

Exhibit D

PLAZA SALTILLO
TOD STATION AREA PLAN

Transit - Oriented Development

City of Austin
Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Dept.

December 11, 2008

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Austin would like to thank the following for their contribution to the Plaza Saltillo Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Station Area Plan:

All participants in the planning process who live, work, and own or rent property in and around the Plaza Saltillo TOD District.

Other interested individuals who came to learn about transit-oriented development and give feedback on this citywide initiative.

Individuals and groups who are dedicated to promoting affordable housing throughout Austin.

The members of the technical advisory group who dedicated time to learning about TOD concepts, attended public meetings, and reviewed and gave feedback on the Station Area Plan throughout the planning process.

Other City staff members who made themselves available to answer technical questions and provide information on specific topics related to the Plan.

Thanks to the Thompson Conference Center, Sanchez Elementary School, Oswaldo "A.B" Cantu Pan American Recreation Center, and Metz Elementary School for providing meeting space.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ES Executive Summary 1

1 Chapter 1 - TOD Principles and Planning Policy 15

2 Chapter 2 - Station Area Concept Plans 27

3 Chapter 3 - Implementation 63

Appendices

A. Creating the Plan
B. Affordable Housing Report
C. Water and Wastewater Report
D. Watershed Protection
E. Financial Analysis
F. Market Report
G. Extracts from the E. 7th Street Corridor Concept Plan
H. Lance Armstrong Bikeway (LAB) Alignment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLAZA SALTILLO TOD STATION AREA PLAN

PLAZA SALTILLO TOD STATION AREA PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The first Capital MetroRail line is under construction with passenger service to begin at the end of 2008. The 32-mile Red Line will connect downtown Austin to Leander on existing rail tracks with nine initial stations planned. The City, in support of the Capital Metro "All Systems Go!" Long Range Transit Plan, initiated a broad public engagement effort to develop station area plans around several of these future MetroRail stops. The first station areas to undergo the station area planning process were Plaza Saltillo, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (MLK), and N. Lamar Boulevard/Justin Lane (a.k.a. Crestview Station).

New development that takes advantage of its location near transit is often referred to as "Transit-Oriented Development" (or TOD), and it is an important part of the City's goal to manage growth in ways that reduce reliance on automobile use, promote transit use, walking and biking, and create lively and safe areas around transit stations. The City of Austin developed the TOD station area plans to leverage this significant public transit investment to achieve these broad community goals.

To realize these benefits, the City first adopted a TOD Ordinance, which identified specific station area boundaries, interim land use and design requirements, and a commitment to develop station area plans. Planning for the Plaza Saltillo TOD was begun in February 2007 by a team of consultants led by PB Americas. Public education and involvement meetings were held over the course of the next ten months to draft a plan that incorporated TOD principles and best practices and was shaped by the community input gathered throughout the planning process. The planning work was integrated with a professional assessment of market conditions and finance, affordable housing, and basic public infrastructure facility needs. The plan includes recommendations for open space, street and other infrastructure improvements, and affordable housing and is intended to guide future development and the provision of public improvements.

The implementation strategy describes a variety of key actions that will contribute to the successful redevelopment of the station area. The responsibilities for implementation not only rest with the City, but its agency partners, development community, and citizens. A primary element of the implementation program is the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Regulating Plan. It is based on *Subchapter E: Design Standards and Mixed Use of the Austin Code*, which applies citywide. The Regulating Plan provides development standards with a specific focus on the context of the Plaza Saltillo Station Area and the vision articulated in this plan.

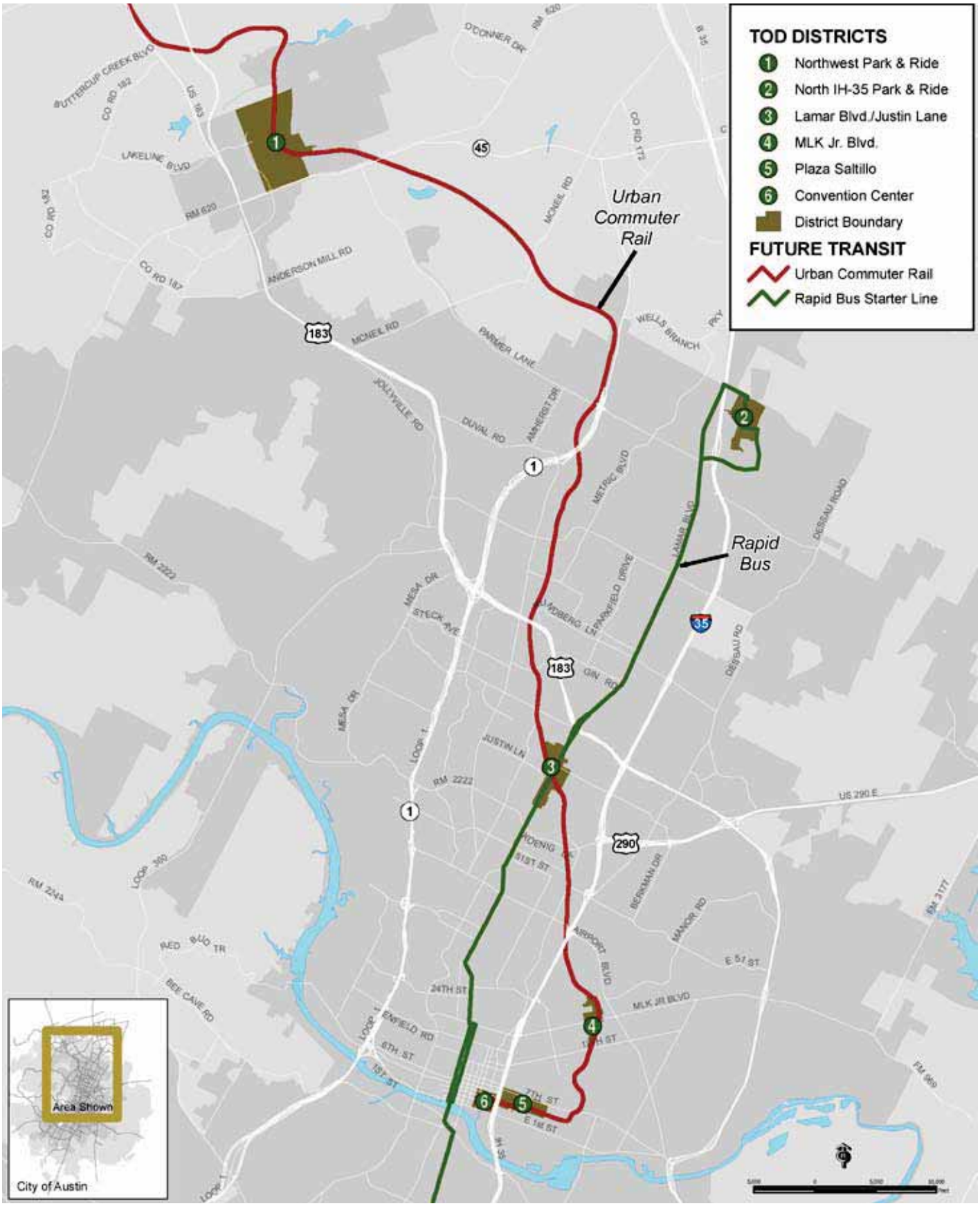


FIGURE ES.1: TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) DISTRICTS

The Plaza Saltillo station planning area was identified in the TOD Ordinance to include the area generally bounded by E. 3rd Street to E. 7th Street and between I-35 and Chicon Street. It includes portions of three Neighborhood Planning Areas – Central East Austin, East Cesar Chavez, and Holly.

PLAN ORGANIZATION

The consultant team, informed by community input throughout the planning process, developed the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Plan, which:

- Is summarized below and described in more detail in Chapter 1;
- Includes an implementation strategy described in Chapter 2;
- Followed transit-oriented design principles and Austin planning policy as described in Chapter 3;
- Featured an inclusive public involvement process as described in Appendix A; and
- Utilized background information and studies presented in the Appendices.

PLAN SUMMARY

The Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Plan includes three primary elements:

- **Land Use and Design Concept Plan**, which describes the desired land uses and development characteristics in the TOD.
- **Circulation Concept Plan,** which identifies the functional and design elements for streets and walkways.
- **Open Space and Trails Concept Plan,** which describes the important open space components of the TOD.

The concept plan maps and summary of the key elements are presented on the following pages.

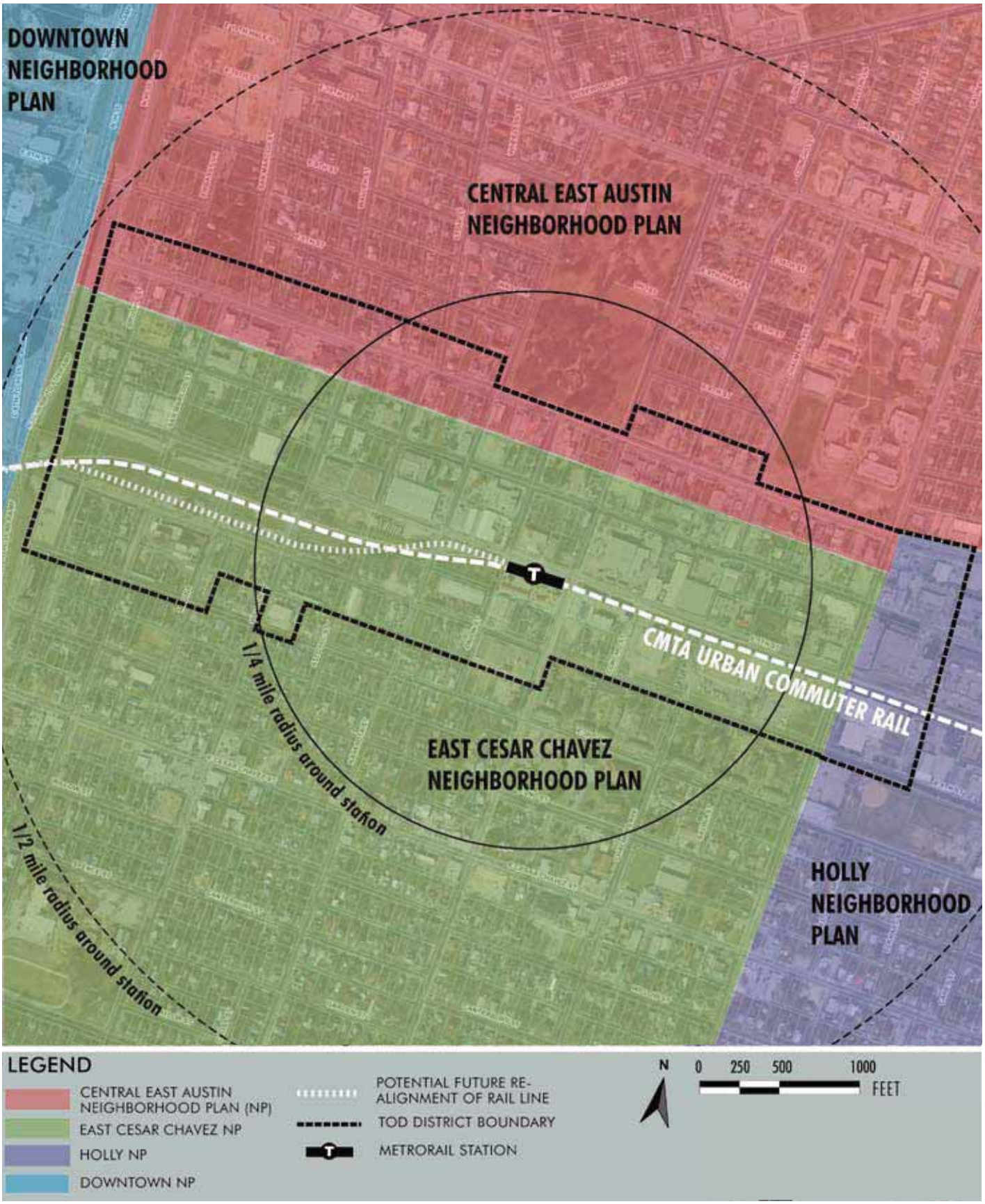


FIGURE ES.2: LOCATION MAP OF PLAZA SALTILLO WITH NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNNING AREAS

LAND USE AND DESIGN CONCEPT PLAN

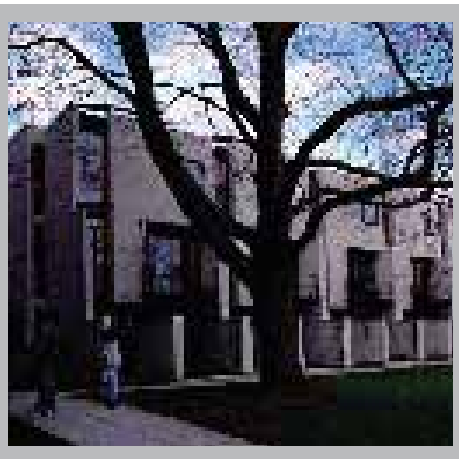
The Land Use and Design Concept for the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Plan includes four land use designations:

- **TOD Mixed-Use.** This is the highest density designation, which encourages urban-style development including active ground floor uses with commercial, office, or residential uses on the upper floors. Residential densities may exceed 45 units per acre if a specific level of affordable housing is provided. Moderate height bonuses allowing a total building height of 60 feet may also be granted with additional affordable housing. These areas are located in the closest proximity to transit and are intended to become neighborhood centers.

- **Corridor Mixed-Use.** This allows a slightly more liberal mix of uses compared to TOD Mixed-Use. These properties are farther from the transit station and have less of an urban character compared to TOD Mixed-Use. Normal residential densities may reach 45 units per acre, and additional density may be permitted when affordable housing is provided.

- **Live/Work Flex.** This encourages ground floor business activity with residential units on the upper floors. Residential uses are required and a ground floor business is optional. Residential densities range from 17 to 45 units per acre, and additional density may be permitted when affordable housing is provided.

- **Low Density Residential.** This designation also provides a transition between the higher density center of the station area and surrounding neighborhoods. Residential densities range from 9 to 16 units per acre.

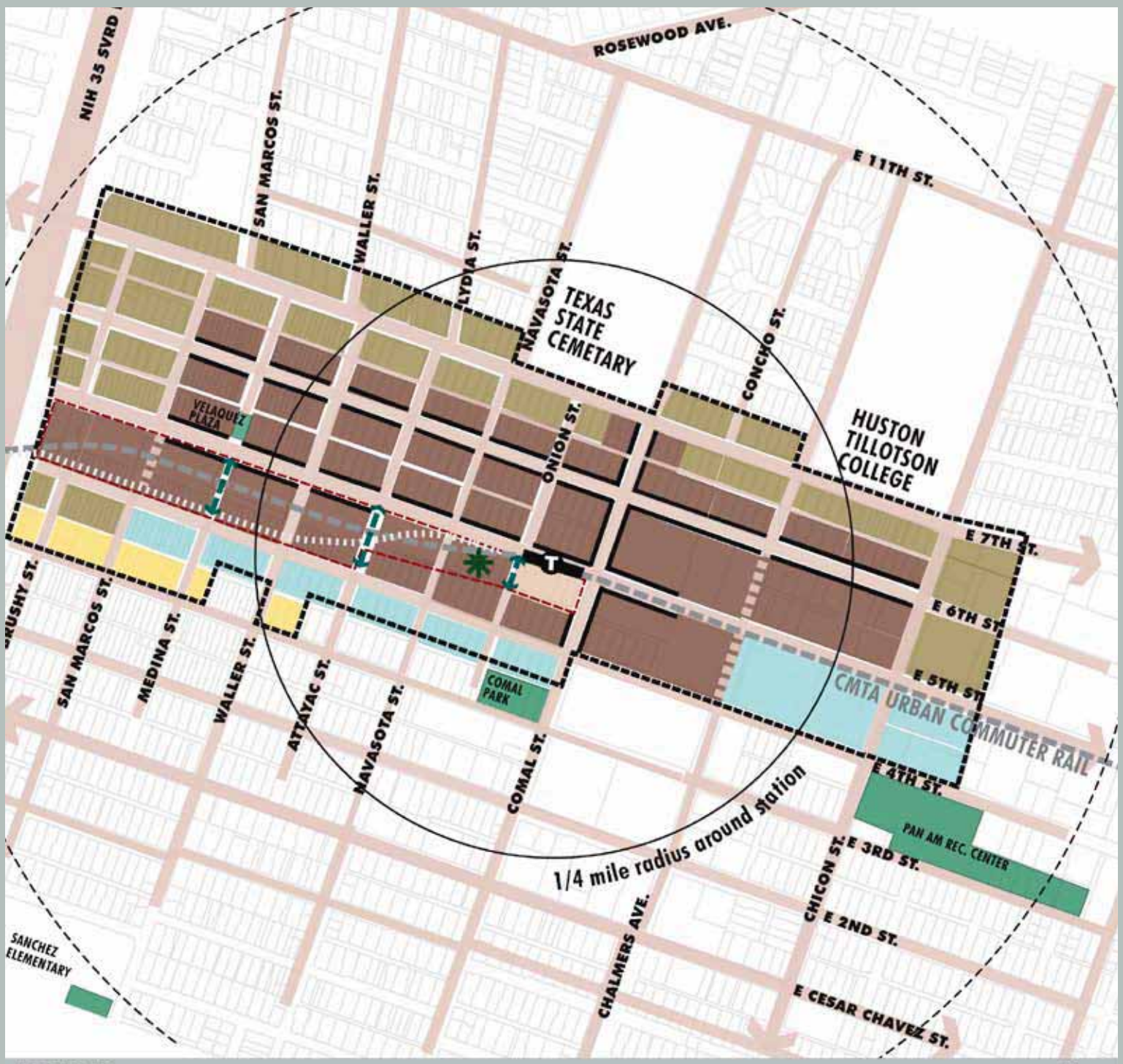


LAND USE AND DESIGN CONCEPT PLAN

The Land Use and Design Concept Plan includes the following primary elements:

1. **High density mixed-use development** concentrated near the Capitol Metro station along E. 5th and 6th Streets. This would be the center and primary pedestrian activity area in the station area.
2. **Active edges,** which create a more lively and pleasant pedestrian environment by requiring that buildings along specific street frontages be built up to the sidewalk with the ground floor designed to accommodate active business uses. The active edge designation is only used with the TOD Mixed-Use designation.
3. **Corridor mixed-use development** that allows an urban form. This is slightly more auto-oriented than the mixed-use areas along E. 5th and 6th Streets.
4. **Live/work uses** where small businesses would be allowed with residential units above. This is in response to neighborhood support for this type of use and for creating a transition between the higher density core and the lower density neighborhoods surrounding it.
5. **Low Density Residential** uses in the southwest portion of the TOD to provide a transition to existing single family homes that face the TOD district.

LAND USE AND DESIGN CONCEPT PLAN



LEGEND

- LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
- TOD MIXED USE (showing active edges)
- CORRIDOR MIXED USE
- LIVE/WORK FLEX
- EXISTING CITY PARKLAND
- POTENTIAL OPEN SPACE
- POTENTIAL PASEOS
- SALTILLO DISTRICT REDEVELOPMENT AREA (Capital Metro)
- PLAZA SALTILLO
- EXISTING STREETS
- POTENTIAL STREETS
- TOD DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- METRORAIL STATION
- POTENTIAL FUTURE RE-ALIGNMENT OF RAIL LINE

0 200 400 800 FEET

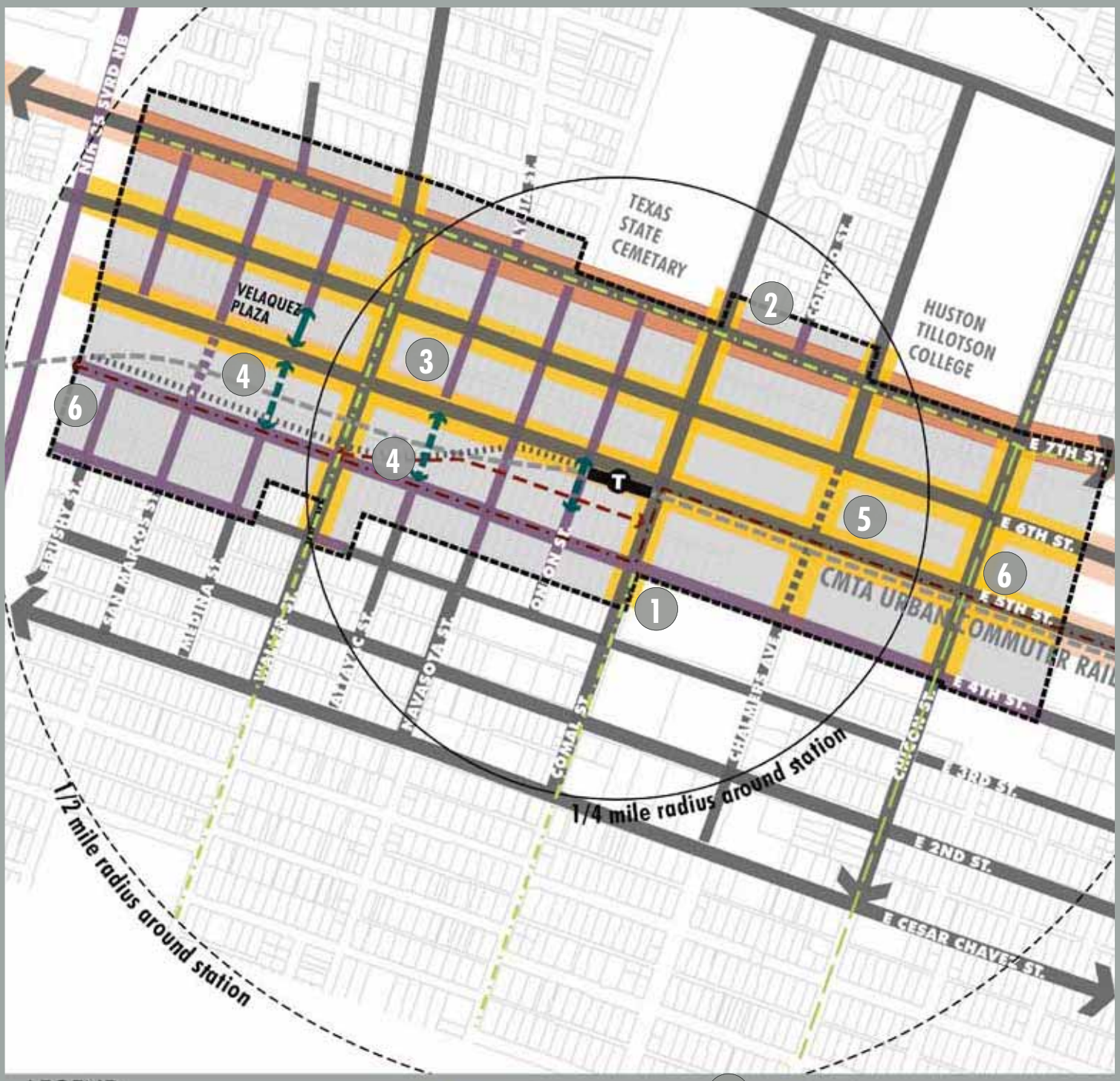
N

CIRCULATION CONCEPT PLAN

The Circulation Concept Plan for the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Plan includes the following primary elements:

1. **An integrated street and pathway network** to provide safe and convenient travel for all modes.
2. **TOD Core Transit Corridor** design standards for E. 7th Street, which require wider sidewalks and enhanced pedestrian facilities to support existing and planned transit service and redevelopment activity.
3. **TOD Pedestrian Priority Streets**, which are also required to have enhanced pedestrian facilities because they will serve as the primary pedestrian routes in the station area. E. 5th, E. 6th, Waller, Comal and Chicon Streets and Chalmers Avenue are so designated.
4. **New pedestrian connections** on Medina, Attayac, and Onion Streets to provide easier access between the E. 7th Street corridor, the station, and the neighborhoods to the south. For larger blocks on the east side of the TOD, these types of connections are also highly encouraged to break-up the large block structure and improve connectivity and efficiency for all modes of transportation.
5. **A new TOD Pedestrian Priority Street** to connect the northern and southern segments of Chalmers Avenue to enhance circulation and convenience for all modes.
6. **Lance Armstrong Bikeway** as a key east-west bicycle connection through the station area.
7. **On-street bicycle facilities** to encourage bike riding and make it safe and efficient to ride around and through the TOD. A direct route from the Station Area to Town Lake and the trail system is recommended along Comal Street with signage indicating the pathway.

CIRCULATION CONCEPT PLAN



LEGEND

- STREETS
- TOD CORE TRANSIT STREETS
- TOD PEDESTRIAN PRIORITY STREET
- TOD LOCAL STREETS
- POTENTIAL NEW STREETS
- POTENTIAL NEW TOD LOCAL STREETS
- DESIGN STANDARDS CORE TRANSIT/ FUTURE CORE TRANSIT CORRIDORS
- PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS (POTENTIAL PASEOS)
- EXISTING BIKE LANES
- RECOMMENDED BIKE FACILITY IN AUSTIN BIKE PLAN
- LANCE ARMSTRONG BIKEWAY (LAB)
- POTENTIAL FUTURE REALIGNMENT OF THE LAB
- POTENTIAL FUTURE RE-ALIGNMENT OF RAIL LINE
- TOD DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- METRORAIL STATION
- EXISTING BIKE/PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION

0 250 500 1000 FEET

N

OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS CONCEPT PLAN

The Open Space and Trails Concept Plan for the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Plan includes the following primary elements:

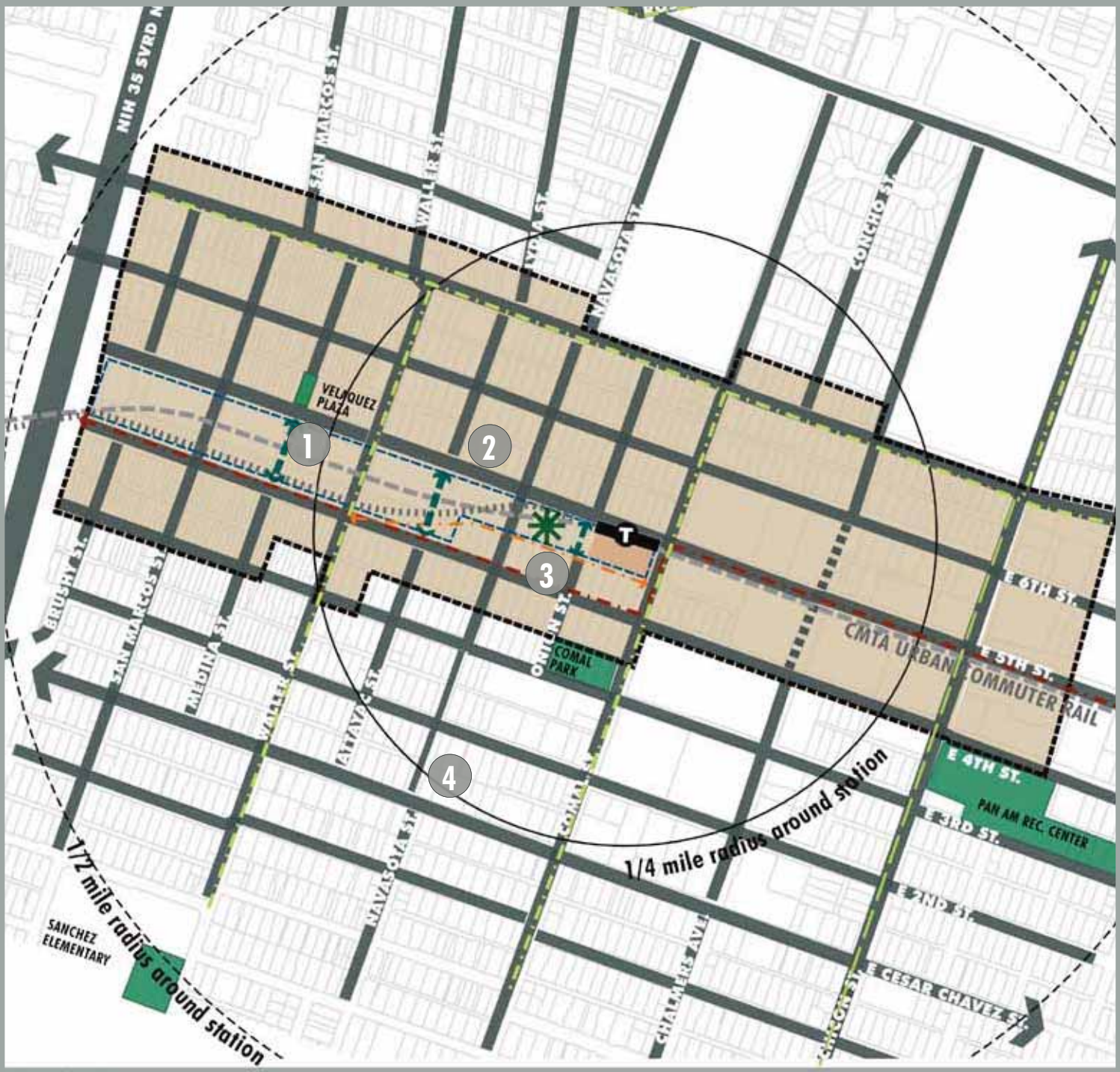
1. **Paseo Parks** to provide linear open spaces to complement the pedestrian connections on Medina, Attayac, and Onion Streets and to link-up with existing park space in and around the TOD. Paseo parks could provide a number of open space functions and meet various needs, from a passive sitting/gathering space with benches, fountain, and public art, to a grassy area for active play, to a playscape for young children. Paseos are also strongly encouraged on larger blocks on the east side of the TOD between Comal and Chicon Streets.
2. **Pocket park** to the west of the station to provide convenient active recreation opportunities for local residents. The park is recommended to be a minimum of one-half acre.
3. **Lance Armstrong Bikeway** as an integrating element to help tie the paseos, pocket park, and other local open spaces together with this pathway connection and to link the TOD via bicycle to Downtown and deeper East Austin.
4. **Comal Street-Lady Bird Lake Pathway** to provide a direct connection via Comal from the Station Area to Lady Bird Lake and the Town Lake trail network. Signage along the route is recommended as a wayfinding device and to publicize the presence of the on-street path and connection.

IMPLEMENTATION

Chapter 2 Implementation describes a variety of important steps the City, its agency partners, and development community should take to realize the full potential of the station area:

- **Planning and Administration.** The critical element is the formation of an inter-agency working group and designated staff to oversee all implementation activities.
- **Transit-Oriented Development Catalyst Projects.** Catalyst projects, both public infrastructure and private development, will be necessary to stimulate market and development interest in the station area.
- **Circulation and Streets.** Street improvements, including pedestrian facilities and amenities, can have a dramatic positive impact upon a place's identity and can create the framework for creating a truly transit-oriented development that is less auto-dependent.
- **Open Space and Trails.** Building upon the natural resources in the area, integration of the Parks and Recreation Department in planning and development review decisions, and creation of usable open spaces are essential.
- **Supporting Infrastructure.** Key public-private investments will need to be made to support the development proposed.

OPEN SPACE CONCEPT PLAN



LEGEND

- STREETS
- POTENTIAL STREETS
- EXISTING CITY PARKLAND
- POTENTIAL OPEN SPACE
- PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS (POTENTIAL PASEOS)
- PLAZA SALTILLO
- SALTILLO DISTRICT REDEVELOPMENT AREA (Capital Metro)
- EXISTING BIKE LANES
- RECOMMENDED BIKE FACILITY IN AUSTIN BIKE PLAN
- LANCE ARMSTRONG BIKEWAY (LAB)
- POTENTIAL FUTURE RE-ALIGNMENT OF THE LAB
- POTENTIAL FUTURE RE-ALIGNMENT OF RAIL LINE
- TOD DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- METRORAIL STATION

N

0 250 500 1000 FEET

CHAPTER 1

TOD PRINCIPLES AND PLANNING POLICY

WHAT IS TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD)?

TOD is a strategy available to help manage growth and improve the quality of life in Central Texas. TOD provides communities with an alternative to low-density suburban sprawl and automobile-dependent land use patterns.

TOD seeks to align transit investments with a community's vision for how it wants to grow, creating "livable" mixed-use, denser, walkable "transit villages." A successful TOD will reinforce both the community and the transit system.

In general, people living and working in TODs are more likely to walk, use transit, and own fewer cars. TOD households are twice as likely to not own a car and own roughly half as many cars as the "average" household. At an individual station, TOD can increase ridership by 20 to 40 percent and even cause significant change at a regional level. People who live in a TOD are five times more likely to commute by transit than other residents. Locations next to transit can enjoy increases in land values over 50 percent in comparison to locations away from transit stops.

"Transit Oriented Development (TOD) is moderate to higher density development, located within an easy walk of a major transit stop, generally with a mix of residential, employment and shopping opportunities designed for pedestrians without excluding the auto. TOD can be new construction or redevelopment of one or more buildings whose design and orientation facilitate transit use."

California Department of Transportation TOD Study Technical Advisory Committee, January 2002.

TOD DESIGN PRINCIPLES

The City of Austin Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department prepared a TOD Guidebook to create a shared understanding of TOD and also to identify the major design principles and factors for success. Transit-oriented development may be summarized by using four key principles, which define the essential characteristics of all successful TODs:

1. **Greater density than community average**
2. **A mix of uses**
3. **Quality pedestrian environment**
4. **A defined center**

These four principles directly influence the land use, circulation, and design concepts of the Austin station area planning as well as the Regulating Plan elements that support it.

A common thread running through the TOD principles is the importance of establishing a unique neighborhood identity that is memorable. Improvements in public spaces, ranging from civic buildings, plazas, and streets to street signs, light fixtures and standards, specific street tree species, and pedestrian area paving materials can be used to create a unique sense of place for different city neighborhoods. Austin has many historic and emerging areas that are known for their physical character and design sensibilities. The TOD is intended to enhance the character of the overall area and the neighborhood plans that the Plaza Saltillo Station Area is a part of will be very informative in this regard.

1. Orenco Station. Hillsboro, OR
2. Addison Circle. Dallas, TX
3. Biscayne Blvd. Miami, FL

1. Greater Density than the Community Average

A key ingredient for walkable communities and support for transit is having sufficient residential densities to reduce walking distances between residences and other destinations, including commercial services, schools, parks, and transit. The following elements contribute to appropriate density for transit supportive land uses:

- Densities that are higher than the community norm are located within ¼ to ½ mile of transit.
- Structured parking is used rather than surface lots in higher density areas.
- Site design for major projects allows for the intensification of densities over time.

Although one may read about desired density numbers based on ridership levels needed to support certain types of transit service, there is not one-standard density level appropriate and suitable for TOD. What is critical is that the development and transit are linked and that it is convenient and safe for pedestrians to move throughout the TOD. A very dense yet poorly designed development is not a successful TOD.

1

2

3

1. Vancouver, B.C.
2. Santana Row. San Jose, CA

1

2

2. A Mix of Uses

One of the most visually distinguishable features of a TOD is the active streetscape, which is oriented towards pedestrians. A mix of uses is required to create multiple destinations around the transit station, which helps to generate pedestrian traffic. An active, lively environment can change the perception of distances, making destinations seem shorter and more walkable. A transit-supportive environment includes a mixture of residential, commercial, service, employment, and public uses making many trips between destinations shorter and more walkable. In addition:

- First floor uses are "active" and oriented to serve pedestrians.
- Multiple compatible uses are permitted within buildings near transit.
- A mix of uses generating pedestrian traffic is concentrated within walking distance (¼ to ½ mile) of transit.
- Auto-oriented uses, such as service stations and drive-through facilities, are limited or prohibited near transit.

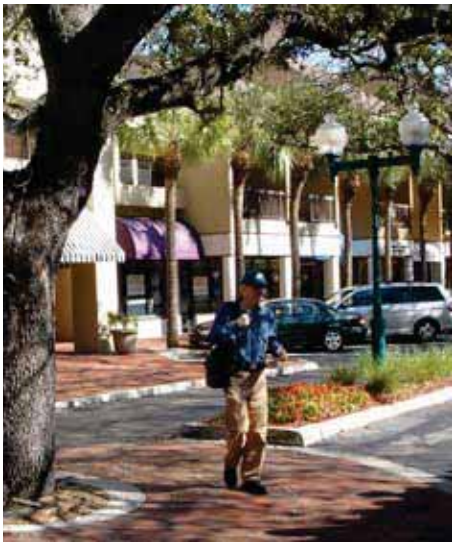
1. New York City, NY
2. City Place. West Palm, FL
3. Ft. Lauderdale, FL
4. Orenco Station. Hillsboro, OR

3. Quality Pedestrian Environment

Vibrant communities, with or without transit, are always convenient and comfortable places for pedestrians. There are a number of components that contribute to a quality pedestrian environment:

- Buildings and primary entrances are sited and oriented to be easily accessible from the street.
- Buildings incorporate architectural features that convey a sense of place and relate to the street and the pedestrian environment.
- Amenities, such as storefront windows, awnings, architectural features, lighting, and landscaping, are provided to help create a comfortable pedestrian environment along and between buildings.
- The site layout and building design allow direct pedestrian movements between transit, mixed land uses, and surrounding areas.
- Most of the parking is located to the side or to the rear of the buildings.
- Sidewalks are present along site frontages, which connect to sidewalks and streets on adjacent and nearby properties.
- Street patterns are based on an interconnected grid system that simplifies access for all modes.
- Pedestrian routes are buffered from fast-moving traffic and expanses of parking.
- Trees sheltering streets and sidewalks are provided along with pedestrian-scale lighting.
- Buildings and parks are used to provide a focal point or anchor for key areas or intersections.
- Secure and convenient bicycle parking is available.

2

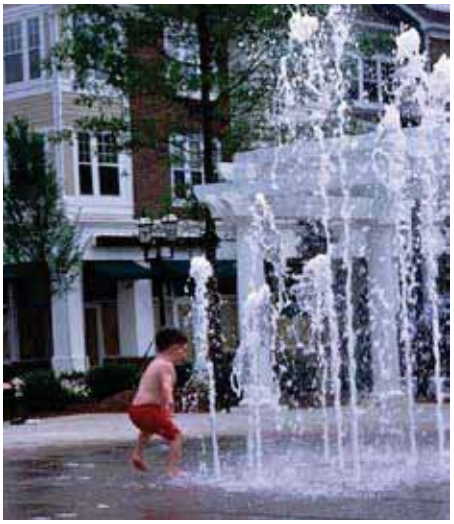

3

1

4

1. Birkdale Village, Charolette, NC
2. Clarendon. Arlington, VA
3. Addison Circle. Dallas, TX
4. Core Center Edge Diagram - Illustrates development patterns in a TOD

1



2

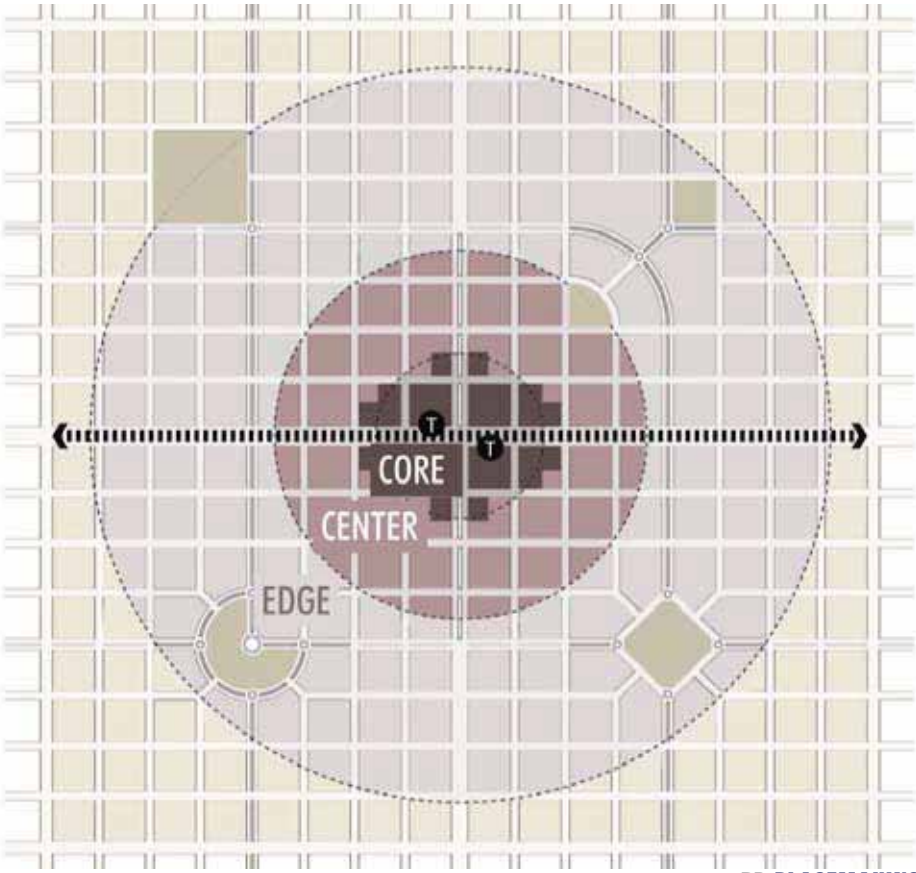
3

4. A Defined Center

Transit is particularly successful in communities and neighborhoods that have defined centers, offering multiple attractions and reasons for pedestrians to frequent the area. Having different zones with distinct characteristics also helps to create a sense of place. This sense of place may be created by including at least several of the following attributes:

- The density and buildings are highest in the core near the transit station, moderating somewhat in the center that is within ¼ mile of the transit station, and ultimately transitioning in the edge to match the character of surrounding development approximately ½ mile from the station.
- Buildings are located closer to the street and are typically taller than the surrounding area.
- Buildings are primarily oriented to the street with windows and main entrances.
- Parking is less predominant, being located to the rear and in parking structures. Parking requirements are reduced in close proximity to transit, compared to the norm.
- Sidewalks are wider than in lower density areas, and offer pedestrian amenities, such as street trees, benches, kiosks, and plazas.

4



BENEFITS OF TOD

By implementing TOD and coordinating investment in transportation and land use projects, communities can make significant progress toward improving their quality of life. The extent to which this progress is made depends largely on the type and quality of transit service available as well as the primary characteristics of the TOD. Ten major benefits from TOD are:

1. Providing mobility choices. By creating "activity nodes" linked by transit, TOD provides much needed mobility, including options for young people, the elderly and people who do not own cars or prefer not to drive.

2. Increasing public safety. By creating active places, which are busy through the day and evening and providing "eyes on the street", TOD helps increase safety for pedestrians, transit users, and many others.

3. Increasing transit ridership. TOD improves the efficiency and effectiveness of transit service investments by increasing the use of transit near stations by 20 to 40 percent, and up to five percent overall at the regional level.

4. Reducing rates of vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Vehicle travel has been increasing faster than population growth. TOD can lower annual household rates of driving by 20 to 40 percent for those living, working, and/or shopping within transit station areas. Recent research shows that automobile ownership in TOD is approximately one-half the national average.

5. Increasing disposable household income. Housing and transportation are the first and second largest household expenses, respectively. TOD can effectively increase disposable income by reducing the need for more than one car and reducing driving costs, saving households $3,000-4,000 per year.

6. Reducing air pollution and energy consumption rates. By providing safe and easy pedestrian access to transit, TOD can lower rates of air pollution and energy consumption. TOD can also reduce rates of greenhouse gas emissions by 2.5 to 3.7 tons per year per household.

7. Helping protect existing single-family neighborhoods. TOD directs higher density development to appropriate areas near transit, thereby reducing pressure to build higher density development adjacent to existing single-family neighborhoods.

8. Playing a role in economic development. TOD is increasingly used as a tool to help revitalize aging downtowns and declining urban neighborhoods and to enhance tax revenues for local jurisdictions.

9. Contributing to more affordable housing. TOD can add to the supply of affordable housing by providing lower-cost and accessible housing, and by reducing household transportation expenditures. It was recently estimated that housing costs for land and structures can be significantly reduced through more compact growth patterns.

10. Decreasing local infrastructure costs. Depending on local circumstances, TOD can help reduce infrastructure costs (such as for water, sewage, and roads) to local governments and property owners by up to 25 percent through more compact and infill development.

AUSTIN'S TOD POLICY CONTEXT

The Transit-Oriented Development Ordinance

Station area plans are influenced by existing plans and policies adopted by the Austin City Council. Most important is the Transit-Oriented Development Ordinance adopted by the City Council in May 2005. The ordinance established a two-phased implementation process for TOD districts. The first phase, now completed, accomplished the following:

- Created four TOD types and designated a TOD type for each of the stations;
- Developed TOD districts around the stations to delineate between areas appropriate for redevelopment and established neighborhoods that would be protected;
- Created a TOD overlay zoning district for each station area;
- Adopted interim development regulations relating to use, site development standards, and parking as part of the TOD overlay zone; and
- Established a station area planning process.

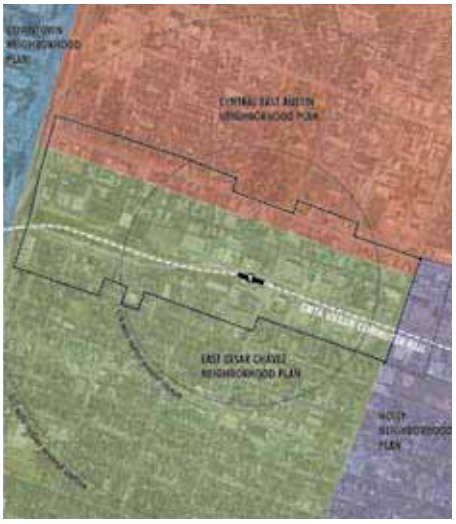
The second phase involves the creation of station area plans that, when adopted, will replace the interim TOD Ordinance regulations. The Plaza Saltillo Station Area is designated as a Neighborhood Center TOD. This type of TOD is located at the commercial center of a neighborhood(s).

The TOD Ordinance requires a housing affordability analysis and feasibility review as part of all station area plans, which describes potential strategies for achieving specified affordable housing goals. A housing affordability analysis was undertaken concurrent with the station area planning described in this report, and it is summarized in Chapter 3.

City of Austin Design Standards

In addition to the TOD Ordinance, the Austin City Council amended the City's *Land Development Code* in 2006 to add *Subchapter E: Design Standards and Mixed Use*. This portion of the *Land Development Code*, which applies city-wide, includes design standards, which "aim to strengthen Austin's unique character and help buildings to better function in Austin's environment." The majority of the design standards are based upon several defined roadway types to help ensure a cohesive development pattern along city streets, and reduce the inconsistent development form that can be the product of various zoning districts, which abut them. Subchapter E includes standards for site development, building design, and mixed-use.

1. Neighborhood Plans around the Plaza Saltillo TOD district.
2. Central East Austin Neighborhood Plan.



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As a first step towards implementing the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Plan, a Regulating Plan (a.k.a. TOD Zoning) was developed with a specific set of land use and urban design standards. Subchapter E is designed to implement many of the land use and design objectives as the TOD station area plans, such as creating a more enriching pedestrian environment and ensuring that buildings relate better to the street. Therefore, it provided the foundation for the specific Plaza Saltillo TOD. The Plaza Saltillo TOD standards in the Regulating Plan are tailored to help implement the land use, circulation, and urban design elements of the station area plan and replace the citywide Subchapter E standards within the TOD planning area.

Existing Land Use and Zoning

The planning area is characterized by a range of residential, commercial and industrial uses. Mixed-use zoning also generally applies to the area. Residential neighborhoods border the planning area on the north, south and west.

Neighborhood Plans

The boundaries of the Plaza Saltillo TOD intersect three neighborhood planning areas. The specific goals of each plan that relate to transit-oriented development are highlighted below:

Central East Austin Neighborhood Plan has eights goals, which relate to this plan:

- Goal 2 – Create housing that is affordable, accessible, and attractive to a diverse range of people.
- Goal 3 – Promote new development for a mix of uses that respects and enhances the residential neighborhoods of Central East Austin.
- Goal 4 – Promote opportunities to leverage positive impacts and encourage compatibility from civic investments.
- Goal 5 – Create a safe and attractive neighborhood where daily needs can be met by walking, cycling or transit.
- Goal 6 – Improve bicycle, pedestrian, and transit access within Central East Austin and to the rest of Austin.
- Goal 7 – Respect the historic, ethnic and cultural character of the neighborhoods of Central East Austin.
- Goal 8 – Enhance and enliven the streetscape.
- Goal 9 – Ensure compatibility and encourage a complimentary relationship between adjacent land uses.

1. East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Plan.
2. Holly Neighborhood Plan.

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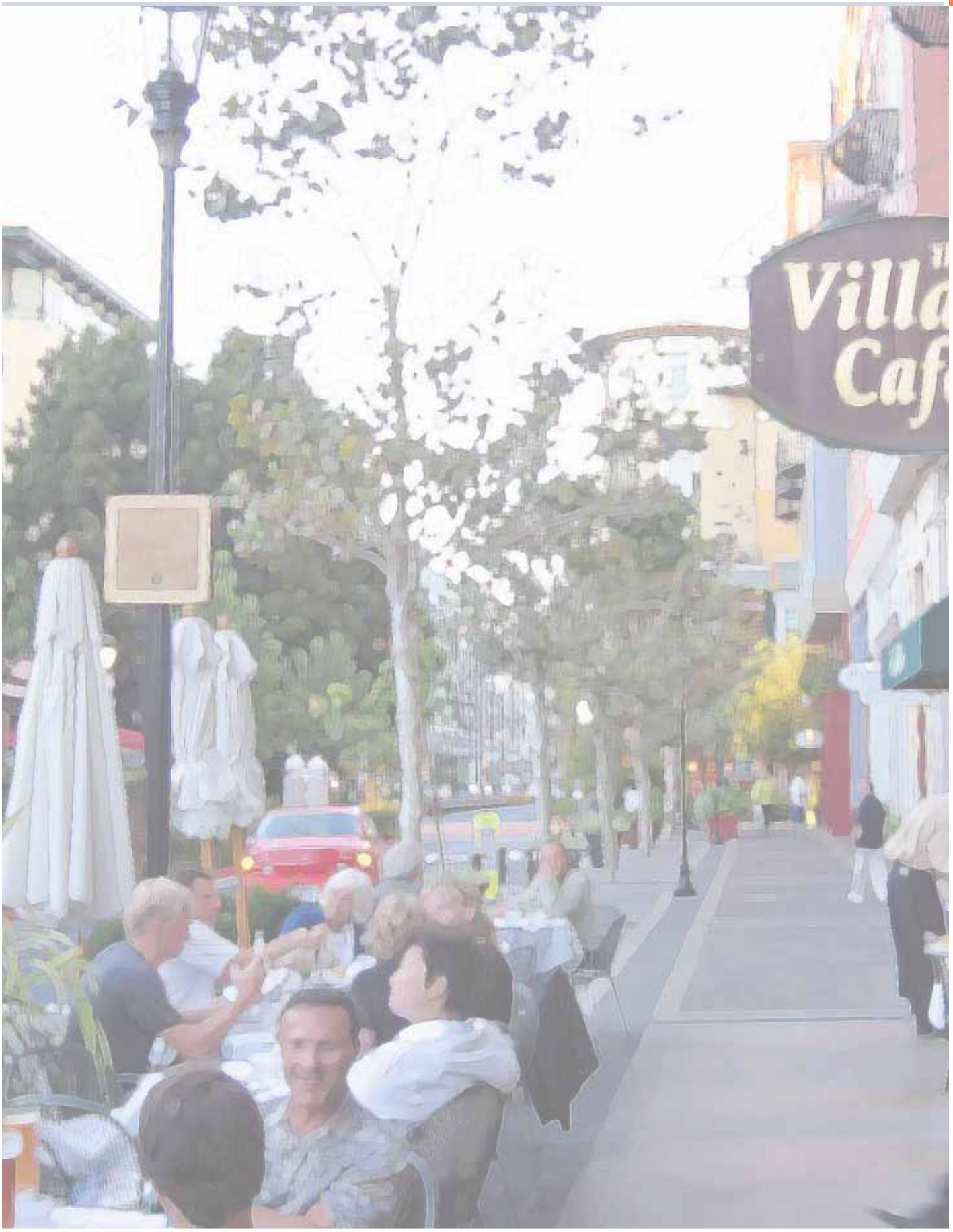
East Cesar Chavez Combined Neighborhood Plan has seven goals, which relate to this plan:

- Goal 1 – Provide zoning for a mix of businesses and residential land uses in commercial areas.
- Goal 2 – Ensure that new structures, renovations and businesses are compatible with the neighborhood.
- Goal 3 – Create and preserve physical features and activities to reinforce the neighborhood's cultural identity and history.
- Goal4 – Improve vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic safety on neighborhood streets.
- Goal 5 – Make better use of 4th and 5th Street rail corridor.
- Goal 6 – Improve and promote mass transit service in the neighborhood.
- Goal 12 – Attract or develop businesses that serve essential neighborhood needs.
- Goal 16 – Provide opportunities for cultural arts, recreation and leisure activities.

