

STAFF REPORT

REGIONAL CENTER HEARING EXAMINER - HIGH IMPACT CASE

Case Number	2025-REG-033
Address (approx.)	2955 North Meridian Street
Location	Center Township, Council District #12
Petitioner	2955 Indy IN, LLC, by Michael Rabinowitch
Zoning	C-S (TOD) (RC)
Request	Regional Center Approval for provide for a mixed-use development consisting of a dance studio, commercial retail, and residential uses, including townhomes and multi-family dwellings.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Existing Zoning	C-S (TOD) (RC)		
Existing Land Use	Office building and surface parking lot		
Urban Design Guidelines	Campus		
District Typology			
Center Township Plan	Office buffer commercial development		
Surrounding Context		Zoning	Land Use
	North:	C-3 (RC) (TOD) / C-4 (RC) (TOD)	Park / utilities / parking lot
	South:	C-1 (RC (TOD) / PK-1 (RC) (TOD)	Commercial office uses / park
	East:	D-5 (RC) (TOD)	Single-family dwellings
	West:	C-S (RC (TOD)	Commercial office uses
Thoroughfare Plan			
	Meridian Street	Primary arterial	50-foot existing and 80-foot proposed
	Talbott Street	Primary arterial	60-foot existing and 56-foot proposed
	29 th Street	Primary arterial	60-foot existing and 78-foot proposed
	30 th Street	Primary arterial	50-foot existing and 78-foot proposed
Site Plan – Submittal Dates	May 2, 2025		
Landscape Plan – Submittal Dates	July 23, 2025		
Elevations – Submittal Dates	May 2, 2025; revised July 23, 2025		
Meeting Date	September 11, 2025		

DETAILED SUMMARY OF REQUEST

The site was rezoned, in September 2025, to C-S (RC) (TOD), to provide for the proposed mixed-uses, via 2025-CZN-826. Additionally, multiple variances of development standards were approved in August 2025 to provide for Ordinance relief of transparency standards, building setback standards, exceeding maximum building height, and encroachment into the clear sight

triangle of streets, via 2025-CVR-826. Finally, a plat petition was approved in August 2025 to provide for a subdivision of the parcel into 21 lots, via 2025-PLT-826.

This petition seeks approval to develop the eastern half of a site that is currently developed with a large office building, located on the west half and a surface parking lot east of the office building. The office building would remain, with shared parking used by the tenants of the office building and the proposed mixed-use development. The site plan identifies these structures: multi-family dwellings in one building, at the southeast portion of the site, four townhome buildings, oriented along Talbott Street, north of the multi-family dwellings, and a commercial building at the northeast corner of 30th Street and Talbott Street, and a proposed retail structure at the southwest corner of the site, at 29th Street and Meridian Street. The townhome buildings and the retail building are not part of this request as elevations have not been submitted for those structures.

The multi-family building would be a four-story structure, with a footprint of 30,610 square feet. The number of units is unknown, as of this writing. The commercial building would be 11,170 square feet in size and would be used as a dance studio. An IndyGo bus shelter is proposed to be developed west of the dance studio, along 30th Street. No elevations of the bus shelter have been submitted.

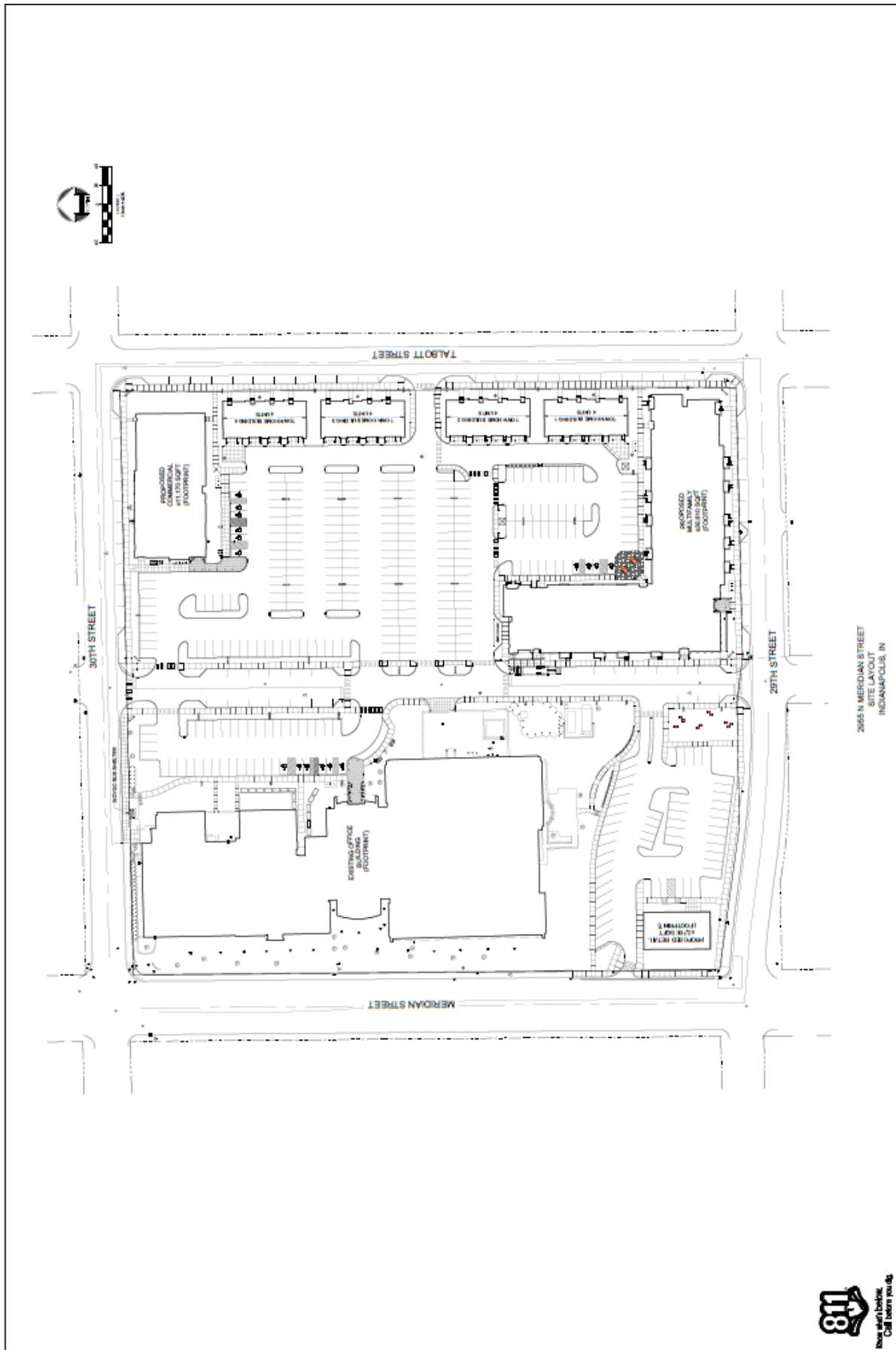
The multi-family building façade would be clad in modular brick in four colors, orange, brown, white, and black. The façade will also include fiber cement, cast in place concrete, composite wood, cast stone trim, and metal trim siding materials. The dance studio façade would be clad in orange modular brick, with metal panel and composite wood materials.



2955 North Meridian Street



0.0125025 0.05 0.075 0.1 Miles



Site Plan





CONCEPT RENDERING C: SOUTH FACADE, FROM 29TH STREET



CONCEPT RENDERING B: SOUTHEAST CORNER, FROM 29TH STREET / REMBRANDT STREET



CONCEPT RENDERING A: SOUTHWEST CORNER, FROM 29TH STREET

DKG
 DESIGN KIMLEY-HORN
 1000 10TH AVENUE, SUITE 100
 DENVER, CO 80202
 TEL: 303.733.1000
 FAX: 303.733.1001
 WWW.DKG.COM

2855 N. MERIDIAN MULTIFAMILY
 2855 N. MERIDIAN STREET, SUITE 100
 DENVER, CO 80202
 TEL: 303.733.1000
 FAX: 303.733.1001
 WWW.DKG.COM

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

CONCEPTUAL RENDERINGS

A903

2855 N. MERIDIAN MULTIFAMILY
 2855 N. MERIDIAN STREET, SUITE 100
 DENVER, CO 80202
 TEL: 303.733.1000
 FAX: 303.733.1001
 WWW.DKG.COM