Holly Neighborhood Plan has eight goals, which relate to this plan:

- Goal 1 – Promote a variety of housing options for a mixture of different incomes.
- Goal 2 – Encourage opportunities to address compatibility between different residential, commercial and industrial uses.
- Goal 4 – Insure adequate pedestrian safety and access to major destinations such as schools, shopping centers and parks.
- Goal 5 – Insure adequate transit connections throughout the neighborhood.
- Goal 6 – Maintain roadways and alleys for safe and efficient travel for pedestrians, bicycles, transit and autos.
- Goal 7 – Preserve the neighborhood's historical and cultural character.
- Goal 8 – Maintain and enhance existing parks and parkscapes.
- Goal 9 – Preserve the quality of the public space in the neighborhood.

The above neighborhood plans will be amended when the Plaza Saltillo Station Area Plan is adopted by the City Council to reflect the most recent planning effort that has occurred for the properties within the Plaza Saltillo TOD District.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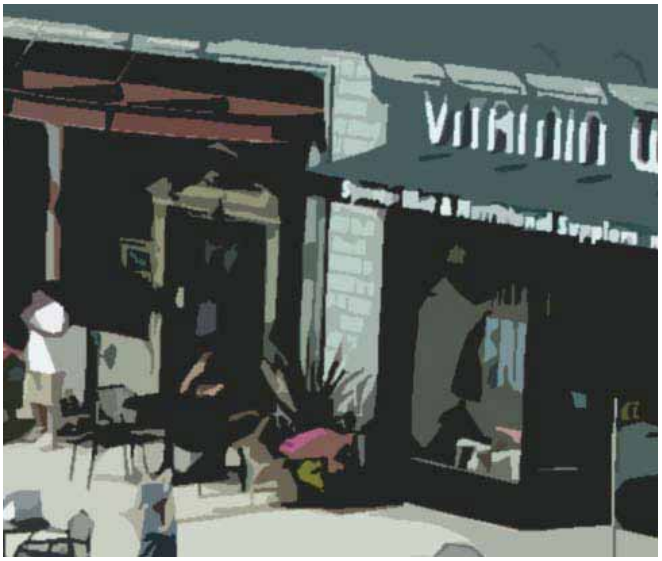
CHAPTER 2

THE PLAZA SALTILLO TOD STATION AREA PLAN



The Vision for the Plaza Saltillo Station Area in 2020…

The neighborhoods surrounding the Plaza Saltillo station in 2020 are still some of the most diverse and culturally rich in all of Austin. The built environment is eclectic with new development that is well balanced with older buildings. There is no uniform style or theme that dominates the architecture of the buildings, but the diversity of designs and textures creates a truly authentic look and feel to the area.

Both long-time and new residents have several housing options and affordable housing is plentiful enough to allow people to stay in the neighborhood as prices rise in the region. There are special programs and developments that provide affordable rental housing, affordable for sale housing, and group living that allows seniors to age in place.

Each of the east/west streets has its own character and purpose. East 7th Street carries the heaviest traffic through the area but it has been improved with wider sidewalks and safer street crossings. E 6th Street is the mixed-use spine of the neighborhood with active ground floor uses, sidewalk cafes and restaurants, and the highest degree of streetscape improvements. E 5th Street has an eclectic mix of commercial and residential uses with an active street life. Finally, E 4th street is less intensely developed with a stronger residential character but welcomes smaller businesses, artisans, and light manufacturing space to blend with the residential.

Pocket parks, paseo parks, street trees, and other green elements are interspersed among the new buildings to soften the edges and to integrate the natural with the built environment. A mercado where local artisans can showcase their talents and wares is a central feature of the TOD.

CREATING THE PLAZA SALTILLO TOD STATION AREA PLAN

THE DESIGN CHALLENGE

The Plaza Saltillo area is a diverse, culturally rich area with an eclectic mix of small businesses, artists, and new enterprises. The central design challenge is to manage change while preserving the distinct character and affordability of the area. As one participant in the first charrette put it, "Are we planning the future of the residents who live there now or are we planning a future for the people we expect will move to the community in the future?"

Of course, the answer is both, but this blunt question highlights the central tension shaping the Plaza Saltillo plan. Whether we plan for the future or not, the Plaza Saltillo area will change; it is happening already. The goal of several planning participants is to protect the character of the community while also shaping change in ways that achieve the community's vision for cultural diversity and affordable housing.

A second design challenge is creating a coherent plan when most of the area today is already zoned for mixed-use. The project team strived to create distinct places that responded to community context and aspirations and develop a thoughtful mixed-use strategy that better responded to the location of the rail stop and the surrounding street network.

The Plaza Saltillo Station Area is already defined by its dense and interconnected street grid. In particular, the east/west streets of 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th Streets represent an opportunity to create distinct environments on each street, which is consistent with the community's wishes to step down intensity from the north to the south. The challenge is determining how to create these distinct environments without fundamentally changing the base entitlements in existence.

THE VISION

The Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Plan will lay the foundation for achieving the Plaza Saltillo TOD vision. The Vision statement on the previous pages was crafted from the major themes discussed during the charrettes. The draft final plan is arranged in three concept plan layers for land use and design, circulation, and open space. Each layer of the plan is described in the following section.

EXISTING LAND USE AND ZONING

Currently, the majority of the Plaza Saltillo TOD is developed with a variety of commercial and industrial uses, with a moderate amount of recent residential loft development sprinkled throughout the Station Area. Existing lower density residential development is generally located along the north and south edges of the TOD District, and IH-35 and downtown Austin are immediately west. E. 7th Street is the primary east-west corridor running through the northern portion of the Station Area with E. 5th and 6th Streets also providing important access for area businesses. The majority of the properties in the Plaza Saltillo Station Area currently have commercial mixed-use zoning. The 11-acre Capital Metro property, located in the western portion of the Station Area between E. 4th and 5th Streets is the most significant redevelopment site as it is one of the few undeveloped parcels of land in the TOD District.

STATION AREA PLAN SUMMARY

The Plaza Saltillo Station Area Land Use and Design Concept Plan encourages the creation of a high activity mixed-use center around the MetroRail Station at Plaza Saltillo, which extends along E. 5th and 6th Streets, naturally leading towards the downtown area. This area is intended to have the highest level of pedestrian orientation in the District, taking full advantage of the transit services offered by the MetroRail Station. E. 7th Street is intended to continue as the primary transportation corridor. The redevelopment of the Capitol Metro site will be key to the overall success of the Plan.

Using TOD principles and public comments and ideas, TOD land use subdistricts were developed to define the basic land use and urban design character of the Plaza Saltillo Station Area. Much of the District continues to be designated for mixed-use development to allow for a variety of uses to occur throughout. To complement the land uses within the Station Area, circulation and open space elements were also developed. These three basic components for this Station Area Plan are summarized on the following pages.

1. LAND USE AND DESIGN CONCEPT PLAN

Land Use SubDistricts

The Land Use and Design Concept plan consists of two types of zones – mixed-use and residential. Much of the land in the TOD district is designated mixed-use. The plan includes primary mixed-use areas along E. 5th and 6th Streets and a secondary mixed-use district along E. 7th Street. The plan envisions the primary areas as being the most intensely developed with the highest density in the Station Area due to their proximity and ease of connection to the transit station. The remaining portion of the TOD is devoted to transitional uses that are predominantly residential in nature. The land use districts are summarized below:

Mixed-Use Designations

There are three types of mixed-use designations in the plan:

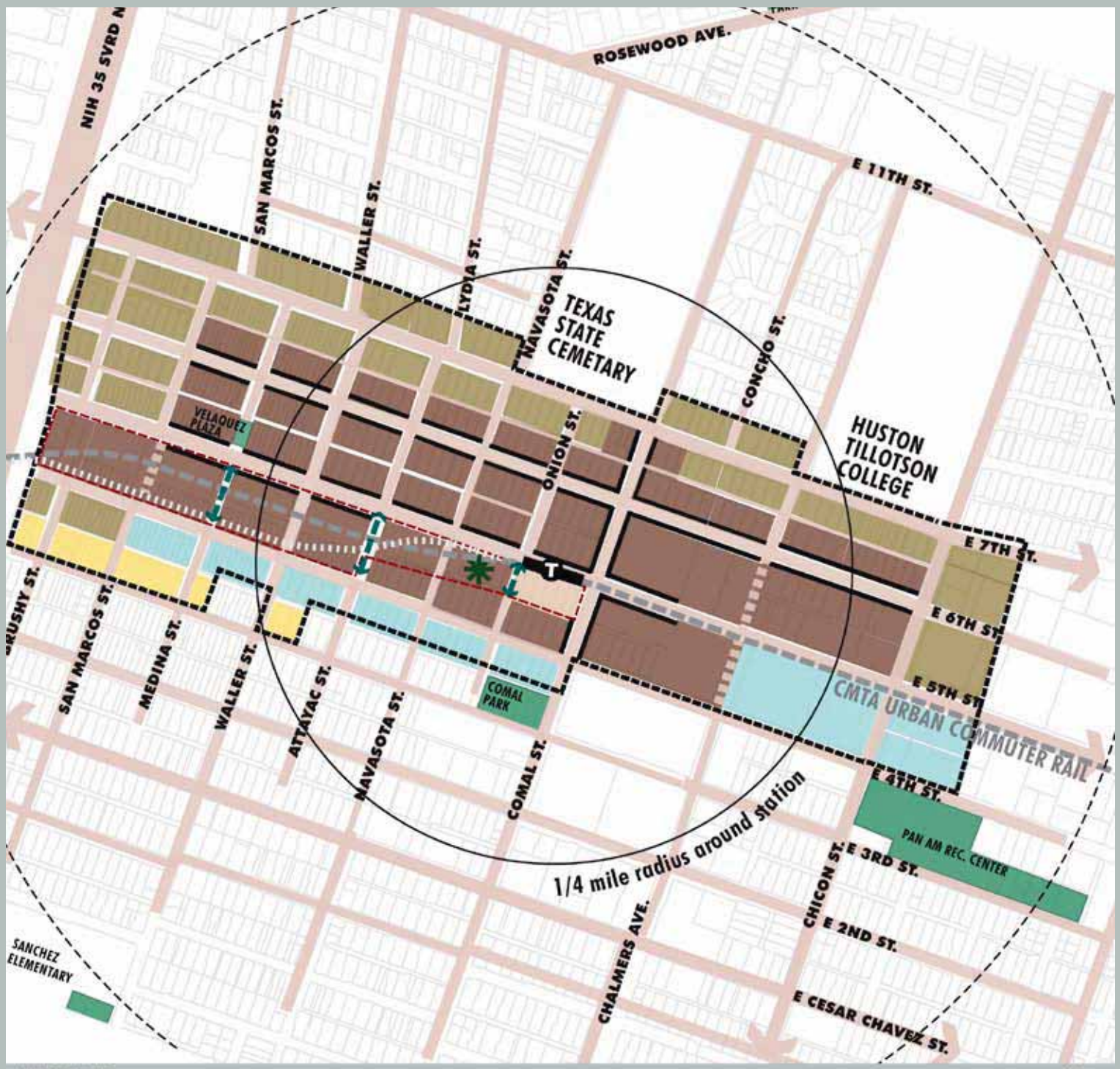
- TOD Mixed-Use
- Corridor Mixed-Use
- Live/Work Flex

Residential Designations

There is one purely residential land use designation in the plan:

- Low Density Residential

LAND USE AND DESIGN CONCEPT PLAN



LEGEND

- LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
- TOD MIXED USE (showing active edges)
- CORRIDOR MIXED USE
- LIVE/WORK FLEX
- EXISTING CITY PARKLAND
- POTENTIAL OPEN SPACE
- POTENTIAL PASEOS
- SALTILLO DISTRICT REDEVELOPMENT AREA (Capital Metro)
- PLAZA SALTILLO
- EXISTING STREETS
- POTENTIAL STREETS
- TOD DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- METRORAIL STATION
- POTENTIAL FUTURE RE-ALIGNMENT OF RAIL LINE

0 200 400 800 FEET

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1. TOD Mixed Use Zones
2. Corridor Mixed Use Zones
3. Live/Work Flex Zones

1

TOD Mixed-Use

TOD Mixed-Use is the most intensively developed land use zone and will typically be expressed as high density residential over active ground floor uses, such as retail or office. This land use designation is concentrated near a transit station and along major streets, generally located near the center of a TOD and along major "spines" that lead to it. This land use designation is concentrated along Comal, E. 5th and E. 6th Streets as they lead to the center of the TOD and Plaza Saltillo

2

Corridor Mixed-Use

Corridor Mixed-Use allows a similar, but slightly more liberal, mix of uses as the TOD Mixed-Use district. Active ground floor uses or a mix of uses in one development are encouraged, but not required. Retail, office, and higher density residential development are all permitted. This zone is typically located on major streets farther away from the transit station. In this Plan, Corridor Mixed-Use is concentrated along E. 7th Street and the east end of the station area. These areas are appropriate for this type of land use designation as they are farther from the core of the TOD and are situated along streets that experience high traffic volumes.

3

Live/Work Flex

Live/work units are a type of mixed-use development, combining commercial, office or light manufacturing space within the same structure as a residential living space for the business owner. They have similar benefits to mixed-use development and can eliminate the need to commute to work. In addition, they can provide affordable work and housing space, meet the needs of special groups, such as artists, and serve new incubator businesses. This district may serve as a transition zone between the higher density core uses and lower density neighborhoods. Depending upon the context, Live/Work Flex may be designed to either be primarily residential or commercial in character. This subdistrict is located on the south side of E. 5th Street, near Chicon Street and on the south side of E. 4tth Street. Live/work allows for a moderate number of non-residential uses to occur in conjunction with residential development to support small business and artisan activity on the smaller and less active streets in the TOD. In the context of this Plan, this subdistrict acts as a transition zone between the higher intensity core uses and the surrounding low density residential neighborhoods.

TOD Mixed-Use

Example: Three or four stories of residential units (condos or apartments) above ground floor retail (cafes, coffee shops, boutiques).

Corridor Mixed-Use

Example: A small-format grocery store that is built up to the sidewalk with parking located behind the building.

Live/Work Flex

Example: A three story rowhouse with the ground floor used as an artist studio and retail space.

1. Low Density Residential Zones

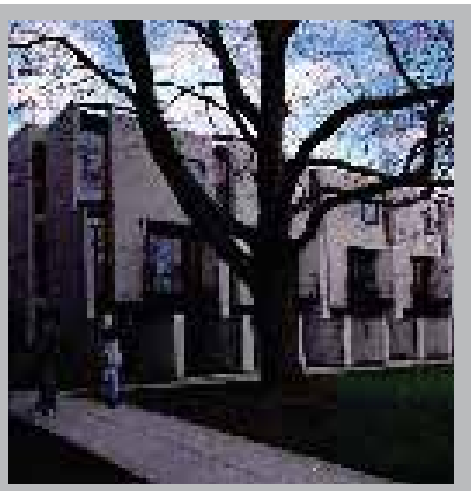
1

Low Density Residential

Low Density Residential is considered "low" in the context of a TOD station area, although it is "higher" density compared to surrounding single family neighborhoods, which are typically around 7 to 8 units per acre in older Austin neighborhoods with detached single-family residences.

Low Density Residential is located along the southernmost edge of the TOD on the north side of E. 3rd Street. This area is sufficiently removed from the prime activity areas of the TOD so lower density development is more appropriate, especially since existing single family homes on the south side of E. 3rd face the TOD. East 3rd Street is a relatively quiet and low volume street with fewer active uses than other parts of the Station Area. In addition, the majority of these properties currently have a multifamily future land use designation in the East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Plan. Low Density Residential for TOD is an appropriate transition designation to the more densely development core. Non-residential development is not permitted in this Subdistrict.

Low Density Residential



Example: Cottage-style detached homes with rear lot alley garages.

1. The Sparks-Ledesma House.
2. The Briones House.
3. Location of Historic Properties along the north side if E.7th Street.
4. The Johnson House.

Planning for Families and Seniors

A desire was expressed by some charrette participants to provide senior and family housing within the Plaza Saltillo TOD. Future development can accommodate the needs of the elderly and households with children by thinking carefully about their space and recreational needs. Projects that provide a variety of unit types and sizes are more likely to attract a range of households from families to seniors wishing to live in a more urban environment. Open space should be provided to meet the needs of these different user groups. Projects that include day care services will potentially enable parents to walk to drop their children off or to use a day care close to work. The integration of residences, daily community services, and employment in a TOD, in addition to creating safe routes for pedestrians and cyclists, is essential to its success.

Historic Resources in the Plaza Saltillo TOD

Currently there are five historically-zoning in the Plaza Saltillo TOD: the Sparks-Ledesma, Johnson, Duncan-Washington, and Briones Houses in addition to a property at the northeast corner of E. 5th and Brushy Streets. Some planning participants stressed that these properties should continue to retain their historic designation as they are good representations, amidst a rapidly changing environment, of the character of a former East Austin. The Plaza Saltillo Regulating Plan maintains the historic zoning designation for these properties and information on these properties, excerpted from the E. 7th Street Corridor Concept Plan, can be found in the Appendix.

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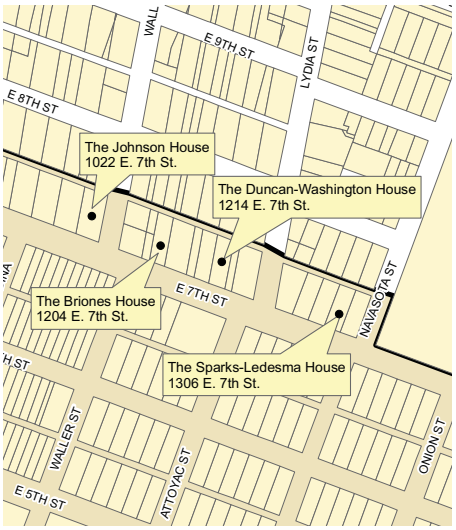

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DENSITY AND BUILDING HEIGHTS

An important characteristic of transit-oriented development is a residential density that is greater than the community average. The residential density of the existing single family neighborhoods around the Plaza Saltillo TOD district is approximately 7 to 8 units per acre and somewhat higher densities in areas with multi-family housing. This Station Area Plan assumes a higher density than the surrounding average with the highest intensity proposed in the TOD mixed use subdistrict.

The housing density of each of the land use zones includes a range with both minimum and maximum densities. The following table lists the density by land use zone.

HOUSING DENSITY BY LAND USE TYPE		
LAND USE ZONE	MINIMUM DENSITY	MAXIMUM DENSITY
TOD Mixed-Use	2 stories	45 units per acre*
Corridor Mixed-Use	none	45 units per acre*
Live/Work Flex	17 units per acre	45 units per acre*
Low Density Residential	9 units per acre	16 units per acre

* Density limit may be removed in exchange for the provision of affordable housing

As a rule of thumb, a 40-foot height limit permits a three-story building and a 60-foot building permits a five-story building. As a base height entitlement, the plan assumes existing height restrictions between 35 and 60 feet will continue throughout the TOD. The 60-foot height limit generally applies north of E. 5th St. and the 40-foot limit generally south of this street. There was a range of opinion expressed with respect to appropriate allowable building heights in the TOD. Generally speaking, three to five-story tall buildings were supported throughout the TOD district. Input from the development community indicated that there was little interest in building heights greater than 60 feet as the cost of developing above that (i.e. using steel-frame construction) is not financially feasible in this area at this time.

Minimum densities or height have been established in this Plan for certain land use subdistricts. This is an effort to respond to the key principle of TOD, which is to create a higher density within the Station Area than the surrounding community average to encourage a concentration of activity (residential and commercial) around transit to promote its use. As a result, minimum densities are included in the primary residential categories: Low Density Residential and Live/Work Flex. The TOD Mixed-Use Subdistrict contains a minimum height instead of a minimum residential density to enable a certain amount of flexibility in the type of activity that goes on in these locations, but at the same time, development must adhere to a certain level. A minimum height not only accommodates a traditional mixed-use development that includes both a residential and non-residential component, but also pure commercial and/or office development to support and stimulate employment opportunities and the provision of services within the TOD. Ultimately, the real estate market will determine what developers build within the Station Area as any project must have a market to support it and be financially feasible. The flexibility inherent in the TOD Mixed-Use Subdistrict is designed to respond to a variety of market conditions. The Corridor Mixed-Use Subdistrict contains neither a minimum density nor a minimum height as these areas are further removed from the core of the Station Area where the highest level of residential and commercial activity is intended.

BASE MAXIMUM BUILDING HEIGHTS

Note: Additional height may be allowed in the TOD Mixed-Use Subdistrict in exchange for the provision of affordable housing. Total building height of 60 feet may be allowed if current height limit is less.

LEGEND

- 35 FEET
- 40 FEET
- 60 FEET
- PLAZA SALTILLO
- TOD DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- METRORAIL STATION

0 200 400 800 FEET

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TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT STATION AREA PLANNING

1. Chestnut Commons. Austin, TX
2. Mixed-Use with affordable housing. Milwaukie, OR
3. Live/work units. Boulder, Co

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This Station Area Plan recommends that in specific areas of the Plaza Saltillo TOD a density bonus, and in more select locations of the TOD a height bonus, be allowed in exchange for the provision of affordable housing. The intent is to promote denser, mixed income projects to locate in the land use subdistricts designated for higher density development and to encourage the highest levels of activity in areas with good access to transit. As a first step, the density bonus would remove density restrictions, without changing the allowable height, in exchange for a certain level of affordable housing. This type of bonus is allowed in the TOD Mixed-Use, Corridor Mixed-Use, and Live/Work Flex Subdistricts. In addition, a height bonus allowing total building height up to 60 feet is available within the TOD Mixed-Use Subdistrict for those properties that currently have a height limit less than 60 feet. The details of these bonuses and the required levels of affordable housing are established in the Plaza Saltillo TOD Regulating Plan.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Affordable housing is an important component of transit-oriented development. Inclusion of affordable housing in TOD areas can provide lower-income households with improved transportation access to employment and services. Reduced transportation costs can improve the ability of low income families to afford housing payments. In addition, economic diversity among TOD residents will benefit transit ridership.

However, due to land prices and construction costs, new market-rate developments in the TOD areas are not likely to be affordable to low-income households. Citywide, the median home price of $180,000 is well above what is considered affordable for a low-income family. The average rent in Austin is $831, which is not affordable to households at or below 50% of Austin's median family income.[1]

Housing Goals

To promote the development of affordable units in TOD areas, the TOD Ordinance and TOD Housing Resolution include a goal that 25% of the new housing units in each TOD area should be affordable. The overall affordability goal is as follows:

- Affordable owner-occupied units should be occupied by households with incomes at or below 80% of Median Family Income (MFI) as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and
- Affordable rental units should be occupied by households at or below 60% MFI.
- In addition, the Ordinance provides a specific breakdown of these targets. [2]

The TOD Ordinance establishes more ambitious goals for the two TOD areas located in the Community Preservation and Revitalization Zone (CP&R Zone) - the MLK and Plaza Saltillo TOD Districts. In these two TOD areas, the median income level of surrounding residents is typically lower than the citywide median. The affordability goals for these two districts are as follows:

- Affordable owner-occupied units in the CP&R Zone should be occupied by households at or below 60% MFI; and
- For rental units in the CP&R Zone, the following goals apply:
  - 10% of the units should be occupied by households between 40-50% MFI;
  - 10% of the units should be occupied by households between 30-40% MFI; and
  - 5% of the units should be occupied by households below 30% MFI.

1 Sources: Austin Board of Realtors; ALN Apartment Data.

2 For homeownership units, a goal of providing 10% of the units to households with income from 70-80% MFI; 10% of the units to households with income of 60-70% MFI; and 5% of the units to households with income of not more than 60% MFI. For rental units, a goal of providing 10% of the units to households with income from 40-60% MFI, 10% of the units to households with income of 30-40% MFI; and 5% of the units to households with income of less than 30% MFI.

1. Community Preservation and Revitalization Zone (CP&R)

Affordable Housing Analysis

The TOD Ordinance includes a requirement that a Station Area Plan include a housing affordability analysis and feasibility review that describes potential strategies for achieving these goals. The Austin City Council selected the consulting firm Diana McIver and Associates (DMA) to conduct this analysis. DMA has provided several financial models for the achievement of the TOD goals, and has evaluated potential incentives and financing tools for creating housing affordability within the TOD Districts. An executive summary of their report can be found in Chapter 3: Implementation, and the full report is in the appendix.

DMA's financial scenarios demonstrate that the achievement of the TOD affordability goals will be challenging and will require a substantial commitment of incentives and subsidies. While DMA has indicated that there is not one single solution to housing affordability in TOD areas; their analysis shows that a combination of tools can be used to achieve affordability in TOD districts.

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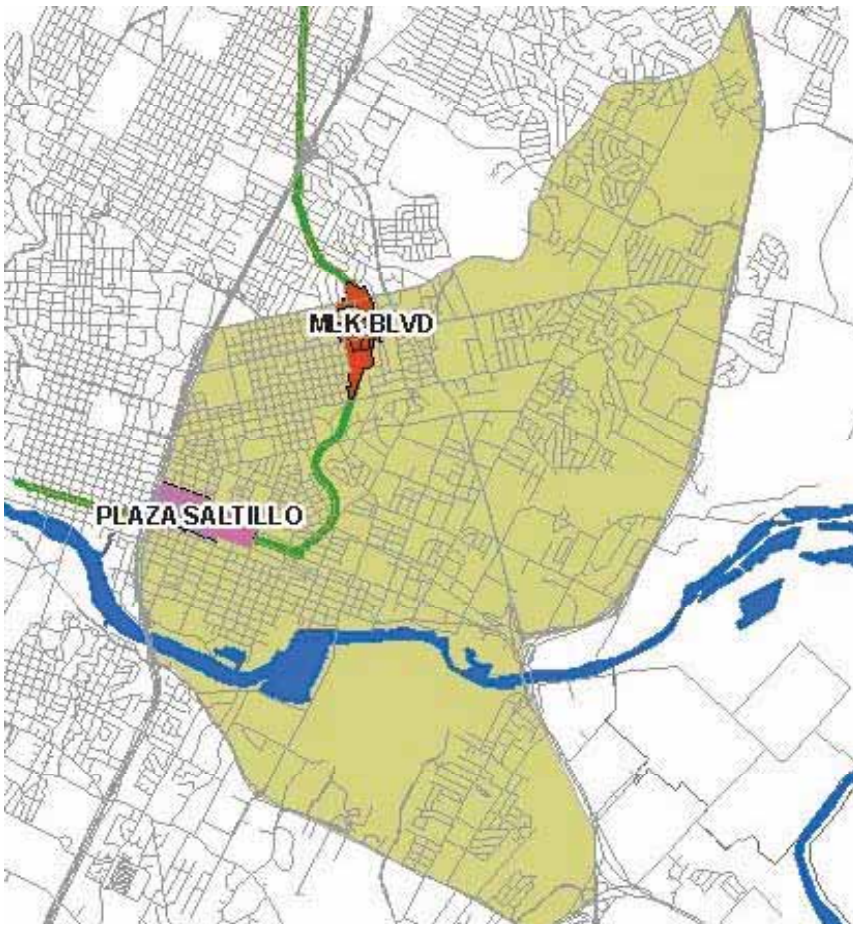

1. Public gathering space
2. Retail activity on street
3. Urban residential street
4. Quieter neighborhood street

URBAN DESIGN

In addition to the land use districts, there are several important urban design treatments that should accompany land development in the station area. It is particularly important for development to be oriented to the street and pedestrians.

Roadway Types

Urban design elements are largely guided by three TOD street types – TOD Core Transit Corridor, TOD Pedestrian Priority Street, and TOD Local Street. This is modeled after the approach used in *Subchapter E: Design Standards and Mixed Use*, which categorizes all existing and future streets in the City, and then uses these designations as a basis for regulating streetscape, site, and building design. These three TOD street designations trigger specific streetscape and building design requirements within the Regulating Plan. The TOD Core Transit Corridors correspond to the existing and future Core Transit Corridors in Subchapter E. To address the unique issues related to the TOD station planning areas, two additional street designations apply. The three TOD street designations are described below and located in the Circulation Concept Plan:

- **TOD Core Transit Corridors.** Citywide Core Transit Corridors are defined and listed in *Subchapter E: Design Standards and Mixed Use* of the Land Development Code. They correspond with many of the major city streets. A Core Transit Corridor within the boundary of the Plaza Saltillo TOD is labeled a TOD Core Transit Corridor, whose designation in this Plan was informed by the original Core Transit Corridors established in Subchapter E. In both this Station Area Plan and in Subchapter E, these Corridors indicate a roadway that has, or will have, sufficient population density and mix of uses to encourage and support transit use. TOD Core Transit Corridors are of primary importance as transit and pedestrian places, and therefore, it is essential to create vibrant, pedestrian-friendly places. In addition, design features must include buildings located adjacent to or near the street, parking to the rear or side of buildings, building facades and entrances that are oriented to the street, and amenities, such as shelter, plazas, and seating to create a pleasant environment. The TOD Core Transit Corridor Street in the Plaza Saltillo Station Area is E. 7th Street.

- **TOD Pedestrian Priority Streets.** This designation applies to specific existing or future streets within a TOD, which are especially significant as pedestrian routes. Pedestrian Priority Street designations are applied to critical pedestrian connections through the TOD and can provide direct access to transit. These streets complement the TOD Core Transit Corridors to form an interconnected pedestrian network. Because of their significance for pedestrian circulation, TOD Pedestrian Priority Streets are intended to have similar pedestrian facilities and amenities to the TOD Core Transit Corridors. Land uses are often

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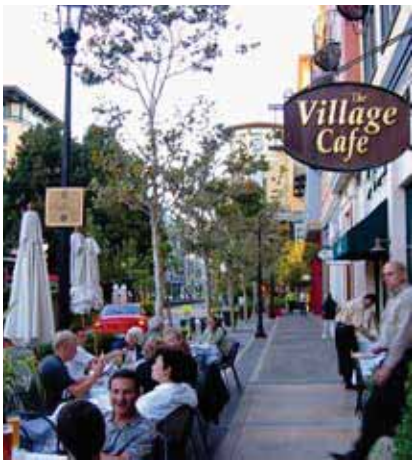

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1. Mix of uses - office and retail
2. Active street
3. Mix of uses - residential and retail

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less intense than those adjacent to TOD Core Transit Corridors, and requirements for locating buildings near the street are more flexible. However, proper building orientation to the street and parking lot screening continue to be important. E. 5th and 6th Waller, Comal and Chicon Streets and Chalmers Avenue are designated as TOD Pedestrian Priority Streets because they provide a network of routes that will provide an enhanced pedestrian environment and convenience.

- **TOD Local Streets.** These include all other existing or future streets within the TOD. While they are intended to provide comfortable, accessible, and pleasant accommodation for pedestrians, they do not represent the primary walking routes or pedestrian areas. Land uses are often less intense than those adjacent to TOD Core Transit Corridors and Pedestrian Priority Streets, and requirements for locating buildings near the street are more flexible. The remaining streets in the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Plan are TOD Local Streets.

Active Edges

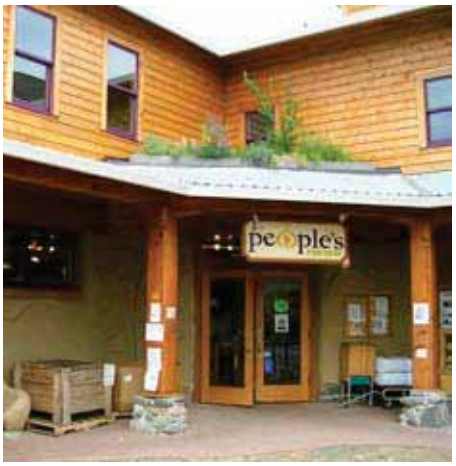
Having a good pedestrian environment is a key element for important pedestrian and transit streets within the station area. Specific properties along these streets, which have a TOD Mixed-Use land use designation, are required to have active edges. This means that buildings must be next to the street and designed to accommodate retail, entertainment, and similarly active ground floor uses, which are directly accessible to the people walking by. Off-street surface parking may not abut active edge frontages, and driveways are only allowed when no other reasonable and sufficient access alternative is available. This activates the pedestrian zone, and it also improves safety by increasing the potential number of "eyes on the street" to deter crime and vandalism.

Because E. 6th Street is intended to be the primary pedestrian street in the station area, active edge designations predominate. Active edge designations along E. 5th Street and Comal Street further reinforce the objective of creating a special pedestrian environment and activity center near and leading up to the station. As such, they are planned to have the highest density, greatest mix of uses, and a vibrant, urban character. While the design requirements summarized above will help shape such an environment, additional urban design standards are essential to establish them as urban centers. The active edge designation applies only to property design and development, and it does not affect adjoining public street and sidewalk design, which is determined by roadway type.

GREEN BUILDING AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Green Building

A primary goal of transit-oriented development within the City of Austin is the promotion of development and re-development in a manner that will help absorb some of the region's expected population growth in areas well-supported by transit. It is important that the development of the built environment involve goals favorable to achieving long-term sustainability. Achieving a sustainable future means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future, and in doing so helping to make more live-able communities. Sustainability in Austin's TOD areas involves taking active measures to protect against negative environmental impacts.



Recognizing the City of Austin has set specific goals in an effort to be a leader in green building, renewable energy, and sustainable technologies, this station area plan includes the following recommendations:

Recommendations

1. Improve air quality and public health by providing alternative transportation choices. Provide clear alternatives to auto-centric development patterns by providing an environment that is pedestrian, bicycle, and transit-friendly.
2. Encourage all new buildings to meet the goals of the Austin Climate Protection Plan in effect at the time they begin the permit process. Current goals are to make all new single-family homes zero net-energy capable by 2015 and increase energy efficiency in all other new construction by 75% by 2015. Zero net-energy capable means that a building provides enough energy efficiency that all of its energy needs could be accommodated by on-site energy sources such as roof-top solar panels.
   a. Reduce energy use of buildings through better design and choice of materials and systems. Green buildings can achieve significant energy savings.
      - Buildings should have their longer sides oriented south as much as possible, and should minimize exposure to the west. As much as possible, minimize unshaded glazing on east and west exposures to reduce heat gain. Encourage glazing systems on northern and southern facades that reduce glare and provide opportunities for daylight harvesting (utilizing daylight to provide quality light indoors to minimize electric lighting). Overhangs, balconies, porches etc. should be utilized to provide shading of windows.
      - Buildings should be well insulated and use high efficiency heating and cooling systems. Systems should be sized and installed properly.

b. Encourage distributed energy generation (solar/thermal, wind power, etc.) within TODs and promote use of alternative energy sources through the Austin Energy Green Choices program.

3. Encourage roofing and paving design and materials that reduce the urban heat island effect (the tendency of urban areas to be several degrees warmer than the surrounding countryside). This includes using light colored roofing, siding and paving materials to reflect, rather than absorb the sun's heat and by maximizing planted areas and shading paved areas and dark surfaces. Green roofs (planted vegetation on roofs) are a good option to help reduce the heat island effect and also provide air quality benefits.

4. Encourage protection of existing trees and plant new trees where possible. Trees should be considered part of the neighborhood's infrastructure. Trees improve air quality by absorbing carbon dioxide and other harmful pollutants and to help reduce the urban heat island effect.
   a. Redevelopment should include a "street tree zone" to provide shade between the street and sidewalk.
      Near powerlines, smaller trees which do not grow more than 25 feet should be planted. Trees can cool neighborhoods by three to six degrees if planted to shade areas that absorb heat such as streets, sidewalks and parking lots.
   b. Trees should be planted in all parks and street medians.

5. Reduce solid waste production. Divert construction and demolition waste from the landfill to the fullest extent achievable and utilize existing infrastructure through adaptive reuse of buildings and building materials (developments in Austin have documented that more than 50% waste diversion is achievable). Design buildings to incorporate recycling collection areas and encourage tenants to recycle.

6. Promote the use of environmentally compatible building materials by selecting regional materials that are non-toxic, recycled and harvested in a sustainable manner.

7. Conserve water by installing low water use plumbing fixtures and appliances, using low water use native plants in landscaping, and utilizing rainwater harvesting, air conditioning condensate, or other recycled or non-potable water sources for irrigation.

Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure, when used in the context of stormwater management, uses smaller-scale decentralized treatment devices to mitigate the effects of urban development. Green Infrastructure often incorporates vegetation and landscaped areas into the treatment process, thereby allowing space to be used more effectively and aesthetically. Since they are individually smaller in scale, Green Infrastructure projects can be dispersed and integrated into the site and used to help meet landscaping requirements, allowing flexibility for water quality compliance for dense, urban projects. This contrasts with conventional "end-of-pipe" centralized controls which typically occupy a larger contiguous space and treat the entire developed area in one larger pond.

Recognizing that there are a limited number of TOD districts in Austin and that a central goal of TOD is to achieve dense, compact development, this plan supports the utilization of Green Infrastructure methods as a way to achieve both TOD and water quality goals. This plan encourages multiple uses of landscaped areas to maximize on-site storm water treatment, reduce needs for potable water irrigation of the landscape, and reduce reliance on traditional Best Management Practices (like storm water ponds) that decrease usable space. In order to reach these goals, development will comply with the regulatory strategy outlined in the Station Area Regulating Plan that combines newly adopted practices in the City of Austin Environmental Criteria Manual (ECM) with the Urban Watersheds Water Quality Fee-in-Lieu program and the Urban Watersheds Cost Recovery/Cost Participation Program.

Recently adopted criteria in ECM 1.6.7 provide direction on how to design vegetative filter strips, biofiltration ponds, rain gardens, porous pavement, rainwater harvesting and additional landscaping to meet Code-required water quality requirements per Section 25-8-213 of the Austin Land Development Code (LDC). These innovative controls rely on vegetative and landscape elements to treat storm water. The criteria specifically outline the standards for maintaining these native landscaped storm water controls in a sustainable manner (Refer to the Appendix for more information on specific Green Infrastructure methods).

Optimally, these controls will be integrated with landscaping areas already required of new development according to LDC Section 25-2-514 and Section 25-2 Divisions 2 and 3. This would reduce the need to construct a separate water quality facility; land that would have been used for separate water quality controls and landscaping is then available for other types of development. In addition, irrigation needs are minimized by having the ability to use storm water run-off to water plants and vegetation versus using potable City water. Specific Green Infrastructure requirements have been established in the Regulating Plan.

INFRASTRUCTURE

As part of the Station Area planning process, the conditions of the water, wastewater, and storm water systems in and around the Plaza Saltillo TOD were evaluated. Consultant Raymond Chan and Associates examined the water and wastewater systems and potential impacts to this system from future TOD development. The full report is provided in the Appendix. The water service for the Plaza Saltillo SAP is provided by a 24-inch water main in the south side of the Station Area, which supplies water to the remainder of the system. The overall capacity of the system is sufficient to serve additional development in the area, however, some improvement to distribution lines may be necessary to provide adequate water supply for both domestic use and fire protection.

The wastewater system has sufficient overall capacity for existing development, which is provided by an interceptor system including a 15-inch line in Comal Street. Depending upon the density and character of new development in the area, some upgrading and improvement of wastewater system may be necessary to support specific projects.

The Watershed Protection and Development Review Department documented existing conditions of the storm water drainage system and identified potential future needs and methods for addressing flood, water quality, and erosion issues. This information is detailed in the Appendix.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Timing of Projects & Financing Public Improvements

Bay Area Economics (BAE) was retained by the City to evaluate the financial feasibility of TOD and to provide a recommended financing strategy to help support this type of development in station areas. A summary of the BAE findings is presented in the following paragraphs, and the full reports are presented in the Appendix. In addition, several of the implementation techniques addressed in Chapter 3 reflect the BAE recommendations.

The timing of new development projects in the Plaza Saltillo SAP will be determined by the interaction of private sector market-based decisions with City decisions on public improvements and investments (along with zoning requirements) to set the stage for change. The factors shaping this interaction include:

- **Market Demand** – The level of market demand for various types of TOD, as well as the sale prices and lease rates for new development.
- **Project Financial Feasibility** – Whether the cost of new TOD, including land, construction, parking, and financing allow developers to make a profit based on market sales prices and level of demand.
- **Public Investment** – The timing and amount of public investments in new infrastructure, streetscape and open space improvements, as well as support for affordable housing and new TOD catalyst projects to attract and support widespread new private investment in TOD.

These factors are dynamic, meaning that they evolve over time, and the SAP needs to be flexible to respond to continuing change. Market conditions go through cycles, affecting the feasibility of uses and projects at any particular time. Success with new TOD in an unproven area can greatly increase other developers' interest in building TOD. Public investment, while essential, is always a challenge because of limited resources, and its timing is not necessarily tied to market cycles.

BAE evaluated the financial feasibility of various TOD projects to identify those that are feasible today, versus those that will likely await improvement in market conditions. The estimates also identified the financing needs for catalyst projects that have the potential to shift market conditions and attract other new development.

Based on the public investment needs for infrastructure, streetscape and open space improvements, affordable housing, as well as funding assistance for potential catalyst projects, BAE reviewed existing public finance tools and formulated new approaches to create a TOD financing strategy for making the necessary public investments.

Feasibility of Plaza Saltillo TOD Projects

BAE's estimates show that live/work and residential wrap buildings, both for-sale and rental, are currently feasible in this area (as also evidenced by extensive development activity). Mixed-use podium projects, which are more expensive to build, are likely feasible only if they can go above the current 40 foot height limit, up to four stories of residential above ground floor commercial. Because this type of mixed-use development has not been previously built in the area, developers are likely to hold back until a successful project has been built. Public assistance for a successful catalyst project could help convince other developers to proceed with other mixed-use TOD projects, as well as provide additional retail.

Enhancing the Feasibility of TOD Projects

TOD projects have higher construction costs than less dense projects, and a planning objective to create them in locations with moderate market conditions may require support to offset these higher costs. There are various public actions that can be taken to enhance the feasibility of TOD projects, including:

- Create Parking Districts or other solutions to more efficiently share high-cost structured parking.
- Assemble development sites and sell or lease them at a discount to developers.
- Assist catalyst TOD projects, including those to create more affordable housing, through support for infrastructure costs, parking, or modifications of planning requirements to enhance project revenues.
- Build denser TODs, which provide affordable housing, in order to stimulate developer interest in creating other mixed-income and market-rate residential TOD projects.

Public Financing Strategy

Depending on the extent of new TOD, the value of various types of public investment in the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area along with MLK and Lamar Station Areas could range from $900 million to $1.6 billion or more. This level of new development would primarily be financed by private investment and would create substantial economic benefits, including new employment and property tax and other revenue for the City. However, public investment will be needed for infrastructure, streetscape and open space improvements, affordable housing, and catalyst projects to attract and support substantial levels of new private investment and realize the goals of the SAP.

The recommended financing strategy for public investment is a multi-layered one that uses new financing sources to capture the value of new development, new grant and fee funding sources, along with existing City programs and incentives. Key objectives for the public financing strategy include:

- Phased implementation of the SAP to match public investment to market interest and targeted opportunities;
- Minimal use of City General Fund or Capital Improvement Program funds to reduce competition with other priority projects;
- Shift public improvement costs, to the greatest extent possible, to new development projects; and
- Use all existing public finance tools authorized by law.

The largest potential source of funds would be through use of Tax Increment Finance (TIF), which uses the increase in property taxes resulting from new development to cover the costs of public improvements. TIF does not increase taxes for existing property owners. For the SAP, it is recommended that only a portion of available tax increment be used, with the remainder available for new public services and schools to support residents and businesses occupying new TOD.

Other potential public finance sources include use of a combination of: Homestead Preservation Districts; Developer Impact Fees; Austin Housing Finance Corporation programs for affordable housing; Federal and State grants; and Public Improvement Districts.

There is a range of issues that must be addressed in a future Financing Implementation Plan. The Plan would be created as more detailed development plans are prepared and total public financing needs can be estimated and matched with potential sources. The Plan should provide for a wide range of creative public/private partnerships to stimulate TOD projects, utilizing existing City departments as well as new staff resources.

2. CIRCULATION CONCEPT PLAN

Successful and functional community centers and transit service both rely on pedestrian environments that are safe and convenient with short walking distances, and have comfortable and stimulating surroundings. In addition to the design of development adjacent to the street (as noted above), this environment is also shaped by the design of the public realm, including public streets, sidewalks, and gathering places.

TOD streetscapes serve as walkable corridors that concurrently facilitate multi-modal transportation, including rail and bus travel, private auto traffic, walking, and bicycling. Where existing street design often regards roadways as simple conduits for the efficient movement of cars, station area streets are refocused on the need to provide a sense of place and pleasant environments for people. The Circulation Concept Plan is intended to complement the Land Use and Design Concept Plan by providing pleasant and convenient walking facilities, appropriate on-street parking, and amenities within the public street right-of-way and public places, such as street trees, landscaping, and plazas.

During the station area planning process, many participants expressed the desire to create an open TOD area that encouraged north-south travel from neighborhoods north of E. 7th Street and south of E. 3rd Street By and large, Plaza Saltillo boasts an efficient interconnected network of streets, providing many opportunities for getting around the area and helping to disperse traffic. In addition, the existing alley network provides enhanced circulation opportunities by allowing for multiple access points. Charrette commentary included the desire to maintain the alley network throughout Plaza Saltillo to continue the present circulation patterns as properties redevelop.

There are some key locations where street and/or pedestrian connections were desired to complete this network and complement it by making it truly accessible not only to motorists, but especially pedestrians and cyclists. The Circulation Concept Plan illustrates where and how these connections could be made, especially to the station and the 11-acre Capital Metro site. This plan also describes where to direct public and private resources to implement streetscape improvements and designate priority bicycle and pedestrian routes.

Multi-modal Connectivity

The Circulation Concept Plan identifies the types of new connections that should be made to enhance vehicle, transit, pedestrian, and bicycle circulation throughout the area. It is important to note that anything labeled a "potential street" is conceptual. These suggestions may ultimately be moved or reconfigured when large sites go through the development review process or public improvement projects are initiated. The Regulating Plan contains block standards to ensure the creation of an internal street system, providing a comparable level of connectivity to the system shown in the Circulation Concept Plan.

Because the street system is well developed within the Plaza Saltillo station area, the Circulation Concept Plan illustrates a relatively small number of connectivity improvements. The Circulation Concept Plan depicts possible ways to provide additional connectivity, particularly for pedestrians. This plan does not imply that proposed streets and pedestrian improvements will be publicly built and maintained. Additional connectivity could certainly be provided with a private street network and public easements

A multi-modal street connection of the north and south segments of Chalmers Avenue is identified to create smaller blocks and enhance pedestrian connections in the eastern portion of the station area. This would create a new Pedestrian Priority Street. In addition, a new TOD Local Street connection is proposed on the Capital Metro property to bridge the gap along San Marcos between E. 4th and 5th Streets. If these two additional streets are introduced to the area, the connectivity within the TOD would be optimal, providing a highly efficient transportation network to disperse traffic and promote walking as there are many route choices available to reach a destination.

CIRCULATION CONCEPT PLAN

LEGEND

- STREETS
- TOD CORE TRANSIT STREETS
- TOD PEDESTRIAN PRIORITY STREET
- TOD LOCAL STREETS
- POTENTIAL NEW STREETS
- POTENTIAL NEW TOD LOCAL STREETS
- DESIGN STANDARDS CORE TRANSIT/ FUTURE CORE TRANSIT CORRIDORS
- PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS (POTENTIAL PASEOS)
- EXISTING BIKE LANES
- RECOMMENDED BIKE FACILITY IN AUSTIN BIKE PLAN
- LANCE ARMSTRONG BIKEWAY (LAB)
- POTENTIAL FUTURE REALIGNMENT OF THE LAB
- POTENTIAL FUTURE RE-ALIGNMENT OF RAIL LINE
- TOD DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- METRORAIL STATION
- EXISTING BIKE/PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION

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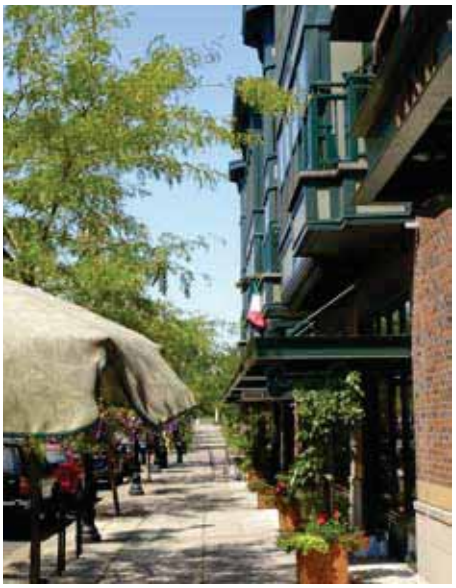
E. 7th Street will continue to function as the most significant thoroughfare in the area. With the pedestrian and bicycle improvements indicated in this Plan, E. 7th Street could offer a very functional and pleasant travel experience for all users. A Corridor Concept Plan for E. 7th was produced in 2002 that covers the segment from IH-35 to Pleasant Valley Road. The goals of the exercise were to create a plan that improved safety for vehicles and pedestrians along this road and improved its appearance and aesthetic quality. A summary of the plan can be found in the Appendix. In concert with the E. 7th Street Corridor Concept Plan, work is being done from Chicon Street to Pleasant Valley. No projects or design/engineering work are completed or currently planned for this section of E. 7th Street between IH-35 and Chicon Street. As a complement to the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Plan, the E. 7th Street Corridor Concept Plan will be a valuable resource when a street improvement project along this segment is identified. The appendix also includes public art and color examples that were produced for the Corridor Concept Plan to be incorporated on the section east of Chicon Street. A continuation of the materials, artwork, landscaping, and general color scheme is desired to create a coherent and consistent theme and distinct identity for the entire length of E. 7th Street from IH-35 to Pleasant Valley.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Access

Several pedestrian connections are included in the Circulation Concept Plan to provide the desired north-south connectivity described previously and to complement the abundant east-west routes already in existence. These connections are important as they break-up the larger block structure between E. 4th/6th and Comal/Chicon and also through the Capital Metro site between E. 4th and 5th Streets. Providing these connections would enhance and complete the existing circulation network in this area and provide pedestrians and cyclists with more options to navigate through the area. In addition, when a street improvement project for E. 7th Street is initiated, a study to determine efficient and safe pedestrian and cyclist crossings should be conducted and infrastructure improvements identified. There is a long expanse of E. 7th Street (between IH-35 and Lydia Street) that is difficult and dangerous for pedestrian and cyclists to cross because there are no crosswalks or traffic signals present.

Paseos are proposed in key locations to serve a dual transportation and open space function. As described more fully in the open space section, they are designed to be pedestrian places that provide connections through the neighborhood as well as potentially providing public open space. Paseos are shown to provide future pedestrian connections as shown on the Circulation Concept Map on Medina and Attayac Streets. They are strongly encouraged, with new development between Comal and Chicon Streets to break-up the large block structure that dominates the eastern portion of the TOD.

In addition to the crossings along E. 7th Street, a project should be undertaken to improve pedestrian and bicycle crossings of the IH-35 access road at E. 4th Street. This was a recurring theme at the charrettes. Even though there is provision for walkers and cyclists in between the access lanes and under IH-35, traversing this area can be very dangerous and difficult due to high traffic volumes and speeds. Solutions could include pedestrian activated signals, safety luminaires, and/or raised/textured pedestrian crosswalks at E. 4th Street across both northbound and southbound access lanes. In order to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle movement between East Austin and downtown, and to leverage the City's investment in the Lance Armstrong Bikeway (discussed below), the IH-35 barrier needs to be addressed by improving the safety, efficiency, and appearance of this crossing.



This area is part of a widely used bicycle corridor in and out of the Downtown via the E. 4th Street underpass. There are numerous street options to choose from as a cyclist, with most streets being relatively tame due to their small size and traffic volume. However, bicycle improvements are recommended at key locations in the area to further improve bicycle access and safety and encourage ridership. Currently, only Chicon Street south of E. 7th Street contains a dedicated bicycle lane. In the immediate Plaza Saltillo TOD area, the *Austin Bicycle Plan* recommends a bike lane along E. 7th Street and also a continuation of the Chicon Street bike lane north of E. 7th Street. This plan also recommends that bike lanes be included, if feasible, along Waller and Comal Streets to form an interconnected network of bicycle facilities.

In addition, the Lance Armstrong Bikeway has been designated along E. 4th and 5th Streets through the Plaza Saltillo TOD. The current improvement consists of signage. However, upon redevelopment of the land owned by Capital Metro, a more significant improvement is envisioned. The potential design could include a tree-lined dedicated space for the Lance Armstrong Bikeway that would parallel a portion of the realigned railway line on E. 4th Street, gradually connecting with the E. 5th Street alignment of both rail and the bikeway.

Sidewalk Standards Based on Roadway Type

As described previously, there are three roadway types within the station area – TOD Core Transit Corridors, TOD Pedestrian Priority Streets, and TOD Local Streets. This Station Area Plan applies many of the street design standards (sidewalk widths, clear zones, parking zones, etc.) from *Subchapter E: Design Standards and Mixed Use* and tailors them to the TOD Core Transit Corridors, TOD Pedestrian Priority Streets, and TOD Local Streets designated in this Plan. These requirements call for sidewalk widths of 5 to 15 feet, street trees, and a certain level of building frontage brought up to the sidewalk. Specific requirements for each roadway type are provided in the Regulating Plan.

Streetscape Prototypes

The project team chose to focus on providing street cross section prototypes for E. 5th, E. 7th and Comal Streets as sample designs for streetscape improvements that are consistent with their designation as either a TOD Core Transit Corridor or TOD Pedestrian Priority street. The curb-to-curb widths vary according to the existing and anticipated traffic volumes, and they have 15- or 12-foot wide sidewalks respectively. E. 7th Street is intended to have bicycle lanes, consistent with the *Austin Bicycle Plan*. These streets are further described in Chapter 3.

Rail Alignment

When MetroRail service begins, it will utilize the existing Capital Metro rail tracks that are seen today in the Plaza Saltillo TOD. However, the rail line bisects the 11-acre Capital Metro site, which could present redevelopment challenges because of the existing irregular parcel sizes on either side of the tracks. As a result, Capital Metro commissioned a rail realignment study during a recent master planning process of the site. Based on the results, the preferred option for future rail realignment is along E. 4th Street. Capital Metro views this realignment as the most viable option from a safety, bus and rail operations, land use, and on-street parking perspective. It should be noted that during Capital Metro's master planning process, which finished in 2006, and this station area planning process, there was a desire by some participants to locate the tracks along E. 5th Street. This alternative was considered by Capital Metro's consultants, but for the reasons stated above, E. 4th Street was determined the safest and least intrusive option. There is no current funding or plan to relocate the rail line; it may be an infrastructure improvement made by a future developer of the site.

3. OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS CONCEPT PLAN

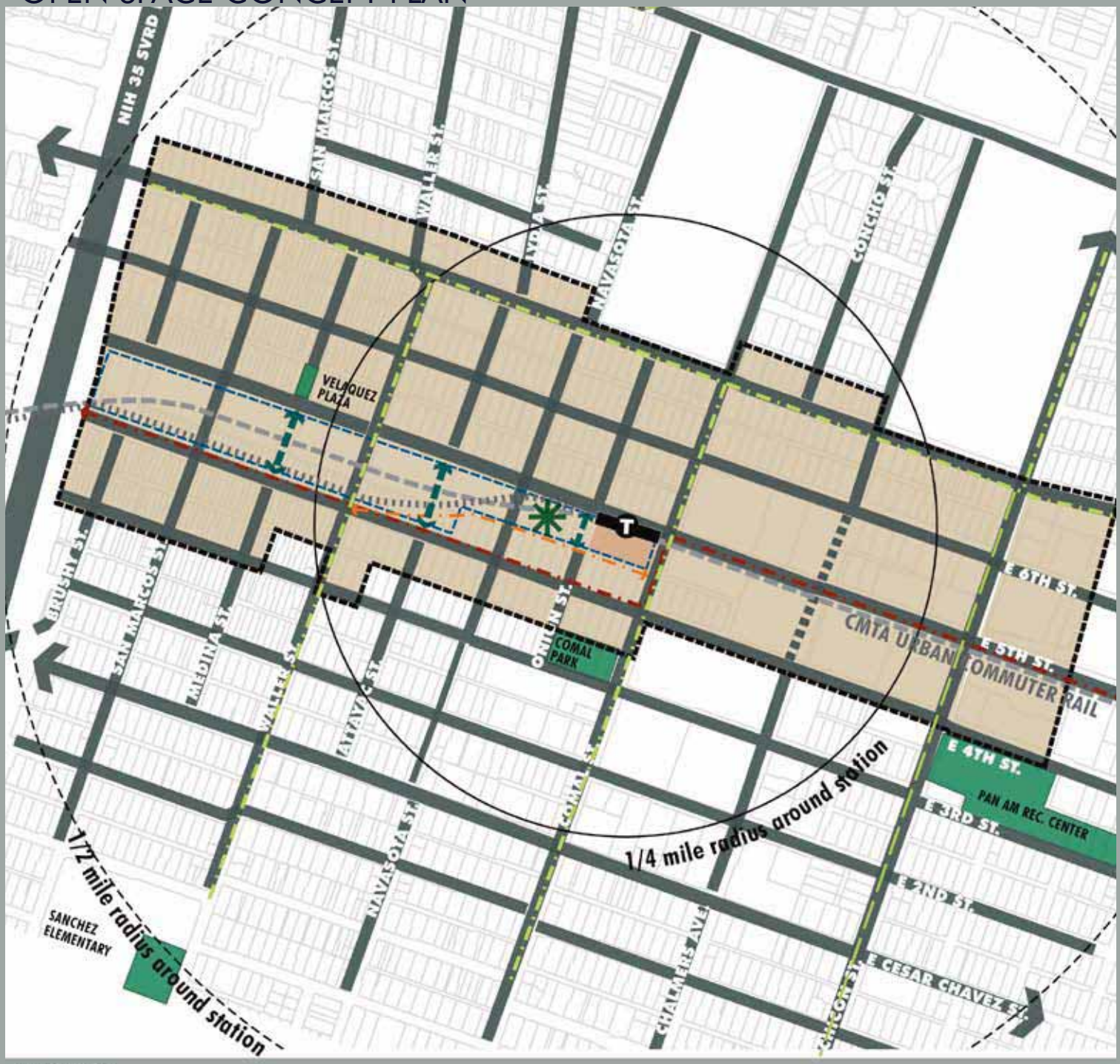
Well designed, accessible, and integrated open space and urban landscape systems are critical to the success of the station area plans. The higher density and compact character inherent of TOD calls for an open space approach that recognizes the importance of open space to TOD inhabitants, employees, and visitors and surrounding residents alike. TOD mixed-use and commercial uses should include: plazas and private open space, storm water gardens and landscapes, landscape methods to reduce urban heat island effects, water efficient landscapes, and on-site renewable energy systems, all conveniently accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists. Likewise, residential districts should be in close proximity to open space with pocket parks or community greens to serve the various open space needs at a local level. Depending on the TOD context and environmental conditions, a more significant, broader reaching open space element such as a community park, garden, or trail network could be very appropriate.

The open spaces designated on the Open Space and Trails Concept Plan do not indicate the exact location, type, or amount of open space that must be provided as part of a private development. Until development begins to occur and/or public projects are initiated, the exact details on type, location, and amount of open space cannot be defined. Depending on individual site conditions and constraints, open space may deviate from what is depicted in the Open Space and Trails Concept Plan. The City of Austin Parkland Dedication Ordinance ensures that all private development residential projects required to submit a site plan contribute to park needs either on-site or by paying a fee into a parks fund. Some of the potential open space elements represent projects that would most likely need to be implemented by the City as they may not be part of any particular private development project.

Existing and Planned Facilities

Residents and employees around Saltillo Plaza currently enjoy three developed parks - Plaza Saltillo, Comal Park, and the open space and play facilities at the Pan American Recreation Center. In addition, a new park space, called Velasquez Plaza, is being developed along a vacated portion of Medina right-of-way between E. 5th Street and the alley. This is intended to provide north-south access and passive recreation space in a colorful and playful environment. It will also serve as one of the "stops" along the Tejano Trail of Music, an Arts in Public Places project that consists of a walking trail featuring the work of Austin area artists commemorating local Tejano musicians. The Tejano Trail is predominantly on the eastern portion of the Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail and the art work is proposed to be located at Festival Beach, Festival Garden's Pavilion, Donley Park, Velasquez Plaza, the Mexican American Cultural Center, and the Montelongo Overlook.

OPEN SPACE CONCEPT PLAN



LEGEND

- STREETS
- POTENTIAL STREETS
- EXISTING CITY PARKLAND
- POTENTIAL OPEN SPACE
- PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS (POTENTIAL PASEOS)
- PLAZA SALTILLO
- SALTILLO DISTRICT REDEVELOPMENT AREA (Capital Metro)
- EXISTING BIKE LANES
- RECOMMENDED BIKE FACILITY IN AUSTIN BIKE PLAN
- LANCE ARMSTRONG BIKEWAY (LAB)
- POTENTIAL FUTURE RE-ALIGNMENT OF THE LAB
- POTENTIAL FUTURE RE-ALIGNMENT OF RAIL LINE
- TOD DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- METRORAIL STATION

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Open Space Concept

Overall Strategy

It is important to include parks and open space to compliment higher density development. In addition, green corridors and pedestrian-friendly streets should provide pleasant, convenient, and safe connections between neighborhoods, parks and open spaces, and transit. The Plaza Saltillo Open Space and Trails Concept Plan proposes a pocket park and paseo parks in key locations. These are conceptual and are shown to illustrate the potential placement of green elements to soften the edges of the built environment. The open space concept portrays the approximate amount and location of open space with the understanding that the final location and design will be determined as redevelopment occurs. Because the amount of parks and open space is linked to the density of new residential development, the amount of required parkland dedication will vary, and the location will depend upon site conditions and constraints. Open spaces could be developed on other sites within the Plaza Saltillo Station Area as redevelopment occurs. However, due to the lack of large, undeveloped parcels (apart from the Capital Metro site) and city-owned land, potential open space locations are challenging to define at a planning level.

Capital Metro, in concert with the City of Austin, hired Roma Design to develop a Saltillo District Redevelopment Master Plan for its 11-acre property located immediately west of the Plaza Saltillo Station, between E. 4th and 5th Streets. This plan, commonly referred to as the "ROMA plan", calls for a community center and offices located on the block immediately west of the Plaza Saltillo Station. The ROMA plan also shows a storm water treatment area on the west side of Navasota Street and a slender, triangular open space west of Attayac Street and north of E. 4th Street. All of these open areas would link-up with the Lance Armstrong Bikeway. This arrangement would offer a pleasant series of open spaces to complement the Plaza Saltillo station area. However, public comments during the planning process clearly supported creating open spaces that would be usable for active recreation. The city should work with Capital Metro and the neighborhoods to determine the appropriate configuration of parks and open space in this area west of the station.

Open Space Concept Elements

A pocket park, with a minimum size of half an acre, is recommended on the eastern portion of the Capital Metro property. Ideally, it should be immediately west of the Plaza Saltillo Station. This would further promote public activities related to the station, Plaza Saltillo, the Lance Armstrong Bikeway, the envisioned community center, and this park would be mutually supportive. Most important, it would create the critical mass necessary to establish a pleasant and active center for the Plaza Saltillo Station Area and the surrounding neighborhoods.

The ideal location for a pocket park may change as the Capital Metro rail alignment and development program for the property are more specifically defined. However, the park should have the following attributes:

- A minimum size of 0.5 acre;
- Configuration and design for active recreation, especially for children; and
- A location that is east of the Attayac Street paseo, which allows for visual and walking connection with the public spaces and civic uses adjacent to the Plaza Saltillo station.

This Plan also recommends the idea of creating an on-street pathway down Comal Street, connecting the rail stop and the Station Area with Lady Bird Lake and the Town Lake Trail system. Ideally, ample sidewalks and a bike lane would be elements of such a route, but appropriate signage could be sufficient as a wayfinding device and to publicize the presence of the path and connection. This could serve as a way to encourage people to use transit to access recreational amenities.

1.Images of Plaza Saltillo
2.Paseo Sketch (from ROMA Design)
3.Velaquez Plaza

Paseo Parks (Paseos)

The paseo concept was originally proposed in the ROMA plan. Paseos, which are designed for people rather than cars, provide public gathering places. Paseos are intended to be tree-lined, linear open spaces that in addition to providing access to pedestrian and cyclists, offer a park-like setting. They typically would be aligned with street right-of-way. Depending on community desires, they may include play areas for families with small children, open green space for passive or recreational use, benches, fountains, interactive water features, etc. Generally, there was broad public support to include the paseos, as a way achieve both open space and connectivity goals.

This Plan is supportive of the paseos proposed in the Roma Plan on Medina and Attayac Streets between E. 4th and 5th Streets. Onion Street is proposed to serve as a plaza or paseo immediately west of the station. This concept is carried forward in this plan as well. In addition, because the block structure in the eastern portion of the TOD is larger than the rest of the Station Area and circulation is less efficient, the paseo concept is carried over to this end and recommended for its open space and pedestrian connectivity benefits. A paseo, or a series of paseos south of E. 7th Street aligned with Concho Street and between Chalmers Avenue and Chicon Street are encouraged. Because of existing development and the presence of a significant number of small properties, provisions in the Regulating Plan aim to encourage creation of paseos as properties redevelop.

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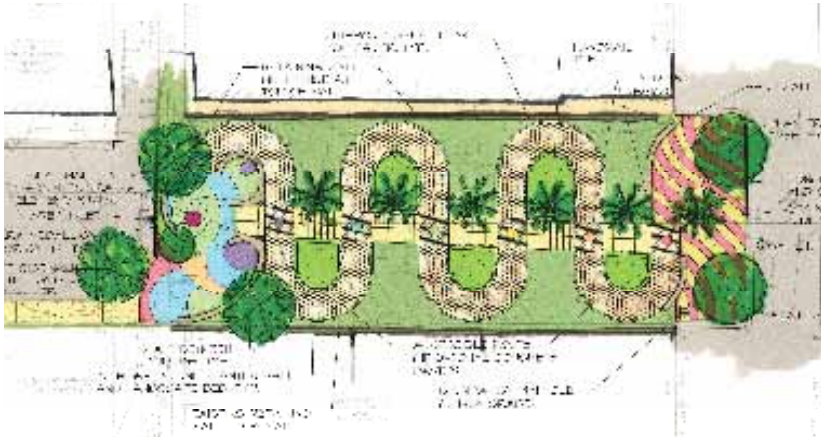
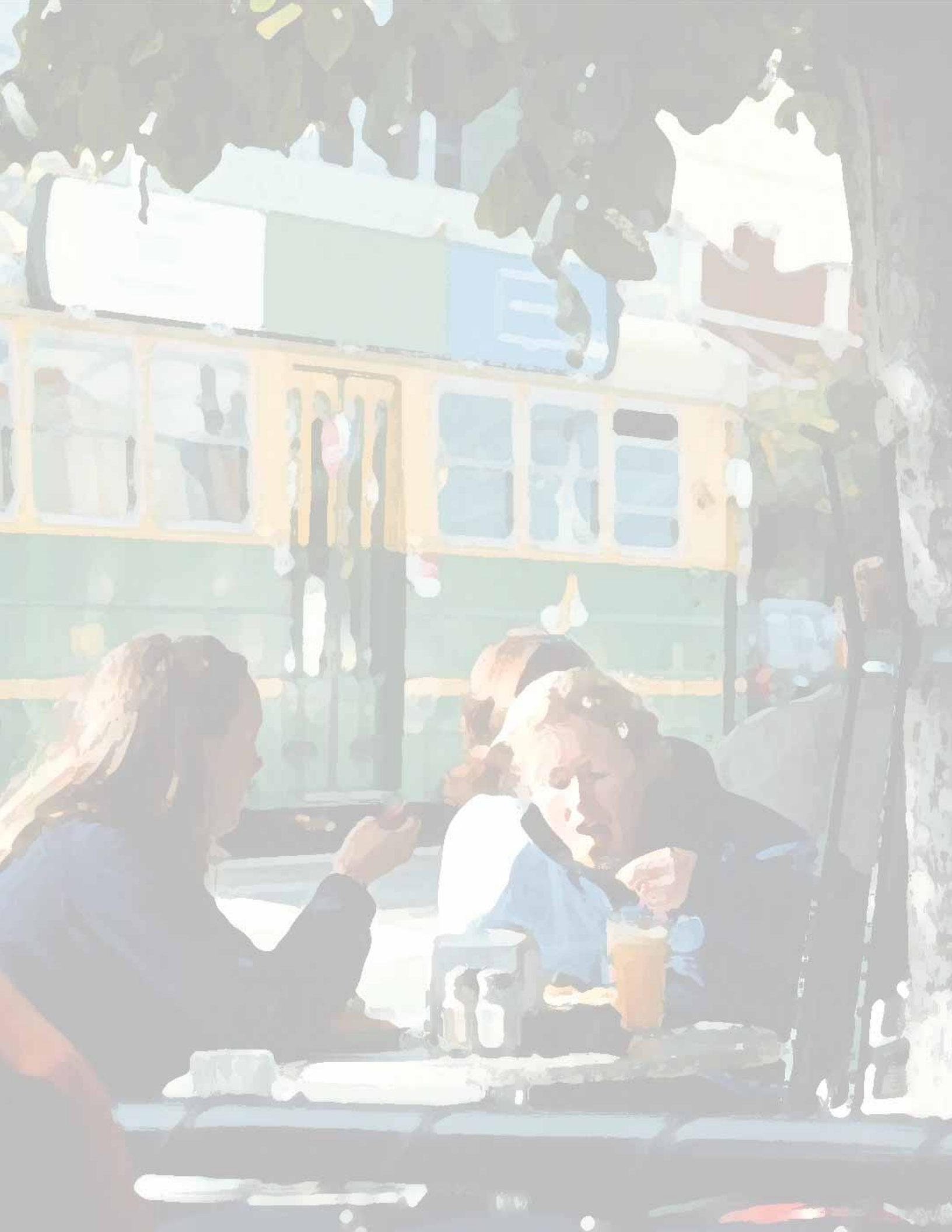




CHAPTER 3
IMPLEMENTATION

IMPLEMENTING THE PLAZA SALTILLO TOD STATION AREA PLAN

MAKING THE PLAN REAL

The adoption of the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Plan (SAP) will not automatically implement the Vision articulated in Chapter 2. It is the first of many coordinated steps, which will need to be made over several years. The implementation of this plan along with other transit-oriented developments surrounding the proposed Capital MetroRail stations is expected to support ridership on Capital MetroRail and take full advantage of this public transit investment and the development potential of the station area. Successful implementation of the plan will require a strong partnership between Capital Metro, the City, other government agencies, the private sector, and the community.

UNDERSTANDING THE MARKET

Assessment

To better understand market trends, Capital Metro retained Economics Research Associates (ERA) to conduct an assessment of economic trends, land values, and real estate markets in the Austin area. This assessment also considered the transit-oriented development potential of three transit station locations including Plaza Saltillo, North Lamar/Justin, and MLK. An initial evaluation was completed in 2006, and an updated analysis was completed in 2007 to respond more fully to station area planning activities. Conducting a market assessment is an important step in creating the station area plan because it helps frame the planning discussion by focusing on possible development scenarios which are plausible for the station area. It helps the public and the City understand how to focus their collective planning energies in a direction that has a good chance of being realized.

The assessment indicated that the regional economy is strong and is expected to remain so. A diverse employment base, talented labor pool, and quality of life in the region receive much of the credit for the city's prosperity and popularity.

Development Potential in the Plaza Saltillo Station Area

As part of its analysis, ERA identified the Plaza Saltillo station area's strengths and opportunities along with challenges and constraints for transit-oriented development, which include:

Strengths & Opportunities

- **Location –** The Plaza Saltillo station will be only one stop north of Downtown Austin on the commuter rail line. It is located just one mile east of Downtown, allowing it to capture much of the spillover in housing, office, and retail development.
- **Master Planning Process** – The Saltillo District Redevelopment Master Plan for the 11-acre Capital Metro site provides a solid guide for a mixed-use transit village, with housing, retail, office and other community-oriented uses.
- **Recent development activity** – New housing and commercial projects in the neighborhood indicate that there is strong interest from private developers.

- **Ability to attract Austin's "creative class"** – As mentioned above, Austin has an abundance of "creative" workers, who demand high-quality, urban-style housing, preferably in neighborhoods offering culture and diversity. Plaza Saltillo's proximity to the Warehouse and 6th Street entertainment districts, as well as other cultural attractions, makes it a particularly strong location to attract this market segment.
- **Lance Armstrong Bikeway** – The City has begun to develop a six-mile bike route from U.S. 183 in East Austin (along E. 5th Street) through Downtown (along E. 4th Street) and ending at Lake Austin Boulevard and Veteran's Drive. The bikeway will add a new amenity to East Austin and create a strong connection to Downtown and Town Lake districts.

Challenges & Constraints

- **Disincentives for high-density development** – The Austin TOD Ordinance creates affordable housing requirements for projects that exceed existing height entitlements, which may be a disincentive for private developers to build at higher densities. More affordable housing units and ridership can be generated with a higher density program. However, the TOD Ordinance specifies that a station area plan may not increase height outside of the 11 acres owned by Capital Metro, and if height is increased on this site, the affordable housing goals must be met.
- **Community Support** – As land values continue to increase in East Austin, some households are in danger of being displaced. This dynamic has created opposition to new development from existing residents and community activists fearing gentrification.
- **Rail line realignment** – Without the realignment of the rail line, real estate development potential on the Capital Metro 11-acre site is limited.
- **Parcel size** – More parcels should be created from the large super-blocks in order to encourage finer grain, pedestrian-scale development.

Development Program

Based upon the regional economy and the characteristics of the area around Plaza Saltillo, the ERA analysis yielded a summary of development potential for the Plaza Saltillo TOD.

PLAZA SALTILLO STATION AREA DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL SUMMARY 2007 TO 2025

LAND USE	LOW	HIGH
Residential		
Condominiums, Flats & Live/Work Lofts	648	1,296
Apartments	476	639
Townhomes & Duplexes	74	181
Total Units	1,468	2,026
Office Space (sq.ft.)	451,000	852,000
Retail Space (sq.ft.)	138,300	177,000
Hotel (units)	0	180

IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN ELEMENTS

Creating the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Plan is the starting point for realizing the Vision expressed by the public. Experience from successful planning programs consistently demonstrates the importance of strong partnerships between all levels of government, the transit agency, the private sector, and the community. Working together helps bring about quality development and strong neighborhoods. In addition, the ERA findings and other market information will be important to acknowledge as the implementation work moves forward.

I. Form a TOD Working Group

The City of Austin should form a "Working Group" including various city departments, Capital Metro, neighborhood representatives, and key members of the private sector. The working group's primary focus should be to span jurisdictional and agency boundaries to facilitate collaboration and guide the implementation of transit-oriented development in the Plaza Saltillo TOD and other station areas along the Capital MetroRail line. Ideally, the members of the committee should have the authority to speak on behalf of their respective organizations and make decisions.

This group should meet regularly, with support from a technical committee of agency staff responsible for day-to-day management of the implementation strategy and individual tasks and projects. Other interests or subcommittees for individual station areas could also be included and formed depending upon the desires of the participants. What is of the utmost importance is to have a focused and organized implementation strategy for each station area.

II. Prioritize and Implement Action Items

The first order of business for the working group should be to evaluate and identify specific action items for implementation, which are based upon the recommended projects and activities in this section. The recommended lists and descriptions represent the major activities and projects to undertake pertaining to:

- Planning and Administration
- Transit-Oriented Development Catalyst Projects
- Circulation and Streets
- Open Space and Trails
- Supporting Infrastructure

Recommended activities and projects are presented for each of the five facets of the implementation program noted above followed by a description of what should be done along with the lead party responsible for accomplishing the identified task. The recommendations are intended to provide a "checklist" of a series of tasks that will move the station area plan from concept to reality.

TOD catalyst project in Beaverton

Mixed use boulevard street

Open space with water feature

ACTION ITEMS

Planning and Administration

PA1 Adopt the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Plan and TOD Regulating Plan.

Chapter 2 of this report constitutes the Plaza Saltillo Station Area Plan. The Vision and the key plan elements are all described and depicted on the plan maps for land use and design, circulation, and open space. These should be adopted along with the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Regulating Plan. The Regulating Plan, which is an element of the overall Station Area Plan, will replace the current zoning in the station area and *Subchapter E: Design Standards and Mixed-Use*.

PA2-4 Amend affected Neighborhood Plans. Each neighborhood plan affected by the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Plan should be amended to include a TOD designation on the future land use map and make reference to the plan and the Regulating Plan for the properties within the TOD district.

PA5 Formation of a TOD Working Group. Formation of the Working Group described above will be a critical element for the plan's success. Because implementation of the station area plan consistent with TOD design principles will require synchronized public agency and private sector actions, the development of strong working relationships, enhanced coordination, and community involvement will be essential. Many of the Plan's activities and projects should be managed by this group to promote efficiency and timely progress on implementation.

PA6 Dedicated Staff. A city staff position should be created to work exclusively on implementation of the station area plans. Duties could include:

- Informing property owners about the Plaza Saltillo Station Area Plan, TOD zoning regulations, and opportunities for redevelopment.
- Identifying property owners interested in redevelopment and facilitate information exchange between property owners regarding such issues as property assembly.
- Pursuing funding opportunities for implementation of the Station Area Plan recommendations and infrastructure improvements.
- Reviewing TOD projects that are seeking alternative equivalent compliance.
- Reviewing and approving Project Circulation Plans.
- Aiding Rails with Trails project implementation by proactively working with property owners to seek trail easements in areas where the Capital Metro right-of-way is inadequate.
- Assisting property owners in providing affordable housing as part of their development and providing funding information.
- Coordinate TOD Working Group

PA7 Urban Design Division in the Development Review Process. Development review of TOD projects should include Urban Design Division staff to review and approve Project Circulation Plans and address any requests for alternative equivalent compliance.

PA8 Prioritization of TOD Projects. This Station Area Plan recommends prioritizing projects in and around the TOD on the General Obligation Bond CIP list, for grant funding, and/or for the potential establishment of special financing districts to respond to the higher level of development desired in the area. Sidewalk, bicycle and street/intersection improvements in and around the TOD are especially important to provide safe and efficient access to and through the area.

PA9 TOD Financing Strategy and Tools. The plan for this station area is designed to leverage the CapMetro transit investment by encouraging supportive development surrounding the station. The benefits of TOD have been documented, however, creating successful TOD is not without significant challenges, which require public action and investment before the desired urban development may be realized. Bay Area Economics (BAE) provided a report, which describes TOD financial feasibility and financing strategies and tools that are the most promising for the Austin station areas. This is summarized in Chapter 2 and located in the Appendix. BAE advises that public investment will probably be necessary to stimulate the much larger investment expected by the private sector. Public attention regarding affordable housing, public infrastructure, and catalyst projects should be considered as outlined in the BAE memorandum. Several of the implementation actions in the following sections are included in response to the BAE recommendations. An important assignment for the Working Group will be to review the BAE information and recommendations to develop a financing strategy and set of supporting tools.

Financing elements recommended by BAE include:

- Adopt a phased implementation strategy for the TOD Plan that matches public investment to targeted areas and market interest in new development
- Minimize reliance upon City General Fund or Capital Improvement Program funds to reduce competition with other priority projects;
- Make new development cover, to the extent feasible, a significant portion of the costs of public capital improvements, including upgrades to water and wastewater systems; and
- Utilize all existing public finance tools as currently authorized by law.

Specific public financing tools recommended in the BAE report to foster the implementation of TOD include:

- Homestead Preservation District
- Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Bonds
- Developer Impact Fees
- Austin Housing Finance Corporation
- Federal/State Grants
- Public Improvement Districts

PA10 Monitor Implementation Effectiveness. The Working Group should monitor the effectiveness of the implementation elements of this station area plan and recommend changes to them as appropriate. This could include amendments to the plan itself, amending the Regulating Plan to make it more effective, and the financing strategy and tools. A review should occur at least annually.

PLAZA SALTILLO SAP ACTION CHART 1: PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION							
NO.	ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME					IMPLEMENTER
		ADOPT WITH PLAN	ON-GOING	FIRST 5 YEARS	6 TO 10 YEARS	11 TO 15 YEARS	
PA1	Adopt the Plaza Saltillo Station Area Plan	X					City of Austin
PA2	Amend the Central East Austin Neighborhood Plan	X					City of Austin
PA3	Amend the East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Plan	X					City of Austin
PA4	Amend the Holly Neighborhood Plan	X					City of Austin
PA5	Create an interdepartmental and interagency TOD working group whose mission is to facilitate development in TOD districts.			X			City of Austin, Capital Metro & Public
PA6	Create dedicated staff position for SAP implementation			X			City of Austin
PA7	Integrate UD Division into development review process			X			City of Austin
PA8	Prioritize projects within TOD Districts			X			City of Austin, and Capital Metro
PA9	TOD financing strategy and tools to be developed by the Working Group to stimulate TOD in the station areas.			X			CoA, Capital Metro & private sector
PA10	Monitor implementation effectiveness conducted by the Working Group.		X				CoA, Capital Metro, private sector & public

Active mixed-use street

Intimate public space

Festival public space

Transit-Oriented Development Catalyst Projects

TOD1 Catalyst Site Owners. The Working Group should establish a cooperative relationship with the owners of potential catalyst sites. The objective should be to identify how the parties can provide mutual assistance to initiate these critical first development projects. In particular, public assistance that would be beneficial to catalyst projects and the community generally should be identified and evaluated.

TOD2 Apply Finance Strategy and Tools. The Working Group should determine which specific financing strategy elements and tools (PA9 above) should be utilized to advance TOD catalyst projects with the goal of stimulating interest in overall TOD. This should be done with developers, property owners, and government agencies to develop the correct mix of incentives to promote TOD in the station areas.

TOD3 Create a TOD Catalyst Project. Developing a TOD pilot project will be an important way to create development interest in the station area. To the extent possible, such a project should include housing types not commonly found in Austin, but appropriate for the station area (such as higher density single family or mixed-use residential). It should include affordable housing. A catalyst project could also include the implementation of a key infrastructure or streetscape project, as described on subsequent pages.

PLAZA SALTILLO SAP ACTION CHART 2: TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

NO.	ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME					IMPLEMENTER
		ADOPT WITH PLAN	ON-GOING	FIRST 5 YEARS	6 TO 10	11 TO 15 YEARS	
TOD1	Meet with owners of catalyst sites.			X			Working Group
TOD2	Apply finance strategy and tools for TOD implementation.			X			CoA, Capital Metro & private sector
TOD3	Create a TOD catalyst project.			X			Working Group & property owners

Pedestrian Streetscapes

Urban Park

Streetcar on main road

Circulation and Streets

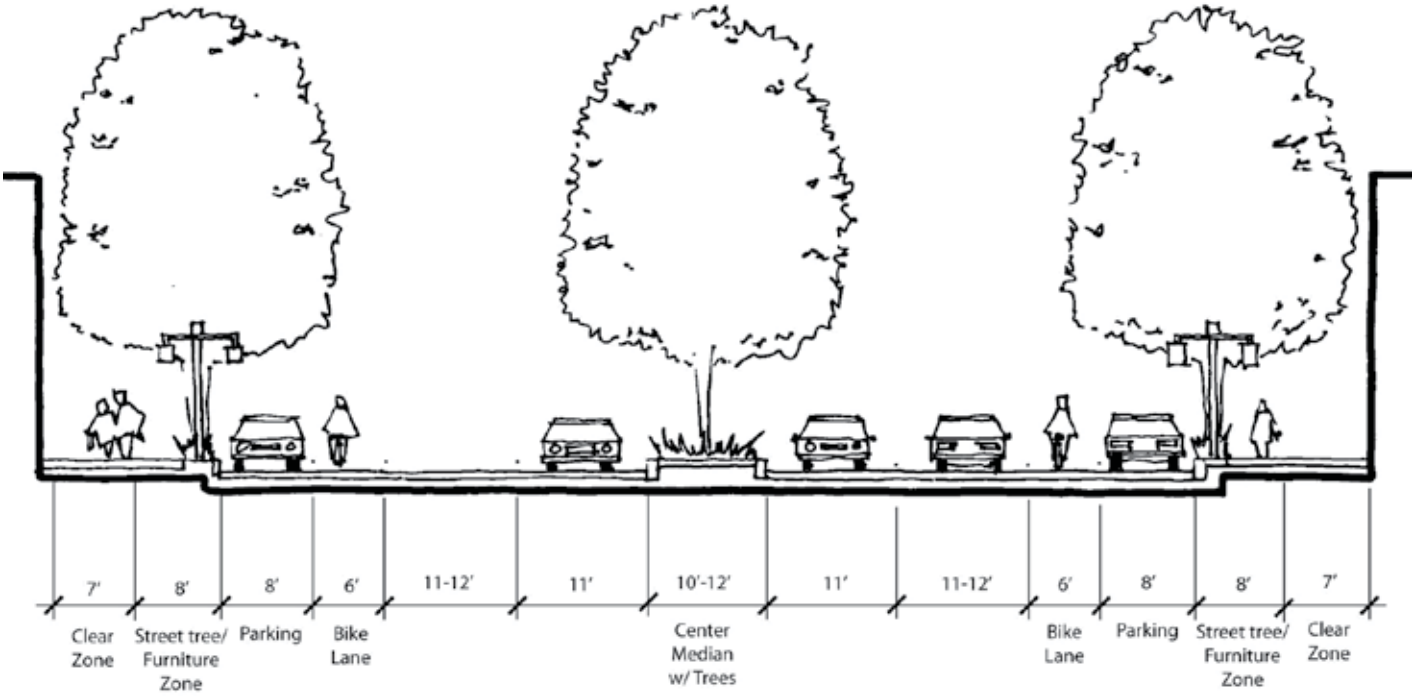
CS1 E. 7th Street Improvements.
A street and streetscape project to improve safety, encourage pedestrian and bicycle activity, and enhance general neighborhood appearance will typically encourage private investment on adjoining properties. E. 7th Street should be improved to better define the right-of-way, which currently boasts very wide outer lanes, and to create a positive change to its character and encourage private investment, in addition to enhancing an important route that traverse the Plaza Saltillo TOD and connects to key streets that lead to the core of the Station Area.

E. 7th Street is designated as a TOD Core Transit Corridor. Figure 2.1 illustrates a fully developed streetscape consistent with this designation, including the following elements:

- Four vehicular travel lanes (wide enough to support bus operations) separated by a landscape median.
- Bike lanes.
- On-street parallel parking on both sides of street, except at bus stops.
- Minimum 15-foot wide sidewalk with a 7-foot clear zone.
- Street lighting.
- Pedestrian crosswalks and signals at more frequent intervals.
- Street tree plantings at back-of-curb locations.
- Plantings or moveable planters.
- Street furniture and other pedestrian amenities.

Current right-of-way along this section of E. 7th Street, which ranges from 75-80 feet, is not sufficient to accommodate all of the suggested improvements below. Additional right-of-way or easements would need to be provided.

FIGURE 2.1 CROSS SECTION OF E 7TH STREET



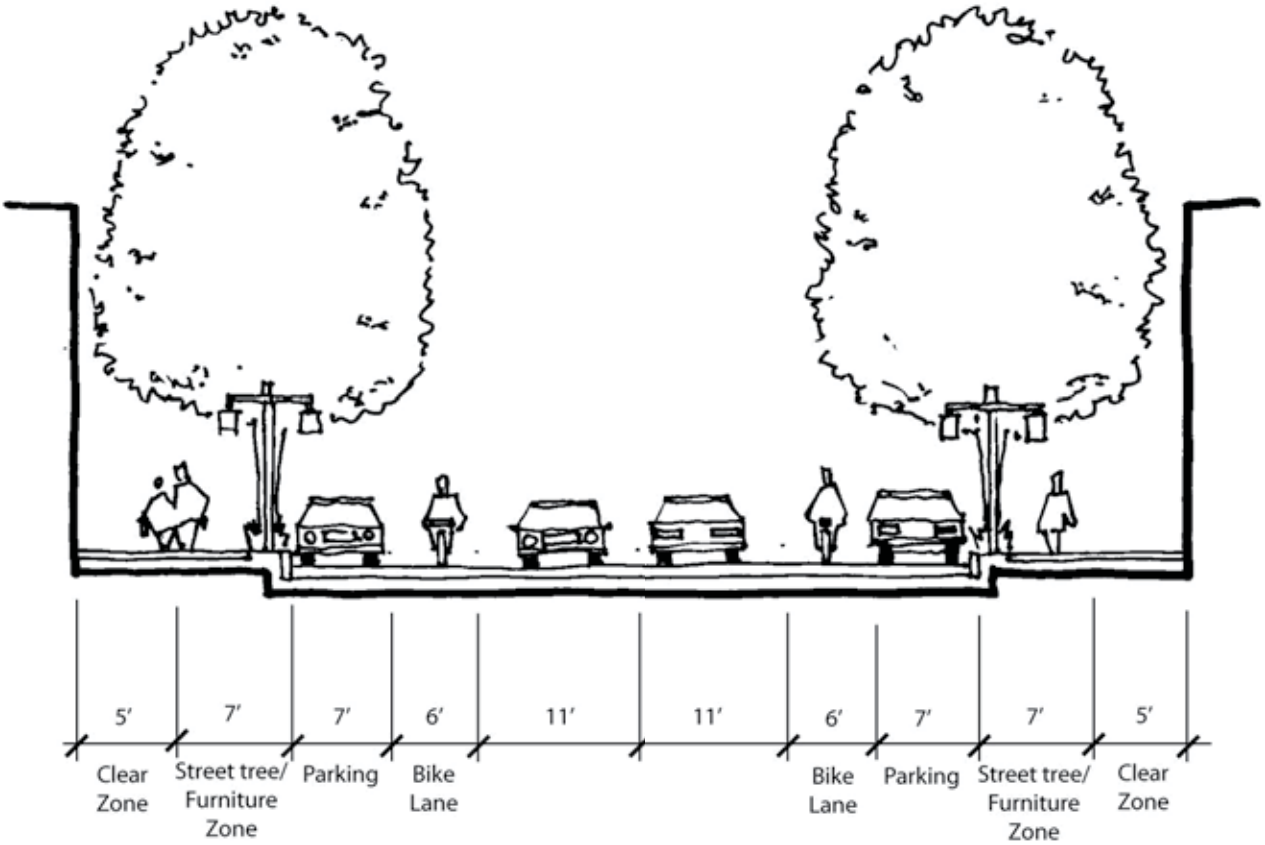
CS2 Comal Street Improvements. Comal Street provides an important north-south connection immediately adjacent to the station. Because of this strategic location, it is designated a Pedestrian Priority Street and should have an improved streetscape to provide a pleasant pedestrian route to the Plaza Saltillo Station. In addition, it could function as a key pedestrian and bicycling route from the Plaza Saltillo transit stop and Station Area to Lady Bird Lake and the Town Lake Trail system.

Comal Street is designated as a TOD Pedestrian Priority Street. Figure 2.2 illustrates a fully developed streetscape consistent with this designation, including the following elements:

- Two vehicular travel lanes (wide enough to support bus operations).
- Possible traffic calming improvements.
- On-street parallel parking on both sides of street, except at bus stops.
- Minimum 12-foot wide sidewalk with a 5-foot clear zone.
- Street lighting.
- Pedestrian crosswalk and signal location and design.
- Street tree plantings at back-of-curb locations.
- Plantings or moveable planters.
- Street furniture and other pedestrian amenities.
- Add bicycle lanes

Current right-of-way along this section of Comal Street, which is approximately 60 feet, is not sufficient to accommodate all of the suggested improvements below. Additional right-of-way or easements would need to be provided.

FIGURE 2.2 CROSS SECTION OF COMAL, E 5TH AND E 6TH STREET



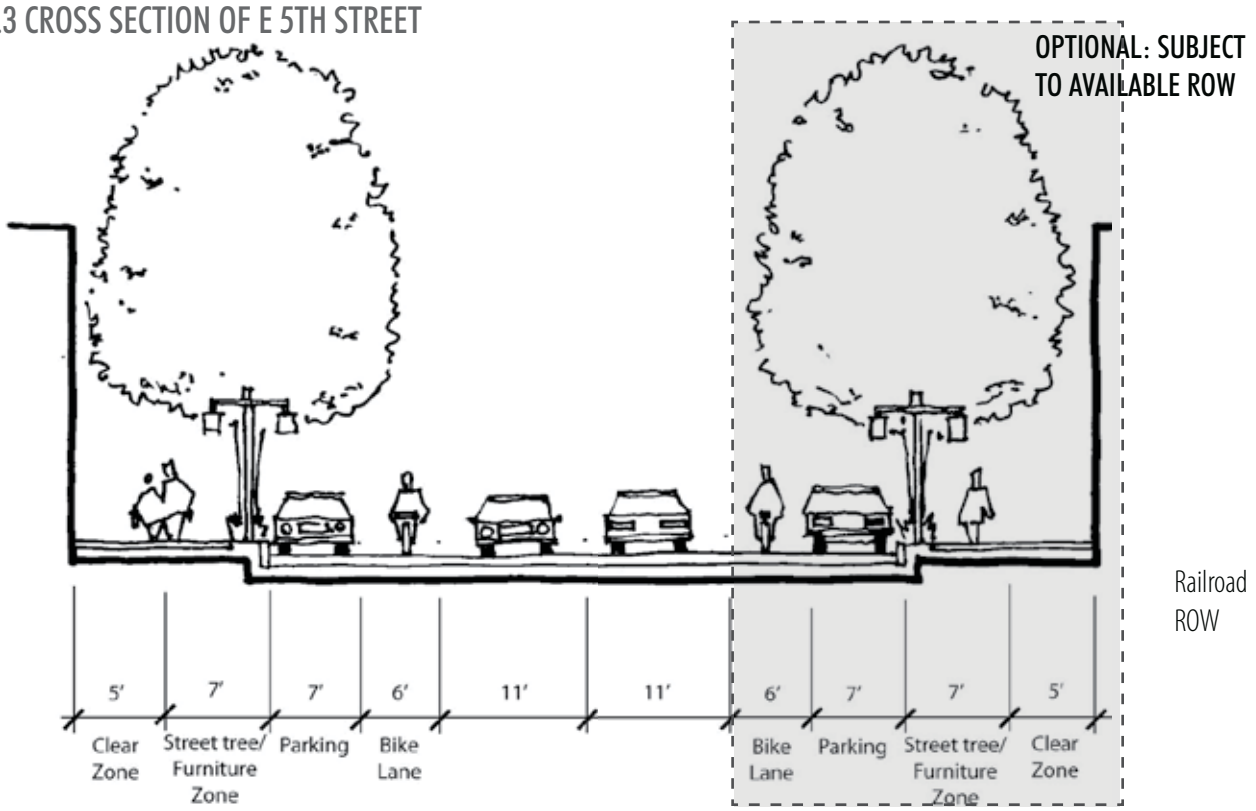
CS3 E. 5th Street Improvements. E. 5th Street provides an important east-west connection with direct access to the station. It is designated as a Pedestrian Priority Street and it should have an improved streetscape to provide a pleasant pedestrian route to the Plaza Saltillo Station. Because portions of E. 5th abut the rail stop and the tracks on the south side of the street, street improvements will need to fit the specific conditions of each section of the street. It may be challenging to provide on-street parking next to the rail line (assuming there is substantial right-of-way) and at and near the station itself clear and convenient bus access will be needed. Creative solutions may be called for to implement bicycle and sidewalk amenities along certain portions of E. 5th Street.

E. 5th Street is designated as a TOD Pedestrian Priority Street. Figure 2.2 illustrates a fully developed streetscape consistent with this designation, including the following elements:

- Two vehicular travel lanes (wide enough to support bus operations).
- Possible traffic calming improvements.
- On-street parallel parking on both sides of street, except at bus stops (unless not feasible due to presence of rail station and/or track).
- Minimum 12-foot wide sidewalk with a 5-foot clear zone (at least on the north side).
- Street lighting.
- Pedestrian crosswalk and signal location and design.
- Street tree plantings at back-of-curb locations.
- Plantings or moveable planters.
- Street furniture and other pedestrian amenities.
- Bike lanes (east of Comal) in implementation of the Lance Armstrong Bikeway.

Current right-of-way along E. 5th Street in the TOD, which ranges from 65-70 feet, is not sufficient to accommodate all of the suggested improvements below. Additional right-of-way or easements would need to be provided.
Figure 2.3 illustrates the streetscape to the east of the transit station (i.e. east of Comal Street), where due to ROW limitations, elements such as the sidewalk, bike lanes and/or on-street parking may be optional:

FIGURE 2.3 CROSS SECTION OF E 5TH STREET



1. Sketch of E. 4th St. with Lance Armstrong Bikeway (source: ROMA Design)

CS4 Parking and Traffic Management Strategy. The Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area is designed for transit, pedestrian, bicycle, and kiss-and-ride access, but park-and-ride facilities will not be provided. Due to concerns that people will drive to the station and park in surrounding neighborhoods, a monitoring system to asses the parking situation should be implemented, possibly by the Working Group. If it is determined that a problem exists, a management plan should be developed to addresses the situation. The plan could allow for local residents and visitors to park during the day, while discouraging commuters from parking on neighborhood streets. Likewise, concerns regarding cut-through traffic to adjacent neighborhoods should be monitored and improvements identified if a problem exists. Circulation system improvement projects noted in this section will complement these efforts by making walking and bicycling a more attractive option.

CS5 E. 4th Street Improvements. E. 4th Street is designated as a TOD Local Street. It needs significant improvement to facilitate pedestrian circulation. This improvement should be established on a district level to create a consistent design theme for development along the street.

CS6 E. 6th, Waller, and Chicon Street Improvements. As TOD Pedestrian Priority Streets, E. 6th, Waller, and Chicon Streets should be improved with ample sidewalks and other pedestrian amenities. Ideally, bike lanes should be included on Waller Street as recommended in the Austin Bicycle Plan. These improvements should be established on a district scale in order to create a consistent design theme for development along these streets.

CS7 Chalmers Avenue and San Marcos Street extensions. These new street connection, as shown in the Circulation Concept Plan, should be provided as development and redevelopment occurs. Chalmers Street is especially critical because a north-south access is lacking between Comal and Chicon Streets – a distance of over 1,300 feet. Because of its importance for pedestrian circulation, Chalmers Street should be improved as a TOD Pedestrian Priority Street to enhance circulation and access in this portion of the TOD district.

CS8 Pedestrian Connections - Paseos. Pedestrian connections, in the form of paseos are shown in the Circulation Concept Plan. The paseos shown on Medina, Attayac, and Onion Streets should be provided as development and redevelopment occurs. Similar connections, which are roughly aligned with Concho Street and Huston-Tillotson College, are also supported to break-up the large blocks that are present between Comal and Chicon south of E. 7th. It is possible that the provision of a paseo during development could count toward parkland dedication requirements. The Parks and Recreation Department would make that determination on a case-by-case basis during the development review process.