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

CONCEPTUAL RENDERINGS

A903

Conceptual renderings – multi-family structure

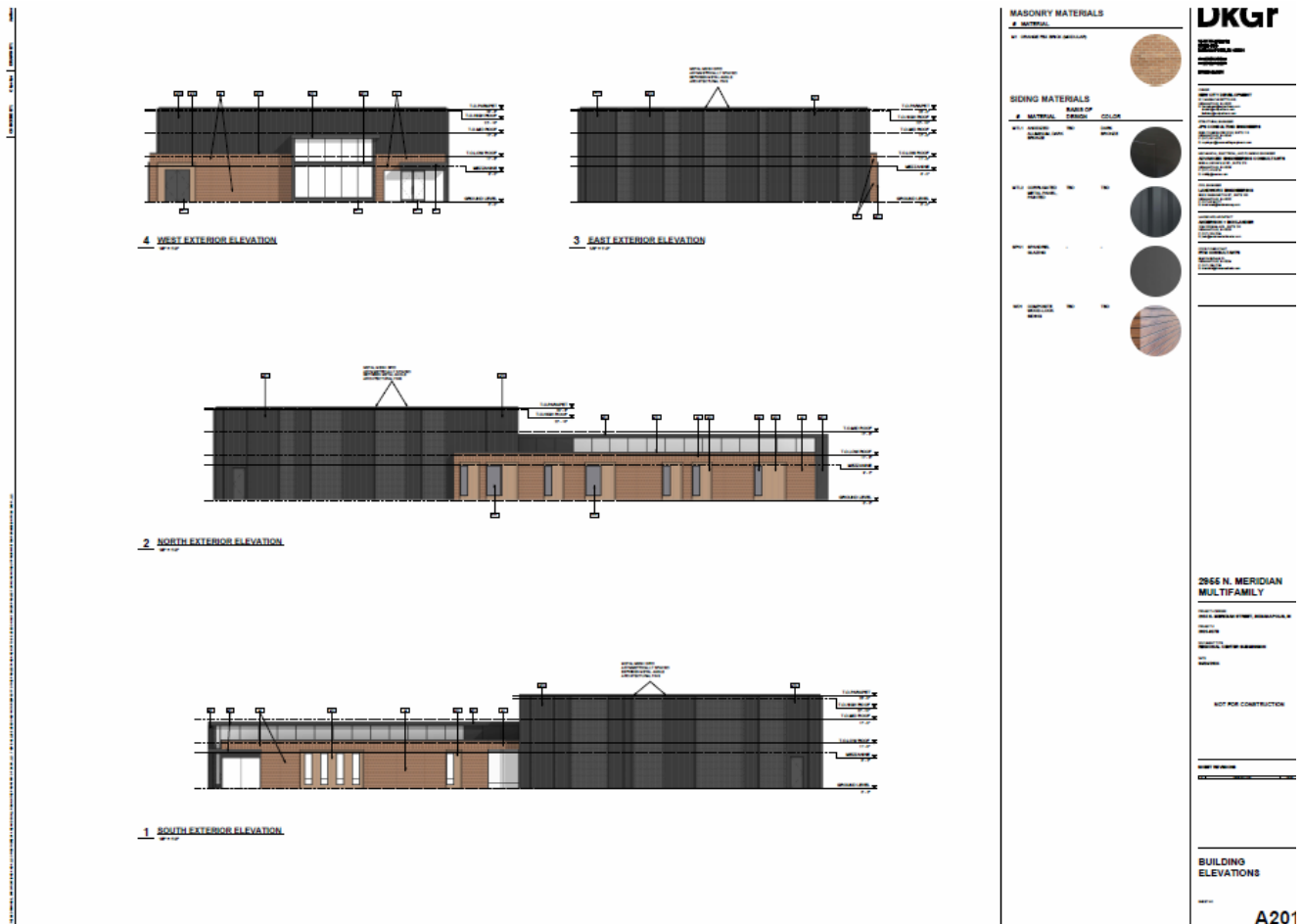


RENDERED ELEVATION, NORTH (30TH ST.)

KIDS DANCE OUTREACH STUDIO
7/19/2019

DKGr

North elevation – dance studio – revised



Proposed elevations for the dance studio. Note: the north elevation has been revised, see above.

APPLICABLE DISTRICT TYPOLOGY – *Typology description directly from the Regional Center Design Guidelines.*

Campus (C)

The Campus typology is characterized by a campus- style orientation of buildings, often organized around a central node such as a plaza or open space. The environment is pedestrian in nature and usually master- planned. Parking is clustered in garages, but there may be large surface parking lots at the edges of the development. There is typically a single educational, corporate or government owner. Examples are the Lilly Corporate Center, IUPUI and Medical Center and the Indiana Government Center.

APPLICABLE GUIDELINES

URBAN STRUCTURE (US) GUIDELINES

Urban Structure Guidelines relate to large-scale urban design components like viewsheds, landmarks, public spaces, and historic resources. Guidelines also relate to historic and current plans for the Downtown area.

REQ = Required guideline; ADV = Recommended (Advised) guideline; INFO = Informational; NA = Guideline does not apply.

US1.1 - Consistency with Adopted Plans	The Regional Center Zoning Ordinance is the legal basis for the review of development activities in the Regional Center, and the Indianapolis Regional Center Plan 2020 is the legal articulation of the plan components, goals, and standards for the area. The specific guidelines contained in this document are directly related to the implementation of the Indianapolis Regional Center Plan 2020 adopted by the Metropolitan Development Commission. The Indianapolis Regional Center Plan 2020 document contains proposed land use, proposed housing development, pedestrian and bicycle routes, land use framework and other relevant information.	APPRAISAL
REQ	<i>US 1.1.1 – Proposals subject to Regional Center review shall be consistent with the following adopted plans, where applicable:</i> <i>Indianapolis Regional Center Plan 2020</i> <i>Sixteenth to Thirtieth Street Meridian Street Corridor Land Use Plan</i> <i>Subarea Plans</i> <i>Redevelopment Area Plans</i> <i>Marion County Thoroughfare Plan</i> <i>Indianapolis Regional Pedestrian Plan</i> <i>Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Area Multi-Modal Corridor and Public Space Design Guidelines</i> <i>Indianapolis Marion County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan</i>	See Summary
US1.2 - Boundaries & Edges	The mixed-use nature of the Regional Center sometimes produces incompatible land use neighbors, and the incompatible elements should be minimized. Frontage streets and landscaped corridors also function as buffers, boundaries, and edges.	APPRAISAL
ADV	<i>US 1.2.1 – Buffers consisting of berms, evergreens and/or walls should be constructed in cases where the Indianapolis Regional Center Plan 2020 land use plan indicates residential development or campus development adjacent to industrial development, railroads, or Interstates and as the right-of-way or site permits.</i>	Satisfied
NA	<i>US 1.2.2 – High- or medium-density development adjacent to, or near to, low-density residential development (6 to 15 Units/Acre and/or 16 to 27 Units/Acre) is to be designed to minimize traffic congestion on local streets, noise, glare, and other negative impacts.</i>	Not applicable
NA	<i>US 1.2.3 – In areas undergoing transformation in land use (such as from industrial to residential), new development should consider the character and impact of existing development. New development should consider mitigating the impacts of existing noise, traffic, service access and other undesirable conditions.</i>	Not applicable