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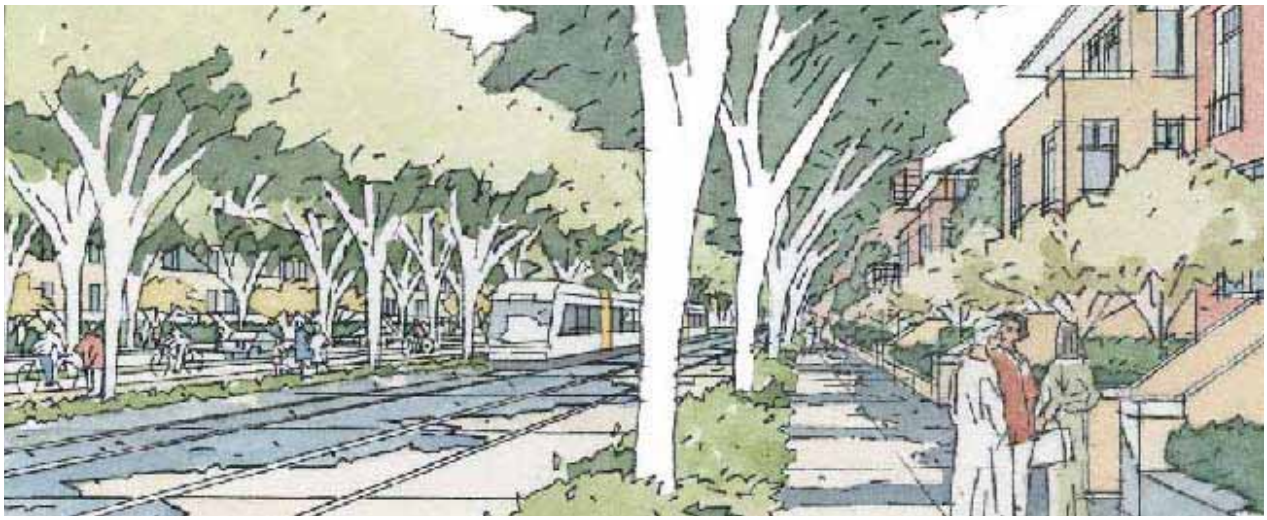

1. Illustrative Street Cross-sections from Saltillo District Redevelopment Master Plan (ROMA Design)

CS9 Rail Realignment. Capital Metro may determine that a realignment of the rail line through its 11-acre site is financially and technically feasible. If so, the rail line would be moved from its current mid-block location (between Onion and IH-35) to an off-street placement along the north side of E. 4th Street. The City should work closely with Capital Metro to ensure the rail re-alignment allows for effective development of the site and consistency with the Open Space Concept Plan.

CS10 IH-35 Access Road Improvements at E. 4th Street. Pedestrian and bicycle activity needs to be safe and attractive at this location. It is currently a dangerous and unappealing area on both sides of the Interstate. Solutions could include pedestrian activated signals, safety luminaires, and/or raised/textured pedestrian crosswalks at E. 4th across both northbound and southbound access lanes.

CS11 TOD Projects as part of TIA Improvements. As part of the evaluation the Austin Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) program, an amendment of Section 2.3.5 of the Transportation Criteria Manual, "Recommendation on Roadway Improvements and Traffic Control Modifications", to allow for infrastructure projects (including bicycle, trail, pedestrian, and street/intersection improvements) is recommended to allow an adopted station area plan to qualify for required improvements through the TIA process.

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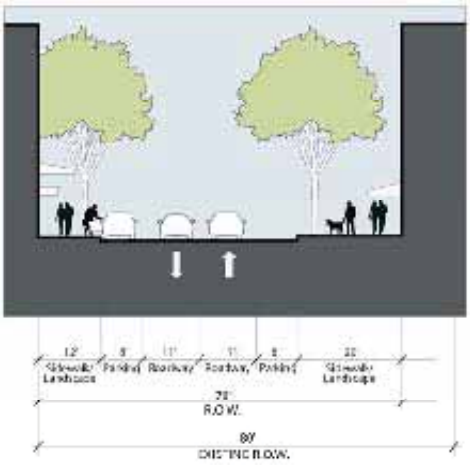
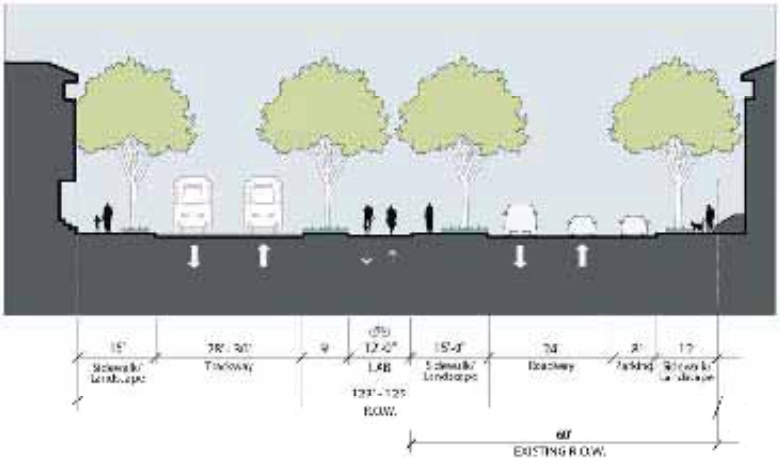
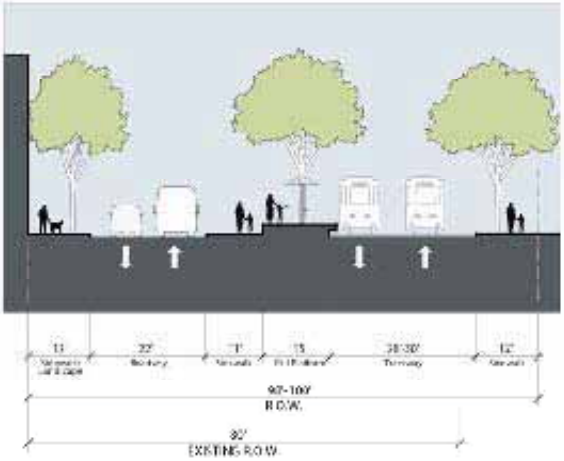


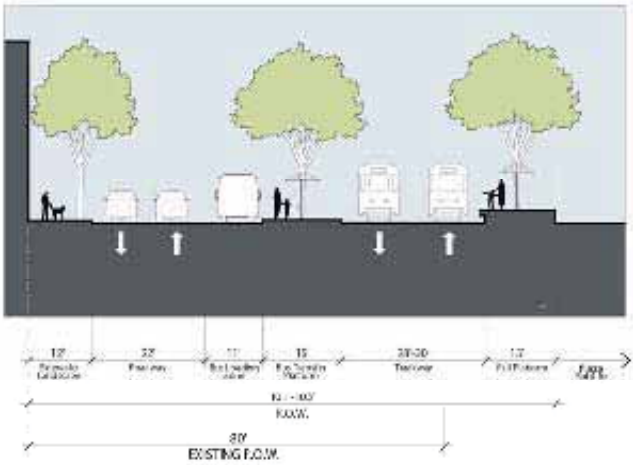
Section A-A at 5th Street between IH 35 & Navasota Street



Section B-B at 4th Street between Brushy & Waller Streets



Section C-C at 5th Street between Navasota & Onion Streets



Section D-D at 5th Street between Onion & Canal Streets

Note: These images are for illustrative purposes only, the Regulating Plan standards need to be complied with.

PLAZA SALTILLO SAP ACTION CHART 3: CIRCULATION AND STREETS							
NO.	ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME					IMPLEMENTER
		ADOPT WITH PLAN	ON-GOING	FIRST 5 YEARS	6 TO 10 YEARS	11 TO 15 YEARS	
CS1	Implement improvements on E. 7th Street.			X			CoA & private sector
CS2	Implement improvements on Comal Street.			X			CoA, Capital Metro & private sector
CS3	Implement improvements on 5th Street.			X			CoA, Capital Metro & private sector
CS4	Develop parking management strategy.			X	X		TOD Working Group
CS5	Implement improvements on 4th Street.			X			CoA, Capital Metro & private sector
CS6	Implement improvements on E. 6th, Waller, and Chicon Streets.			X			CoA & private sector
CS7	Extend Chalmers Avenue and San Marcos Street to increase north south connectivity between blocks.				X		CoA, Capital Metro & private sector
CS8	Make additional pedestrian connections		X				CoA, Capital Metro & private sector
CS9	Realignment of rail line.			X			Capital Metro
CS10	IH-35 Access Road Pedestrian Improvements at 4th Street.			X			CoA & TxDOT
CS11	Recommended amendment to the TCM to include projects in an adopted SAP			X			CoA

Open Space and Trails

OS1 Provision and Funding of Parks and Open Space. As part of this implementation program, the envisioned park and open space improvements are generally expected to be provided via existing parkland dedication requirements. Because open space is such an important element of compact, high density development areas, on-site open space provision generally in the form of pocket and/or linear parks, trails, and plazas are recommended. If it is either impossible on unrealistic that parkland be provided on-site, parkland dedication fees generated in a TOD are recommended to be spent within the TOD or in the immediate vicinity with the Open Space Concept used as a guide.

OS2 Pocket Park. As illustrated on the Open Space Concept, a pocket park is recommended immediately west of the Plaza Saltillo station. The key consideration is providing a park with sufficient area to allow active recreation, especially for children. The designated staff person and the Parks and Recreation Department should work with Capital Metro in determining the location and improvement program for this park as development plans for the 11-acre Capital Metro site move forward. This park is especially critical because the Capital Metro property represents one of the few, or perhaps the only, site where application of the City's parkland dedication requirements would actually yield a sizable park site.

OS3 Paseo Parks. As illustrated on the Open Space Concept Plan, paseos are recommended in three locations (Medina, Attayac, and Onion) consistent with the ROMA plan. The City should work with Capital Metro in determining how and when these paseos should be implemented. Between Comal and Chicon Streets paseos are encouraged with redevelopment and this Plan recommends that they count towards City Parkland Dedication requirements, although the Parks and Recreation Department will make the determination on a case-by-case basis during the development review process. The designated staff person and the Parks and Recreation Department should work with property owners and developers to encourage creating paseos as part of development projects.

OS4 Improvements to Existing Parkland. The Parks and Recreation Department should keep abreast of redevelopment within the Plaza Saltillo TOD to the type of improvements that are needed to Comal Park and the open space area at the Pan Am Recreation Center as a result of new residents to the area.

OS5 PARD Integration. Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) staff should be formally integrated into the development review process of all subdivision and site plan applications that fall within the boundaries of the Plaza Saltillo TOD so that open space opportunities may be analyzed and explored early on.

OS6 Lady Bird Lake Destination Pathway. An on-street destination pathway along Comal Street is recommended to promote a connection between the rail stop and the Station Area with Lady Bird Lake and the Town Lake Trail system. Ideally, ample sidewalks and bike lanes would be elements of such a route, but appropriate signage could be sufficient as a wayfinding device and to publicize the presence of the path and connection.

PLAZA SALTILLO SAP ACTION CHART 4: OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS							
NO.	ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME					IMPLEMENTER
		ADOPT WITH PLAN	ON-GOING	FIRST 5 YEARS	6 TO 10 YEARS	11 TO 15 YEARS	
OS1	Provision and funding of open space in the TOD.		X				Private Sector and CoA
OS2	Pocket park located west of Plaza Saltillo station.			X			Private Sector, Capital Metro, and CoA
OS3	Paseos per the ROMA plan and through incentives east of Comal Street.		X				Private Sector, Capital Metro, and CoA
OS4	Improvements to existing parkland.		X				City of Austin
OS5	PARD Integration		X				CoA Planning and PARD staff
OS6	Lady Bird Lake destination pathway.		X				CoA

Neighborhood park

Paseo or pedestrian street

Park with pedestrian path

INFRASTRUCTURE

I1 Comprehensive Utility Upgrades. Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) should be accomplished in a comprehensive manner that coordinates street reconstruction projects with other utility upgrades. A process should be established that examines all future public infrastructure needs when planning Capital Improvement Projects within and around the Plaza Saltillo TOD. An example would be replacement of undersized or old water or wastewater lines in conjunction with a street improvement project.

I2 Water System Improvements. To help stimulate development in the Plaza Saltillo Station Area, localized low pressure and/or low fire flow areas should be identified and prioritized for improvement to meet anticipated future demand.

I3 Wastewater System Improvements. To the extent possible, the Austin Clean Water Program (AWCP) should give high priority to wastewater improvements of strategic importance to enable development of key sites in the Plaza Saltillo Station Area. Special attention should be given to determining the wastewater impact of future development, and whether system upgrades will be necessary.

PLAZA SALTILLO SAP ACTION CHART 5: INFRASTRUCTURE

NO.	ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME					IMPLEMENTER
		ADOPT WITH PLAN	ON-GOING	FIRST 5 YEARS	6 TO 10	11 TO 15 YEARS	
I1	Comprehensive utility upgrades		X				CoA
I2	Water system improvements.		X				CoA
I3	Wastewater system improvements.		X				CoA

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

As part of the Station Area Planning process, consultant Diana McIver and Associates (DMA) prepared a report evaluating the feasibility of achieving the TOD affordable housing goals. The implementation items below are based on DMA's final report (an executive summary of the report is on the following pages).

AH1 Encourage affordability via development bonuses.
Development bonuses are an appropriate tool for encouraging the development of affordable units in TOD areas, while also encouraging transit-supporting density levels. Development bonuses with affordability requirements are recommended for waivers of both density and height requirements.

AH2 Provide gap financing with General Obligation Bonds and other sources.
DMA has indicated that affordable housing developments located in TOD areas will require City subsidies in order to reach the TOD affordability goal, including those developments which utilize other public subsidies. The DMA Report has identified potential sources of gap financing that may be available to applicants on a case-by-case basis, which include City of Austin General Obligation (G.O.) bond funds. Projects within TODs submitting applications for G.O. bond funding should receive additional points as part of the scoring process.

AH3 Allow fees in-lieu of building on-site affordable housing in limited circumstances.
Allowing developers to pay a fee in-lieu of providing affordable housing on-site can be a useful tool in some instances, especially for non-residential projects that would like to take advantage of a development bonus. Any fee-in-lieu funds paid to fulfill an affordable housing requirement in a TOD development should be utilized for the financing or production of affordable units located within or near the TOD area.

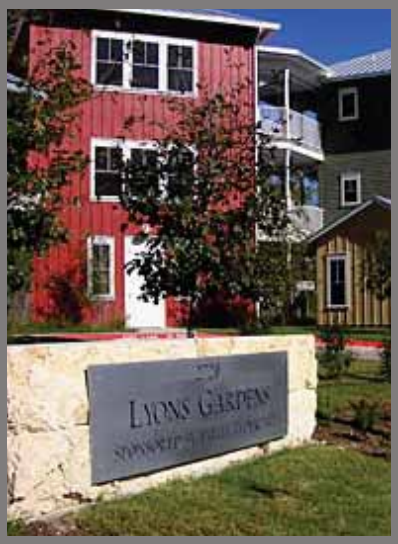
AH4 Encourage and support Low Income Housing Tax Credit projects.
DMA's analysis indicates Low Income Housing Tax Credit developments would require the lowest level of City subsidy per unit and offer the most costs-effective use of public subsidies. A competitive tax credit proposal could substantially contribute to achievement of the affordability goals for a TOD area and would provide a large number of units near transit. This Plan recommends that the City of Austin provide gap financing for Tax Credit developments on a case-by-case basis.

AH5 Develop a catalyst project on City-owned property.
City-owned property in the TODs may present an opportunity to realize the TOD vision on these sites and encourage similar development elsewhere in the TODs. This Plan recommends the City of Austin evaluate the potential for housing development on City-owned land within TOD Districts.

AH6 Provide a menu of incentives for projects that provide affordable housing.
This Plan recommends that the City establish a package of incentives for TOD developments that provide affordable units on-site. The incentives could be scaled based on the level of affordability and the percentage of affordable units provided. Incentives could include development review fee waivers and an expedited review process beyond what is currently provided by the City's S.M.A.R.T. Housing initiative.

Plaza Saltillo SAP Action Chart 6: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

NO.	ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME					IMPLEMENTER
		ADOPT WITH PLAN	ON-GOING	FIRST 5 YEARS	6 TO 10 YEARS	11 TO 15 YEARS	
AH1	Encourage affordability via development bonuses.	X					COA
AH2	Provide gap financing with General Obligation Bonds and other sources.		X				COA
AH3	Allow fees in-lieu of building on-site affordable housing in limited circumstances.	X					COA
AH4	Encourage and support Low Income Housing Tax Credit projects.		X				COA, Private and Public Sector
AH5	Develop a catalyst project on City-owned property.			X			COA
AH6	Provide a menu of incentives for projects that provide affordable housing.			X			COA



TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) DISTRICTS STATION AREA PLANS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The City of Austin's Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Ordinance is intended to promote pedestrian-friendly, dense, mixed-use development surrounding the future commuter rail stations on the Capital MetroRail line. The TOD Ordinance, approved in May 2005, established six Transit Oriented Districts (TODs) and a Station Area Planning (SAP) process for the TODs, defined specific affordable housing goals for the TODS, and required an analysis of the feasibility of achieving the affordable housing goals.

The TOD Ordinance includes a goal that 25 percent of the new housing units in each Transit Oriented District should be affordable. For owner-occupied developments, the goal is for the affordable units to be sold to households with incomes at or below 80 percent of Median Family Income (MFI) . For rental developments, the goal is for the affordable units to be occupied by households at or below 60 percent of MFI. To be considered affordable, a homeownership or rental unit must serve a household at each of the corresponding income levels paying no more than 30 percent of its adjusted gross income toward housing costs, including utilities.

The TOD Ordinance also establishes goals targeting lower levels of affordability for Transit Oriented Districts located in the Community Preservation and Revitalization Zone (CP&R Zone). Table 1 below details the affordability goals of the TOD Ordinance.

TOD AFFORDABILITY GOALS		
TOD STATION	OWNER-OCCUPIED	RENTAL
General Affordability Goal	25% of new housing units affordable	
	Affordable units at or below 80% MFI	Affordable units at or below 60% MFI
CP&R Zone (Plaza Saltillo and MLK)	Affordable units at or below 60% MFI	Affordable units at or below 50% MFI 5% units at or below 30% MFI 10% units at or below 40% MFI 10% units at or below 50% MFI

The affordability goals are ambitious. Due to significant development costs, land availability issues, legal limitations, development restrictions, and other challenges described below, there is a significant gap between the cost of developing rental and/or homeownership units and the income derived from either the rental or sale of those units to qualified low- and moderate-income residents.

This report identifies challenges to achieving the ambitious affordable housing goals specified in the TOD Ordinance, examines potential development scenarios, and provides recommendations for strategies to achieve the affordable housing goals. In order to achieve the goals, the City will need to implement multiple strategies which will require a significant amount of public subsidy and/or incentives. In addition, the City will need significant participation from

external entities in order to create affordable housing in the TOD areas. Potential partners include affordable housing developers and housing authorities, as well as the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). Through a combination of incentives, funding sources, and other tools, the TOD affordability goals can be achieved.

TOD HOUSING POTENTIAL

As part of the overall TOD planning effort, Economic Research Associates (ERA) provided market data and demand projections in the TOD Districts through the year 2025 ("ERA Station Area Market Analysis"). Assuming that the TOD Districts are built out to those full projections and that 25% of the residential units are designated affordable, DMA determined the following maximum potential yield for affordable housing in each of the three TOD Districts:

TOD DISTRICT	ERA HOUSING POTENTIAL ESTIMATE THROUGH 2025 ("HIGH" SCENARIO)	POTENTIAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNIT YIELD THROUGH 2025 (ASSUMES HOUSING GOALS ARE MET)
Plaza Saltillo	2,116 units	529 units
Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.	1,521 units	380 units
Lamar Boulevard/Justin Lane	1,654 units	414 units

It should be noted that the above affordable unit yields are based solely on a calculation of 25% of the ERA Housing Potential Estimate. These figures are not intended to describe the financial feasibility of a particular number of affordable units.

IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES

There are a variety of challenges to providing affordable housing within the Transit Oriented Districts. These issues include the following:

- Legal Limitations – The City has limited ability to compel the creation of affordable housing. State law limits the use of inclusionary zoning, which is a tool that requires inclusion of a certain percentage of affordable housing in new developments. This prohibition applies to homeownership units as well as to the use of rent control. Accordingly, an incentive-based approach is the primary strategy available to the City to compel developers to include affordable units in new developments.

- Multiple Goals and Limited Resources – There are multiple public goals for the Transit Oriented Districts, including increased development and higher density to support transit, affordable housing, open space, increased economic development opportunities, and high quality pedestrian improvements to create a walkable environment. All of these components are necessary for a successful TOD but can only be partially addressed by the private sector. Accordingly, there will be significant competition for limited public resources. Identification of available resources and clear definition of priorities will be crucial to the success of the TODs and the realization of the affordable housing goals.

- Limited Public Land – Offering public land for the development of affordable housing can be a powerful tool. However, there is a limited amount of publicly-owned land within the three TOD areas currently in the Station Area Planning process, and few of these publicly-owned properties are undeveloped. There are no publicly-owned sites within the MLK TOD.

- Land and Construction Costs – Both land costs and construction costs are high, making provision of affordable housing challenging. In particular, the cost associated with high-rise development (six stories and up) is significantly higher than mid-rise (five stories and below). In fact, the per-unit cost of mid-rise development is estimated to be approximately 60% of high-rise development. Because of this reality, height increases beyond a certain level have limited benefit for affordable housing.

- TOD Ordinance Development Regulations and Restrictions – The TOD Ordinance establishes height restrictions for the Saltillo and MLK TODs, thus limiting the tools available to achieve the goals of the ordinance. These restrictions make even modest increases in height difficult to achieve. It should also be noted that the community feedback received during the Station Area Planning process was not supportive of significant height increases.

- Infrastructure Needs – The first three TODs under consideration are located in central Austin, in older, established areas of the city. Much of the infrastructure, including water, wastewater, and storm water drainage, will require upgrades or replacement in order to support new development. Accordingly, the infrastructure needs will add development costs to affordable housing projects within the TODs.

IDENTIFICATION OF COSTS

In order to capture the true cost of affordability, DMA developed financial scenarios for both rental and homeownership developments in the three TOD areas. Utilizing current market data for a variety of factors, including mid-rise construction costs, land prices, and sales prices, DMA was able to identify the public subsidy required to make affordability feasible.

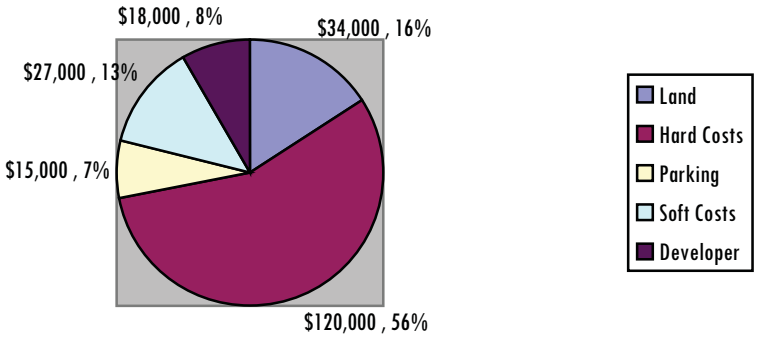
As a result of DMA's financial analysis, it became apparent that every project (even those that were sponsored by nonprofit developers and included donated land and property tax exemption) would require some sort of public subsidy. Required per-unit subsidies for homeownership units ranged from $83,131 to $149,951 per unit, depending on the TOD. Required subsidies for rental units ranged from $75,870 per unit in the Lamar TOD to $127,623 per unit in the Saltillo and MLK TODs.

Even when a project is infused with tax credit equity (as in the 9% and 4% LIHTC with bonds models), there is additional subsidy required. For example, in order to make a rental project utilizing 4% tax credits and private-activity bonds financially feasible, the additional subsidy required would range from $41,350 to $56,800 per unit.

As discussed previously, high-rise development is significantly more expensive than mid-rise development. Public comments throughout the Station Area Planning process expressed desire to limit maximum height caps. Accordingly, DMA utilized cost data for mid-rise type development (two- to five-story) throughout its financial modeling.

Using cost data for the Saltillo TOD District, the following pie chart illustrates the cost of condominium development:

Plaza Saltillo Mid-Rise Condo Development
Cost Breakdown



As demonstrated above, actual construction costs constitute the vast majority of development costs. In fact, hard costs, soft costs, and parking account for 86% of the total project costs. These costs would be the same whether the developer were for-profit or nonprofit. While nonprofit developers may have access to free or reduced-cost land, or may be able to limit their developer profit, they are still subject to the same market construction costs.

ANALYSIS OF DENSITY BONUS

A density bonus program allows a developer to increase the number of units that could be developed on a parcel of land in exchange for public benefit, such as affordable housing. The increased density would be the result of either relaxed development standards (e.g., Floor to Area Ratio, building coverage, and setback requirements, etc.) or height increase (e.g., above the current height restriction). A density bonus program is widely viewed as an important tool to achieve some portion of the TOD goals. However, there are a number of factors that must be taken into consideration in order to maximize the effectiveness of a density bonus program.

Construction costs per square foot rise with taller building heights, thereby limiting the benefit of incremental height increases. Mid-rise development utilizes lightweight steel or stick (e.g., wood) structural systems. High-rise developments require significant investment in elevators and core components, fireproofing, and multi-level structured parking, all of which contribute to increased development costs.

In addition, concerns regarding density and compatibility with surrounding neighborhoods were expressed in public meetings held during the Station Area Planning process. Although some participants in the Station Area Planning process voiced support for increased density (including height bonuses in exchange for affordable units), many participants were concerned with increased regarding density, especially as related to height. Several Saltillo participants were concerned about the neighborhood becoming too urban and densely developed. In addition, several participants in the Lamar Station Area Plan presentation were adamant about limiting density, with maximum TOD development height of two or three stories.

In order to reach the TOD Ordinance goal of 25% affordability in a new development, a density bonus would need to offer significant benefit to a developer. Only by doubling the density of a development (100% increase in FAR or height) and requiring that 50% of the bonus area be affordable, would a single development begin to meet the 25% affordability goal set in the TOD Ordinance.

In order to incentivize developers to take advantage of the density bonus, the program must be calibrated to provide a developer with a net financial benefit (e.g., a sufficiently higher profit). A developer will lose revenue on the affordable units, so the benefit gained from the additional units must outweigh the loss.

Keeping in mind public concerns regarding density and height limitations, DMA modeled a theoretical mid-rise development, with and without a density bonus. The following table profiles a 100-unit market rate condominium development on a 2.5-acre site (without any density bonus) and that same development with a 25% density bonus. The cost and sales assumptions are based on market data from the Saltillo TOD District.

In the case of the 25% density bonus, the developer is granted relaxed FAR or additional height in exchange for 25% affordability in the additional ("bonus") area.

	100-UNIT DEVELOPMENT	25% DENSITY BONUS 125-UNIT DEVELOPMENT
Market Rate Units	100	119
Affordable Units	0	6
Total Land Cost	$3,702,600	$3,702,600
Total Project Cost	$19,039,350	$22,901,000
Additional Cost	n/a	$3,861,650
Market Rate Sales	$22,324,500	$26,494,200
Additional Sales	n/a	$4,169,700 (market rate)
Affordable Sales (60% MFI)	n/a	$684,890
Total Sales Less Cost	$3,285,150	$4,278,090

In this scenario, the community gains six units of affordable housing, or 5% of the total new units built. The private developer increases his return on investment, and there is no additional public subsidy. The only "cost" to the public is the additional FAR or height granted.

Considering the ambitious TOD affordability goals, the six-unit gain in affordability is modest. Even if every new development within the TOD District took advantage of a density bonus, there would need to more than 6,000 new units within the Plaza Saltillo TOD to provide 300 affordable units (which represent 25% of the estimated market demand, according to the ERA Station Area Market Analysis). Clearly, the density bonus needs to be combined with additional tools in order to make a substantial impact on affordability.

It is important to note that the 125-unit density bonus example only includes 25% affordability in the bonus area, rather than 25% of the total area. As currently written, the TOD Ordinance prohibits any increase in residential building heights in the CP&R Zone over the current maximum heights unless 25% of the total development is affordable. In order to develop the same 2.5-acre site and incentivize affordability in at least 25% of the total units, the density bonus would need to be significant.

In the scenario below, the developer is granted a 100% density bonus (from 40 units per acre to 80 units per acre). Accordingly, the site now accommodates 200 units, 50 of which will be designated affordable (25% of the total units). The basic assumptions, including land cost and the development costs, remain the same as in the previous model.

	100-UNIT DEVELOPMENT	100% DENSITY BONUS 200-UNIT DEVELOPMENT 25% TOTAL AFFORDABILITY
Market Rate Units	100	150
Affordable Units	0	50
Total Land Cost	$3,702,600	$3,702,600
Total Project Cost	$19,039,350	$34,376,100
Additional Cost	n/a	$15,336,750
Market Rate Sales	$22,324,500	$33,517,500
Additional Sales	n/a	$11,193,000
Affordable Sales (60% MFI)	n/a	$5,483,235
Total Sales Less Cost	$3,285,150	$4,624,635

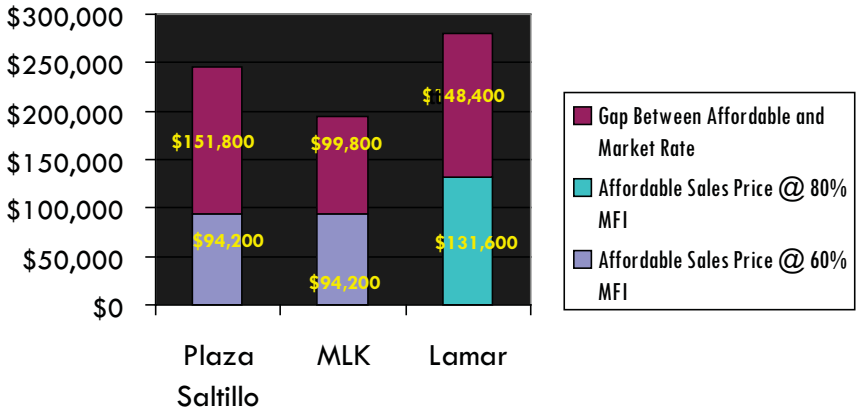
In this scenario, the developer is sufficiently incentivized to develop a project that designates 25% of its units as affordable. However, there are limitations to the density and height bonus model. Development costs increase disproportionately once the building transitions from a mid-rise to a high-rise structure. In addition, increased risk accompanies the increased number of units. The developer has to market and sell the additional units (both market-rate and affordable) in order to realize the substantial return on investment. Considering the disproportionate costs associated with significant increases in density, as well as concerns voiced by neighboring residents, a two-tier density bonus program is recommended below.

PROJECT SCENARIOS THAT SHOW SUCCESS IN MEETING TOD GOALS

There is a significant affordability gap that can be closed by utilizing a variety of regulatory and financial incentives. Using current market data for all three TOD areas under consideration, DMA developed the following affordability gap profile:

Based on current market data, the sales price for a two-bedroom, 1,000 square foot unit in the Plaza Saltillo TOD District is $246,000. The maximum price affordable to a three-person household at or below 60% MFI (the Plaza Saltillo TOD affordability goal for homeownership) is $94,200. This leaves a gap of $151,800. Because the market price for a two-bedroom condo in the MLK TOD area is slightly less ($194,000), the gap between the market rate and the affordable price is less ($99,800). However, the market rate in the Lamar TOD is significantly higher, $280,000. In this case, the TOD affordability target is higher (80% MFI), leaving a gap of $148,400. In order to fill this gap, multiple sources of incentives and subsidies will be required.

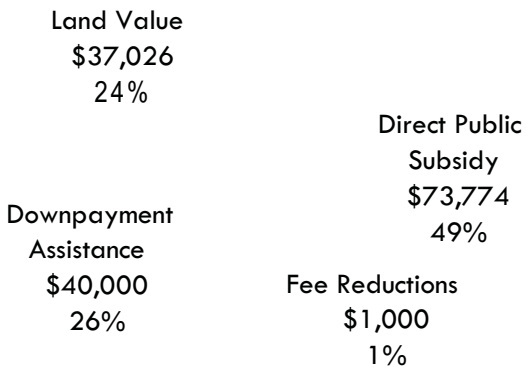
Two-Bedroom Condo
Affordability Gap



Homeownership Scenario

The graph below illustrates the financial gap for the development of hypothetical owner-occupied, affordable condominium developments in the Saltillo, MLK, and Lamar TOD areas. This example shows the most likely sources of subsidy or assistance that could bridge the gap.

Bridging the Affordability Gap:
$151,800 at Plaza Saltillo



If the developer utilized the City's S.M.A.R.T. Housing™ program, in addition to expedited plan review, the average per-unit fee reduction would be approximately $1,000 (in addition to financial benefits from expedited plan review). If the developer participated in a Community Land Trust model (or the City purchased the land and leased it to the developer at a nominal rate), that would represent additional savings, ranging from $18,513 to $37,026 per unit depending on the TOD area.

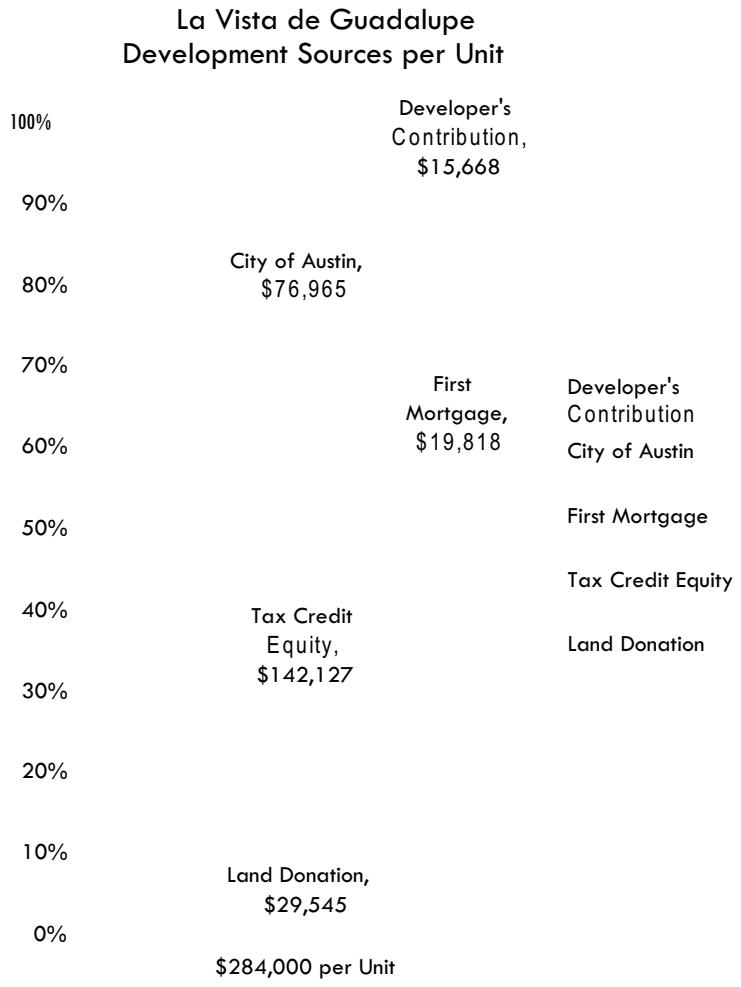
Even utilizing fee waivers and removing land costs, however, is not sufficient to reach even the upper range of the TOD affordability goals. In the examples above, the affordability gap is closed through a combination of fee reductions, elimination of land costs, waivers, and public subsidy, including City of Austin Down Payment Assistance and GO Bond funding.

It is important to note that any developer — nonprofit or for-profit — will face this affordability gap. While nonprofit developers are motivated by their mission to provide affordable housing and may have access to some funds that are not available to for-profit developers, they still have to pay to construct the units and oftentimes have to sell at fair market value.

Rental Scenario

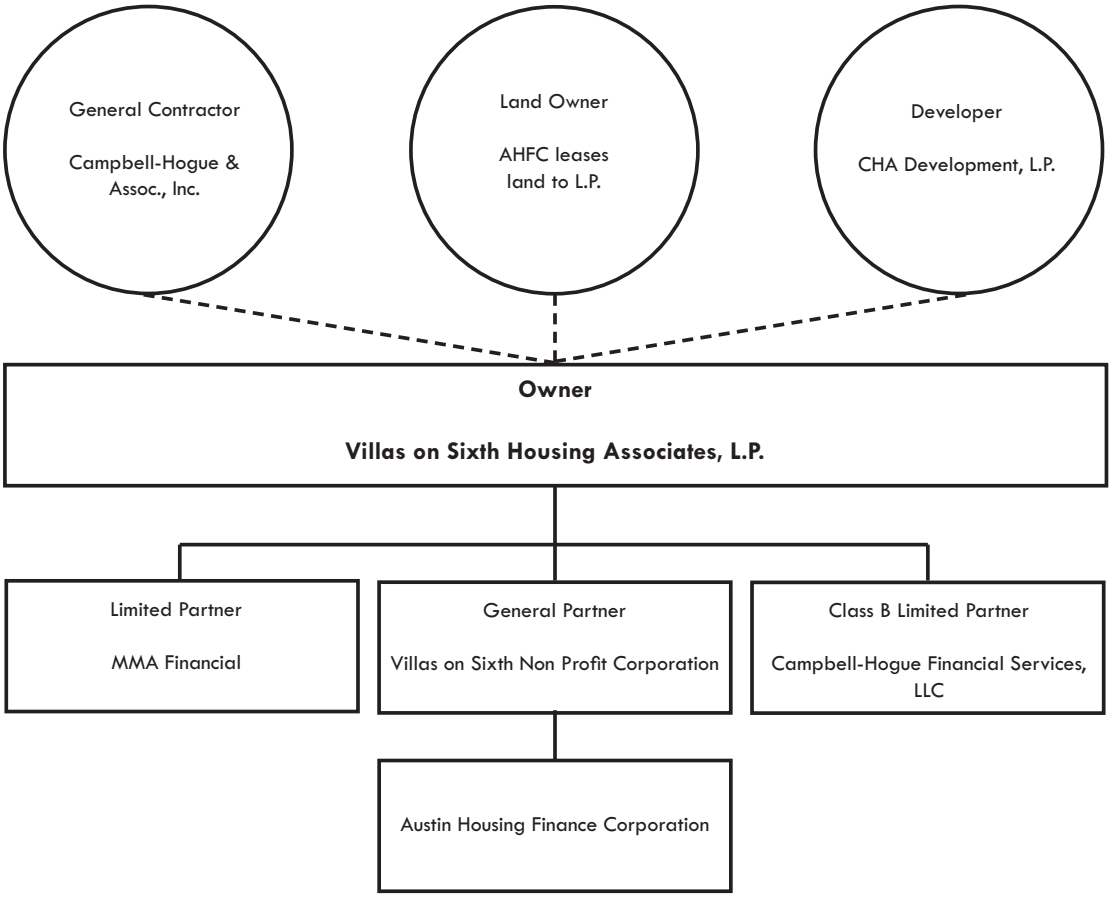
Although the sources and uses in a rental model are slightly different, these developments also require significant subsidy. The following is an example of a rental development currently under construction one block from the Plaza Saltillo TOD. Guadalupe Neighborhood Development Corporation (GNDC) is the nonprofit sponsor of this 22-unit rental development.

Although the La Vista de Guadalupe project is not technically in the TOD district, the construction type and the density (44 units per acre) are similar to the type of building that would be appropriate in the TOD. The development is 100% affordable with very low rents. Approximately 30% of the units will have rents affordable to families at 30% MFI; 15% of the units will have rents affordable at 40% MFI; and 55% affordable at 50% MFI.



The largest source of funds for this development is the equity from Low Income Housing Tax Credits, but several other sources are critical to making the project work. The land for this development is valued at $650,000 (nearly $30,000/unit) but was donated to the project by the nonprofit sponsor. (GNDC purchased the land more than 20 years ago at a very low price.) Another important source of financing for this development is the developer's contribution of deferred fee. Although GNDC is earning a fee of $650,000, the developer must forgo $344,000 of the fee (identified as "Developer's Contribution" in the bar chart) in order to make the project financially feasible. In addition, the City of Austin has committed almost $1.7 million, or $77,000 per unit, to this development.

The City can also participate directly in housing development through the Austin Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC). For example, in 2003 AHFC partnered with a private developer/builder to develop Villas on Sixth Street using Housing Tax Credits. Villas on Sixth Housing Associates, L.P. , the entity that owns the development, is a true partnership between public and private interests. AHFC created a new nonprofit corporation, Villas on Sixth Non Profit Corporation, to be the general partner of this limited partnership. The tax credits were sold to MMA Financial, and one of its entities is the limited partner. An entity of Campbell-Hogue's, Campbell-Hogue Financial Services, LLC, owns a minority share of the project and acts as a guarantor, since the nonprofit cannot.



In addition to its role in the ownership, AHFC purchased the land for the development and leases is back to the partnership, which allows the property to be exempt from property taxes. Campbell-Hogue & Associates, Inc. was the general contractor who built the property, and its development arm, CHA Development, L.P., was the developer.

This creative partnership allowed the City to work with an experienced developer who knows and understand this type of development and the complicated financing mechanisms involved, while at the same time ensuring long-term affordability.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to achieve the affordability goals established in the TOD Ordinance, the City must utilize a multifaceted approach. In addition, the policies implemented to achieve housing affordability within the TOD areas should be reviewed and analyzed after a period of time to determine success in meeting affordability goals and to make recommendations for adjustments to the policies.

DMA recommends the following:

Recommendation #1: Implement Density and Height Bonus Program

Density

The City Council has adopted a Vertical Mixed Use (VMU) density bonus with affordability requirements, as part of the Design Standards and Mixed Use ordinance. Although it is too early to determine the success of the VMU density bonus incentives, a similar strategy should be established for the TOD Districts, which are intended to have a mixed-use character similar to that envisioned for VMU developments.

To incentivize the development of affordable housing in the TOD Districts, the City should exempt properties from Floor-Area-Ratio (FAR), maximum densities, building coverage limits, and setback requirements, in exchange for 10% of the total residential square footage being designated affordable. As in the VMU Ordinance, the affordability period for owner-occupied units should be a minimum of 99 years and rental units should be 40 years. (It should be noted that this bonus does not include a height bonus. A height increase entails a different affordability requirement as discussed below.)

The calculation for the designated affordable units is based on habitable square footage, rather than number of units. For example, a 30,000 square foot project that receives an additional 15,000 square feet (due to FAR and other exemptions), will be required to set aside 10% of the total square footage (10% of 45,000 square feet or 4,500 square feet) for affordable units.

There are multiple reasons for calculating based on habitable square footage versus number of units. The square footage requirement gives the developer greater flexibility in determining the allocation of unit sizes and thus enables the developer to better respond to market needs. If the requirement is calculated based on number of units, the result will most likely be smaller one-bedroom units. However, if the developer is given the freedom to apportion unit mixes (and is simply required to make a certain total square footage affordable), there is greater likelihood that family units will be incorporated into the unit mix.

Since the density bonus will offer a similar benefit as that offer in the VMU Ordinance, the income limits on the affordable units should also be the same—a maximum of 80% MFI for homeownership units and 60% for rental units. In order to reach the affordability targets set in the TOD Ordinance; however, the City will need to employ additional incentives or subsidies.

In order to "buy down" the affordability of a unit (e.g., reduce the affordability level from 80% MFI to 70% MFI), it is estimated that the present value cost is $25,000 per 10% increment. Accordingly, each 10% incremental reduction in MFI will cost $25,000 per unit in subsidy to offset the lost income to a developer. The TOD affordability goals are more ambitious than the VMU goals. Therefore, the density bonus alone is insufficient to incentive a developer to incorporate affordable units into a residential project.

Because the density bonus alone will not achieve the affordability targets, the approach will need to be coupled with additional incentives and public subsidies. As in the case with VMU policy, the City must have the option to subsidize additional affordable units within the development. The effectiveness of this density bonus and its affordability requirements should be reviewed within one year of implementation.

DMA recommends that density bonuses be available to any type of development within the TOD Districts, including residential, non-residential, and mixed-use. In the case of projects that utilize the bonus but do not include residential units, the developer would be required to pay a fee-in-lieu (rather than develop on-site affordable units) as described further below.

Height

DMA recommends that the City of Austin institute a height bonus to achieve up to a total building height of 60 feet in the TOD Mixed Use Subdistrict of the Lamar, Saltillo, and MLK TODs. Only those properties that currently have a height entitlement of less than 60 feet are eligible for the height bonus. In order to access the height bonus, a developer would need to commit to 25% affordability of the **bonus area (square footage)** to be reserved for households meeting the affordability goals established for each TOD (or for development that does not contain residential units, the relevant fee-in-lieu must be paid). As an example, a developer seeking additional height equal to 100,000 square feet would need to provide affordable units within the development totaling 25,000 square feet. Again, as discussed above, the calculation is based on habitable square footage, rather than number of units.

Because of community concerns related to compatibility and due to limited financial benefit accompanying density bonuses with affordability requirements in high-rise construction, DMA recommends that height bonuses should be limited to mid-rise heights. Throughout most of the three TOD Districts, current zoning restricts development to 40 or 60 feet. As discussed previously, a height bonus from five stories to six- or more stories may have limited value because of the corresponding increase in costs between mid-rise and high-rise development. In addition, because of neighborhood concerns regarding compatibility with surrounding single-family neighborhoods, significant increases in height are not broadly supported. The City's approach to height bonuses should focus any additional height entitlements in defined locations around the transit stops where the highest densities are appropriate.

In certain cases, a developer may request both the density bonus and the height bonus. In this situation, the project would need to include 10% affordability in the total project (pre- height increase), as well as an additional 25% affordability in the bonus height area.

Currently, the TOD Ordinance limits the City's ability to increase heights in the part of the Saltillo TOD that is designated as TOD Mixed Use but falls outside of the 11-acre Capital Metro property. In addition, the TOD Ordinance requires stringent affordability requirements for a height bonus in the CP&R Zone. Specifically, the TOD Ordinance requires that 25% of the total development meet affordability targets (rather than 25% of the bonus area, as DMA recommends). Accordingly, in order to implement DMA's height bonus recommendations, the TOD Ordinance will need to be amended.

Fee-In-Lieu

DMA recommends a fee-in-lieu payment in the amount of $10 per square foot of additional benefit. This amount conforms to the fee-in-lieu recommendation of the Affordable Housing Incentive Task Force and the amount recommended to the City Council during the process of adopting a downtown density bonus ordinance. The fee-in-lieu amount should be reviewed and adjusted annually. Any funds captured through the fee-in-lieu program should be utilized for affordable housing within the TOD Districts.

Typically, a fee-in-lieu option is offered to residential developers who opt to not provide on-site affordable units, or to developers of commercial properties. The fee-in-lieu for the TODs should be required of commercial developments that utilize a height bonus and/or density bonus, as well as to residential or mixed-use developments on a more limited basis.

Because the intent of the TOD Ordinance is to develop affordable housing within the TOD Districts and those districts are relatively small, residential developers should be encouraged to develop on-site affordable units. A residential developer seeking fee-in-lieu should have a compelling economic basis for not providing on-site affordable units. A compelling reason might include that the funds will be directed to a stand-alone 100% affordable development in the TOD District.

Recommendation #2: Encourage HTC Developments and Dedicate Appropriate Resources

Based strictly on financial realities, the most cost-effective use of public subsidies is the traditional Housing Tax Credit (HTC) development. According to DMA's financial models, the public subsidy required for a 4% tax credit with private activity bonds project is estimated to be $56,800 per unit. In this scenario, 100% of the units would be affordable to households at or below 60% MFI, thereby meeting or exceeding the TOD affordability goals. A competitive tax credit proposal could exceed the identified TOD affordability goals and provide a large number of units in one location. Accordingly, the City should develop partnerships with qualified developers of affordable housing to explore tax credit development within the TODs.

The most likely source of the public subsidy is the $55 million Affordable Housing General Obligation Bonds. Approved in November 2006, the bond funds will be allocated over a period of seven years. DMA recommends that the City consider dedicating a substantial portion of the funds to affordable housing projects developed within the first three TOD Districts.

However, with estimated rental subsidies ranging from approximately $50,000 to more than $100,000 per unit, and homeownership subsidies significantly higher, **the City would have to dedicate the vast majority of the GO Bonds in order to meet all the goals specified in the TOD Ordinance** and would have limited ability to provide funding for projects outside of TOD areas. Given the funding gap in each TOD District, it is unlikely that GO Bonds alone will achieve the affordability goals.

Recommendation #3: Identify and Utilize Publicly-Owned Land

The City should review and prioritize publicly-owned land to identify those most likely to accommodate residential uses. Eleven of the approximate 130 acres within the Plaza Saltillo TOD are owned by Capital Metro. In addition, the City of Austin owns two parcels immediately adjacent to the TOD District. One parcel is less than one-half acre and could be an opportunity for small-scale infill residential development. In addition, the other parcel — currently operating as a City mail room and uniform services facility — is under consideration for inclusion in the District and would be zoned as Live/Work/Flex. At 3.07 acres and current zoning of 45 units per acre, the site could potentially accommodate 138 units. The City should evaluate parcels such as these to determine their "highest and best use," taking into consideration compatibility with the TOD development standards.

The City could solicit proposals for residential development on the sites it owns and require a baseline level of affordability that conforms to the TOD Ordinance. If the sites are not owned by the City but rather by an affiliated public entity, the City should take the lead in negotiations to ensure that those sites are developed in accordance with demonstrated public need.

The ROMA Design Group's Saltillo District Redevelopment Master Plan (yet to be adopted by the City Council or the Capital Metro Board) estimates that the 11-acre Capital Metro property could accommodate a proposed 590-675 housing units, 25% of which would be designated affordable (147 – 169 units). The affordability targets in the ROMA plan were established with the assumption that a portion of the land with frontage on IH-35 could be utilized for dense, high-rise, market-rate commercial construction. This component of the plan has not received broad community support.

However, a more modest increase to a 60 foot height limit on the 11-acre property would help to meet the ambitious affordability goals within the Plaza Saltillo TOD District, without compromising the neighborhood's concerns regarding compatibility and density in the remainder of the TOD.

The City of Austin owns a 5.8-acre tract in the approximate 200-acre N. Lamar/Justin Lane TOD District. The 5.8-acre tract could accommodate 261 housing units if it were to be developed at medium density (e.g., 45 units per acre). The City could solicit proposals for residential development on that site and require a baseline level of affordability that conforms to the TOD Ordinance.

In the alternative, the City could solicit proposals from tax credit developers to undertake a 100% affordable development. A 2007 ERA Market Study estimated the potential market demand for affordable housing in the Lamar TOD to be between 325 and 414 units. A 261-unit affordable housing development would make a substantial impact on the market demand and help to meet the 25% TOD affordability goal.

Recommendation #4: Provide Menu of Incentives Within TODs

The City should adopt a policy that offers developers within the TOD Districts a package of incentives in exchange for affordable units on-site. The incentives could be scaled based on the level of affordability and the percentage of affordable units provided. Incentives could include additional fee waivers and expedited review beyond what the S.M.A.R.T. Housing™ program currently provides. The incentives should be available to developments throughout the entire TOD District, not just a designated area.