US1.3 - Viewsheds, Vistas & Landmarks		<i>Views of landmark buildings, monuments, and plazas and of the downtown skyline are public assets that should be protected. Views of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, the Capitol Building, the World War Memorial Plaza, and the Public Library are the top priorities considered here.</i> <i>For the purposes of these guidelines protected viewsheds are: (1) Meridian Street from Washington Street to Fall Creek, (2) Market Street from New Jersey Street to Capitol Avenue, (3) Capitol Avenue from Washington Street to Ohio Street, (4) Pennsylvania Street from Ohio Street to St. Joseph Street and (5) Monument Circle.</i>	APPRAISAL
NA	US 1.3.1 – Protected viewsheds shall not be obstructed by signs, canopies, awnings, bus shelters, pedestrian bridges, banners, utilities, or traffic control signs. A maximum projection of four feet from the property line with a minimum Clear Height Zone of nine feet is not considered to be a visual obstruction.		Not applicable
REQ	US 1.3.2 – Only deciduous trees are permitted to be planted in the public sphere (right-of-way) or adjacent to the Pedestrian Way.		See Summary
REQ	US 1.3.3 – Hotels located along protected viewsheds are to develop any covered vehicle “drop off and pick up” areas on side streets. Hotel pedestrian entrance canopies may be permitted along a viewshed because the hotels provide 24/7 sidewalk activity and access. Design must minimize view obstruction, have no side “curtains,” and be of high quality, durable materials. No pull through drop-off permitted along a protected viewshed. Curbside designated areas are permitted if curbside parking restrictions are compatible.		Not Applicable – not a hotel
US1.4 - Gateways		<i>Gateways create a sense of arrival at a place. They can be (1) transitional corridors such as the West Washington Street corridor adjacent to the Zoo linking the downtown and the west side neighborhoods, (2) a physical element marking a point of transition between districts, such as the Interstate underpasses approaching the downtown or (3) the sequence of views leading to a destination, such as views of the downtown skyline starting at 121st Street when southbound on North Meridian Street.</i>	APPRAISAL
REQ	US 1.4.1 – Existing physical elements in the public sphere, such as bridges and underpasses, are to be designed to be safe for pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicles.		Satisfied
ADV	US 1.4.2 – The design of bridges, underpasses and other gateways should incorporate unique lighting, painting, graphics, and materials.		Not Applicable
ADV	US 1.4.3 – All gateway projects that are proposed by “grassroots” initiatives will be reviewed for contextual relationships, durability, and cultural relevance to the area.		Not Applicable
US1.5 - Public Art		<i>Art should be an integral part of infrastructure improvements and new construction. Interactive art, fountains, paving, landscaping, graphics, lighting, and sculpture can communicate our culture’s values and create a more vital environment. Art (for the purposes of these guidelines) is defined as original works created by an individual or team that is experienced in their discipline. The following disciplines are included as having the potential for producing original creative works:</i> (1) Artists - visual arts, performing arts and literary arts, (2) Craftsmen - glass, metal, weaving, quilting, pottery, etc., or (3) Design professionals - architecture, landscapes, interiors, engineers, etc. <i>In general, art is a creative expression by an individual or design team that also ultimately controls the aesthetic outcome.</i>	APPRAISAL
ADV	US 1.5.1 – Support for the arts is recommended to be integrated into the design of every new public and new commercial project with a floor area over 50,000 square feet in size or having a construction cost of over \$1,000,000.		None proposed
ADV	US 1.5.2 – Public Art is recommended to be integrated with all new public institution and government construction projects greater than \$1,000,000 in value. Public Art is art that is located on public property and/or integrated with public construction projects. Public Art can include all forms of original works of art, exterior or interior, which are accessible to the public during normal hours of operation.		None proposed