Fee Waivers. The City already waives certain development fees through its S.M.A.R.T. Housing™ program. In addition to existing S.M.A.R.T. Housing™ fee waivers, additional fee waivers for affordable housing in TOD areas could include the following:

- Drainage
- Electrical meters
- Street lighting
- Water meters
- Sewer taps
- Street closure fee
- License agreements
- Austin Energy fees
- Any and all other City fees and/or extractions

Expedited Review. Building on the recommendations of the City's Affordable Housing Incentives Taskforce, the City should offer a reliable and consistent expedited review and approval process. This fast-track review and approval would expand upon the existing S.M.A.R.T. Housing™ process. Expedited development review and inspection processes should encompass the following:

- Legal review of easements, covenants, and other instruments
- Austin Water Utility technical review of site plans and subdivisions
- Service extension request review
- License agreement review
- Utility construction plan review
- Right-of-Way management plan review
- Utility inspection
- Utility connections
- Street light installation
- Expedited zoning and platting review

Maximize Public Tax Exemptions. Through creative public-private partnerships, the City of Austin can foster affordability via tax exemptions. The City of Austin (through Austin Housing Finance Corporation) can purchase a vacant and/or underutilized parcel of land and lease it back to a developer for affordable housing. With a long-term land lease, the developer creates, owns, and/or manages the affordable housing. However, because the land is owned by a public entity, it is 100% tax exempt.

The benefits of this type of partnership are two-fold. First, the tax exemption lowers the overall operating costs of the property. Depending on the appraised value of the property, the benefit is equivalent to $7,000-$10,000 per unit in up-front, direct subsidy. Second, locating the property on City-owned land can guarantee long-term or permanent affordability. The City has facilitated this type of arrangement with organizations, such as the nonprofit Foundation Communities and for-profit developer Campbell-Hogue (Villas on Sixth). This type of public-private partnership is probably best suited for multifamily rental developments where the majority of the units are rent-restricted.

While tax exemption is technically a form of subsidy, it may be seen as more palatable than direct subsidy it represents foregone income, rather than cash outflow. The current appraised value of many of the properties in question is negligible compared with their potential as fully improved properties. Accordingly, the assessing entity is not necessarily losing existing income but forgoing future income.

Recommendation #5: Utilize Homestead Preservation District Tools

In early 2007, the City of Austin adopted a Homestead Preservation District, which gives the City some additional tools to help create and preserve affordable housing. This district includes the Plaza Saltillo and the majority of the MLK TOD areas but does not extend to the Lamar TOD.

DMA recommends that the City of Austin maximize the use of the tools available in the Homestead Preservation District. Within the TOD District, the City has the ability to create a TIF district, to create a land bank, and to create a Community Land Trust. The Homestead Preservation District is also the only area in the state that is exempt from the prohibition against mandatory inclusionary housing programs. However, in order to implement a mandatory program, the City must conduct a nexus study to justify any affordable housing requirements.

The revenues collected in a TIF district established under the Homestead Preservation Act must be used for the development, construction, and preservation of affordable housing. The City is currently exploring the creation of such a TIF and is looking for participation by Travis County, as the City's share of tax revenue is a relatively small portion of taxes collected in the area. The City is also working to develop a citywide Community Land Trust that would allow for the long-term preservation of affordable units. The land trust could also be used as a land bank to acquire and assemble parcels of land for future affordable housing developments, which could be especially important for the MLK TOD, where there are no publicly-owned properties within the TOD boundaries.

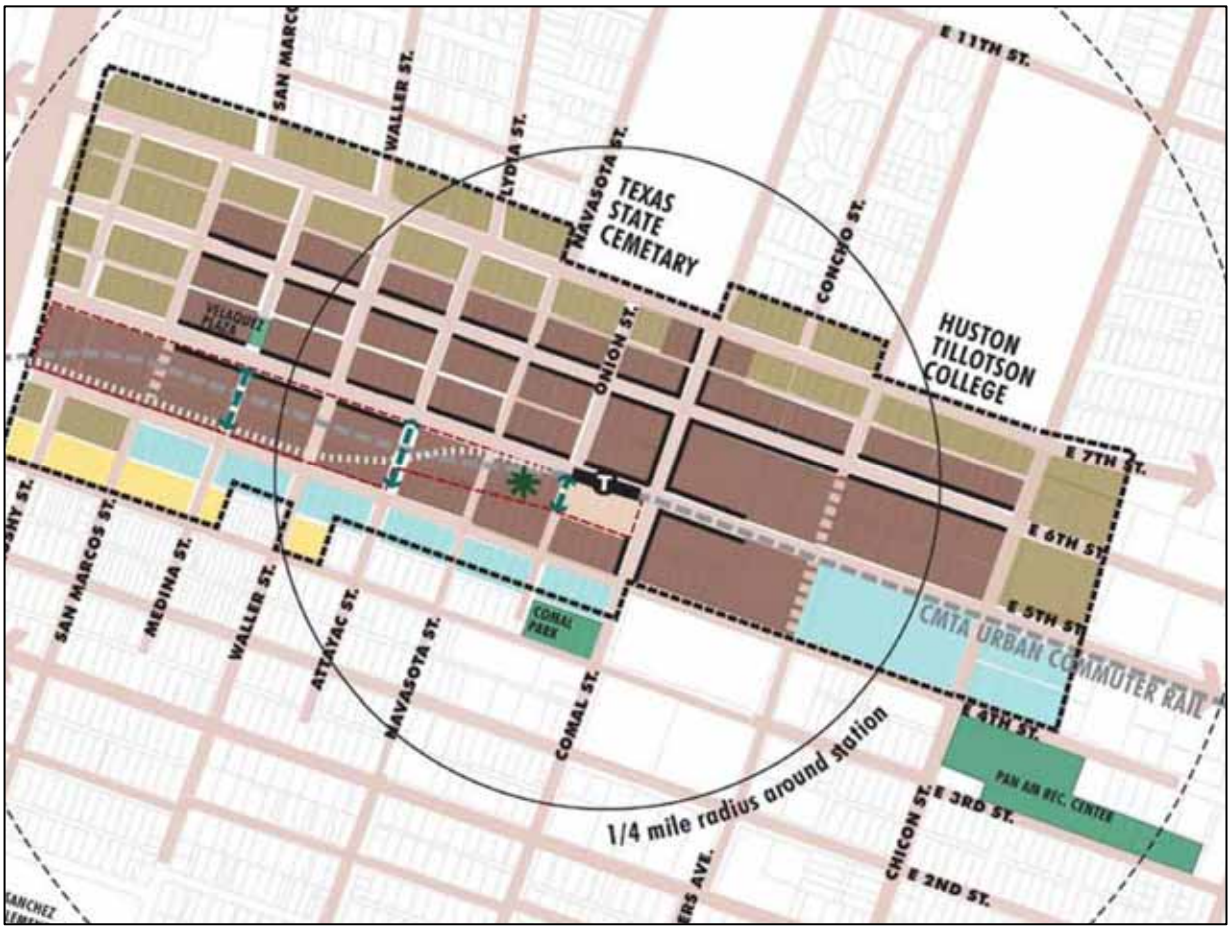
NEXT STEPS

Planning for the TOD Districts has been a lengthy and complex process. It has involved numerous stakeholder groups, including the City, private developers, and affordable housing advocates. DMA's recommendations are the result of careful consideration of all interested parties with an eye toward the creation of a vibrant, diverse, and affordable community.

In November 2006, the community came together and voted overwhelmingly to approve $55 million for affordable housing development. In order to create affordability in the TOD Districts, it will be important for the community — including developers, advocates, neighborhood representatives, and citizens — to work together to ensure diversity and affordability within the Transit Oriented Development Districts.

Exhibit E

REGULATING PLAN
for the
Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Plan (SAP)



Adopted: December 11, 2008
Effective: March 1, 2009

REGULATING PLAN
for the
Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Plan (SAP)

CONTENTS

BACKGROUND……...iv

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT…… ..... ……...v

ARTICLE 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS..... 1
1.1. General Intent 1
1.2. Applicability 1
1.2.1. General Applicability.....1
1.2.2. Land Use, Density, General Development Standards, Development Bonuses, and Parkland Dedication 6
1.2.3. TOD Design Standards.....6
1.2.4. Exemption from Subchapter E of the Land Development Code.....7
1.2.5. Conflicting Provisions.....7
1.2.6. Accessibility.....7
1.2.7. State and Federal Facilities 8
1.3. Review Process.....8
1.3.1. Standards Applicable During Subdivision Plan Review.....8
1.3.2. Standards Applicable During Site Plan Review 8
1.3.3. Standards Applicable During Building Permit Review.....9
1.4. Alternative Equivalent Compliance 9
1.4.1. Purpose and Scope 9
1.4.2. Applicability 9
1.4.3. Procedure..... 10
1.4.4. Criteria..... 12
1.4.5. Effect of Approval..... 12
1.5. Nonconforming Uses and Noncomplying Structures 12
1.6. Text and Graphics Within this Document.....13

ARTICLE 2: LAND USE AND BUILDING DENSITY..... 14
2.1. Applicability 14
2.2. Intent.....14
2.3. Transit-Oriented Development Subdistricts.....14
2.3.1. TOD Subdistricts General 14
2.3.2. Plaza Saltillo Station Area Plan Land Use and Design Concept Plan Map 15
2.3.3. TOD Low Density Residential Subdistrict 15
2.3.4. TOD Live / Work Flex Subdistrict..... 16
2.3.5. TOD Mixed-Use Subdistrict 16
2.3.6. TOD Corridor Mixed-Use Subdistrict..... 17
2.3.7. Drive-through Facility..... 18
2.3.8. Land Use Summary Table 18

ARTICLE 3: CIRCULATION, CONNECTIVITY AND STREETSCAPE 28
3.1. Intent.....28
3.2. Overview of Roadway Types.....28
3.2.1. Applicability is Based on Adjacent Roadway and Type of Development 28
3.3. Sidewalk Standards 31
3.3.1. Applicability 31
3.3.2. TOD Core Transit Corridors..... 31

3.3.3. TOD Pedestrian Priority Streets 35
3.3.4. TOD Local Streets 39
3.3.5. Sidewalk Exemption for Edge Streets 41
3.4. On-Street Parking 42
3.4.1. Applicability 42
3.4.2. Purpose 42
3.4.3. On-Street Parallel Parking 42
3.4.4. General On-Street Parking Restrictions 44
3.5. Connectivity and Circulation 45
3.5.1. Applicability 45
3.5.2. Project Circulation Plan 45
3.5.3. Block Standards 46
3.5.4. Curb Cut Spacing Standards 48
3.5.5. Curb-Cut Dimensional Standards 49
3.5.6. Alleys 49
3.5.7. Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Vehicular Circulation 50

ARTICLE 4: SITE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS 51
4.1. Intent 51
4.2. General Development Standards 52
4.2.1. Applicability 52
4.2.2. Lot Size 52
4.2.3. Lot Width 52
4.2.4. Impervious Surface Coverage 52
4.2.5. Building Coverage 52
4.2.6. Setbacks 52
4.2.7. Site Area Requirements 53
4.2.8. Floor-to-Area Ratio (FAR) 53
4.2.9. Building Height 53
4.2.10. Compatibility Standards 53
4.2.11. Historic Zoning 55
4.2.12. Historic Properties along E. 6th Street 55
4.3. Development Bonuses 57
4.3.1. Affordability Definition 57
4.3.2. Density Bonus 57
4.3.3. Density and Height Bonus 61
4.4. Relationship of Buildings to Streets and Walkways 65
4.4.1. Purpose 65
4.4.2. Building Placement Factors 65
4.4.3. Building Placement 66
4.4.4. Supplemental Zones 69
4.5. Off-Street Parking 73
4.5.1. Applicability 73
4.5.2. Parking Requirements 73
4.5.3. Shared Parking 73
4.5.4. Reduction of Minimum Off-Street Parking Requirements 73
4.5.5. Parking Design Standards 74
4.5.6. Bicycle Parking Requirements 76
4.6. Exterior Lighting 78
4.6.1. Applicability 78
4.6.2. Standards 78
4.7. Screening of Equipment and Utilities 79
4.7.1. Applicability 79

4.7.2. Standards ... 79
4.8. Sign Regulations ... 81
4.8.1. Applicability ... 81
4.8.2. Sign Regulations ... 81
4.9. Green Infrastructure ... 81
4.9.1. Applicability ... 81
4.9.2. Green Infrastructure Standards ... 81
4.10. Private Common Open Space and Pedestrian Amenities ... 82
4.10.1. Applicability ... 82
4.10.2. Purpose ... 82
4.10.3. Standards ... 82
4.10.4. Exception from the Requirements of this Section ... 84
4.11. Public Parks and Trails ... 85
4.11.1. Applicability ... 85
4.11.2. Purpose ... 85
4.11.3. Recommended Location of Parks and Trails ... 85
4.11.4. On-site Parkland Dedication Requirement ... 85
4.11.5. On-site Parkland Dedication Allowance ... 86
4.11.6. Fee In Lieu ... 86

ARTICLE 5: BUILDING DESIGN STANDARDS ... 88
5.1. Intent ... 88
5.2. General Applicability ... 88
5.3. Building Entrances ... 88
5.3.1. Building Entrance Standards for Pedestrians ... 88
5.3.2. Building Entrance and Exit Standards for Vehicles ... 89
5.4. Window Glazing ... 90
5.4.1. Applicability ... 90
5.4.2. Purpose ... 90
5.4.3. Standards ... 90
5.5. Shade and Shelter ... 92
5.5.1. Applicability ... 92
5.5.2. Purpose ... 92
5.5.3. Standards ... 92
5.6. Building Façade Articulation ... 93
5.6.1. Applicability ... 93
5.6.2. Standards ... 93
5.7. Active Edges ... 94
5.7.1. Applicability ... 94
5.7.2. Ground Floor Spaces ... 94

ARTICLE 6: DEFINITIONS ... 96

BACKGROUND

Transit-oriented Development (TOD) is an increasingly popular tool for cities across the U.S. to create more livable communities and combat urban sprawl, which has a number of negative cultural, economic, environmental, and social consequences that are felt in both urban and suburban areas. Sprawl can threaten the quality of life in the central City and inner suburbs due to the risk of deteriorating infrastructure, poor schools, and a shortage of affordable, quality housing. In newer suburban areas, sprawl can cause increased traffic congestion and declining air quality, the absence of a sense of place, and the loss of open space. Since the mid-1990s, the City of Austin has taken steps to redirect Austin's explosive growth away from suburban areas back towards the central City and improve development patterns through a number of land use and planning initiatives.

In response to future commuter rail service connecting the cities of Austin and Leander (approved by voters in the November 2004 election), Austin recently made another direct commitment towards guiding where and how the City grows by adopting a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Ordinance (adopted by the City Council in May 2005). TOD is the functional integration of land use and transit. It is compact, walkable, mixed-use development connected to high quality public transportation, which balances the need for sufficient density to support convenient transit service with the scale of the adjacent community. Typical features include improved pedestrian and street connectivity, public amenities such as pocket parks and plazas, civic art, landscaping, benches, streetlights, etc., and a concentration of residences and jobs in proximity to transit stations and commercial businesses.

The adoption of the TOD Ordinance was the first of a two-step planning process. The TOD Ordinance identified the TOD district boundaries for the Station Areas along with interim regulations relating to land use, parking, and site/building design. The second step involves creating a development vision, plan, and implementation strategy for each of the TOD Station Areas. Station Area Plans (SAP) have been created for the three Neighborhood Center TOD Districts identified in the TOD Ordinance for the Plaza Saltillo, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and Lamar Boulevard/Justin Lane Station Areas. This Document is intended to implement the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Plan as part of an overall effort to improve the development quality in Austin and to specify the regulations for the TOD base district zoning that all properties have within the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area. For properties within the Plaza Saltillo TOD District, this Document will supersede Subchapter E: Design Standards and Mixed Use (Subchapter E), which applies Citywide; however, the intent statements and standards within this Document are consistent with the development and design principles of Subchapter E.

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

Applicability Is Based on TOD District and Adjacent Roadway Type

The regulations in this Document are primarily organized by the TOD Subdistrict applicable to the property in question along with the types of streets that abut it. The Plaza Saltillo Station Area Plan identifies five TOD Subdistricts, which are described in this Document. Land uses and general design standards are based upon the applicable TOD Subdistrict.

As in Subchapter E: Design Standards and Mixed Use, this Document recognizes that development should reflect and respond to the character of its location within the City, in this case the Plaza Saltillo Station Area. For example, a commercial development in a suburban location can (and often should) look and function differently than a commercial development near downtown Austin. Because roadways provide both access to a site and define the urban design framework of the City, roadway types have been used as an organizing tool to establish many of the TOD development standards in this Document. This approach is intended to provide a consistent regulatory approach between Subchapter E and this Document and to help ensure a cohesive development pattern along Austin's streets and remove some of the inconsistency that arises from having a variety of zoning districts and development standards fronting a single roadway.

Because many of the standards in this Document are defined based on the TOD Subdistrict and roadway type(s), an important first step in the development process is to identify them. The size of the site and the type of development (residential, commercial, mixed use, etc.) also need to be considered, since different standards may apply. The applicability chart in Article 1 summarizes the applicability of all the standards in this Document, based on the TOD Subdistrict, type of adjacent roadways, and development activity.

The four TOD Subdistricts in the Plaza Saltillo TOD District are:

TOD Low Density Residential allowing higher density single-family residential development and lower density multifamily development, which could include attached single-family homes, townhomes, and duplexes.

TOD Live/Work Flex allowing medium density residential development with or without commercial or light manufacturing space within the same structure. Structures could include a typical mixed use building or be entirely residential development such as apartment buildings or condominiums.

TOD Mixed Use allowing the highest level of development activity in the TOD, ideally with a mix of ground floor commercial or other active uses with residential, commercial and/or office uses on the upper floors.

TOD Corridor Mixed Use allowing the widest variety of uses in the TOD, a moderately high level of development activity, and the ability to mix uses either within separate structures on the site or within the same building on the site.

The boundaries of the Plaza Saltillo Station Area and the four subdistrict types are shown on the **Land Use and Design Concept Plan Map in Figure 2-1.**

Using Subchapter E as a model, the following three types of roadways are applicable to the Plaza Saltillo TOD covered by this Document:

TOD Core Transit Corridors include roadways within the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area that have or will have a sufficient population density, mix of uses, and transit facilities to encourage and support transit use. They have a high level of visibility and offer some of the best locations for retail service activity. The TOD Core Transit Corridor designations in this Document were informed by the Core Transit Corridor designations in Subchapter E and the Station Area Planning process. Within the boundaries of the Plaza Saltillo Station Area, TOD Core Transit Corridors are:

- E. 7th Street

TOD Pedestrian Priority Streets include roadways which are essential for providing appropriate pedestrian circulation within the Station Area. TOD Pedestrian Priority Streets typically lead directly to the transit stop or form a key part of the pedestrian network that leads to it. TOD Pedestrian Priority Streets, together with TOD Core Transit Corridors, form an interconnected street network to ensure that adequate access is provided throughout the Station Area for all modes of travel. Within the boundaries of the Plaza Saltillo Station Area, TOD Pedestrian Priority Streets are:

- E. 5th Street
- E. 6th Street
- Waller Street
- Comal Street
- Chalmers Avenue (and the potential future extension of Chalmers Street)
- Chicon Street

TOD Local Streets are all other existing and future streets located within the Plaza Saltillo Station Area, excluding smaller circulation routes like alleys. These streets form the finer grained network of streets that complement the transportation framework created by TOD Core Transit Corridors and Pedestrian Priority Streets. Any new street in the Station Area that does not have TOD Core Transit Corridor or a Pedestrian Priority Street designation, regardless of whether or not it is depicted on the Circulation Concept Plan, will be designated a TOD Local Street for the purpose of applying the standards in this Document.

The three roadway types are shown on the Plaza Saltillo TOD **Circulation Concept Plan Map in Figure 3-4.** It is important to note that potential new TOD Pedestrian Priority and Local Streets are conceptually illustrated to show the intended frequency of such routes and their preferred alignment according to the Plaza Saltillo Station Area Plan, but the actual placement will be determined during the site plan or subdivision process.

How This Document is Organized

This Document is divided into six Articles.

Article 1 includes **General Provisions** that should be reviewed for all properties in the TOD District, including criteria establishing when the TOD Design Standards apply.

This Article also encourages creativity and innovative design by allowing an applicant to propose an alternative approach to meeting the standards of the Document through the "alternative equivalent compliance" provision.

Article 2 includes **Land Use and Building Density** requirements. Standards in this Article address the following:

- Permitted, conditional, and prohibited uses; and
- Development density

Article 3 includes **Circulation, Connectivity, and Streetscape** requirements. Standards in this Article address the following:

- Sidewalks;
- On-street parking; and
- On-site circulation and off-site connectivity

Article 4 includes **Site Development Standards** intended to ensure that buildings relate appropriately to surrounding developments and streets, promote efficient on-site pedestrian and vehicle circulation, and provide adequate parking in safe and appropriate locations. In particular, standards in this Article address the following:

- General development standards;
- Development bonuses;
- Relationship of buildings to streets and walkways;
- Off-street parking;
- Exterior lighting
- Screening of equipment and utilities;
- Signage;
- Green infrastructure;
- Private common open space and pedestrian amenities; and
- Public open space.

Article 5 includes **Building Design Standards** intended to address the physical appearance of buildings subject to this Document. Included are standards to:

- Building entrances;
- Window glazing;
- Shade and shelter;
- Building façade treatment; and

- Ground floor treatment of buildings along an active edge.

Article 6 includes **Definitions** for terms used in this Document.

ARTICLE 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1. GENERAL INTENT

This Document addresses the physical relationship between development and adjacent properties, streets, neighborhoods, and the natural environment in order to implement the Plaza Saltillo TOD Vision to integrate land use and urban design with transit. The general purposes of this Document are:

1.1.1. To promote the Vision for the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area Plan;

1.1.2. To promote TOD principles intended to successfully integrate land use and transit by providing greater density than the community average, a mix of uses, and a quality pedestrian environment around a defined center;

1.1.3. To provide appropriate standards to ensure a high quality appearance for development and redevelopment within the Plaza Saltillo TOD District and promote pedestrian-friendly design while also allowing for individuality, creativity, and artistic expression;

1.1.4. To improve the area's access to high quality transit services and create an environment that promotes walking and cycling;

1.1.5. To enhance neighborhoods by encouraging physical development that is of high quality and is compatible with the character and scale of the surrounding area;

1.1.6. To encourage development and redevelopment that relates to and connects with adjoining streets, transit, bikeways, pathways, open spaces, and neighborhoods;

1.1.7. To encourage development that serves people of all incomes and ages and provides a safe and welcoming environment for all types of households.; and

1.1.8. To provide a set of standards that are clear and consistent throughout the TOD to facilitate development, redevelopment, and property assembly, in addition to being flexible and responsive to market conditions and fluctuations.

1.2. APPLICABILITY

1.2.1. General Applicability

This Document applies to all development within the Plaza Saltillo TOD District as shown in Figure 1-1. All properties in the Plaza Saltillo TOD District are designated with a TOD base zoning district. This Document sets forth the regulations for the Plaza Saltillo Station Area TOD base zoning. The relevance of the regulations in Articles 2 through 5 will vary based upon the TOD Subdistrict that applies to a specific piece of property and the type of roadway(s) that is adjacent to it. Figures 1-2 and 1-3 summarize the applicability of each Article and section of this Document.

Figure 1-1: Plaza Saltillo TOD District Boundary

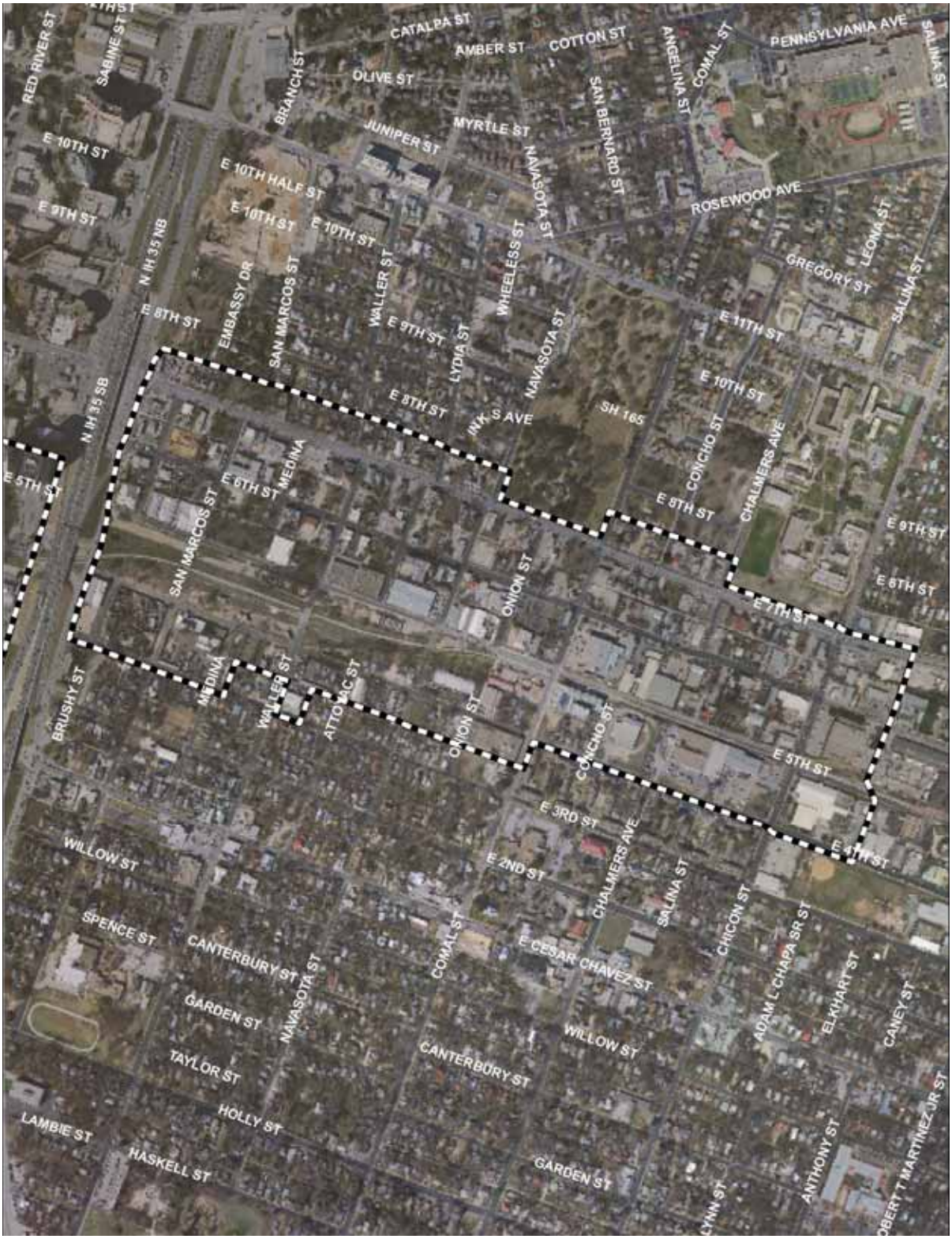


Figure 1-2: Applicability Summary Table – Land Use and Building Density, General Development Standards, Development Bonuses, and Parkland Dedication

Section:	Standard:	Application:
Article 2 Land Use and Building Density:		
2.3 TOD Subdistricts	All standards	All properties in the Plaza Saltillo TOD District shall comply with the standards in this section
Article 4 Site Development Standards:		
4.2 General Development Standards	All standards	All properties in the Plaza Saltillo TOD District shall comply with the standards in this section
4.3 Development Bonuses	4.3.2 Density Bonus	All properties or portions of properties in the Live/Work Flex, TOD Mixed Use, and Corridor Mixed Use Subdistricts are eligible for a density bonus.
	4.3.3 Density & Height Bonus	All properties or portions of properties in the TOD Mixed Use Subdistrict are eligible for a density and height bonus (if base height is less than 60 feet).
4.11 Public Parks and Trails	Parkland Dedication	All development subject to the Parkland Dedication Ordinance (LDC Article 14 Section 25-2-601)

Figure 1-3: Applicability Summary Table – TOD Design Standards
(see Subsection 1.2.3 for general applicability of TOD Design Standards)

Section:	Standard:	Applies to:	Application Details:
Article 3 Circulation, Connectivity, and Streetscape:			
3.3 Sidewalk Standards	All standards	All development	Requirement must be met on all adjacent roadway types
3.4 On-street Parking	All standards	Optional for all development	
3.5 Connectivity and Circulation	3.5.2 Project Circulation Plan	All projects adding a street(s)	Refer to definition of "street" in Article 6
	3.5.3 Block Standards	All development	
	3.5.4 Curb-cut Spacing Standards	All development	
	3.5.5 Curb-cut Dimensional Standards	All development	
	3.5.7 Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Vehicular Connectivity	All development	
Article 4 Site Development Standards:			
4.4 Relationship of Buildings to Streets and Walkways	4.4.3 Building Placement	All development	-Required along the principal street -Corner site provisions apply
	4.4.4 Supplemental Zones	Optional for all development	-Basic Standard for all roadway types -Separate Active Edge standard

Figure 1-3: Applicability Summary Table – TOD Design Standards (cont.)
(see Subsection 1.2.3 for general applicability of TOD Design Standards)

Section:	Standard:	Applies to:	Application Details:
Article 4 Site Development Standards (cont.):			
4.5 Off-street Parking	All standards	All development	Requirement must be met on all adjacent roadway types
4.6 Exterior Lighting	All standards	All development except: single family, single family attached, duplex, two-family, and townhouse development	Requirement must be met on all adjacent roadway types
4.7 Screening of Equipment and Utilities	All standards	All development except local utility services, electric service transformers within the right-of-way, and telecommunications towers	Requirement must be met on all adjacent roadway types
4.8 Sign Regulations	All standards	All development	Requirement must be met on all adjacent roadway types
4.9 Green Infrastructure	All standards	All development except: single family, single family attached, duplex, two-family, and townhouse development	
4.10 Private Common Open Space and Pedestrian Amenities	All standards	All development sites larger than two acres	Projects that utilize a density and/or density & height bonus are exempt from this requirement
Article 5 Building Design Standards:			
5.3 Building Entrances	5.3.1 Building Entrance Standards for Pedestrians	All development	-Required along the principal street and active edges -Corner site provisions apply
	5.3.2 Building Entrance and Exit Standards for Vehicles	All development except: single family, single family attached, duplex, two-family, and townhouse development and emergency service facilities	Corner site provisions apply
5.4 Window Glazing	5.4.3 Window Glazing Standards	All mixed use and non-residential development and development along an active edge	-Required along the principal street -Corner site provisions apply -Exemptions include: building facades facing loading areas, rear service areas, or facades adjoining other buildings (attached to more than 50 percent of the sidewall)
		Development containing only residential units not along an active edge except: single family, single family attached, duplex, two-family, and townhouse development	-Required along the principal street -Same exemptions as above

Figure 1-3: Applicability Summary Table – TOD Design Standards (cont.)
(see Subsection 1.2.3 for general applicability of TOD Design Standards)

Article 5 Building Design Standards (cont.):			
5.5 Shade and Shelter	All standards	All mixed use and non-residential development and development along an active edge	Required along the principal street and along parking adjacent to a building facade
5.6 Building Façade Articulation	All standards	Building facades greater than 100 feet in length	Required along the principal street
		Building facades, or portions of building facades, greater than 40 feet in length	Requirement must be met on all building facades adjacent to any roadway type
5.7 Active Edges	All standards	Development along an active edge designation	Specific use and design requirements apply

1.2.2. Land Use, Density, General Development Standards, Development Bonuses, and Parkland Dedication

A. All properties in the Plaza Saltillo TOD District are subject to the following Articles and Sections of this Document (see Figure 1-2):

1. Article 2, Land Use and Density;
2. Section 4.2, General Development Standards;
3. Section 4.3, Development Bonuses; and
4. Section 411, Public Parks and Trails

1.2.3. TOD Design Standards

A. For purposes of applying the design standards in this Document, TOD Design Standards are (see Figure 1-3):

1. Article 3, Circulation, Connectivity, and Streetscape;
2. Article 4, Site Development Standards (except Section 4.2, General Development Standards, Section 4.3, Development Bonuses, and Section 411, Public Parks and Trails); and
3. Article 5, Building Design Standards.

B. General Exemptions from the TOD Design Standards

The following types of development are exempt from the TOD Design Standards of this Document:

1. Development that does not require a site plan under Chapter 25-5-2(B), (C), (E), (F), (G), (H), (I), or (J);
2. Interior remodeling of a building, including interior additions; and
3. Development for which public access is prohibited due to health, safety, public security, and welfare reasons.

C. Full Compliance

Except as provided in Subsections B and D, if a particular standard of this Document is applicable to development on a particular site, then that standard shall be applicable to the following activity:

1. New construction on previously undeveloped land; and
2. New construction and site development, including improvements, where all existing buildings have or will be completely demolished or rendered unusable as determined by the Director, and
3. Any new freestanding building added to a site with existing development.

D. Partial Exemptions

For a project that is not subject to Subsections B and C above, the Director shall determine which standards of this Document apply to the project, or a portion of the project, in accordance with the following requirements:

1. The portion of the project where new buildings are constructed or existing buildings are expanded must comply with Section 4.6 (Exterior Lighting), Section 4.7 (Screening of Equipment and Utilities), and the applicable sidewalk requirements in Section 3.3 (Sidewalk Standards).
2. The portion of the project where new buildings, exterior additions to existing buildings, and remodeled facades are constructed must comply with the requirements of Article 5 (Building Design Standards).
3. Subject to the requirements in Paragraphs a-c of this subsection, all new buildings and additions to existing buildings must comply with the applicable building placement requirements in Section 4.4:

   a. Full compliance with building placement requirements is required unless the Director determines that it cannot be achieved due to:

      (i) The location of existing buildings or other improvements to be retained on the site;
      (ii) The size or magnitude of the proposed addition;
      (iii) The nature of a use to be included in a proposed addition to an existing building that limits placement of that use on the site;
      (iv) Topography, protected trees, or critical environmental features; or
      (v) The location of water quality or detention facilities.

   b. An applicant must carry the burden of establishing that full compliance with building placement requirements cannot be achieved under the criteria in Paragraph a. and must provide all information requested by the Director.
   c. If the Director determines that full compliance cannot be achieved based on the criteria in Paragraph a, an applicant must comply with the building placement requirements to the extent possible.

1.2.4. Exemption from Subchapter E of the Land Development Code

For the area within the Plaza Saltillo TOD District (Figure 1-1), this Document shall control and supersedes all standards and regulations in Chapter 25-2 Document E: Design Standards and Mixed Use.

1.2.5. Conflicting Provisions

A. If the provisions of this Document are inconsistent with provisions found in other adopted codes, ordinances, or regulations of the City of Austin not listed in Subsection B below, this Document shall control unless otherwise expressly provided.

B. The regulations applicable to a Central Urban Redevelopment (CURE) combining district supersede the requirements of this Document to the extent of conflict.

1.2.6. Accessibility

Accessibility, integration and inclusion of people with disabilities are fundamental components of our vision for the future of the City of Austin. This Document shall not supersede any applicable state or federal accessibility statutes and regulations.

Administration and enforcement of this Document shall comply with all such statutes and regulations.

1.2.7. State and Federal Facilities

Compliance with the standards of this Document at all state and federal facilities is strongly encouraged so that the TOD Vision for the Plaza Saltillo Station Area is supported and reinforced.

1.3. REVIEW PROCESS

1.3.1. Standards Applicable During Subdivision Plan Review

The standards contained in the following sections of this Document shall be applied in the normal review process for subdivision plans as set forth in Chapter 25-4 of the Austin Code:

A. Article 2, Land Use and Building Density;

B. Section 3.5, Connectivity and Circulation

C. Section 4.2, General Development Standards;

D. Section 4.10, Private Common Open Space and Pedestrian Amenities; and

E. Section 4.11, Public Parks and Trails

In addition to meeting the review criteria specified in Chapter 25-4, each subdivision plan application shall evidence compliance with the standards listed above.

1.3.2. Standards Applicable During Site Plan Review

The standards contained in the following sections of this Document shall be applied in the normal review process for site plans as set forth in Chapter 25-5 of the Austin Code:

A. Article 2, Land Use and Building Density;

B. Article 3, Circulation, Connectivity, and Streetscape;

C. Article 4, Site Development Standards; and

D. Section 5.5, Shade and Shelter

In addition to meeting the review criteria specified in Chapter 25-5, each site plan application shall evidence compliance with the standards listed above.

1.3.3. Standards Applicable During Building Permit Review

The standards contained in the following sections of this Document shall be applied in the normal review process for building permits as set forth in Chapter 25-11 of the Austin Code:

A. Section 4.6, Exterior Lighting (for fixtures affixed to buildings);

B. Section 4.7, Screening of Equipment and Utilities (for fixtures affixed to buildings); and

C. Article 5, Building Design Standards.

In addition to meeting the review criteria specified in Chapter 25-11, each building permit application shall evidence compliance with the standards listed above.

1.4. ALTERNATIVE EQUIVALENT COMPLIANCE

1.4.1. Purpose and Scope

To encourage creative and original design, and to accommodate projects where the particular site conditions or the proposed use prevent strict compliance with this Document, alternative equivalent compliance allows development to occur in a manner that meets the intent of this Document, yet through an alternative design that does not strictly adhere to the Document's standards. The procedure is intended to be used for relief from a specific design standard or standards, and it is not a general waiver of regulations.

1.4.2. Applicability

The alternative equivalent compliance procedure shall be available only for the following sections of this Document:

A. Section 3.3 - Sidewalk Standards;

B. Section 3.5 Connectivity and Circulation;

C. Section 4.4 - Relationship of Buildings to Streets and Walkways;

D. Subsection 4.5.5 - Parking Design Standards

E. Section 4.6 - Exterior Lighting;

F. Section 4.7 - Screening of Equipment and Utilities;

G. Section 4.8 – Sign Regulations

H. Section 4.9 – Green Infrastructure

I. Section 4.10 – Private Common Open Space and Pedestrian Amenities; and

J. Article 5 - Building Design Standards.

1.4.3. Procedure

The applicant may select at his or her discretion whether to seek an informal recommendation or a formal approval on a proposal for alternative compliance.

A. Option One: Informal Recommendation

1. Pre-Application Conference Required

If an applicant desires only an informal response and recommendation as to a proposal for alternative compliance, he or she shall request and attend a pre-application conference prior to submitting the site plan and/or building permit application for the development. At the conference, the applicant shall provide a written summary of the project and the proposed alternative compliance, and the Director shall offer an informal, non-binding response and recommendation regarding the appropriateness of the proposed alternative. Based on that response, the applicant may prepare a site plan and/or building permit application that proposes alternative compliance, and such application shall include sufficient explanation and justification, in both written and graphic form, for the alternative compliance requested.

2. Decision-Making Responsibility

Final approval of any alternative compliance proposed under this section shall be the responsibility of the decision-making body responsible for deciding upon the application. The final decision-making body for site plans is the either the Director or the appropriate Land Use Commission, as specified in Chapter 25-5, and the building official for building permits.

B. Option Two: Formal Decision

1. Pre-Application Conference

If an applicant desires formal approval of a proposal for alternative compliance, he or she shall request and attend a pre-application conference prior to submitting the site plan and/or building permit application for the development.

2. Alternative Compliance Concept Plan Required

At least ten days prior to the pre-application conference, the applicant shall submit an alternative compliance concept plan application to the Director, which shall include:

a. A written description of and justification for the proposed alternative method of compliance, specifically addressing the criteria in Subsection 1.4.4; and

b. A concept plan that describes and illustrates, in written and graphic format, the intended locations and quantities of proposed buildings on the site, the layout of proposed vehicle and pedestrian access and circulation systems, and areas designated to meet requirements for open space, parking, on-site amenities, utilities, and landscape. The concept plan shall describe the site's topography and shall provide a general description of environmental characteristics to assist in determining compliance with this Document. If alternative compliance

is requested from the standards of Article 5 Building Design Standards, the concept plan also shall include descriptions and illustrations of the proposed building design elements that would not comply with the standards of this Document.

3. Decision by Director

The Director, in coordination with the Urban Design Division in the Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department, shall review the concept plan for compliance with the criteria in Subsection 1.4.4 and shall approve, approve with conditions, or deny the concept plan in writing.

4. Expiration of Alternative Compliance Concept Plans

a. An approved alternative compliance concept plan shall expire if three years pass following its approval and no building permit that implements the concept plan has been issued.

b. One, one-year extension may be issued by the Director provided that a written request has been received prior to the expiration of the concept plan, and the Director has determined that no major changes in the City's development standards, or changes in the development pattern of the surrounding properties, have occurred.

5. Effect of Approval

Written approval of an alternative compliance concept plan does not authorize any development activity, but rather authorizes the applicant to prepare a site plan and/or building permit application that incorporates the approved alternative compliance, and authorizes the decision-making body (either the Land Use Commission or the Director for site plans, and the building official for building permits) to review the site plan and/or building permit application for compliance with the alternative compliance concept plan, in addition to all other applicable requirements. The site plan and/or building permit application shall include a copy of the approved alternative compliance concept plan.

6. Amendments to Alternative Compliance Concept Plans

a. Minor amendments to any approved alternative compliance concept plan may be approved, approved with conditions, or denied administratively by the Director. For purposes of this provision, minor amendments are those that do not result in:

(i) An increase of 10 percent or more in the amount of square footage of a land use or structure;

(ii) A change in the types of uses in the project;

(iii) An increase or decrease of 20 percent or more in the number of dwelling units in the project; or

(iv) A change that would bring the project out of compliance with any requirement or regulation set forth in the City Code outside this Document unless a variance to or waiver from such requirement or regulation is obtained.

b. Amendments that are not determined by the Director to be minor amendments under Subsection a. above shall be deemed major amendments. The applicant may seek approval of a major amendment by re-submitting the original approved plan along with the proposed amendment to the Director for review in the same manner prescribed in Subsection B.2. above.

c. If any site plan and/or building permit application includes a major amendment from the terms of the approved concept plan that has not been approved by the Director, the concept plan shall be void and the application shall be reviewed for compliance with the standards of this Document and all other applicable requirements.

1.4.4. Criteria

Alternative equivalent compliance may be approved only if the applicant demonstrates that the following criteria have been met:

A. The proposed alternative will perform as well or better than the standard or standards being modified and achieves the intent of the subject Article of this Document from which the alternative is sought; or

B. The proposed alternative achieves the intent of the subject Article of this Document from which the alternative is sought to the maximum extent practicable and is necessary because:

1. Physical characteristics unique to the subject site (such as, but not limited to, slopes, size, shape, and vegetation) make strict compliance with the subject standard impracticable or unreasonable; or

2. Physical design characteristics unique to the proposed use or type of use make strict compliance with the subject standard impracticable or unreasonable.

C. In the case of multiple alternative equivalent compliance or variance requests, the Director shall consider the cumulative affect they would have on meeting the intent statements in Sections 1.1, 2.2, 3.1, 4.1, or 5.1.

1.4.5. Effect of Approval

Alternative compliance shall apply only to the specific site for which it is requested and shall not establish a precedent for approval of other requests.

1.5. NONCONFORMING USES AND NONCOMPLYING STRUCTURES

All properties within the Plaza Saltillo Station Area shall remain subject to Article 7 Nonconforming Uses and Article 8 Noncomplying Structures in the City LDC Sections 25-2-941 through 25-2-964. With reference to Article 7, all uses are governed by Group “D” regulations prescribed by Section 25-2-947.

1.6. TEXT AND GRAPHICS WITHIN THIS DOCUMENT

This Document was created with numerous images to enhance understanding and comprehension by providing visual aids to some of the standards. However, in the event of a conflict or inconsistency between the text of this document and any heading, caption, figure, illustration, table, or map, the text shall control. Graphics and pictures contained in this Document are by way of example only and are not substantive requirements. Such graphics and pictures demonstrate one method of compliance with the standards set forth in this Document but do not preclude other methods for achieving compliance.

ARTICLE 2: LAND USE AND BUILDING DENSITY

2.1. APPLICABILITY

Regulation:	Application:
Article 2 **Land Use and Density**	All properties in the Plaza Saltillo TOD District must comply with the standards in this section

2.2. INTENT

The TOD Subdistricts are used as a tool to create lively, walkable, healthy, livable areas where people are able to reduce vehicle usage without sacrificing access to neighborhood amenities. To accomplish this, the intent of Article 2 is to:

2.2.1. Encourage transit-supportive land uses, which generally have higher densities near transit stops, thereby promoting greater transit ridership;

2.2.2. Create opportunities for shorter, multi-purpose trips by encouraging a mix of uses within the Plaza Saltillo TOD District;

2.2.3. Locate the highest level of activity and mix of uses in the TOD District around transit and along major streets; and

2.2.4. Provide for and encourage development and redevelopment that contains a compatible mix of residential, commercial services, and employment within close proximity to each other and to transit.

2.3. TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT SUBDISTRICTS

2.3.1. TOD Subdistricts General

A. Subdistrict Types and Location

1. Plaza Saltillo TOD Subdistricts are divided into residential and mixed use categories.
2. The location of the residential and mixed-used Subdistricts in the Plaza Saltillo TOD District is depicted in Figure 2-1.

B. Residential

1. The residential subdistrict is called TOD Low Density Residential.

2. This subdistrict imposes minimum density limits since a principal goal of TOD is to concentrate people and activity centers around transit and achieve a density higher than the surrounding community average.
3. This subdistrict is intended exclusively for residential uses.

C. Mixed-Use

1. There are three Mixed Use Subdistricts: Live/Work Flex, TOD Mixed-Use, and Corridor Mixed-Use.
2. Mixed-use Subdistricts permit and encourage, but do not require, combinations of commercial, office, light manufacturing, civic, and residential uses within a building or a site.
3. In key locations, designated as "active edges" on Figure 2-1, ground floor space must be designed to accommodate active non-residential uses as established in Section 5.7.
4. The Live/Work Flex Subdistrict also imposes a minimum density, as it is intended to function primarily as a residential district due to its proximity to existing lower density neighborhoods adjacent to the TOD.
5. The TOD Mixed Use Subdistrict achieves a minimum density using a minimum height requirement instead of a minimum number of units, as required in the Residential and Live/Work Flex Subdistricts. This allows for more flexibility in certain areas of the TOD to accommodate projects that contain either residential or non-residential development or both.
6. The Mixed Use Subdistricts vary in terms of use, development intensity, and level of urban character.

2.3.2. Plaza Saltillo Station Area Plan Land Use and Design Concept Plan Map

The Land Use and Design Concept Plan Map (Figure 2-1) shows the extent of each Subdistrict within the Plaza Saltillo TOD District.

2.3.3. TOD Low Density Residential Subdistrict

A. Typology

Low Density Residential is considered "low" in the context of a TOD District, since development may be a step up in density from surrounding single-family neighborhoods. It allows for development such as single-

family homes, townhomes, rowhouses, and lower density condominium and apartment development.

B. Density Standards

1. Minimum Density: 9 dwelling units per acre.
2. Maximum Density: 16 dwelling units per acre.

C. Land Use

Permitted, conditional, and prohibited uses are shown in Figure 2-2.

2.3.4. TOD Live / Work Flex Subdistrict

A. Typology

Live /Work units are a type of mixed-use development combining commercial, office, and/or light manufacturing space within the same structure as a residential living space for the business owner. They have similar benefits to mixed-use development and may eliminate altogether the need to commute to work. In addition, they can provide affordable work and housing space, meet the needs of special groups such as artisans, and serve to incubate new businesses. The Live/Work Flex Subdistrict is intended to be a predominantly residential area that allows for some specific non-residential use. Residential is a required use of this Subdistrict. If non-residential is provided as a component, connecting commercial and residential units is not required.

B. Density Standards:

1. Minimum Density: 17 Dwelling Units per acre.
2. Maximum Density: 45 Dwelling Units per acre (unless a development bonus is utilized); maximum Floor Area Ratios (FAR) are established in Subsection 4.2.8.

C. Land Use

Permitted, conditional, and prohibited uses are shown in Figure 2-2.

2.3.5. TOD Mixed-Use Subdistrict

A. Typology

TOD Mixed-Use is the most intensively developed land use zone and will typically be expressed as high density residential over active ground floor uses, such as retail. This land use designation is concentrated near the transit station and along primary streets that lead to it. In

specific TOD Mixed Use locations, active edges are drawn to define the orientation of the buildings and the ideal location of retail frontage. Typically active edges are at key intersections along major streets and along streets with high visibility. Active edges require that the ground floor space be designed to accommodate non-residential uses and have a higher design standard to promote the urban character of the area and generally allow the same types of uses as in the TOD Mixed Use Subdistrict. Specific design standards pertaining to active edges are in Article 5.

B. Density Standards:

1. Minimum Density: There is no minimum density but a minimum of two stories is required as established in Subsection 4.2.10.
2. Maximum Density: 45 Dwelling Units per acre (unless a development bonus is utilized); maximum Floor Area Ratios (FAR) are established in Subsection 4.2.8.

C. Land Use

Permitted, conditional, and prohibited uses are shown in Figure 2-2.

2.3.6. TOD Corridor Mixed-Use Subdistrict

A. Typology

TOD Corridor Mixed Use is the most permissive Mixed Use Subdistrict in terms of use and does not require that ground floor space be designed to accommodate active non-residential uses, although it is encouraged. This Subdistrict is generally located on arterial streets farther away from the transit station, and as such, no minimum density is required. A wide array of retail, office, and residential uses are permitted.

B. Density Standards:

1. Minimum Density: None
2. Maximum Density: 45 Dwelling Units per acre (unless a development bonus is utilized); maximum Floor Area Ratios (FAR) are established in Subsection 4.2.8.

C. Land Use

1. Permitted, conditional, and prohibited uses are shown in Figure 2-2.

2. Properties on the north side of E. 7th Street
Properties located on the north side of E. 7th Street shall comply with the permitted, conditional, and prohibited uses that apply to the TOD Mixed Use Subdistrict according to Figure 2-2 with the following exceptions:

a. A cocktail lounge use and a liquor sales use are additional prohibited uses.
b. Single-family, Duplex, Two-family, Single-family attached, and Townhouse Residential are additional permitted uses.

2.3.7. Drive-through Facility

A use with a Drive-through Facility is prohibited throughout the TOD District.

2.3.8. Land Use Summary Table

The Land Use Summary Table in Figure 2-2 establishes the permitted, conditional, and prohibited uses according to TOD Subdistrict and any additional regulations that apply to a particular use in a specific subdistrict.

Figure 2-1: Plaza Saltillo Station Area Plan TOD Subdistricts

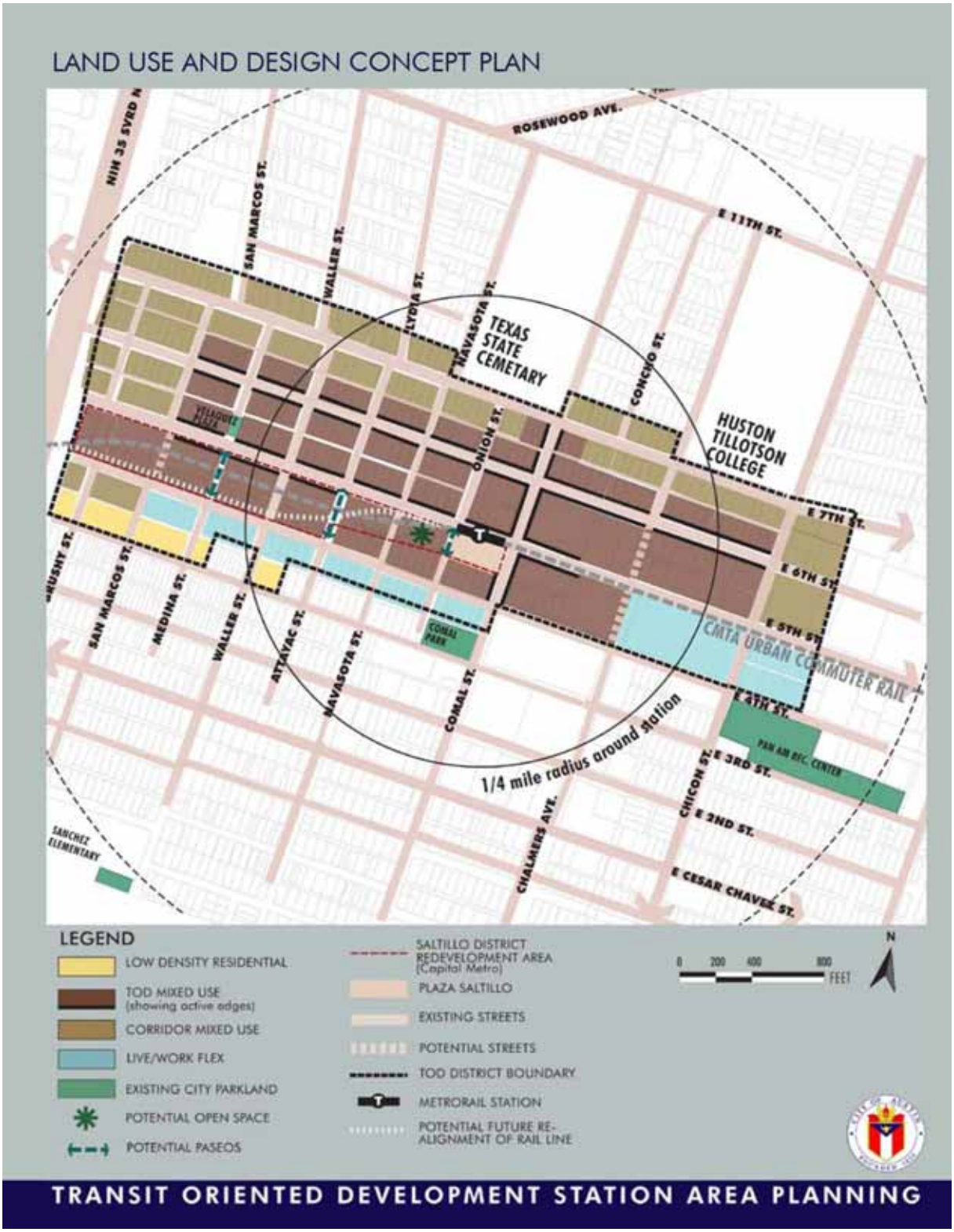


Figure 2-2: Plaza Saltillo TOD DISTRICT LAND USE TABLE

P = Permitted Use C = Conditional Use -- = Prohibited

RESIDENTIAL USES	Low Density Residential	Live / Work Flex	TOD Mixed Use	Corridor Mixed Use (refer to Subsection 2.3.6)	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
Bed & Breakfast (Group 1)	P	P	P	P	
Bed & Breakfast (Group 2)	P	P	P	P	
Condominium Residential	P	P	P	P	
Duplex Residential	P	--	--	--	
Group Residential	P	P	P	P	
Mobile Home Residential	--	--	--	--	
Multifamily Residential	P	P	P	P	
Retirement Housing (Small Site)	P	--	P	P	
Retirement Housing (Large Site)	P	--	P	P	
Single-Family Attached Residential	P	--	--	--	
Single-Family Residential	P	--	--	--	
Townhouse Residential	P	P	--	--	
Two-Family Residential	P	--	--	--	
COMMERCIAL USES	**Low DR**	**L / W Flex**	**TOD MU**	**Corridor Mixed Use (refer to Subsection 2.3.6)**	**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**
Administrative and Business Offices	--	P	P	P	
Agricultural Sales and Services	--	--	--	--	

Figure 2-2: Plaza Saltillo TOD DISTRICT LAND USE TABLE

P = Permitted Use C = Conditional Use -- = Prohibited

COMMERCIAL USES (cont.)	Low DR	L / W Flex	TOD MU	Corridor Mixed Use (refer to Subsection 2.3.6)	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
Art Gallery	--	P	P	P	
Art Workshop	--	P	P	P	
Automotive Rentals	--	--	P	P	All fleet cars, in addition to required parking, must meet all applicable design requirements in this Document. A maximum of 10 fleet cars is allowed in the TOD Mixed Use Subdistrict and a maximum of 20 fleet cars is allowed in the Corridor Mixed Use Subdistrict.
Automotive Repair Services	--	--	--	--	
Automotive Sales	--	--	--	--	
Automotive Washing (of any type)	--	--	--	P	Not allowed within 100' of corner. The use must meet must meet all applicable design requirements in this Document.
Bail Bond Services	--	--	--	--	
Building Maintenance Services	--	--	--	--	
Business or Trade School	--	--	P	P	
Business Support Services	--	--	P	P	
Campground	--	--	--	--	
Carriage Stable	--	--	--	--	
Cocktail Lounge	--	--	C	C	
Commercial Blood Plasma Center	--	--	--	P	Permitted subject to LDC Section 25-2-803
Commercial Off-Street Parking	--	--	P	P	A commercial off-street parking use may not exceed one acre in site size. It may not be located within 100 feet of a corner. Not more than one commercial off-street parking use site may be located within a single block. The use must meet must meet all applicable design requirements in this Document.
Communications Services	--	--	P	P	
Construction Sales and Services	--	--	--	P	

Figure 2-2: Plaza Saltillo TOD DISTRICT LAND USE TABLE

P = Permitted Use C = Conditional Use -- = Prohibited

COMMERCIAL USES (cont.)	Low DR	L / W Flex	TOD MU	Corridor Mixed Use (refer to Subsection 2.3.6)	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
Consumer Convenience Services	--	--	P	P	
Consumer Repair Services	--	P	P	P	
Convenience Storage	--	--	--	--	
Drop-Off Recycling Collection Facility	--	--	--	--	
Electronic Prototype Assembly	--	--	--	--	
Electronic Testing	--	--	--	--	
Equipment Repair Services	--	--	--	--	
Equipment Sales	--	--	--	--	
Exterminating Services	--	--	--	--	
Financial Services	--	P	P	P	
Food Preparation	--	P	P	P	Maximum size of 2000 gross square feet in Live/Work Subdistrict.
Food Sales	--	P	P	P	Maximum size of 2000 gross square feet in Live/Work Subdistrict.
Funeral Services	--	--	--	P	
General Retail Sales (Convenience)	--	P	P	P	
General Retail Sales (General)	--	P	P	P	Maximum size of 2000 gross square feet in Live/Work Subdistrict.
Hotel-Motel	--	--	P	P	
Indoor Entertainment	--	--	--	P	
Indoor Sports and Recreation	--	--	--	P	
Kennels	--	--	P	P	A kennel use must be conducted entirely within an enclosed structure.
Laundry Services	--	--	P	P	No bulk laundry and cleaning plant, diaper services, or linen supply services allowed in TOD Mixed Use.
Liquor Sales	--	--	P	P	

Figure 2-2: Plaza Saltillo TOD DISTRICT LAND USE TABLE

P = Permitted Use C = Conditional Use -- = Prohibited

COMMERCIAL USES (cont.)	Low DR	L / W Flex	TOD MU	Corridor Mixed Use (refer to Subsection 2.3.6)	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
Marina	--	--	--	--	
Medical Offices -- exceeding 5,000 sq. ft. gross floor area	--	--	P	P	
Medical Offices -- not exceeding 5,000 sq. ft. gross floor area	--	P	P	P	Maximum size of 2000 gross square feet in Live/Work Subdistrict.
Monument Retail Sales	--	--	--	--	
Off-Site Accessory Parking	--	--	P	P	An off-street accessory parking use may not exceed one acre in site size. It may not be located within 100 feet of a corner. Not more than one off-site accessory parking use site may be located within a single block. The use must meet must meet all applicable design requirements in this Document.
Outdoor Entertainment	--	--	--	--	
Outdoor Sports and Recreation	--	--	--	--	
Pawn Shop Services	--	--	--	C	
Personal Improvement Services	--	P	P	P	
Personal Services	--	P	P	P	
Pet Services	--	P	P	P	Maximum size of 2000 gross square feet in Live/Work Subdistrict
Plant Nursery	--	--	--	P	
Printing and Publishing	--	--	--	P	
Professional Office	--	P	P	P	
Recreational Equipment Maintenance & Storage	--	--	--	--	
Recreational Equipment Sales	--	--	--	--	
Research Assembly Services	--	--	--	--	
Research Services	--	--	--	--	
Research Testing Services	--	--	--	--	

Figure 2-2: Plaza Saltillo TOD DISTRICT LAND USE TABLE

P = Permitted Use C = Conditional Use -- = Prohibited

COMMERCIAL USES (cont.)	Low DR	L / W Flex	TOD MU	Corridor Mixed Use (refer to Subsection 2.3.6)	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
Research Warehousing Services	--	--	--	--	
Restaurant (General)	--	--	P	P	
Restaurant (Limited)	--	--	P	P	
Scrap and Salvage	--	--	--	--	
Service Station	--	--	--	P	A service station use may have the capability of fueling not more than eight vehicles at one time.
Software Development	--	P	P	P	
Special Use Historic	C	C	C	C	Use must comply with the requirements of LDC Section 25-2-807
Stables	--	--	--	--	
Theater	--	--	P	P	
Vehicle Storage	--	--	--	--	
Veterinary Services	--	--	P	P	A veterinary services use must be conducted entirely within an enclosed structure.

CIVIC USES	Low DR	L / W Flex	TOD MU	Corridor Mixed Use (refer to Subsection 2.3.6)	ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS
Administrative Services	--	--	P	P	
Aviation Facilities	--	--	--	--	
Camp	--	--	--	--	
Cemetery	--	--	--	--	
Club or Lodge	--	--	--	C	

Figure 2-2: Plaza Saltillo TOD DISTRICT LAND USE TABLE

P = Permitted Use C = Conditional Use -- = Prohibited

CIVIC USES (cont.)	Low DR	L / W Flex	TOD MU	Corridor Mixed Use (refer to Subsection 2.3.6)	ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS
College and University Facilities	--	--	P	P	
Communication Service Facilities	P	P	P	P	
Community Events	--	--	--	--	
Community Recreation (Private)	P	P	P	P	
Community Recreation (Public)	P	P	P	P	
Congregate Living	P	P	P	P	
Convalescent Services	P	P	--	P	
Convention Center	--	--	--	--	
Counseling Services	--	P	P	P	
Cultural Services	--	--	P	P	
Day Care Services (Commercial)	P	P	P	P	
Day Care Services (General)	P	P	P	P	
Day Care Services (Limited)	P	P	P	P	
Detention Facilities	--	--	--	--	
Employee Recreation	--	--	--	--	
Family Home	P	P	P	P	
Group Home, Class I (Limited)	P	P	P	P	
Group Home, Class I (General)	C	C	P	P	
Group Home, Class II	--	C	C	P	
Guidance Services	--	P	P	P	
Hospital Services (Limited)	--	--	P	P	
Hospital Services (General)	--	--	--	C	

Figure 2-2: Plaza Saltillo TOD DISTRICT LAND USE TABLE

P = Permitted Use C = Conditional Use -- = Prohibited

CIVIC USES (cont.)	Low DR	L / W Flex	TOD MU	Corridor Mixed Use (refer to Subsection 2.3.6)	ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS
Local Utility Services	C	C	C	P	
Maintenance and Service Facilities	--	--	--	--	
Major Utility Facilities	--	--	--	--	
Military Installations	--	--	--	--	
Park and Recreation Services (General)	P	P	P	P	
Park and Recreation Services (Special)	--	--	--	--	
Postal Facilities	--	--	--	--	
Private Primary Educational Facilities	P	P	P	P	
Private Secondary Educational Facilities	P	P	P	P	
Public Primary Educational Facilities	P	P	P	P	
Public Secondary Educational Facilities	P	P	P	P	
Qualified Community Garden	P	P	P	P	Subject to LDC Section 8-4
Railroad Facilities	--	--	--	--	
Religious Assembly	P	P	P	P	
Residential Treatment	--	C	C	P	
Safety Services	C	P	P	P	
Telecommunication tower	P	P	P	P	Subject to LDC Section 25-2-839 (13-2-235 and 13-2-273). A telecommunications tower must be located on top of a building or be an architectural component of the building. Free standing towers are prohibited.
Transitional Housing	--	--	--	C	
Transportation Terminal	--	--	P	P	Use is conditional if operated by a private entity

Figure 2-2: Plaza Saltillo TOD DISTRICT LAND USE TABLE

P = Permitted Use C = Conditional Use -- = Prohibited

INDUSTRIAL USES	Low DR	L / W Flex	TOD MU	Corridor Mixed Use (refer to Subsection 2.3.6)	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
Basic Industry	--	--	--	--	
Custom Manufacturing	--	P	P	P	
General Warehousing and Distribution	--	--	--	--	
Light Manufacturing	--	P	--	--	
Limited Warehousing and Distribution	--	--	--	--	
Recycling Center	--	--	--	--	
Resource Extraction	--	--	--	--	
Stockyards	--	--	--	--	

AGRICULTURAL USES	Low DR	L / W Flex	TOD MU	Corridor Mixed Use (refer to Subsection 2.3.6)	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
Animal Production	--	--	--	--	
Crop Production	--	--	--	--	
Horticulture	--	--	--	--	
Support Housing	--	--	--	--	
Urban Farm	--	--	--	--	

ARTICLE 3: CIRCULATION, CONNECTIVITY AND STREETSCAPE

3.1. INTENT

The standards of Article 3 are intended to:

3.1.1. Ensure that site design promotes efficient pedestrian and vehicle circulation patterns;

3.1.2. Ensure the creation of a high-quality street and sidewalk environment that is supportive of pedestrian and transit mobility and that is appropriate to the roadway context;

3.1.3. Provide a convenient, safe, and pleasant pedestrian system appropriate for people of all ages and abilities;

3.1.4. Ensure that trees, sidewalks, and buildings – three of the major elements that make up a streetscape – are arranged in a manner that supports the creation of a safe, human-scaled, and well-defined roadway environment;

3.1.5. Ensure that there are multiple travel route options for all transportation modes in and around the TOD District;

3.1.6. Ensure that vehicular parking is accommodated in a manner that enriches and supports, rather than diminishes, the roadside pedestrian environment, and that does not create a barrier between the roadside environment and the roadside buildings; and

3.1.7. Ensure that sites are developed in a manner that supports and encourages connectivity for all modes of travel and that new and existing development, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and open spaces complement and link to one another.

3.2. OVERVIEW OF ROADWAY TYPES

3.2.1. Applicability is Based on Adjacent Roadway and Type of Development

This Document recognizes that transportation facility design must be integrated with the land uses and development it serves. The provisions in this Article focus on creating or maintaining circulation and easy access for all modes of travel. Because roadways provide both access to a site and define the urban design framework of the city, roadway types are used in this Article as an organizing tool to establish street and pedestrian facility standards. This approach is intended to help ensure a cohesive

development pattern along streets and to create safe, pleasant, and convenient walking environments.

The following types of roadways are identified in this Document:

A. TOD Core Transit Corridors include roadways that have or will have a sufficient population density, mix of uses, and transit facilities to encourage and support transit use. TOD Core Transit Corridors are shown in Figure 3-4, Circulation Concept Plan. These streets carry, or are intended to carry, the highest level of vehicular, transit, and possibly pedestrian flow and have the highest level of visibility, being most appropriate for non-residential and mixed use development (see Figure 3-1).

B. TOD Pedestrian Priority Streets are roadways that serve as primary pedestrian routes within the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area boundaries shown in Figure 3-4. These streets typically lead directly to a transit facility and together with the TOD Core Transit Corridors, form an interconnected street network (see Figure 3-2).

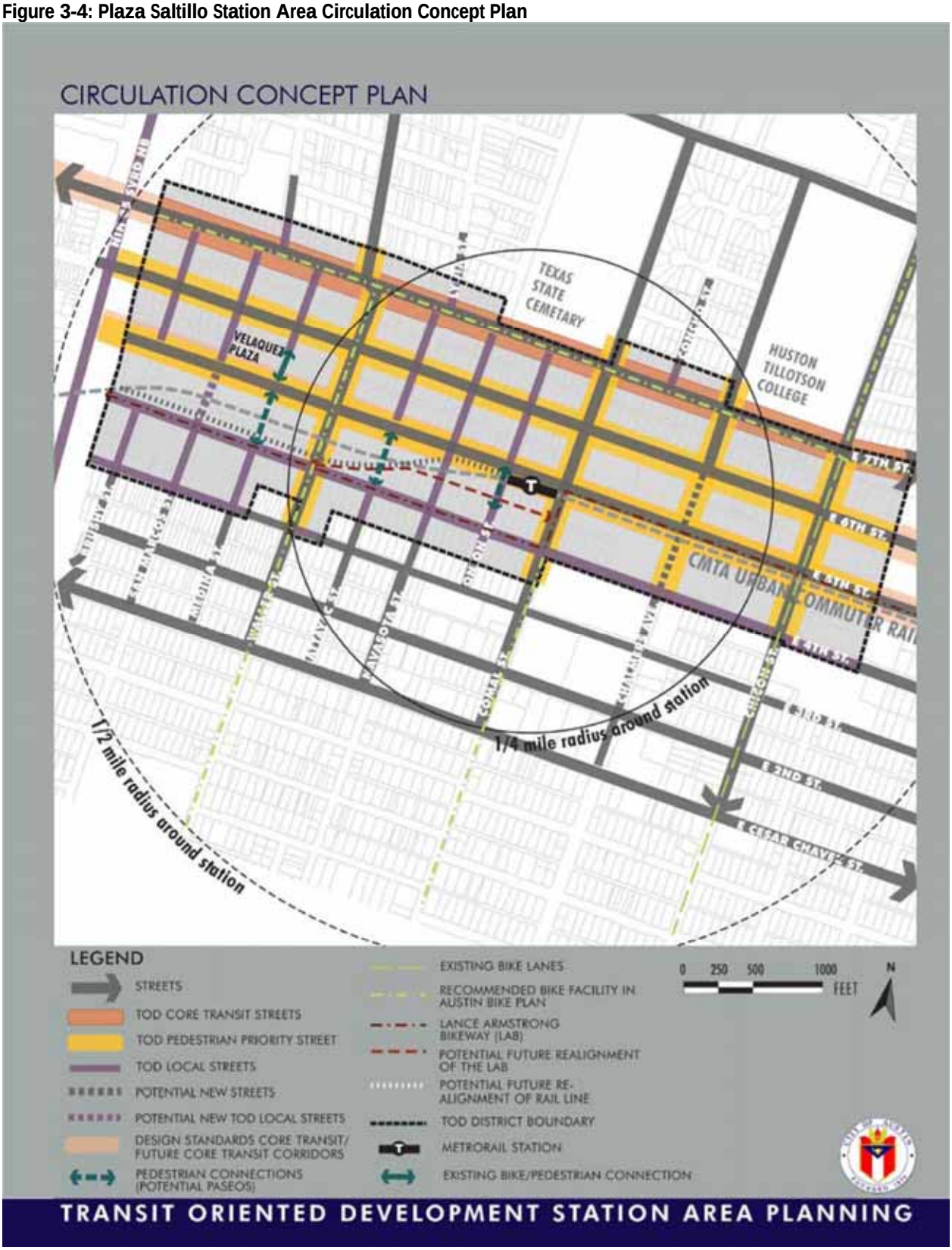
C. TOD Local Streets are existing or new streets within the Plaza Saltillo TOD SAP boundary not designated as either a TOD Core Transit Corridor or Pedestrian Priority Street, as shown in Figure 3-4. These streets make up the finer grained street network; while pedestrian accommodation is still prioritized, it is not at the level of the other two roadway types (see Figure 3-3).

Figure 3-1: Example of a TOD Core Transit Corridor (South Congress)

Figure 3-2: Example of a TOD Pedestrian Priority Street

Figure 3-3: Example of a TOD Local Street

Figure 3-4: Plaza Saltillo Station Area Circulation Concept Plan



3.3. SIDEWALK STANDARDS

3.3.1. Applicability

Article 3 Circulation, Connectivity, and Streetscape:	Applies to:	Application Details:
Section 3.3 Sidewalk Standards	All development	Requirement must be met on all adjacent roadway types

3.3.2. TOD Core Transit Corridors

A. In order to create an environment that is supportive of pedestrian and transit mobility, public sidewalks shall be located along both sides of all TOD Core Transit Corridors. No sidewalk shall be less than 15 feet in width, unless otherwise approved as part of the site plan review process. The 15-foot minimum requirement shall apply regardless of the available right-of-way. Where required, the sidewalk shall extend onto private property to fulfill the 15-foot minimum requirement, with a sidewalk easement provided. Sidewalks shall consist of two zones: a street tree/furniture zone located adjacent to the curb, and a clear zone (see Figure 3-5). The following standards shall apply:

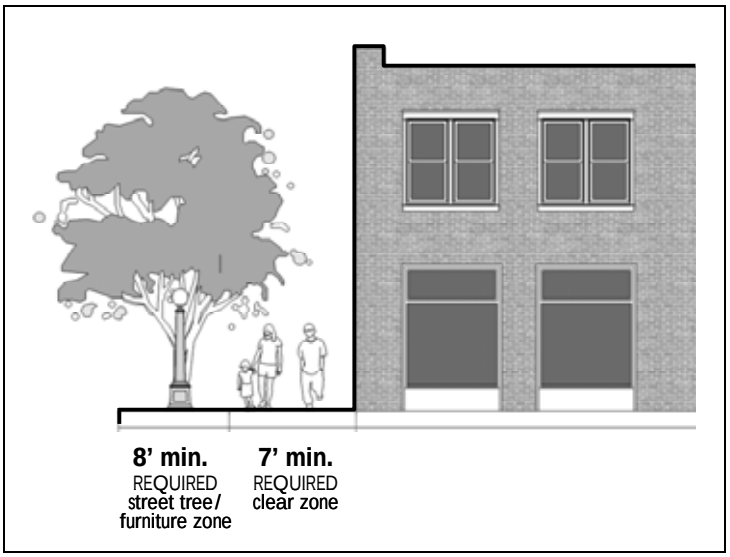


Figure 3-5: TOD Core Transit Corridor sidewalk requirements. Street trees are required along TOD Core Transit Corridors with an average spacing not greater than 30 feet on center.

1. **Street Tree/Furniture Zone**
   a. The street tree/furniture zone shall have a minimum width of eight feet (from face of curb) and shall be continuous and located adjacent to the curb.
   b. The zone shall be planted with street trees at an average spacing not greater than 30 feet on center. The Watershed Protection and Development Review maintains a list of acceptable street trees for purposes of this section.
   c. In addition, while not required, the zone is intended for the placement of street furniture including seating, street lights, waste receptacles, fire hydrants, traffic signs, newspaper vending boxes, bus shelters, bicycle racks, public utility equipment such as electric transformers and water meters, and similar elements in a manner that does not obstruct pedestrian access or motorist visibility (see Figure 3-6).

Figure 3-6: Street tree/furniture zone

2. **Clear Zone**
   The clear zone shall be a minimum width of seven feet, shall be hardscaped, shall be located adjacent to the street tree/furniture zone, and shall comply with ADA and Texas Accessibility Standards. The clear zone shall be unobstructed by any permanent or nonpermanent element for a minimum width of seven feet and a minimum height of eight feet (see Figure 3-7).

Figure 3-7: Clear zone example

3. **Utilities**
   a. All utility lines shall be underground from the building to the property line. Utility lines within the right-of-way shall be placed underground or relocated to the rear of the site to the maximum extent practicable (see Figure 3-8).

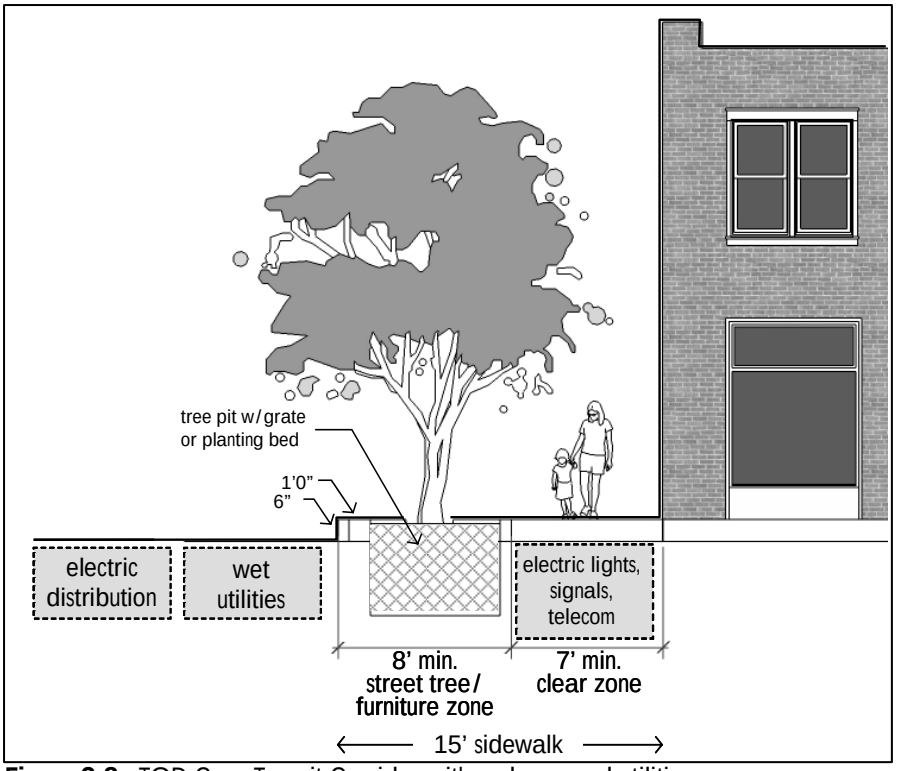


Figure 3-8: TOD Core Transit Corridor with underground utilities.

b. Where electric utilities remain overhead and are located behind the curb, an overhead utility zone shall be provided so that no portion of the building is located within a 10-foot radius of the energized conductor. In addition, street trees shall be set back from an energized conductor by a minimum of ten feet as measured from the centerline of the tree. Options for street tree planting and sidewalk placement in combination with overhead utilities are illustrated in Figures 3-9 and 3-10.

c. Utility compatible trees may be used so that the trees can be located beneath, rather than offset from, the overhead electric utilities if one of the following conditions is met:

(i) If the depth of a lot is 120 feet or less and electric utilities remain overhead and are located behind the curb; or

(ii) If, in order to meet all of the requirements of this section, the building façade would be required to set back 30 feet or more beyond the curb face (Note: if the

requirements of this section can be met within existing right-of-way, utility compatible trees may not be used).

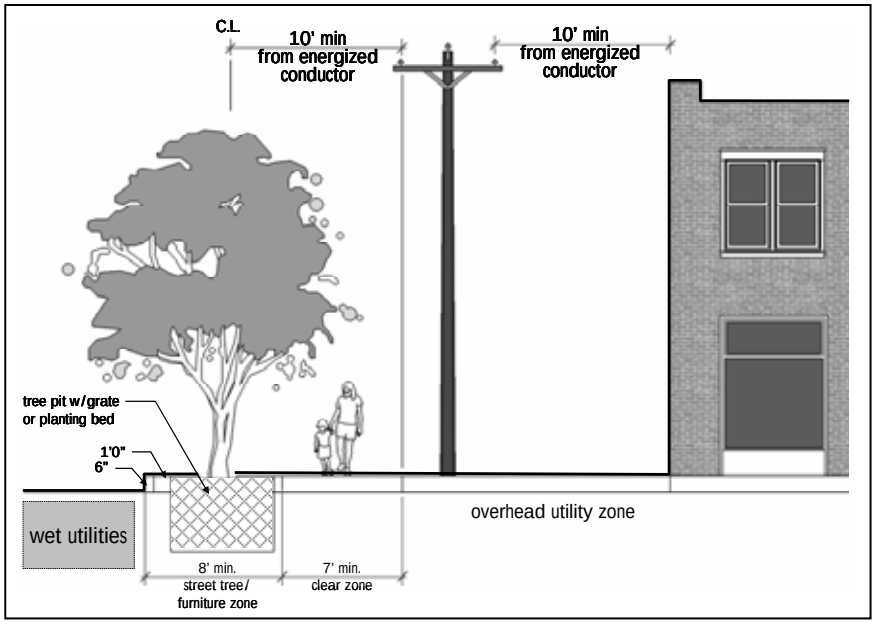


Figure 3-9: TOD Core Transit Corridor with overhead utility zone.

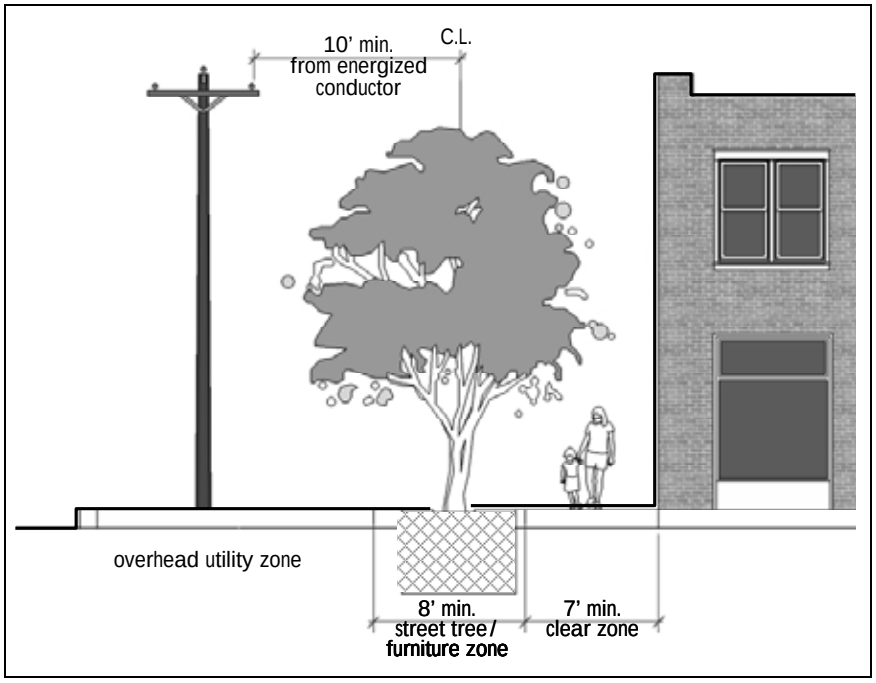


Figure 3-10: TOD Core Transit Corridor with overhead utilities at curb.

4. Alternative Requirements for Shallow Lots
On lots with a depth of 150 feet or less, the total sidewalk may be reduced to 12 feet, consisting of a seven-foot minimum street tree/furniture zone and a five-foot clear zone.

3.3.3. TOD Pedestrian Priority Streets

A. Public sidewalks shall be located along both sides of all TOD Pedestrian Priority Streets. Sidewalks shall be no less than 12 feet in width, unless otherwise approved as part of the site plan review process (see Figure 3-12). The 12-foot minimum requirement shall apply regardless of the available right-of-way. Where required, the sidewalk shall extend onto private property to fulfill the 12-foot minimum requirement, with a sidewalk easement provided. Sidewalks shall consist of two zones: a street tree/furniture zone located adjacent to the curb, and a clear zone. The following standards apply:

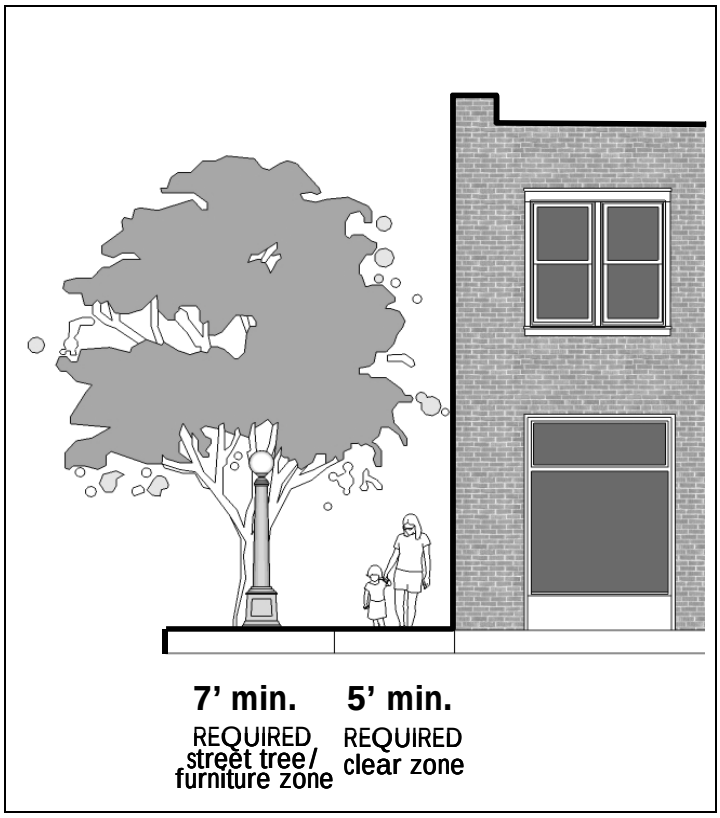


Figure 3-12: TOD Pedestrian Priority Street sidewalk width requirements.

1. Street Tree/Furniture Zone

a. The street tree/furniture zone shall have a minimum width of seven feet and shall be continuous and located adjacent to the curb.

b. The zone shall be planted with street trees that comply with the applicable standards for TOD Core Transit Corridors, as provided in Subsection 3.3.2.

2. Clear Zone

The clear zone shall be a minimum width of five feet, shall be hardscaped, shall be located adjacent to the street tree/furniture zone, and shall comply with ADA and Texas Accessibility Standards. The clear zone shall be unobstructed for a minimum width of five feet and a minimum height of eight feet.

3. Utilities

a. The standards for utility placement along TOD Core Transit Corridors in Subsection 3.3.2 shall also apply to utility placement along TOD Pedestrian Priority Streets (see Figures 3-13, 3-14, and 3-15), except that utility compatible trees may be used so that the trees can be located beneath, rather than offset from, the overhead electric utilities if one of the following conditions is met:

(i) If the depth of a lot is 120 feet or less and electric utilities remain overhead and are located behind the curb; or

(ii) If, in order to meet all of the requirements of this section, the building façade would be required to set back 25 feet or more beyond the curb face (Note: if the requirements of this section can be met within existing right-of-way, utility compatible trees may not be used).

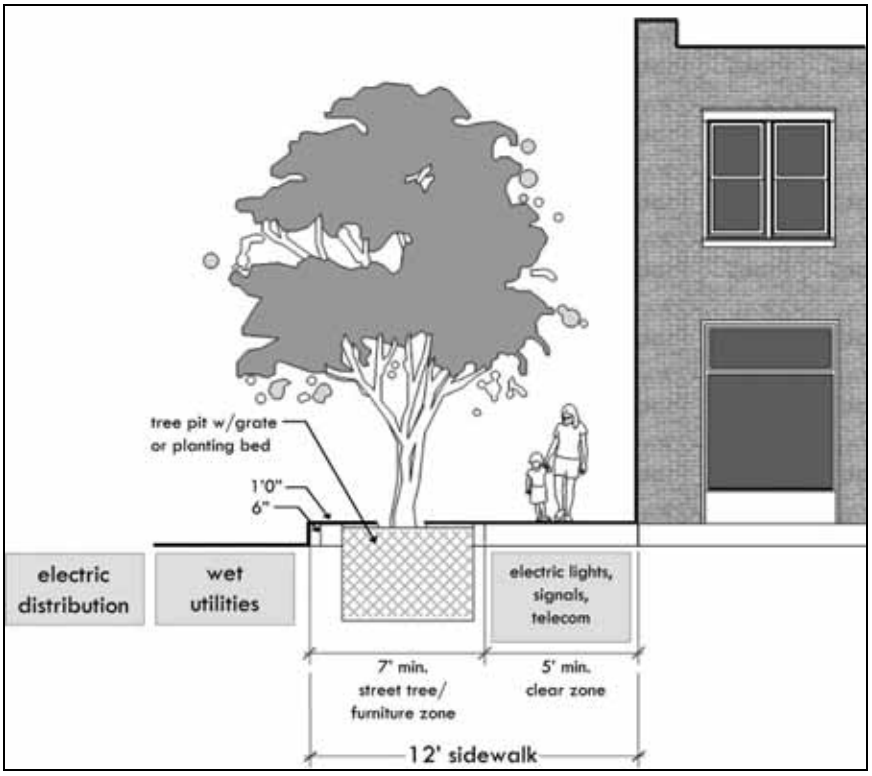


Figure 3-13: Underground Utilities on TOD Pedestrian Priority Street

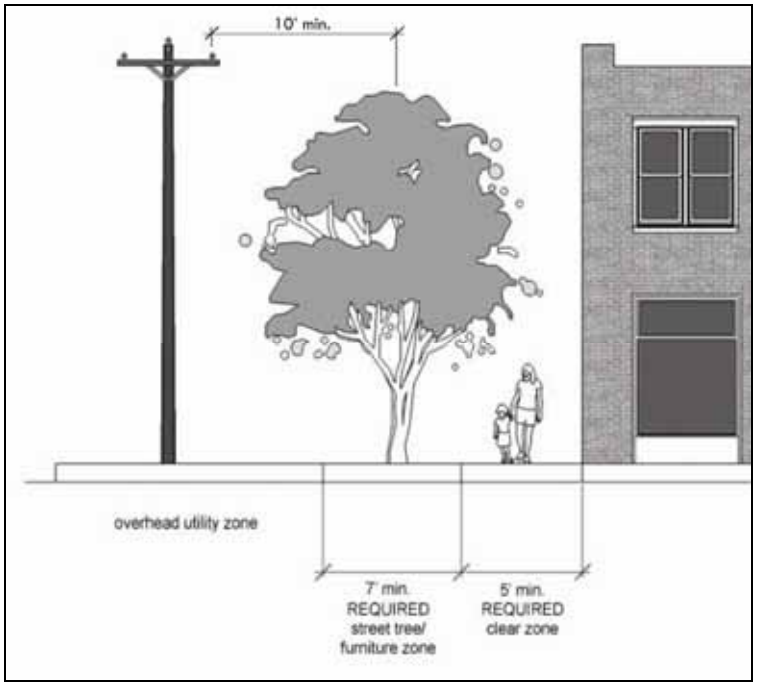


Figure 3-14: TOD Pedestrian Priority Street with overhead utilities at curb.

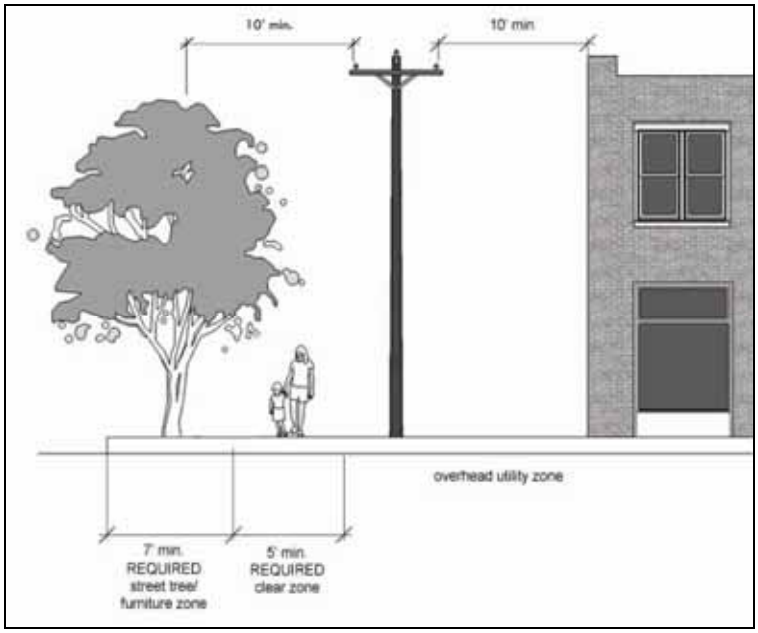


Figure 3-15: TOD Pedestrian Priority Street with interior overhead utility zone.

3.3.4. TOD Local Streets

A. Public sidewalks shall be located along both sides of all TOD Local Streets. Sidewalks shall be no less than 10 feet in width, unless otherwise approved as part of the site plan review process (see Figure 3-16). The 10-foot minimum requirement shall apply regardless of the available right-of-way. Where required, the sidewalk shall extend onto private property to fulfill the 10-foot minimum requirement, with a sidewalk easement provided. Sidewalks shall consist of two zones: a street tree/furniture zone located adjacent to the curb, and a clear zone. However, the street tree/furniture zone may be eliminated when adjacent on-street parallel parking is provided (see Subsection 3.4.3, On-Street Parallel Parking). The following standards apply:

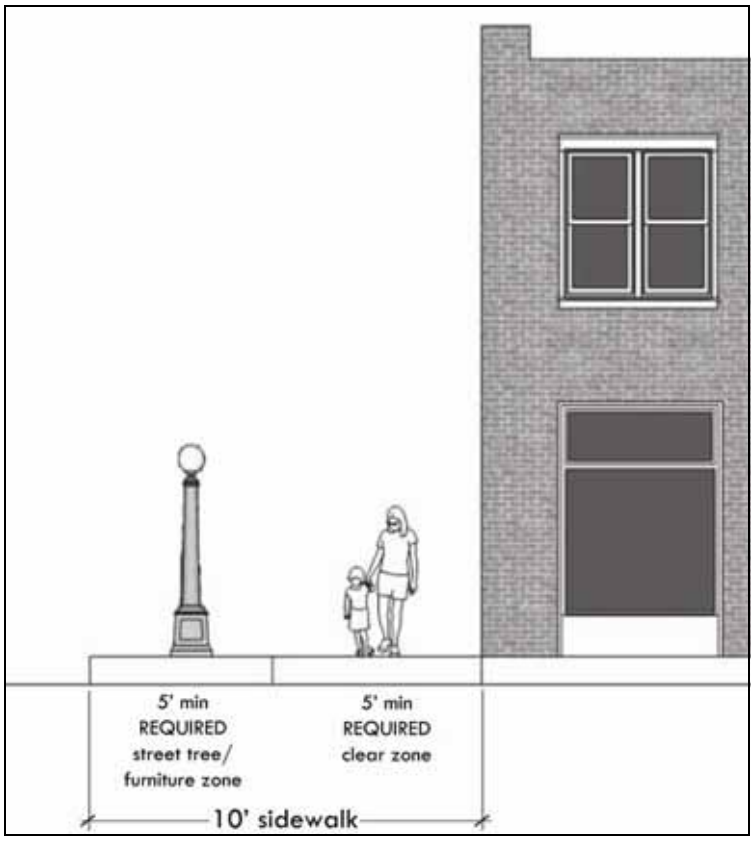


Figure 3-16: TOD Local Street sidewalk width requirements

1. **Street Tree/Furniture Zone**
   - **a.** When provided, the street tree/furniture zone shall have a minimum width of 5 feet and shall be continuous and located adjacent to the curb. The zone may be planted with street trees, landscaping, or be hardscaped.
   - **b.** If street trees are planted, they must either be provided in a 7-foot minimum street tree/furniture zone or in a curb bulb-out if the minimum distance from the face of curb to the edge of clear zone is 7 feet.
   - **c.** When this zone is not provided due to the inclusion of on-street parallel parking, curb bulb-outs shall be provided not less than every 70 feet on center. The minimum width of a curb bulb-out shall be 10 feet in order to accommodate street trees and/or other elements typically included in a street tree/furniture zone (see Figure 3-17).
   - **d.** If the street right-of-way is less than 60 feet in width, development must comply with the front yard setback requirement pursuant to Subsection 4.2.6.

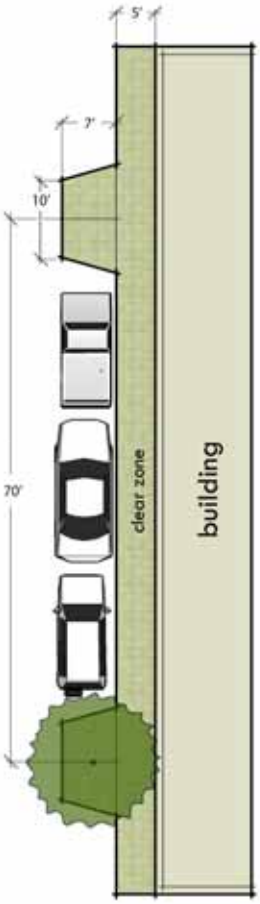


Figure 3-17: On-street parking on TOD Local Street without street tree/furniture zone.

2. **Clear Zone**
   The clear zone shall be a minimum width of 5 feet, shall be hardscaped, and shall be located adjacent to the street tree/furniture zone or the curb when on-street parallel parking is provided. It shall comply with ADA and Texas Accessibility Standards. The clear zone shall be unobstructed for a minimum width of five feet and a minimum height of eight feet.

3. **Utilities**
   The standards for utility placement along TOD Core Transit Corridors in Subsection 3.3.2 shall also apply to utility placement along TOD Local Streets except that utility compatible trees may be used so that if trees are provided, they can be located beneath, rather than offset from, overhead electric utilities if present (see Figure 3-18).

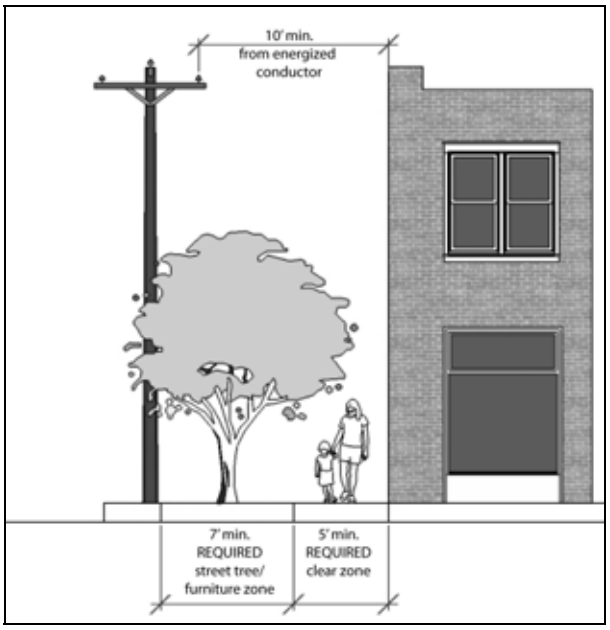


Figure 3-18: Above-Ground Utilities on TOD Local Street with utility compatible tree

3.3.5. Sidewalk Exemption for Edge Streets

If a street(s) is aligned along an interior and/or rear property line and a street connection to adjacent property is not feasible, the sidewalk standards in this section are not required along the outside edge of the street (Figure 3-19).

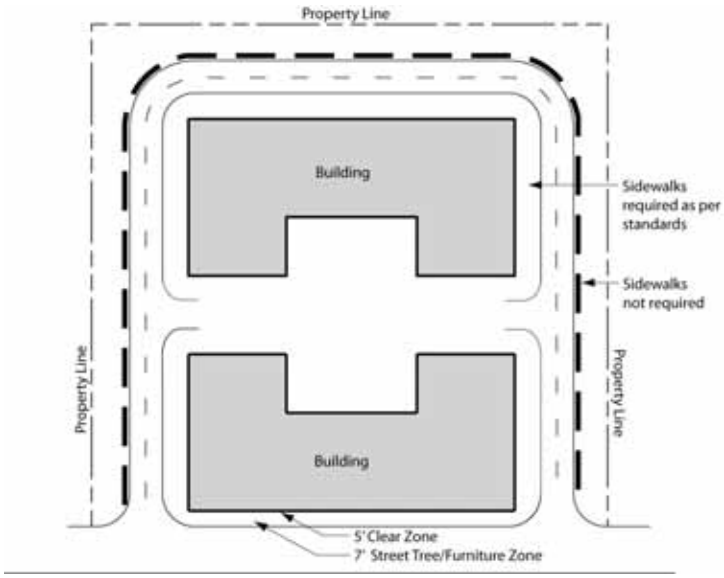


Figure 3-19: Sidewalk exemption on edge streets.

3.4. ON-STREET PARKING

3.4.1. Applicability

Article 3 Circulation, Connectivity, and Streetscape:	Applies to:
Section 3.4 **On-street Parking**	Optional for all development

3.4.2. Purpose

On-street parking is encouraged on all roadway types within the TOD District to serve retail, office, and residential parking needs. It is especially important in areas where there are active edge designations to support ground floor businesses and to serve as a buffer for pedestrian activity along high-volume streets. However, depending on conditions along existing streets in addition to City safety policies and procedures, the provision of on-street parking on all streets within the TOD is subject to the approval of the Director of the Public Works Department and compliance with fire access standards.

3.4.3. On-Street Parallel Parking

A. TOD Core Transit Corridor and Pedestrian Priority Streets.

1. On-street parallel parking is encouraged along the TOD Core Transit Corridor, E. 7th Street, and all TOD Pedestrian Priority Streets, E. 5th, E. 6th, Waller, Comal, and Chicon Streets and Chalmers Avenue as indicated on the Circulation Concept Plan map (see Figure 3-4).
2. The Director of the Public Works Department may determine that such parking is not feasible due to limited right-of-way width or lack of appropriate and adequate easement, transit activity conflict and interference, inadequate sight distance caused by vertical or horizontal curvature of a street, high roadway speeds, or other safety concerns.

3. The design for on-street parallel parking may be accommodated using standard design adjacent to the curb or by providing parking inside the curb line (Figure 3-20).

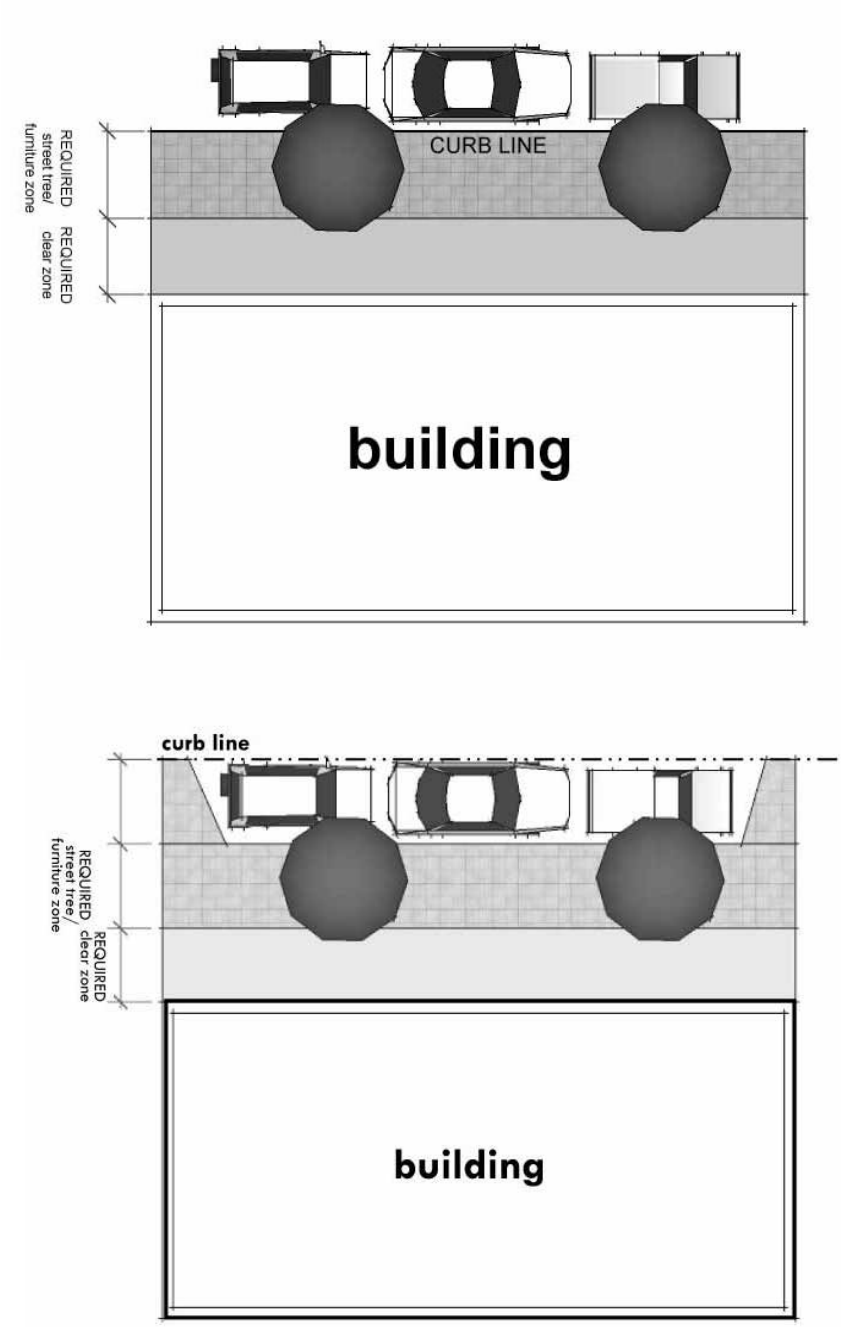


Figure 3-20: On-street parallel parking options; standard design (above) or a design inside the curb line (below).

4. If on-street parking is provided, the sidewalk provisions under Section 3.3 shall continue to apply, with both a clear zone and street tree/furniture zone placed adjacent to the curb at the inside of the parking spaces.

B. TOD Local Streets

1. On-street parallel parking is encouraged along all TOD Local Streets and shall be permitted subject to the approval of the Director of the Public Works Department.
2. If a street tree furniture zone is provided, the design for on-street parallel parking may be accommodated using either standard design or provided inside the curb line (Figure 3-20).
3. If the street/tree furniture zone is not provided, on-street parking shall meet the standards in Subsection 3.3.4.
4. If on-street parking is provided, the sidewalk provisions under Section 3.3 shall continue to apply, with the clear zone (or the optional street tree/furniture zone) placed adjacent to the curb at the inside of the parking spaces.

3.4.4. General On-Street Parking Restrictions

Head-in and angle parking are not allowed on any roadway type in the Plaza Saltillo TOD District.

3.5. CONNECTIVITY AND CIRCULATION

3.5.1. Applicability

Article 3 Circulation, Connectivity, and Streetscape:	Applies to:
Subsection 3.5.2 Project Circulation Plan	All projects adding a street(s). Refer to definition of "street" in Article 6

3.5.2. Project Circulation Plan

All projects that are adding a street(s) must provide a Project Circulation Plan. As part of the subdivision review process (or site plan if a subdivision plan is not required), the Project Circulation Plan shall be developed and reviewed for its consistency with the Plaza Saltillo Station Area Plan Circulation Concept Plan. Because the Plaza Saltillo SAP Circulation Concept Plan illustrates one possible representation of how proper circulation and connectivity can be achieved within the TOD District, the Project Circulation Plan allows for the evaluation of alternative proposals.

The Project Circulation Plan shall propose a specific roadway type for each new street for the purpose of applying the standards of this Document. The Director of NPZD shall review and approve new roadway type designations.

A. The Project Circulation Plan shall demonstrate:

1. How the on-site circulation system will be integrated with surrounding streets, bicycle facilities, trails, existing or future development, etc.
2. How new street design conforms with recommendations made in the Station Area Plan.
3. That the street and pathway system will contribute to safe and convenient pedestrian connections between primary destinations within the Station Area (e.g. transit station, commercial services, parks) and the surrounding neighborhoods.
4. How deviations from the Circulation Concept Plan, both in terms of roadway placement and alignment and active edge placement, are consistent with Section 3.1.
5. How traffic calming methods have been incorporated into the design of new TOD Pedestrian

Priority Streets and new TOD Local Streets that connect to a local neighborhood street. Implementation is subject to the approval of the Director of the Public Works Department. Approved traffic calming devices are outlined in City Transportation Division Guidelines.

B. The Directors of the Neighborhood Planning and Zoning and Watershed Protection and Development Review Departments shall approve a Project Circulation Plan if:

1. It is consistent with the Plaza Saltillo Station Area Circulation Concept Plan or presents alternatives that demonstrate satisfactory compliance with the Concept Plan; and

2. It meets all applicable requirements in the Transportation Criteria Manual (TCM) or presents acceptable alternatives to the standards in the TCM.

A subdivision or site plan may not be approved if the Project Circulation Plan is not approved. The Directors' decision approving or disapproving a Project Circulation Plan is subject to administrative appeal under the requirements of Section 25-1-182 (*Initiating an Appeal*) of the LDC.

3.5.3. Block Standards

A. Applicability

Article 3 Circulation, Connectivity, and Streetscape:	Applies to:
Subsection 3.5.3 Block Standards	All development

B. Maximum Block Size

A site shall be generally divided into internal blocks in a manner consistent with the Plaza Saltillo SAP Circulation Concept Plan. Streets connecting the blocks shall form an interconnected, grid-like transportation system on the site. Notwithstanding the provisions of new streets consistent with the Plaza Saltillo Circulation Concept Plan, the maximum length of any block face shall be 660 feet and the maximum block perimeter shall be 1,800 feet as measured from the curb line (see Figure 3-21) with the following exemptions, subject to the approval of the Director:

1. Block size should not exceed the standards in Subsection B above unless there are special circumstances including, but not limited to: restricted access due to easements, rail right-of-way, natural features (such as waterways and floodplain), and existing development.
2. Contiguous green spaces or parks are not subject to the block-length requirements, but if the green space or park is longer than 500 feet, it must include at a minimum one pedestrian and bicycle shared use path as a mid-block connection. This path shall connect to other existing or planned pedestrian/bicycle routes through the site or adjacent to the site.
3. Contiguous areas adjacent to and following the Capital Metro railway right-of-way are not subject to the block length requirements if they do not extend more than 175 feet away from the rail right-of-way.

C. Mid-block Pathway

For a block face exceeding 500 feet in length, a pedestrian pathway shall be provided as a mid-block route to connect to public streets and/or other existing or planned pedestrian routes through the site or adjacent to the site (see Figure 3-21).

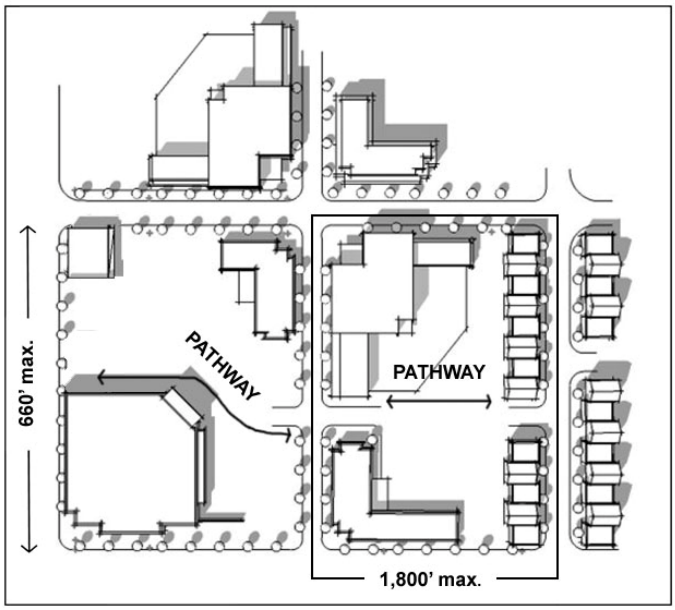


Figure 3-21: Example of a development meeting block standards and mid-block pathways

D. Subdivision of Internal Blocks

Internal blocks abutting new streets may be subdivided to allow for the sale and development of individual blocks without frontage on a public street if the Director determines that the new street is equivalent to a public street in terms of pedestrian and bicycle access, utilities, pavement design, and vehicle access requirements.

3.5.4. Curb Cut Spacing Standards

A. Applicability

Article 3 Circulation, Connectivity, and Streetscape:	Applies to:
Subsection 3.5.4 Curb-cut Spacing Standards	All development

B. General Standards

In addition to the standards under Subsections C and D below, curb-cuts on streets in the TOD District shall be located in accordance with the driveway spacing standards in Section 5 of the Transportation Criteria Manual (TCM).

C. TOD Core Transit Corridors

Curb cuts for vehicular connections between the site and any adjacent TOD Core Transit Corridor shall not occur more frequently than every 330 feet. A TOD Local Street or TOD Pedestrian Priority Street does not count as a curb cut.

D. Small Lots on TOD Core Transit Corridors

For a lot with street frontage less than 50 feet wide adjacent to a TOD Core Transit Corridor (TCTC) or TOD Pedestrian Priority Street (TPPS), access to the lot shall be provided from a single joint use driveway from the TCTC or TPPS; otherwise, access shall be provided from a TOD Local Street or alley.

3.5.5. Curb-Cut Dimensional Standards

A. Applicability

Article 3 Circulation, Connectivity, and Streetscape:	Applies to:
Subsection 3.5.5 Curb-Cut Dimensional Standards	All development

B. Curb-Cut Width Standards

Section 5 of the Transportation Criteria Manual (TCM) specifies driveway standards in 5.3.2 of the TCM. These standards shall continue to apply to residential (Type I) and commercial (Type II) driveways, except as provided in this subsection:

1. The maximum Type I driveway width for single family, duplex, and townhouse residences shall be 18 feet.
2. Driveways along street frontages with an active edge designation are discouraged. When they are deemed necessary by the Director, the maximum Type II driveway width for multi-family residential and commercial uses shall be 30 feet along an active edge.
3. Other Type II driveways within the TOD District shall be no more that 30 feet wide, and they may be expanded to a maximum width of 35 feet when deemed necessary by the Director for proper traffic circulation and access.
4. The maximum curb return radius for all Type II driveways shall be 15 feet. The maximum curb return radius may be expanded when deemed necessary by the Director for proper traffic circulation and access.
5. Sidewalk clear zones crossing a driveway shall be continuous and as straight and level as possible. Curb cuts shall ramp up and down to the level of the sidewalk rather than require additional curb ramps along the sidewalk.

3.5.6. Alleys

Alleys are encouraged to focus specific types of activity "behind the scenes" and to potentially allow for another point of access to the site. Alleys may provide space for, but not limited to, the following: loading areas, trash collection, utility location, and access to parking. Alleys shall

comply with existing City standards in the LDC and shall not substitute for streets required for emergency vehicle access.

3.5.7. Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Vehicular Circulation

A. Applicability

Article 3 Circulation, Connectivity, and Streetscape:	Applies to:
Subsection 3.5.7 Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Vehicular Connectivity	All development

All sites or developments subject to this section shall:

B. Provide private drive or public/private street connections to existing private drives or public/private streets on adjacent sites if feasible;

C. Provide direct pedestrian access from any street adjacent to the property line to a building entrance (the pedestrian access point must be fully accessible during operating hours).

D. Where public parkland is adjacent to the property line, provide pedestrian and bicycle access from the trail or walkway system on that parkland to the building entrance (the pedestrian and bicycle access points must be fully accessible during operating hours and shall meet City standards for pedestrian and bike ways).

ARTICLE 4: SITE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

4.1. INTENT

The standards of Article 4 are intended to:

4.1.1. Ensure that buildings relate appropriately to the surrounding area, create a cohesive visual identity and attractive street scene, and frame the pedestrian environment;

4.1.2. Encourage the provision of affordable housing and mixed income communities around transit through the use of development bonuses in higher activity areas of the TOD District;

4.1.3. Ensure that buildings relate appropriately to their roadway context, allowing for easy pedestrian access to buildings and providing well-defined edges to the roadway environment;

4.1.4. Ensure that building entryways are convenient and easily accessible from the roadside pedestrian system;

4.1.5. Provide opportunities for roadside uses that enliven and enrich the roadway and pedestrian environment, such as outdoor dining, porches, patios, and landscape features;

4.1.6. Ensure that vehicular parking is accommodated in a manner that enriches and supports, rather than diminishes, the pedestrian environment;

4.1.7. Provide adequate, secure, and convenient bicycle parking to meet the needs of the users of a development and to encourage cycling activity;

4.1.8. Ensure that utilities and mechanical equipment are obscured and are not prominent features of a development that negatively impact the visual experience;

4.1.9. Ensure that exterior lighting creates a safe night-time atmosphere and encourages activity in the evening, but does not overwhelm the environment and intrude onto adjacent properties; and

4.1.10. Provide both private and public open space amenities to residents, workers, and visitors of the TOD District so that the urban character of the Station Area is balanced with the open space needs of these populations.

4.2. GENERAL DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

4.2.1. Applicability

Article 4 Site Development Standards	Application:
Section 4.2 **General Development Standards**	All properties in the Plaza Saltillo TOD District must comply with the standards in this section

4.2.2. Lot Size

All development shall have a minimum lot size of 2,500 square feet.

4.2.3. Lot Width

All development shall have a minimum lot width of 20 feet.

4.2.4. Impervious Surface Coverage

A. TOD Low Density Residential and TOD Medium Density Residential Subdistricts shall have a maximum impervious cover of 85 percent.

B. TOD Mixed-Use, TOD Corridor Mixed Use, and TOD Live/Work Flex Subdistricts shall have a maximum impervious cover of 95 percent.

4.2.5. Building Coverage

Building coverage limits shall be equal to the impervious cover limits in Subsection 4.2.4 above for all properties within the Plaza Saltillo TOD District.

4.2.6. Setbacks

A. For all properties within the TOD District, there are no minimum or maximum requirements for rear, interior side, or street side yard setbacks, except as required to comply with the building height and setback requirements in Subsection 4.2.10 *Compatibility Standards*.

B. For all properties in the TOD District, there is no minimum or maximum front yard setback requirement, except as required to comply with Subsection C below. Instead, development must meet the building placement standards in Section 4.4.

C. If the street right-of-way is less than 60 feet in width, the minimum front yard setback for buildings three or more stories in height shall be 30 feet from the center line of the street to ensure adequate fire access.

4.2.7. Site Area Requirements

For all development in the TOD District, there are no minimum site area requirements.

4.2.8. Floor-to-Area Ratio (FAR)

The maximum FAR for all development within the Station Area shall be 2:1, unless a development bonus is granted as specified in Section 4.3.

4.2.9. Building Height

A. Maximum Building Height

The base maximum building height for all properties within the Plaza Saltillo TOD District is established on the map labeled Figure 4-1. A height bonus may be granted in exchange for the provision of affordable housing; height bonus details are in Subsection 4.3.3.

B. Minimum Building Height in the TOD Mixed Use Subdistrict

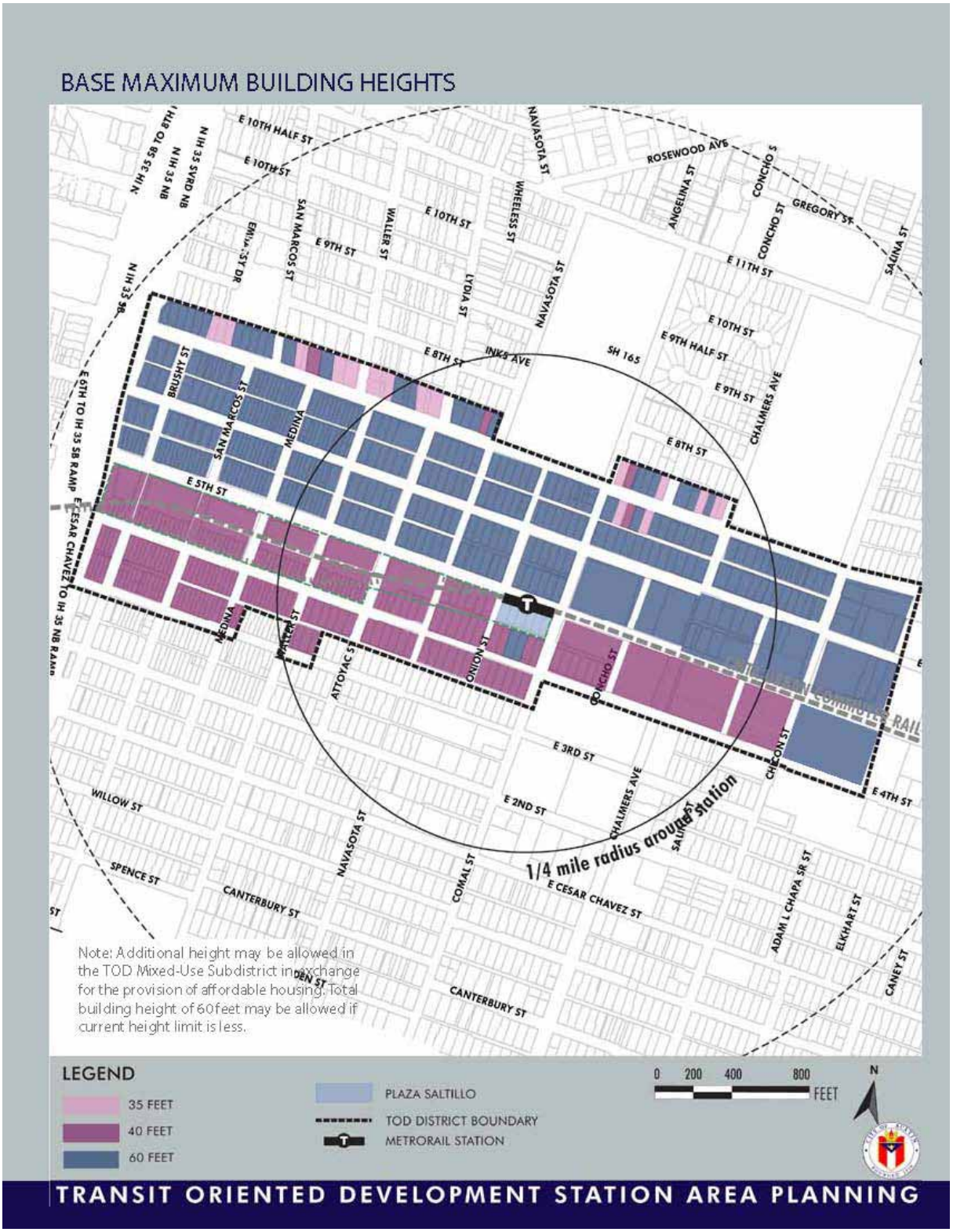
The minimum building height on all properties in the TOD Mixed Use Subdistrict is two stories (for the purpose of applying the standards in this Document, a story is defined in Article 6 Definitions).

4.2.10. Compatibility Standards

A. Compatibility standards, as stipulated in Article 10 of Chapter 25-2 of the LDC, shall apply to all properties within the TOD District.

B. A waiver of compatibility standards may be granted if a development bonus is utilized. The development bonus standards and requirements are established in Subsections 4.3.2 *Density Bonus* and 4.3.3 *Density and Height Bonus.*

Figure 4-1: Base Maximum Building Height (with no development bonus)



4.2.11. Historic Zoning

The following properties will retain their Historic Landmark Combining District (H) designation:

A. 810 E. 5th Street

B. 1022 E. 7th Street, The Johnson House

C. 1204 E. 7th Street, The Briones House

D. 1306 E. 7th Street, The Sparks-Ledesma House

E. 1214 E. 7th Street, The Duncan-Washington House

4.2.12. Historic Properties along E. 6th Street

For the list of properties identified below, if a demolition permit application is submitted, in addition to the standard review conducted by City staff, the Historic Landmark Commission shall review the application.

A. 805 E. 6th Street

B. 809 E. 6th Street

C. 906 E. 6th Street

D. 910 E. 6th Street

E. 911 E. 6th Street

F. 1008 E. 6th Street

G. 1100 E. 6th Street

H. 1101 E. 6th Street

I. 1103-1107 E. 6th Street

J. 1111 E. 6th Street

K. 1200 E. 6th Street

L. 1201 E. 6th Street

M. 1204 E. 6th Street

N. 1209 E. 6th Street

O. 1221 E. 6th Street

P. 1300 E. 6th Street

Q. 1302 E. 6th Street

R. 1306 E. 6th Street

S. 1310 E. 6th Street

T. 1313 E. 6th Street

U. 1401 E. 6th Street

V. 1403 E. 6th Street

W. 1408 E. 6th Street

X. 1500 E. 6th Street

Y. 1511 E. 6th Street

Z. 1600 E. 6th Street

AA. 1618 E. 6th Street

BB. 1704 E. 6th Street

CC. 1705 E. 6th Street

DD. 1706 E. 6th Street

EE. 1708 E. 6th Street

FF. 1709 E. 6th Street

GG. 1809 E. 6th Street

HH. 1816 E. 6th Street

4.3. DEVELOPMENT BONUSES

4.3.1. Affordability Definition

For purposes of this section, a unit is affordable for purchase or rental if the household is required to spend no more than 30 percent of its gross monthly income on mortgage or rental payments for the unit, or up to 35% of its gross income on mortgage if a household member receives City-approved homebuyer counseling, in addition to meeting the requirements of this section.

4.3.2. Density Bonus

A. Applicability

Article 4 Site Development Standards	Application:
Subsection 4.3.2 Density Bonus	All properties or portions of properties in the Live/Work Flex, TOD Mixed Use, and Corridor Mixed Use Subdistricts are eligible for a density bonus.

B. Waiver of Site Development Standards

A density bonus shall be granted to a development that meets the affordability standards in Subsection C below, which exempts the development from the following site development standards:

1. Maximum density requirements in Section 2.3;
2. Maximum Floor-to-Area Ratio (FAR) in Subsection 4.2.8; and
3. Chapter 25-2 Subchapter C, Article 10 of the LDC (Compatibility Standards) shall be waived with the following exceptions:

   a. Height Limitations

   <u>In the TOD District within 100 feet of the TOD boundary</u>, compatibility standards height limitations triggered by property outside of the TOD District shall be waived if owners of at least 66% of triggering properties within 25 feet of the site requesting the waiver agree. If there are no triggering properties within 25 feet, the height restriction shall be waived.

b. Setbacks

In the TOD District within 100 feet of the TOD boundary, compatibility standards setbacks triggered by property outside of the TOD District shall not be waived.

C. Affordability Standards

To be eligible for the development exemptions in Subsection B above, habitable space equal to a minimum of twenty-five percent of the entire square footage of the development shall be reserved as affordable according to the following:

1. The applicant/property owner shall be responsible for providing habitable space equal to ten percent of the entire square footage of the development, with the option to provide additional affordable square footage.

2. Subject to funding availability, the City of Austin shall fund the provision of the remaining affordable square footage in order to achieve twenty-five percent affordability of the entire square footage of the development.

3. If the City of Austin is unable to fund the remaining affordable square footage in order to achieve twenty-five percent affordability, a density bonus may still be utilized provided that the applicant/property owner provides the required amount of affordable square footage as prescribed in 1. above.

4. The requirement may be met by providing affordable owner-occupied units, rental units, or a combination of both. The following requirements assign the specific level of affordability for each unit type, which shall run with the land:

a. Affordability Requirements for Owner-Occupied Units

(i) Habitable space equal to twenty-five percent of the entire square footage of the development shall be reserved as affordable through a City approved affordable housing land trust or other shared equity model approved by the Director of NHCD, for not less than 99 years from the

date a certificate of occupancy is issued, for ownership and occupancy by households earning no more than 80 percent of the Annual Median Family Income for the City of Austin Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by the Director of the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department (NHCD); and

(ii) The applicant/property owner shall be responsible for providing habitable space equal to 10% of the entire square footage of the development at the affordability levels established in i. above. As described in Subsection C.2 above, the City of Austin shall fund, subject to funding availability, the provision of the remaining affordable square footage in order to achieve 25% affordability over the entire development. The City may elect to subsidize residential units in the building(s) for ownership purposes in any amount and at any level of affordability pursuant to criteria and procedures established by the Director of the NHCD.

b. Affordability Requirements for Rental Units

(i) Habitable space equal to twenty-five percent of the entire square footage of the development shall be reserved as affordable, for a minimum of 40 years following the issuance of the certificate of occupancy, for rental by households earning no more than 60 percent of the Annual Median Family Income; and

(ii) The applicant/property owner shall be responsible for providing habitable space equal to 10% of the entire square footage of the development at the affordability levels established in i. above. As described in Subsection C.2 above, the City of Austin shall fund, subject to funding availability, the provision of the remaining affordable square footage in order to achieve 25% affordability over the entire development. The City may elect to subsidize residential units in the building(s) for rental purposes in

any amount and at any level of affordability pursuant to criteria and procedures established by the Director of NHCD.

D. Fee-in-lieu

1. In order for a property owner/developer to pay a fee in-lieu of meeting the requirements in Subsection C above, he/she must demonstrate a compelling reason to not provide housing on-site, and subject to the approval of the City Council, may pay into the Housing Assistance Fund a fee-in-lieu payment.

2. The current fee to be paid into the Housing Assistance Fund for each square foot of bonus area is established as ten dollars. The bonus area square footage shall be determined by the greater of the following:

a. The increase in gross building area above that established by the maximum Floor-to-Area (FAR) ratio as described in Subection 4.2.8

b. The number of additional dwelling units above that established in Section 2.3 multiplied by the average unit square footage of the entire development seeking the development bonus

c. The amount of gross building area constructed within a space previously restricted by compatibility standards.

3. The fee amount is adjusted annually in accordance with the Consumer Price Index All Urban Consumers, US City Average, All Items (1982-84 = 100), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor. The City Manager shall annually determine the new fee amounts for each fiscal year, beginning October 1, 2008, and report the new fee amounts to the City Council.

4. The Director of the NHCD may allocate money from the Housing Assistance Fund collected for the financing or production of affordable units, limited to those developments located within the TOD area or in an area within ½ mile of the TOD area, and that meets the following criteria:

a. Owner-occupied units are reserved as affordable for a period of not less than 99 years for a family whose gross income does not

exceed 80% of the median family income for the Annual Median Family Income; or

b. Renter-occupied units are reserved as affordable for a period of not less than 40 years for a family whose gross income does not exceed 60% of the median family income for the Annual Median Family Income.

4.3.3. Density and Height Bonus

A. Applicability

Article 3 Site Development Standards	Application:
Subsection 4.3.3 **Height Bonus**	Properties, or portions of properties, in the TOD Mixed Use Subdistrict are eligible for a height bonus (if base height is less than 60 feet)

B. Waiver of Site Development Standards and Building Height Allowance

A density and height bonus shall be granted to a development that meets the affordability standards in Subsection C below, which exempts the development from the following site development standards:

1. Maximum density requirement in Section 2.3;

2. Maximum Floor-to-Area Ratio (FAR) in Subsection 4.2.8; and

3. Chapter 25-2 Subchapter C, Article 10 of the LDC (Compatibility Standards) shall be waived with the following exceptions:

a. Height Limitations

<u>In the TOD District within 100 feet of the TOD boundary</u>, compatibility standards height limitations triggered by property outside of the TOD District shall be waived if owners of at least 66% of triggering properties within 25 feet of the site requesting the waiver agree. If there are no triggering properties within 25 feet, the height restriction shall be waived.

b. Setbacks

<u>In the TOD District within 100 feet of the TOD boundary</u>, compatibility standards setbacks triggered by property outside of the TOD District shall not be waived.

Building Height Allowance

Any building on the site receiving the bonus may reach a total of 60 feet in height as measured by the LDC.

C. Affordability Standards

To be eligible for the development exemptions and height allowance in Subsection B above, habitable space equal to a minimum of twenty-five percent of the entire square footage of the development shall be reserved as affordable according to the following:

1. The applicant/property owner shall be responsible for providing habitable space equal to 15% percent of the entire square footage of the development, with the option to provide additional affordable square footage.

2. Subject to funding availability, the City of Austin shall fund the provision of the remaining affordable square footage in order to achieve twenty-five percent affordability of the entire square footage of the development.

3. If the City of Austin is unable to fund the remaining affordable square footage in order to achieve twenty-five percent affordability, a density and height bonus may still be utilized provided that the applicant/property owner provides the required amount of affordable square footage as prescribed in 1. above.

4. The twenty-five percent requirement may be met by providing affordable owner-occupied units, rental units, or a combination of both. The following requirements assign the specific level of affordability for each unit type, which shall run with the land:

a. Affordability Requirements for Owner-Occupied Units

(i) Habitable space equal to twenty-five percent of the bonus area square footage of the development shall be reserved as affordable through a City approved affordable housing land trust or other shared equity model approved by the Director of NHCD, for not less than 99 years from the date a certificate of occupancy is issued, for

ownership and occupancy by households earning no more than 60 percent of the Annual Median Family Income for the City of Austin Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by the Director of the NHCD; or

(ii) The applicant/property owner shall be responsible for providing habitable space equal to 15% of the entire square footage of the development at the affordability levels established in i. above. As described in Subsection C.2 above, the City of Austin shall fund, subject to funding availability, the provision of the remaining affordable square footage in order to achieve 25% affordability over the entire development. The City may elect to subsidize residential units in the building(s) for ownership purposes in any amount and at any level of affordability pursuant to criteria and procedures established by the Director of NHCD.

b. Affordability Requirements for Rental Units

(i) Habitable space equal to twenty-five percent of the bonus area square footage of the development shall be reserved as affordable, for a minimum of 40 years following the issuance of the certificate of occupancy, for rental by households earning no more than 50 percent of the Annual Median Family Income

(ii) The applicant/property owner shall be responsible for providing habitable space equal to 15% of the entire square footage of the development at the affordability levels established in i. above. As described in Subsection C.2 above, the City of Austin shall fund, subject to funding availability, the provision of the remaining affordable square footage in order to achieve 25% affordability over the entire development. The City may elect to subsidize residential units in the building(s) for rental purposes in any amount and at any level of affordability pursuant to criteria and procedures established by the Director of NHCD.

D. Fee-in-lieu

1. In order for a property owner/developer to pay a fee in-lieu of meeting the requirements in Subsection C above, he/she must demonstrate a compelling reason to not provide housing on-site, and subject to the approval of the City Council, may pay into the Housing Assistance Fund a fee-in-lieu payment.

2. The current fee to be paid into the Housing Assistance Fund for each square foot of bonus area is established as ten dollars. The bonus area square footage shall be determined by the greater of the following:

a. The increase in gross building area above that established by the maximum Floor-to-Area (FAR) ratio as described in Subsection 4.2.8 and the maximum building height as described in Subsection 4.2.9

b. The number of additional dwelling units above that established in Section 2.3 multiplied by the average unit square footage of the entire development seeking the development bonus

c. The amount of gross building area constructed within a space previously restricted by compatibility standards.

3. The fee amount is adjusted annually in accordance with the Consumer Price Index All Urban Consumers, US City Average, All Items (1982-84 = 100), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor. The City Manager shall annually determine the new fee amounts for each fiscal year, beginning October 1, 2008, and report the new fee amounts to the City Council.

4. The Director of the NHCD may allocate money from the Housing Assistance Fund collected for the financing or production of affordable units, limited to those developments located within the TOD area or in an area within ½ mile of the TOD area, and that meets the following criteria:

a. Owner-occupied units are reserved as affordable for a period of not less than 99 years for a family whose gross income does not exceed 80% of the median family income for the Annual Median Family Income; or

b. Renter-occupied units are reserved as affordable for a period of not less than 40 years for a family whose gross income does not exceed 60% of the median family income for the Annual Median Family Income.

4.4. RELATIONSHIP OF BUILDINGS TO STREETS AND WALKWAYS

4.4.1. Purpose

This Document alters the standard manner of applying setbacks. Conventional zoning code applies a minimum building setback from the property line. However, with TOD the goal is to build compact environments that are designed around the pedestrian where streetscapes frame the street and buildings have a continuous presence. Therefore, this Document does not require minimum or maximum setbacks and instead employs the use of build-to lines where a building, or a portion of a building, must be built up to the property line or the sidewalk clear zone (or supplemental zone if provided).

4.4.2. Building Placement Factors

A. Principal Street Determination

1. Any roadway type with an active edge designation has priority.

2. Absent an active edge designation, the following three roadway types are listed from highest to lowest priority for purposes of this Article and Article 5:

a. TOD Core Transit Corridor;
b. TOD Pedestrian Priority Street; and
c. TOD Local Street.

The highest level of priority adjacent to the lot or site is considered the "principal street" for the purpose of applying many of the standards in Articles 4 and 5. For a lot or site that is adjacent to more than one roadway with an active edge designation, the roadway designated by the lot owner shall be considered the principal street.

For a lot or site with no active edge that is adjacent to more than one roadway of equal priority, the roadway with the highest level of transit service, as determined

by the Director, shall be considered the principal street. If the roadways do not have transit service or the level of transit service is equal, the roadway designated by the lot owner shall be considered the principal street. Building placement standards vary according to the roadway type of the site's principal street.

B. Active Edge

To enliven pedestrian activity areas, which are located along major streets and at key intersections, the TOD Mixed-Use Subdistrict requires active edges along specific street frontages as shown in Figure 2-1. Building placement near or adjacent to the street is an essential component along these active edges and the specific standards associated with them are detailed below in Subsection 4.4.3 Building Placement.

C. Supplemental Zone (Optional)

A supplemental zone may be provided at the option of the applicant between the street-facing façade line and the required clear zone. This zone is available so that a development may provide active public uses such as a plaza, outdoor café or patio, or in more residential settings, private porches or open space. The extent to which such space may be provided is governed by the provisions in Subsection 4.4.4.

4.4.3. Building Placement

A. Application

Article 4 Site Development Standards	Applies to:	Application Details:
Subsection 4.4.3 Building Placement	All development	-Required along the principal street -Corner site provisions apply

B. General Standards

A minimum percentage of the net frontage length of the property along a site's principal street must consist of continuous building façade built up to the property line, clear zone, or supplemental zone if one is provided (see Figures 4-4/4-5/4-6). In addition, there is a minimum net frontage length requirement for any street with an active edge designation. The minimum net frontage length requirement varies according to the roadway type and the presence of an active edge. For purposes of applying the standards, "net frontage length" is defined in Article 6. The minimum net frontage length

requirement is shown in the table below. When only a portion of the site frontage is designated as an active edge, the active edge net frontage requirement shall be met for that portion of the site, but may be applied toward the overall net frontage requirement for the site based on the principal roadway.

The building placement standards in the following table apply to the site's principal street:

Building Placement Standards:			
	TOD Core Transit Corridor	TOD Pedestrian Priority Street	TOD Local Street
Basic Standard	75% net frontage length to clear zone*	50% net frontage length to clear zone*	40% net frontage length to clear zone*
Active Edge	100% net frontage length to clear zone*		
***or supplemental zone if provided**			

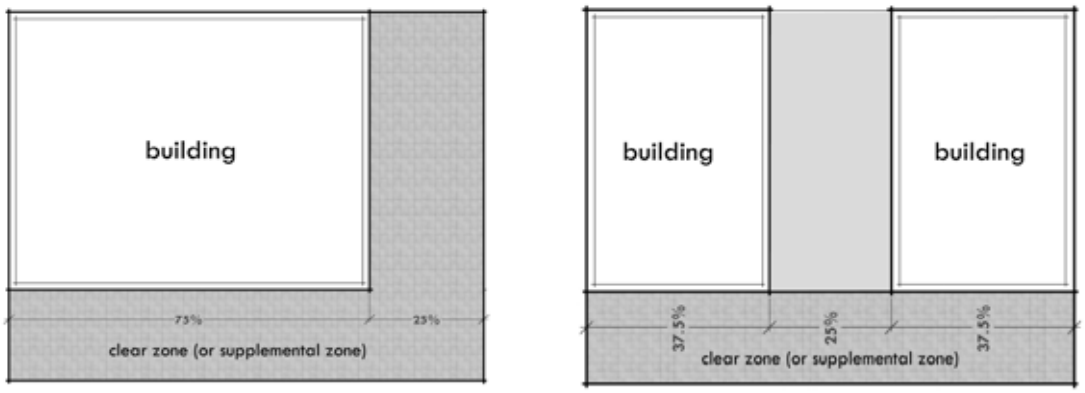


Figure 4-4: Sample illustrations meeting the net frontage building length requirement along a TOD Core Transit Corridor.

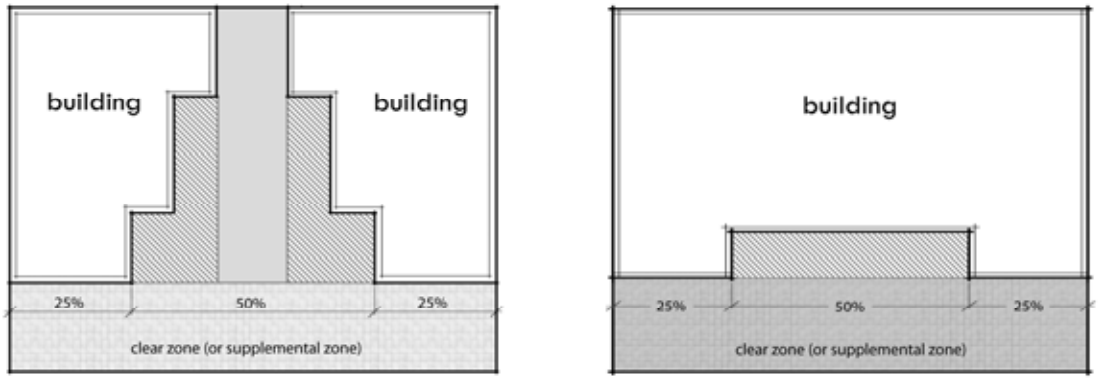


Figure 4-5: Sample illustrations meeting the net frontage building length requirement along a TOD Pedestrian Priority Street (no parking allowed in hatched area).

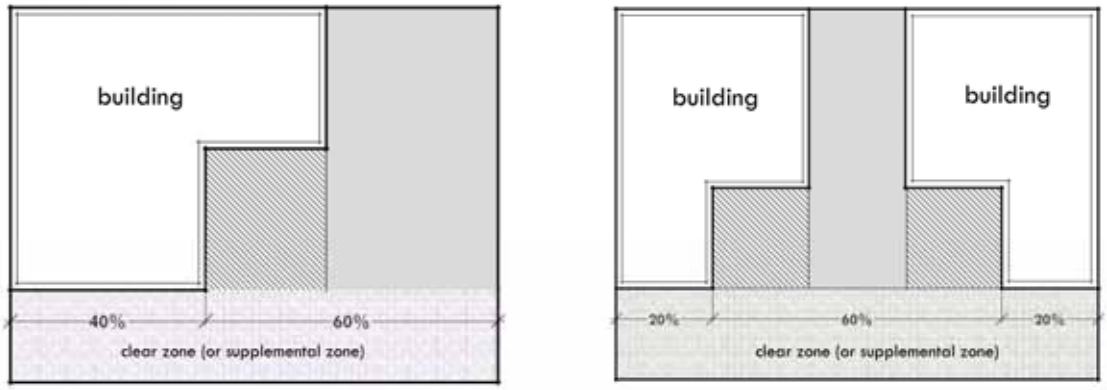


Figure 4-6: Sample illustrations meeting the net frontage building requirement along a TOD Local Street (no parking allowed in hatched area).

C. Additional Standard for Buildings Three Stories or Higher

If the street right-of-way is less than 60 feet in width, the minimum front yard setback for buildings three or more stories in height shall be 30 feet from the center line of the street to ensure adequate fire access.

D. Corner Sites

For a site occupying one or more corners, the building placement standards must be met for the principal street and any other street that abuts the site and intersects the principal street.

E. Phased Projects

Phased projects must fulfill the building placement standard for the highest priority roadway adjacent to the site in the first project phase. In subsequent phases, buildings on the site shall then be located along any abutting lower priority street according the building placement standards in this section.

F. Civic Buildings

In order to provide greater flexibility to create a distinctive architectural statement, civic buildings, as defined in Article 6 Definitions, are not required to meet the building placement standards in this section, so long as parking is not located between the building frontage and the street (see Figure 4-7). For buildings of a civic nature that do not fall under the definition of Civic in Article 6, Alternative Equivalent Compliance, as described in Article 1, may be sought for relief from the building placement standards in this section. Alternative Equivalent Compliance may be granted if the intent of this Document is met.

Figure 4-7: The Austin City Hall is set back from the street in some areas, while other non-civic buildings meet the street. This is a traditional urban design technique intended to emphasize the importance of civic uses.

4.4.4. Supplemental Zones

A. Applicability

Article 4 Site Development Standards	Applies to:	Application Details:
Subsection 4.4.4 Supplemental Zones	Optional for all development	-Basic standard for all roadway types -Separate active edge standard

B. Standards

A supplemental zone may be provided at the option of the applicant. Supplemental zone requirements vary according to whether or not the site is along an active edge. Zone requirements are summarized in the following table and example illustrations (Figures 4-8, 4-9, and 4-10) demonstrate how the standards are intended to work:

Supplemental Zone Standards	
Basic Standard	20 to 30 feet maximum width
Active Edge Standard	10 to 20 feet maximum width

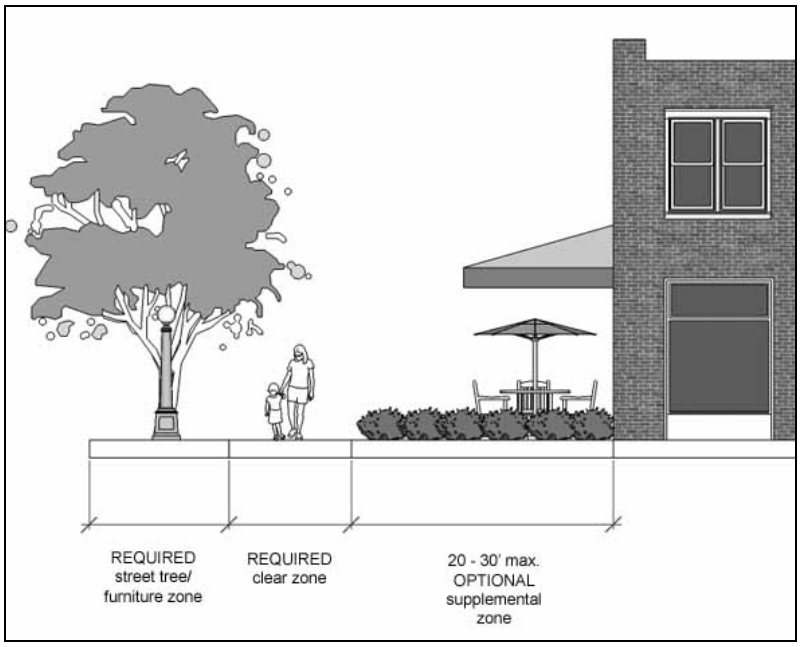


Figure 4-8: Optional supplemental zone (Basic Standard).

C. Basic Standard

If a supplemental zone is provided, up to 30 percent of the linear frontage of the supplemental zone may be a maximum of 30 feet wide and the remainder of the supplemental zone shall be a maximum of 20 feet wide (see Figures 4-8, 4-9, and 4-10).

D. Active Edge Standard

If a supplemental zone is provided, up to 30 percent of the linear frontage of the supplemental zone may be a maximum of 20 feet wide and the remainder of the supplemental zone shall be a maximum of 10 feet wide.

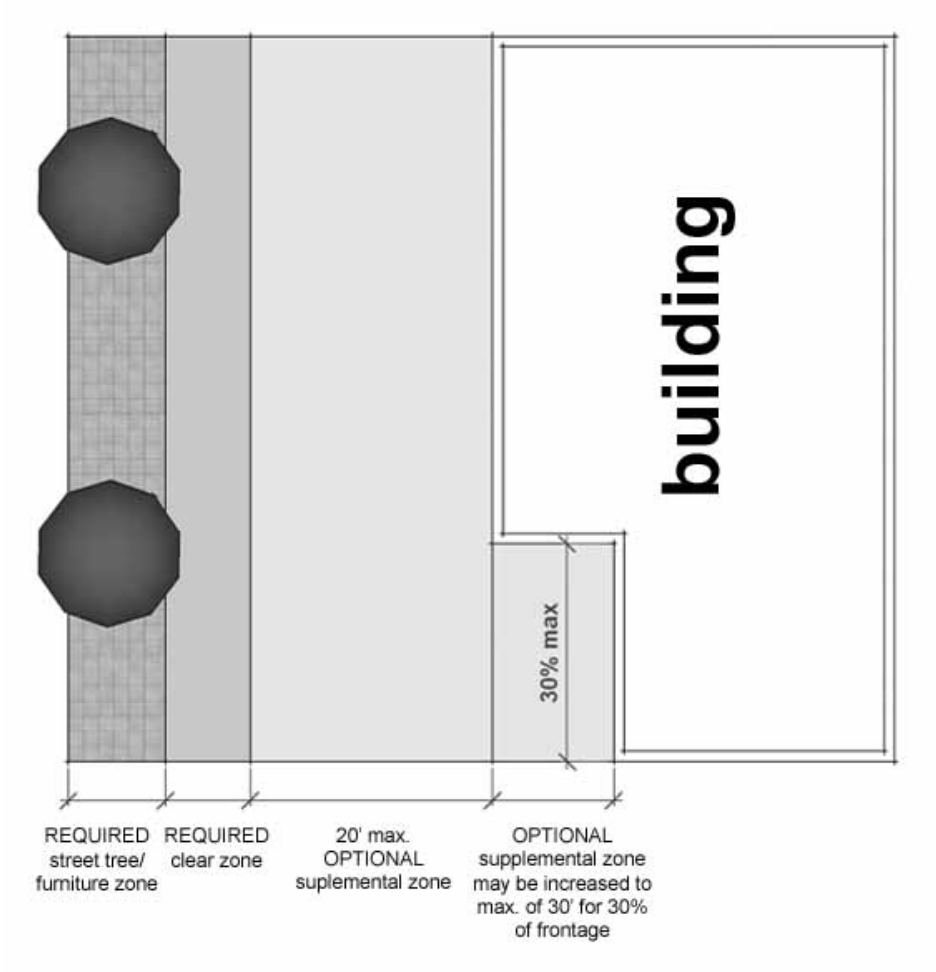


Figure 4-9: Optional supplemental zone may be expanded to 30 feet for a maximum of 30 percent of the frontage where there is not active edge designation (Basic Standard).

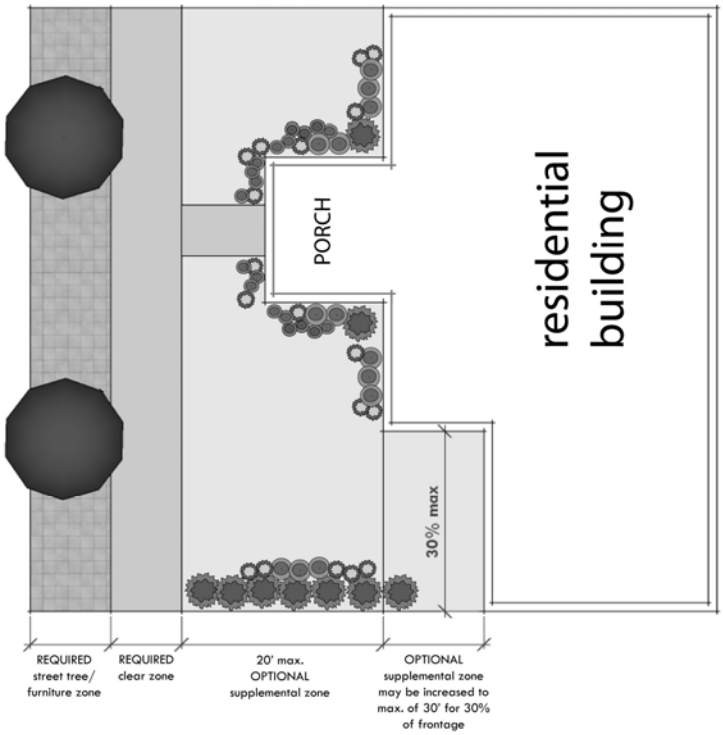


Figure 4-10: Example of allowed elements in a supplemental zone.

E. The following elements may be located within the supplemental zone:

1. Accessory outdoor dining, provided that the dining area may be separated from the sidewalk only with planters, shrubs, or fencing with a maximum height of 42 inches (see Figure 4-11);
2. Balconies, pedestrian walkways, porches, handicap ramps, and stoops; provided, however, that no such feature shall extend beyond the supplemental zone without a license agreement;
3. Terraces, provided that they have a maximum finished floor height of 24 inches above the sidewalk elevation and shall be surrounded by a guardrail that meets City specifications;
4. Landscape and water features;
5. Plazas; and
6. Incidental display and sales.

Figure 4-11: Example of a supplemental zone outdoor dining area

F. Any features in the supplemental zone must not obstruct the open pedestrian connection between the building's primary entrance and the clear zone.

4.5. OFF-STREET PARKING

4.5.1. Applicability

Article 4 Site Development Standards	Applies to:	Application Details:
Section 4.5 Off-street Parking	All development	Requirement must be met on all adjacent roadway types

4.5.2. Parking Requirements

A. Minimum Parking Requirement:
60 percent of that prescribed by the LDC Appendix A (Tables of Off-Street Parking and Loading Requirements)

B. Maximum Parking Requirement:

1. 100 percent of that prescribed by Appendix A ; or

2. 110 percent of that prescribed by Appendix A if the following qualifications are met:

a. Any parking spaces provided over 100 percent of the calculated LDC rate in Appendix A are made available for public use; and

b. Signage is provided indicating where public parking is available.

4.5.3. Shared Parking

Shared parking arrangements are encouraged to ensure that any vehicular parking provided is utilized to the greatest extent possible and to limit the provision of unnecessary parking spaces. Shared parking opportunities must be approved by the Director of the Public Works Department during site plan review as each case needs to be reviewed to ensure that the type and size of uses are appropriate for a shared parking arrangement.

4.5.4. Reduction of Minimum Off-Street Parking Requirements

This section provides for reductions in the minimum off-street parking requirements in Subsection 4.5.2. The minimum off-street parking requirement shall be reduced as follows:

A. By one space for each on-street parking space located adjacent to the site.

B. By up to 10 percent to preserve significant stands of trees or protected trees in addition to those required to be preserved by the Code, pursuant to protection

measures specified in the Environmental Criteria Manual. If the applicant provides more parking spaces than the minimum required, the additional parking spaces may not result in the removal of significant stands of trees or protected trees.

C. By 20 spaces for every car-sharing vehicle provided in a program that complies with the requirements prescribed by the Director by administrative rule.

D. By one space for each shower facility with three or more lockers provided for employees in a nonresidential building.

E. By one motor vehicle parking space for each fully enclosed and lockable bicycle parking space.

F. By up to ten percent if parking spaces are leased or sold separately from occupied spaces.

Unless otherwise specified, the above reductions may be applied cumulatively, and may be applied in addition to the parking reduction authorized in Subsection 4.5.2, but in no case may the minimum off-street parking requirements for a project set forth in Chapter 25-6, Appendix A, be reduced by more than 50 percent.

4.5.5. Parking Design Standards

A. For all roadway types, off-street parking is prohibited between the principal street and the corresponding street-facing façade line (see Figure 4-12).

B. Any off-street surface parking along a TOD Core Transit Corridor, TOD Pedestrian Priority Street or TOD Local Street shall have landscape buffering in accord with Section 25-2-1006 of the LDC between the clear zone (or the supplemental zone if provided) and the parking area. The buffering method chosen must include shade trees unless already provided in an adjacent street tree/furniture zone (Figures 4-13 and 4-14).

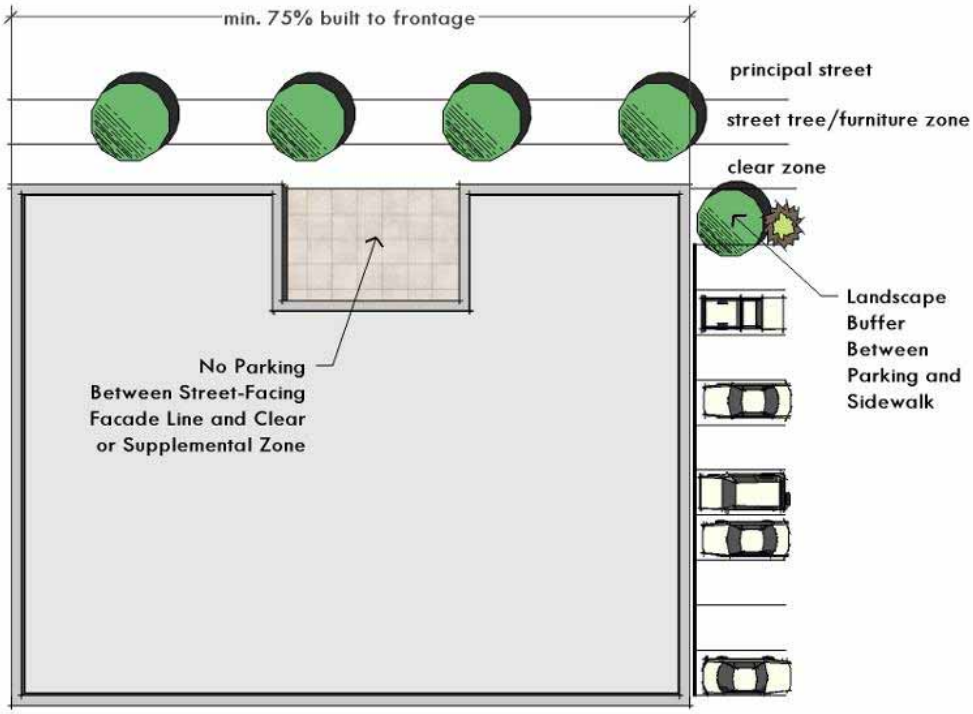


Figure 4-12: Illustration showing no parking area and required screening (TOD CTC example).

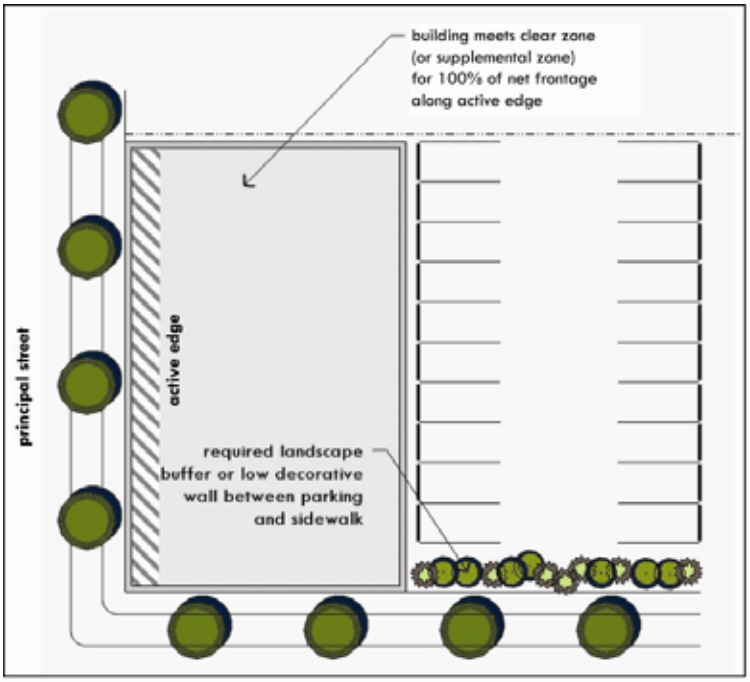


Figure 4-13: Building placement requirement along an active edge with required landscaping between parking and clear zone along other adjacent streets.

C. Surface parking is prohibited along active edges. Parking structures may be located along active edges provided they meet the applicable active edge standards in Section 5.7.

D. Off-street parking provided as part of a building or parking structure along any roadway type must meet the active edge ground floor space standards in Section 5.7.

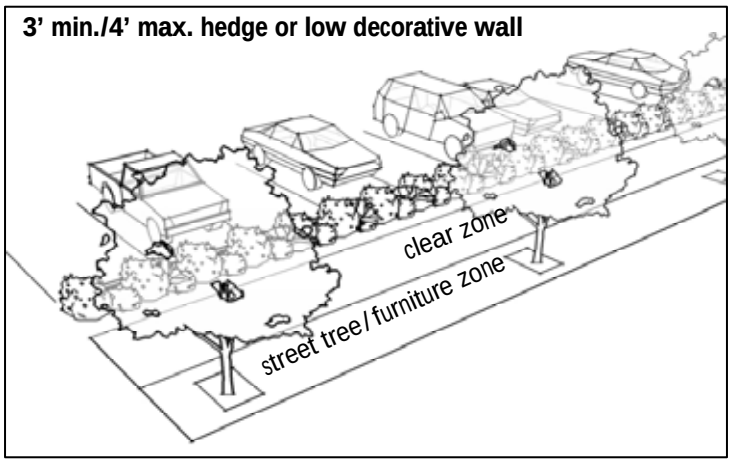


Figure 4-14: Required screening for surface parking along all streets.

4.5.6. Bicycle Parking Requirements

A. Minimum Requirement

Bicycle parking shall be as prescribed by the LDC Appendix A (Tables of Off-Street Parking and Loading Requirements). The required amount shall be calculated based on the motor vehicle spaces required by Appendix A prior to any available parking reductions.

1. For retail uses, a minimum of 75% of all required parking shall be located along the principal street and within 50 feet of a primary building entrance. For all other uses, the requirement is a minimum of 10%.

2. After meeting the requirement in 1. above, the remainder of required bicycle parking may be located:

a. Within 50 feet of other building entryways not on the principal street; or
b. At employee entrances; or
c. Within a building, or
d. In a covered motor vehicle parking area.

Note: One upside down U rack counts as two bicycle parking spaces. For example, if 100 bicycle parking spaces are required, 50 upside down U racks would need to be provided.

B. Standards

All bicycle parking shall meet the standards as prescribed in the LDC and as follows:

1. Bicycle parking shall not obstruct walkways. A minimum 5-foot wide aisle shall remain clear
2. Bicycle parking facilities shall either be lockable enclosures in which the bicycle is stored, or a secure stationary rack, which support the frame so the bicycle cannot easily be pushed or fall to one side. Racks that require a user-supplied lock should accommodate locking the frame and both wheels using either a cable or U-shaped lock
3. Bicycle parking spaces shall be at least 6 feet long and 3 feet wide, and overhead clearance in covered spaces shall be a minimum of 7 feet (Figure 4-15).
4. A 5-foot aisle for bicycle maneuvering, which may be provided with the required sidewalk clear zone, shall be provided and maintained beside or between each row of bicycle parking.
5. Bicycle racks or lockers shall be securely anchored.
6. Bicycle parking shall be located in a well lighted, secure, and visible location.
7. A "ribbon rack" is not a recommended design for bicycle parking by the Public Works Department.

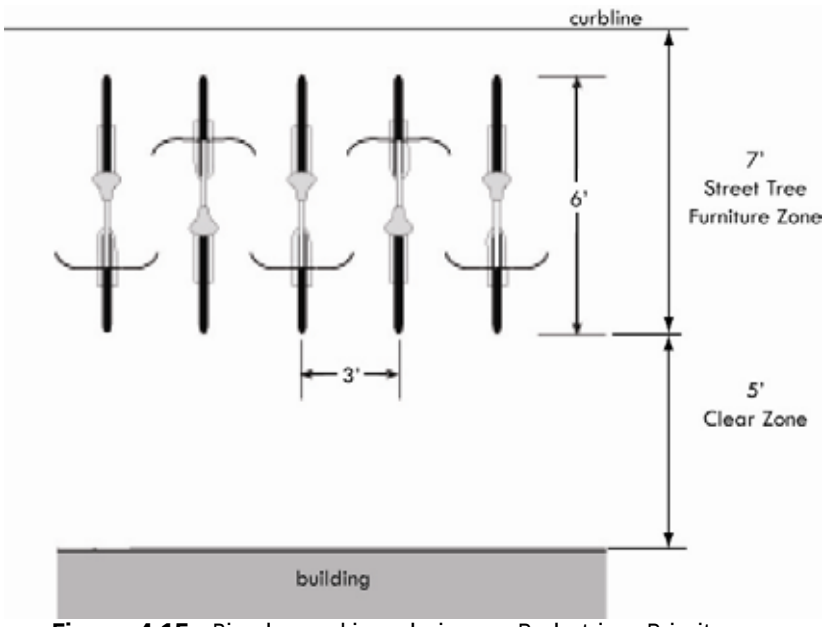


Figure 4-15: Bicycle parking design – Pedestrian Priority Street sidewalk

4.6. EXTERIOR LIGHTING

4.6.1. Applicability

Article 4 Site Development Standards	Applies to:	Application Details:
Section 4.6 Exterior Lighting	All development except: single family, single family attached, duplex, two-family, and townhouse development	Requirement must be met on all adjacent roadway types

4.6.2. Standards

A. Submission of Plans and Evidence of Compliance

All site plan applications shall include a description of all lighting fixtures not affixed to buildings, both proposed and those that will remain on the site, as well as any existing or proposed fixtures to be located in adjacent rights-of-way after completion of the project. For new fixtures, the description may include, but is not limited to, catalog cuts and illustrations by manufacturers (including sections where required), that demonstrate compliance with the standards of this Document. For lighting fixtures affixed to buildings, such information shall be provided as part of the building permit application.

B. Fully Shielded and Full Cut-off Light Fixtures Required

The following outdoor lighting applications shall be illuminated by fixtures that are both fully-shielded and full cut-off (see Figure 4-16):

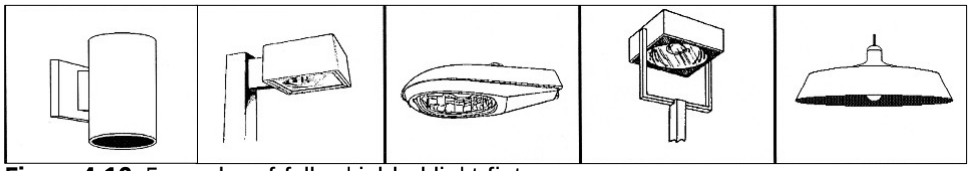


Figure 4-16: Examples of fully-shielded light fixtures

1. Street and pedestrian lighting;
2. Parking lots;
3. Pathways;
4. Recreational areas;
5. Billboards;
6. Product display area lighting; and
7. Building overhangs and open canopies.

C. Lighting of Building Façades

Buildings and structures shall be illuminated by fixtures that are both fully-shielded and full cut-off. Building

façade lighting may only be used to highlight specific architectural features such as principal entrances and towers.

D. Directional Luminaires

Directional luminaires may be used to illuminate signs and flagpoles. Such luminaires shall be installed and aimed so that they illuminate only the specific object or area and do not shine directly onto neighboring properties, roadways, or distribute excessive light skyward.

E. Lamp or Fixture Substitution

Should any outdoor light fixture or the type of light source therein be changed after site plan or building plan approval has been granted, a change request must be submitted to the Director for approval, together with adequate information to assure compliance with this Document, which must be received prior to substitution.

F. Non-Conforming Lighting

All outdoor lighting fixtures lawfully installed prior to and operable on the effective date of this Document are exempt from all requirements of this Document until January 1, 2015, at which time they shall become subject to this Document, and shall be considered non-conforming if they do not comply with the requirements of this Document.

4.7. SCREENING OF EQUIPMENT AND UTILITIES

4.7.1. Applicability

Article 4 Site Development Standards	Applies to:	Application Details:
Section 4.7 **Screening of Equipment and Utilities**	All development except: local utility services, electric service transformers within the right-of-way, and telecommunications towers	Requirement must be must on all adjacent roadway types

4.7.2. Standards

All development, with the exception of local utility services, electric service transformers within the right-of-way, and telecommunications towers, shall comply with the following requirements:

A. Solid waste collection areas and mechanical equipment, including equipment located on a rooftop but not including solar panels, shall be screened from the view of a person standing on the property line on the far side of a street (see Figure 4-17).

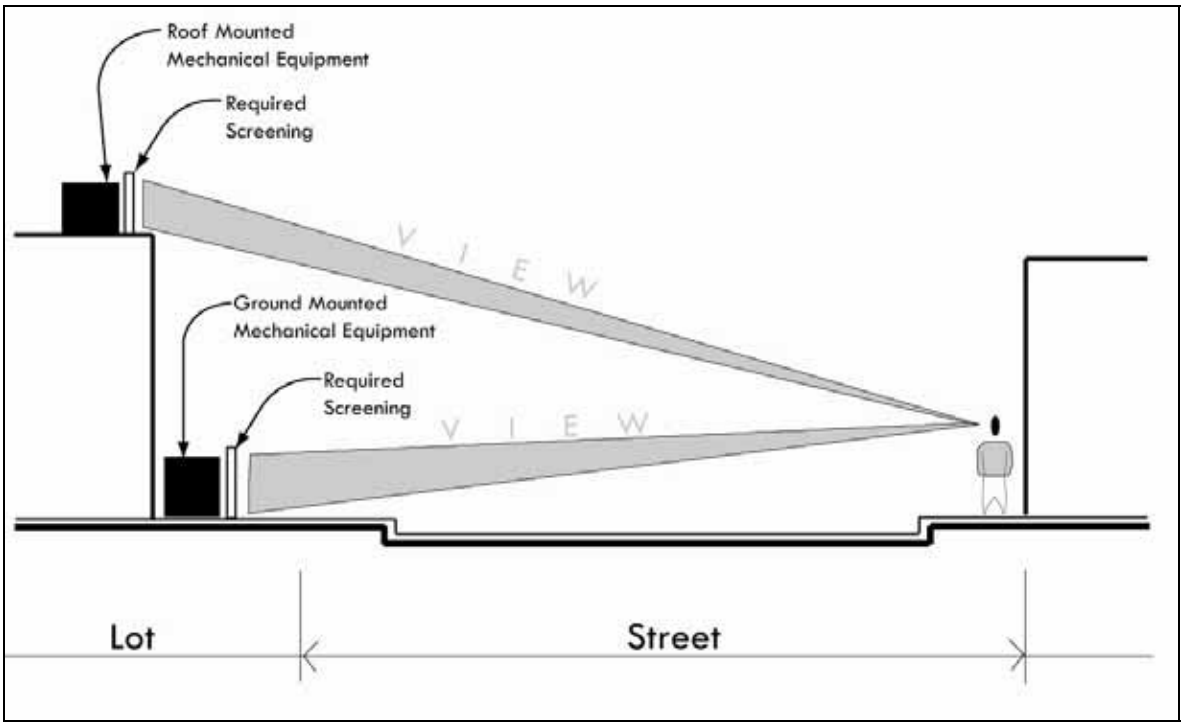


Figure 4-17: Required screening of mechanical equipment from property across the street.

B. Loading docks, truck parking, outdoor storage, trash collection, trash compaction, and other service functions shall be incorporated into the overall design of the building and landscape so that the visual and acoustic impacts of these functions are fully contained and out of view from adjacent properties and streets. Screening materials for solid waste collection and loading areas shall be the same as, or of equal quality to, the materials used for the principal building. Loading docks, truck parking, outdoor storage, trash collection, trash compaction, and other service functions may be placed alongside public alleys without the necessity of screening.

4.8. SIGN REGULATIONS

4.8.1. Applicability

Article 4 Site Development Standards	Applies to:	Application Details:
Section 4.8 **Sign Regulations**	All development	Requirement must be met on all adjacent roadway types

4.8.2. Sign Regulations

Development shall comply with the Sign Regulations in the LDC Section 25-10-133, *University Neighborhood Overlay Zoning District Signs*.

4.9. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

4.9.1. Applicability

Article 4 Site Development Standards	Applies to:
Section 4.9 **Green Infrastructure**	All development except single family, single family attached, duplex, two-family residential, and townhouse.

4.9.2. Green Infrastructure Standards

A. On-site water quality controls are required per Sections 25-8-211 through 215 of the LDC.

B. A minimum of 75% of the required Water Quality Volume (WQV) must be treated on-site using Green Infrastructure (i.e. innovative water quality controls, per Environmental Criteria Manual [ECM] Section 1.6.7). All the innovative controls that use the landscape as part of the treatment system require sustainable landscape practices in the form of native vegetation and Integrated Pest Management Plans (see Figure 4-18).

C. In cases where site specific circumstances limit the ability to treat 100% of WQV on-site, if at least 75% of the WQV has been treated on-site using Green Infrastructure, the City may allow fee-in-lieu payments for the area not treated. The Watershed Protection and Development Review Department staff will maintain the ability currently allowed by ECM Section 1.6.4 to

Figure 4-18: Examples of Green Infrastructure facilities

further reduce the level of on-site control if special circumstances exist which warrant the reduction.

D. If a developer, or group of developers, propose a regional water quality structure that treats the stormwater from at least 10 acres of previously untreated offsite land, the City may cost participate in the construction of the structure according to ECM Section 1.9.

4.10. PRIVATE COMMON OPEN SPACE AND PEDESTRIAN AMENITIES

4.10.1. Applicability

Article 4 Site Development Standards	Applies to:	Application Details:
Section 4.10 Private Common Open Space and Pedestrian Amenities	All development sites larger than two acres	Projects that utilize a density or density/height bonus are exempt from this requirement

4.10.2. Purpose

Open air and semi-enclosed public gathering spaces can act as central organizing elements in a development. They can also help to shape the relationship between different land uses and provide focal points and anchors for pedestrian activity. Goals and requirements for common open space and pedestrian amenities complement the LDC requirements for dedicated public open space and parks, and serve similar purposes.

4.10.3. Standards

A. Amenity Required

The development shall devote a minimum of two percent of the net site area to one or more of the following types of private common open space or pedestrian amenities:

1. A natural and undisturbed private common open space, for use of the residents, employees, and visitors to the development. Developments with primarily residential uses are encouraged to comply with this requirement.

2. A landscape area other than one required by Document C, Article 9 (Landscaping), provided such landscaped area has a minimum depth and width of 10 feet and a minimum total area of 200 square

feet. The area shall include pedestrian amenities to support these places as gathering areas.

3. A playground, patio, or plaza with outdoor seating areas, provided the playground, patio, or plaza has a minimum depth and width of ten feet and a minimum total area of 300 square feet. The area shall include pedestrian amenities to support these places as gathering areas.
4. A combination of the above-listed amenities. (See Figure 4-19).

Figure 4-19: Examples of open space amenities

B. Location Criteria

To the maximum extent feasible, where significant natural and scenic resource assets exist on a property, the developer shall give priority to their preservation as private common open space. In reviewing the proposed location of private common open space areas, the Director shall use all applicable plans, maps, and reports to determine whether significant resources exist on a proposed site that should be protected, with priority being given to the following areas (which are not listed in a particular order):

1. Wetlands;
2. Flood hazard areas;
3. Lakes, rivers, and stream/riparian corridors;
4. Tree preservation areas; and
5. Karst areas.

C. Areas Not Credited

Lands within the following areas shall not be counted towards private common open space or pedestrian amenities required by this section:

1. Private yards;
2. Public or private streets or rights of way;
3. Parking areas and driveways for dwellings;
4. Water quality and stormwater detention ponds, unless approved by the Director; and
5. A required street tree/furniture zone.

D. Design Criteria

Land set aside for private common open space or pedestrian amenities pursuant to this section shall meet the following design criteria, as relevant:

1. Common open space areas shall be located so as to be readily accessible and useable by residents or

visitors in various locations of the development, unless the lands are sensitive natural resources and access should be restricted.

2. The lands shall be compact and contiguous unless the land shall be used as a continuation of an existing trail, or specific topographic features require a different configuration. An example of such topographic features would be the provision of a trail or private open area along a riparian corridor.
3. Where private common open space areas, trails, parks, or other public spaces exist adjacent to the tract to be subdivided or developed, the private common open space or pedestrian amenity shall, to the maximum extent feasible, be located to adjoin, extend, and enlarge the presently existing trail, park, or other open area land.

E. Maintenance

All private common open space or pedestrian amenity areas shall be maintained by the owners of the development.

F. Public Dedication or Fee In Lieu

Instead of providing private common open space or pedestrian amenities as required in this section, the developer of a property may:

1. If the development requires a dedication of public parkland according to Section 25-2-601 of the LDC, request approval of the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) to instead dedicate on-site public open space or park land in partial or complete fulfillment of the parkland dedication requirement, or
2. Request approval of the Director of the PARD to deposit with the City a nonrefundable cash payment, based on a formula established by the City Council. The Director of the PARD shall review the request and accept or deny the request.

4.10.4. Exception from the Requirements of this Section

Projects that utilize a development bonus in Section 4.3 are exempt from the requirements of this section since they are providing the public benefit of affordable housing and will have a public parkland dedication requirement to meet according to Section 4.11.

4.11. PUBLIC PARKS AND TRAILS

4.11.1. Applicability

Article 4 Site Development Standards	Applies to:
Section 4.11 **Public Parks and Trails**	Development subject to the Parkland Dedication Ordinance (LDC Article 14 Section 25-2-601)

4.11.2. Purpose

Because of the higher density development envisioned for the Plaza Saltillo TOD Station Area, it is important to provide public open space and parks facilities for local residents. Some development sites will be better suited than others to provide on-site parkland for reasons including, but not limited to, the location of the site within the TOD and to core activity areas, site constraints, and size of site. This section broadly identifies some of the areas that would be ideal for a public park according to the Plaza Saltillo Open Space Concept Plan.

4.11.3. Recommended Location of Parks and Trails

The Plaza Saltillo Open Space Concept Plan (Figure 4-20) shows areas indicated as "Potential Open Space" and "Potential Paseos". Development within these parts of the TOD is encouraged to meet private common open space and/or parkland dedication requirements in these approximate areas. The locations shown were chosen for the ability of these general locations to properly serve Plaza Saltillo TOD residents. Optimal locations for future parks and trails include:

A. Paseo parks between E. 4th and E. 5th Streets along the Medina, Attayac and Onion Streets rights-of-way (and possibly between E. 4th and E. 7th Streets from Comal to Chicon Streets) to break-up the larger block structure in the TOD District with pedestrian access and open space.

B. A park space west of the Plaza Saltillo transit station that ideally connects to the plaza visually and/or physically.

4.11.4. On-site Parkland Dedication Requirement

For a property/site where public parkland is recommended as established in Subsection 4.11.3, a minimum of 50% of a parkland dedication requirement shall be met with an on-

site dedication of land. The land to be dedicated must be approved by the director of the Parks and Recreation Department. The dedicated land is eligible for the allowance described in Subsection 4.11.5.

4.11.5. On-site Parkland Dedication Allowance

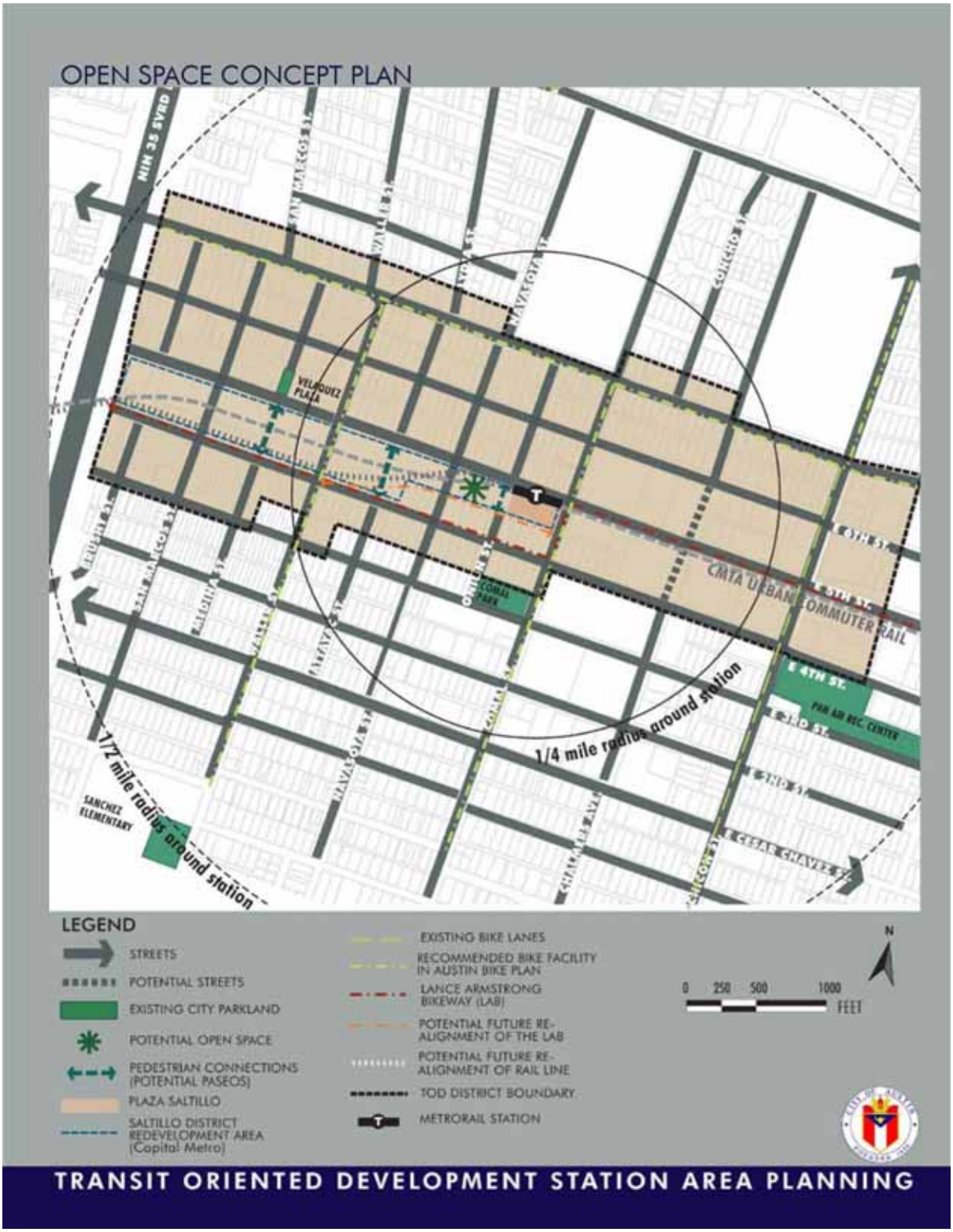
If, as part of a development project, the parkland dedication requirement is met in part or in full with a dedication of public parkland on site, FAR and density calculations for the non-dedicated portion of the site shall be made based on the total site area prior to the dedication.

4.11.6. Fee In Lieu

A. Instead of, or in combination with, meeting parkland dedication requirements on site, a property owner may request approval to deposit with the City a nonrefundable cash payment, based on a formula established by the City Council. The Director of the PARD shall review the request and accept or deny the request.

B. Any parkland dedication fees collected in the TOD must be spent within the Station Area unless a waiver is granted to City Staff by the City Council.

Figure 4-20: Plaza Saltillo Station Area Plan Open Space and Trails Concept Plan



ARTICLE 5: BUILDING DESIGN STANDARDS

5.1. INTENT

The standards of Article 5 are intended to use building design in order to:

5.1.1. Ensure that buildings foster the creation of a human-scale environment;

5.1.2. Ensure that trees or man-made shading devices are used alongside roadways and connecting roadside sidewalks to businesses to encourage pedestrian activity by providing a sheltered and comfortable walking environment;

5.1.3. Ensure that buildings provide an interesting and engaging visual experience at the pedestrian level; and

5.1.4. Ensure that the design and construction of ground floor building space near transit, at visible intersections, and along key streets that lead to transit, accommodates for active pedestrian-oriented uses even though these types of uses may not be supported by current market conditions.

5.2. GENERAL APPLICABILITY

For the purposes of applying the standards in this Article, refer to Article 2 for a description and map of TOD Subdistricts, Article 3 for a description and map of TOD Roadway Types, and Subsection 4.4.2.A: *Principal Street Determination.*

5.3. BUILDING ENTRANCES

5.3.1. Building Entrance Standards for Pedestrians

A. Applicability

Article 5 Building Design Standards	Applies to:	Application Details:
Subsection 5.3.1 Building Entrance Standards for Pedestrians	All development	-Required along the principal street and active edges -Corner site provisions apply

B. Primary customer and/or resident entrances shall face the principal street and connect directly to the sidewalk clear zone or supplemental zone along the principal street. Supplemental customer and/or resident entrances are encouraged on any other building frontage.

C. Building entrances shall be provided for each separate ground floor commercial tenant space along the elevation facing the principal street and along any active edge designation.

D. For sites on one or more corners, a building entrance shall be provided for each separate ground floor commercial tenant space along all adjacent roadway types unless already provided along the principal street.

5.3.2. Building Entrance and Exit Standards for Vehicles

A. Applicability

Article 5 Building Design Standards	Applies to:	Application Details:
Subsection 5.3.2 Building Entrance and Exit Standards for Vehicles	All development except single family, single family attached, duplex, two-family, and townhouse development and emergency service facilities	Corner site provisions apply

B. Building entrances and exits for vehicles shall be located to the rear or side of a building, except as provided in D below.

C. Where multiple street frontages are present, building entrances and exits for vehicles shall not face the principal street, or be located within 100 feet of the principal street, except as provided in D below.

D. Vehicle entrances and exits for structured parking may face a principal street only when no other feasible access is available on another street frontage or alley, as determined by the Director.

5.4. WINDOW GLAZING

5.4.1. Applicability

Article 5 Building Design Standards	Applies to:	Application Details:
Section 5.4 Window Glazing	All mixed use and non-residential development and development along an active edge	-Required along the principal street -Corner site provisions apply -Exemptions include: building facades facing loading areas, rear service areas, or facades adjoining other buildings (attached to more than 50 percent of the sidewall)
	Development containing only residential units not along an active edge except: single family, single family attached, duplex, two-family, and townhouse development	-Required along the principal street -Same exemptions as above

5.4.2. Purpose

Glazing provides interest for the pedestrian, connects the building exterior and interior, puts eyes on the street, promotes reusability, and provides a human-scale element on building facades. Projects subject to this section shall meet the minimum glazing requirements as stipulated below:

5.4.3. Standards

A. All mixed use development, non-residential development, and development along an active edge shall satisfy the following:

1. At least 40 percent of the wall area along the principal street that is between two and ten feet above grade shall consist of glazing (see Figure 5-1).
2. The second floor façade along the principal street must provide a minimum of 25 percent glazing between the finished second story floor and the finished third story floor or building eave (see Figure 5-1).
3. At least one-half of the total area of all glazing on ground-floor facades that face the principal street shall have a Visible Transmittance (VT) of 0.6 or higher.

4. For all other street facing facades, at least 25 percent of the wall area between two and ten feet above grade shall consist of glazing. Doors shall not be considered for the purpose of meeting this requirement.

B. Development containing only residential units that is not along an active edge shall satisfy the following:

1. At least 25 percent of the principal street ground floor wall area between two and ten feet shall consist of glazing; and

2. The second floor façade along the principal street must provide a minimum of 25 percent glazing between the finished second story floor and the finished third story floor or building eave (see Figure 5-1).

Figure 5-1: Commercial or mixed use building meeting glazing requirements

C. The maximum sill height for any ground floor glazing necessary to meet the minimum glazing standards of this section shall be 4 feet.

D. Any façade that is built up to an interior mid-block property line is not required to have glazing on that

façade if not prohibitions and no contractual or legal impediments exist that would prevent a building being constructed on the adjacent property up to the wall of the façade.

E. The requirements in this section shall not apply if the Building Code prohibits windows on such facades.

F. The requirements in this section may be reduced if the required level and/or location of glazing conflicts with the Energy Code and/or Green Building Program Standards. Shading devices and/or the use of fritted glass are encouraged to mitigate solar impacts, particularly on south and west facing facades.

5.5. SHADE AND SHELTER

5.5.1. Applicability

Article 5 Building Design Standards	Applies to:	Application Details:
Section 5.5 Shade and Shelter	All mixed use and non-residential development and development along an active edge	Required along the principal street and along parking adjacent to a building facade

5.5.2. Purpose

Austin's climate requires shade and shelter amenities in order to accommodate and promote pedestrian activity. These amenities will provide greater connectivity between sites and allow for a more continuous and walkable network of buildings. Projects subject to this section shall meet the following shade and shelter requirements:

5.5.3. Standards

A. A shaded sidewalk shall be provided alongside at least 50 percent of the following:

1. All building frontages adjacent to or facing the principal street.
2. All building frontages adjacent to off-street parking.

B. When adjacent to off-street parking, the shaded sidewalk shall be raised above the level of the parking by way of a defined edge. ADA ramps along the building must also be shaded (see Figure 5-2).

Figure 5-2: Example of an ADA ramp with shade structure

C. On active edges, a shaded sidewalk shall be provided along at least 80 percent of the active edge designation.

D. Building entrances shall be located under a shade device, such as an awning or portico.

E. For emergency service providers, Alternative Equivalent Compliance may be sought for relief from the principal street shaded sidewalk requirements of Subsections A and C above to the extent necessary for emergency service vehicle and overhead door access.

5.6. BUILDING FAÇADE ARTICULATION

5.6.1. Applicability

Article 5 Building Design Standards	Applies to:	Application Details:
Section 5.6 Building Façade Articulation	Building facades greater than 100 feet in length	Required along the principal street
	Building facades greater than 40 feet in length	Requirement must be met on all building facades adjacent to any roadway type

5.6.2. Standards

So as to provide visual interest and create community character and pedestrian scale, a building shall comply with the following façade articulation requirements:

A. Along the principal street, building facades greater than 100 feet in length shall:

1. Include at least one vertical change in plane with a depth of at least 24 inches (see Figure 5-3).
2. The distance from the inside edge of a building projection to the nearest inside edge of an adjacent projection shall not be less than 20 feet and not greater than 100 feet (see Figure 5-4).
3. For the purposes of meeting the requirements of this section, changes in plane shall not be deducted from the net frontage length requirement in Section 4.4 Building Placement so long as they do not exceed the maximum allowable supplemental zone standards as established in Subsection 4.4.4.

Figure 5-3: Shows façade articulation with a change in plane and also change in color and material.

B. Along all streets, building facades, or portions of building facades, greater than 40 feet in length shall include at least one discernible architectural element such as, but not limited to (see Figure 5-4):

1. Changes in material, color, and/or texture either horizontally or vertically at intervals not less than 20 feet and not greater than 100 feet; or

2. Bay windows, display windows, arcades, balconies, cornices, bases, pilasters, and columns.

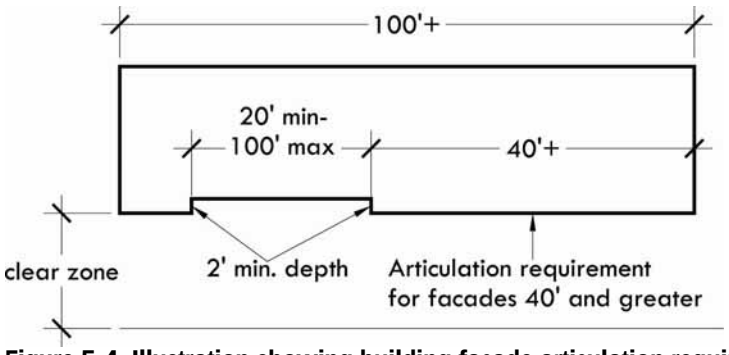


Figure 5-4: Illustration showing building façade articulation requirements

C. Civic Buildings

In order to provide greater flexibility to create a distinctive architectural statement, civic buildings, as defined in Article 6 Definitions, are not required to meet the building façade articulation standards in this section. For buildings of a civic nature that do not fall under the definition of Civic in Article 6, Alternative Equivalent Compliance, as described in Article 1, may be sought for relief from the building placement standards in this section. Alternative Equivalent Compliance may be granted if the intent of this Document is met.

5.7. ACTIVE EDGES

5.7.1. Applicability

Article 5 Building Design Standards	Applies to:	Application Details:
Section 5.7 Active Edges	Development along all active edge designations	Specific use and design requirements apply

5.7.2. Ground Floor Spaces

For that portion of a building façade that is along a street frontage designated as an active edge, the ground floor of

the building must contain a non-residential use and be designed and constructed according to the Active Use Area standards below (see Figure 5-5).

A. Active Use Area

Each ground-floor space shall be designed according to the following standards (see Figure 5-6):

1. An entrance that opens directly onto the sidewalk according to Section 5.3;
2. A depth of not less than 24 feet measured from the street frontage wall;
3. A height of not less than 12 feet, measured from the finished floor to the bottom of the structural members of the ceiling; and
4. A front façade that meets the window glazing requirements in Section 5.4.

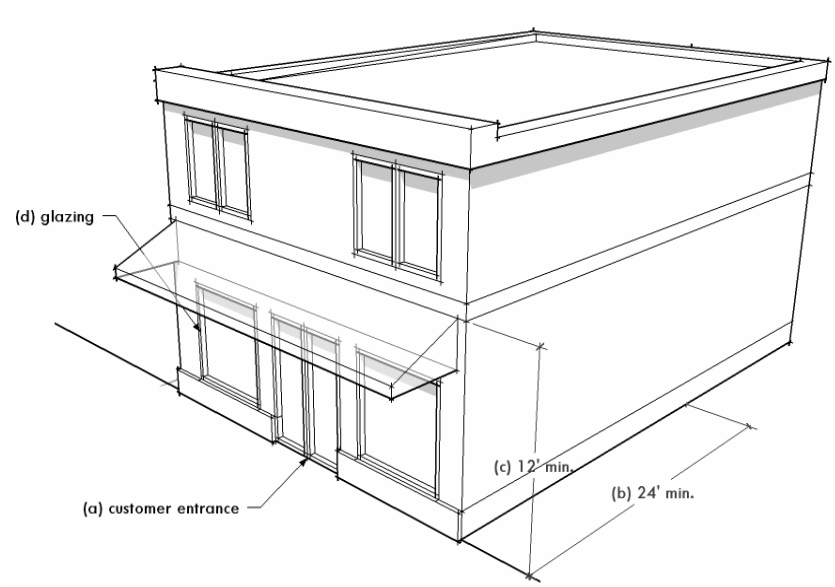


Figure 5-6: Along an active edge, a building must be designed to accommodate pedestrian-oriented non-residential uses (illustrates active use area).

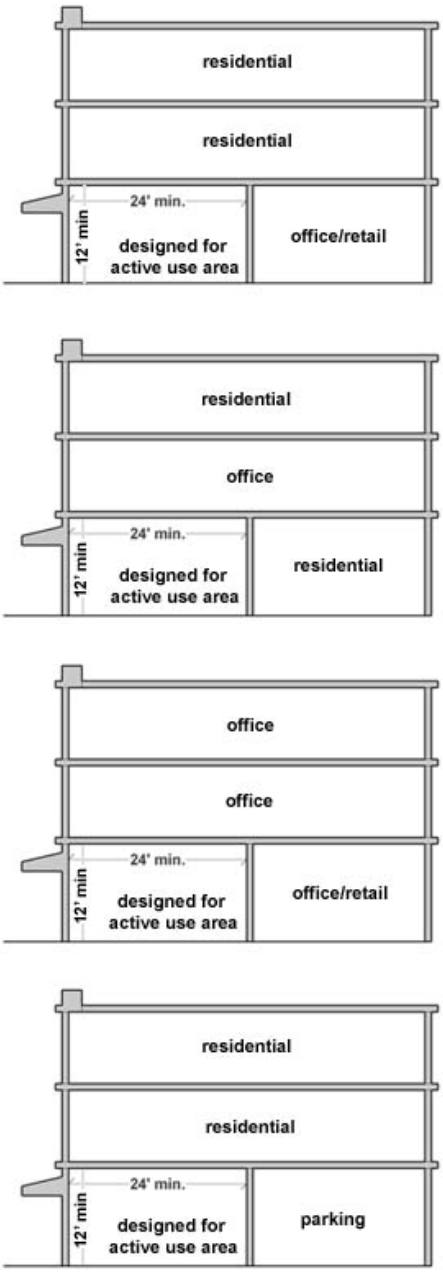


Figure 5-5: Showing required active use area along an active edge with possible mixed use building use combinations.

B. Parking

Off-street surface parking is prohibited along an active edge designation. Structured parking may be located along an active edge but it is not permitted in the required active use area described in this section.

ARTICLE 6: DEFINITIONS

Active Edge
An active edge imposes specific land use and design requirements for development in a TOD Mixed-Use Subdistrict. The locations of active edges are shown on the Land Use Concept Plan map (Figure 2-1). It requires building facades to be located adjacent to or near to the clear zone, building entrance and window treatment oriented to the street, and active ground floor uses (or their accommodation through building design and construction) along the street frontage, including, but not limited to: commercial, retail, restaurant, entertainment, and lobbies for civic, hotel, or multi-family uses.

Building
A structure that has a roof and walls, which is constructed in a permanent position on the ground. A building also includes parking structures that may or may not have fully enclosed walls.

Civic Buildings
For purposes of this Document, civic buildings shall consist of the following:

- College or University facilities
- Community Recreation (Public)
- Cultural Services
- Local Utility Services
- Parks and Recreation Services (General)
- Postal Services
- Public Primary Education Facilities
- Public Secondary Education Facilities
- Safety Services
- Transportation Terminal

Clear Zone
The area dedicated for an unobstructed sidewalk.

Commercial Use
A use that appears in Section 25-2-4, *Commercial Uses Described*, of the LDC.

Director
Unless otherwise specified, the Director of the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department, or his or her designee.

Fully-Shielded Light Fixture
A lighting fixture constructed in such a manner that the light source is not visible when viewed from the side and all light emitted by the fixture, either directly from the lamp or a diffusing element, or indirectly by reflection or refraction from any part of the luminaire, is projected below the

horizontal as determined by photometric test or certified by the manufacturer. Any structural part of the light fixture providing this shielding must be permanently affixed.

Full Cut-off
A luminaire light distribution where zero candela intensity occurs at or above an angle of 90 above nadir. Additionally, the candela per 1000 lamp lumens does not numerically exceed 100 (10%) at or above a vertical angle of 80 above nadir. This applies to all lateral angles around the luminaire.

Glazing
The panes or sheets of glass or other non-glass material made to be set in frames, as in windows or doors.

Hardscape
Nonliving components of a streetscape or landscape design, such as paved walkways, walls, sculpture, patios, stone and gravel areas, benches, fountains, and similar hard-surface areas and objects.

Internal Block
One or more lots, tracts, or parcels of land bounded by streets, railroads, or subdivision boundary lines.

Joint Use Driveway
Refer to Section 25-6-417 of the Land Development Code.

LDC
The City of Austin Land Development Code.

Light Fixture
The complete lighting assembly (including the lamp, housing, reflectors, lenses and shields), less the support assembly (pole or mounting bracket); a light fixture.

Maximum Extent Feasible
No feasible and prudent alternative exists, and all possible efforts to comply with the regulation or minimize potential harm or adverse impacts have been undertaken. Economic considerations may be taken into account but shall not be the overriding factor in determining "maximum extent feasible."

Maximum Extent Practicable
Under the circumstances, reasonable efforts have been undertaken to comply with the regulation or requirement, that the costs of compliance clearly outweigh the potential benefits to the public or would unreasonably burden the proposed project, and reasonable steps have been undertaken to minimize any potential harm or adverse impacts resulting from the noncompliance.

Mixed Use Building
A building containing more than one type of use. This may include, but is not limited to, a combination of residential, commercial, light manufacturing, office, and/or civic land uses.

Net Frontage Length
Determined by subtracting required streets to meet block standards, compatibility setbacks, easements, drive aisles, sidewalks, and stairs that occur at the building perimeter from the total property length, as measured along the front lot line from property line to property line (see Figure 6-1). In the case of a curved corner, the Director may determine the end point for purposes of measuring net frontage.

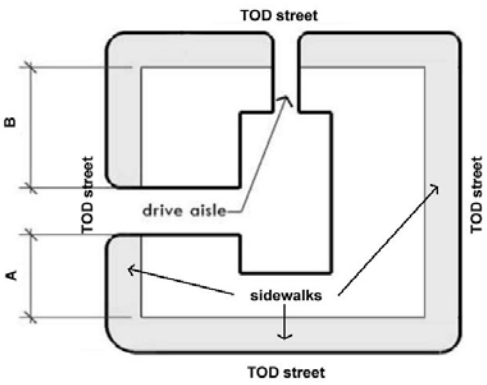


Figure 6-1: The net frontage length for this property is the total of lengths A and B. Required streets, drive aisles, and perimeter sidewalks are not included.

Net Site Area
Refer to Section 28-8-62 of the Land Development Code.

Pedestrian-Oriented Business or Use:
A business or use which is commonly accessed by pedestrians from the street sidewalk and have a high customer use rate.

Principal Building
A building in which is conducted the principal use of the lot on which it is located.

Principal Entrance
The place of ingress and egress most frequently used by the public.

Principal Street
In this Document, the principal street of a lot or site is the street with the highest priority that is adjacent to the lot or site. Street priorities are as follows, from highest to lowest:

- TOD Core Transit Corridor;
- TOD Pedestrian Priority Street; and
- TOD Local Street.

If a lot is adjacent to more than one street of equal priority, the principal street is the street with the highest level of transit service, as determined by the Director; or, if the streets do not have transit service or the level of transit service is equal, the street designated by the lot owner.

Shaded Sidewalk
For purposes of this Document, a shaded sidewalk shall be either of the following:

- A sidewalk at least five feet in width with street trees at 30-foot intervals; or
- A sidewalk at least five feet wide covered with weather-protection materials such as awnings.

Significant Stand of Trees
Three or more Class 1 or Class 2 tree specimens with a minimum measurement of two-inch Diameter at Breast Height, meeting the standards outlined within Section 3.5.2 of the Environmental Criteria Manual and a minimum of 150 square feet of critical root zone preserved.

Streetscape
The elements within and along the street right-of-way that define its appearance, identity, and functionality, including street furniture, landscaping, trees, sidewalks, and pavement treatments.

(TOD) Station Area
A defined area within approximately ½ mile of a transit stop. Station Area boundaries were initially established by the TOD Ordinance adopted by the City Council in May 2005. A Station Area Plan establishes final Station Area boundaries. For the purposes of this Document, a Station Area is synonymous with TOD District.

Station Area Plan (SAP)
A Document that creates a development vision and plan specific to a TOD District, developed through the Station Area Planning process and adopted by the City Council. A SAP also includes new design and development standards and regulations (i.e. zoning) for all properties with the TOD District.

Story
That portion of a building, other than a basement, included between the surface of any floor and the surface of the floor next above it, or if there is no floor above it, then the space between the floor and the ceiling above the floor of such story. For the purposes of this Document, a story is a minimum of 8 feet in height.

Street
For the purposes of this Document, a street includes public and private streets and private drives, but does not include alleys.

Street-Facing Facade
A wall of a building that is within 60 degrees of parallel to a street lot line; and is not behind another wall, as determined by measuring perpendicular to the street lot line. The length of a street-facing façade is measured parallel to the street lot line.

Street Tree/Furniture Zone
An area adjacent to the curb in which street trees may be planted. The zone is also intended for the placement of street furniture including seating, street lights, waste receptacles, fire hydrants, traffic signs, newspaper vending boxes, bus shelters, bicycle racks, public utility equipment such as electric transformers and water meters, and similar elements in a manner that does not obstruct pedestrian access or motorist visibility.

Supplemental Zone
An area between the clear zone and the building edge for active public uses such as a plaza, outdoor café or patio.

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)
Transit-oriented development (TOD) is the functional integration of land use and transit via the creation of compact, walkable, mixed-use communities within walking distance of a transit stop or station. A TOD bring together people, jobs, and services and is designed in a way that makes it efficient, safe, and convenient to travel on foot or by bicycle, transit, or car.

TOD District
A defined area within approximately ½ mile of a transit stop. TOD District boundaries were initially established by the TOD Ordinance adopted by the City Council in May 2005. A Station Area Plan establishes final TOD District boundaries. For the purposes of this Document, a TOD District is synonymous with TOD Station Area or Station Area.

TOD Subdistrict
A designation of land within the TOD District used for applying design and development standards within a specific part of the TOD. The following is a listing of TOD Subdistricts:

- TOD Low Density Residential Subdistrict
- Live/Work Flex Subdistrict
- TOD Mixed-Use Subdistrict
- Corridor Mixed-Use Subdistrict