	REQ	<i>US 1.5.3 – All permanent installations of art located in the Public Sphere or Quasi-Public Sphere shall be constructed of durable materials, not interfere with public safety, and be free of advertising. The installation shall provide access for as many individuals as possible (the provision of access for the mobility, hearing, and vision impaired is encouraged), consider public safety and liability issues; consider vehicular and pedestrian traffic patterns; consider the relationship to architectural and natural features, landscape design, environmental impact, and future plans for the area. Petitioners are encouraged to develop a long-term maintenance program for all permanent installations.</i>	None proposed
	REQ	<i>US 1.5.4 – All temporary installations of art shall not interfere with public safety and be free of advertising. Petitioners are encouraged to develop a long-term maintenance program for any such installation that uses recurring temporary or non-durable elements (such as flags or banners).</i>	None proposed
	ADV	<i>US 1.5.5 – Large scale installations of landscaping (environmental art), urban graphics or art consisting of dispersed components are encouraged. Projects will be reviewed for compatibility with these guidelines.</i>	None proposed
US1.6 - Festivals, Ceremonies & Parades		<i>The Regional Center contains many of the primary festival and celebration spaces in the Central Indiana region, including World War Memorial Plaza, Military Park, Monument Circle, the City Market, White River State Park, and the Central Canal Corridor.</i>	APPRAISAL
	ADV	<i>US 1.6.1 – Projects over 150,000 square feet in size should consider developing space for receptions, special events and related activities. The space can be located in the Public, Quasi-public or Private built environment sphere. Ensure that all areas are ADA Accessible.</i>	None proposed
	REQ	<i>US 1.6.2 – Ensure that the responsibility for maintenance of all improvements located in the quasi-public sphere or public sphere is established.</i>	Satisfied
US2.1 - Historic Districts		<i>The Regional Center has many of the most historic resources in the Central Indiana region, and these should be preserved and reinforced. Development in a National Register or locally protected historic district should be contextually sensitive.</i>	APPRAISAL
	REQ	<i>US 2.1.1– In historic districts designated by the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) that are not designated by the IHPC, new development shall be contextually sensitive to the district. The Infill Housing Guidelines will be used in reviewing single-family proposals in these districts.</i>	Not Applicable
US2.2 - Individual Historic Resources		<i>The Regional Center has many of the most historic resources in the Central Indiana region, and these should be preserved and reinforced. Reusing and preserving older buildings provides a unique frame for new development, reinforces our sense of place, and environmental concern for recycling.</i>	APPRAISAL
	REQ	<i>US 2.2.1 – Changes to the exterior of historic resources shall be reviewed for negative effect to the historic character of the building. [See the Guidelines for the General Principles for Historic Preservation.]</i>	Not Applicable
	REQ	<i>US 2.2.2 – All proposed development which is located on a site that is intersected by a 200-foot buffer around an historic site, as determined to be historic under Guideline US 2.2.1, are to be reviewed for contextual sensitivity. The potential for the reinforcement of exterior space (corridors, plazas, and historic sites), the incorporation and allusion to details in the existing environment, the use of contextual colors and materials, the reinforcing of landscape precedents, the contribution to the social environment and the design response to seasonal change and the day-night cycle will be considered in the design review. This is not meant to restrict creativity, but rather to encourage development that does not destroy or damage those surrounding characteristics that are important and positive. At one end of the spectrum, this may result in new design that is highly reflective of the surrounding built environment, at the other end, it may result in new design that contrasts, but complements the surrounding built environment. In either case, or all cases in between, new design should make a conscious effort to relate in some meaningful way to its surroundings. Where the immediately surrounding built environment is weak or conflicts with the goals of the Regional Center guidelines, one should look beyond the immediate surroundings for context.</i>	Satisfied

US2.3 - “Mile Square” Plan		<i>Indianapolis is a planned city, platted by Alexander Ralston in 1821. This historic plan is highly unique and should be preserved.</i>	APPRAISAL
NA	US 2.3.1 – New development is to be designed to reinforce the original Ralston “Mile Square” Plan. Original rights-of-way are to be retained or restored to preserve the historic character of the “Mile Square.”		Not applicable
NA	US 2.3.2 – Development of the triangular sites on the diagonal avenues should reflect the site configuration.		Not applicable
US3.1 - Demolition		<i>Demolitions are necessary for the evolution of the urban environment. Buildings that are functionally obsolete, unsafe, or economically obsolete can negatively affect the potential for orderly transition in growth areas. Demolitions must be done in a manner that is supportive of proposed land use, environmental goals, conservation goals and does not significantly impact the community’s cultural heritage preserved in historic buildings. A demolition should be pursued only out of necessity and not simply out of convenience.</i>	APPRAISAL
REQ	US 3.1.1 – Demolition requests shall receive Regional Center Approval prior to issuing a permit. Demolition requests will be reviewed (1) to determine if the structure is in a Redevelopment District or a special economic development district and might be eligible for incentives, (2) to determine if the proposed reuse of the site is consistent with the Indianapolis Regional Center Plan 2020 and/or Redevelopment Plans and (3) to determine if the property is historic (as defined in US2.2.1) so that interested parties may solicit development alternatives.		None proposed

SITE CONFIGURATION (SC) GUIDELINES

Site Configuration Guidelines relate to site use, layout, and orientation. They guide building uses and orientation, relationships to adjacent development and corridors and the relationship of site components such as open space, parking, access, service delivery and site security.

REQ = Required guideline; ADV = Recommended (Advised) guideline; INFO = Informational; NA = Guideline does not apply.

SC1.1 - Regional Center Plan 2020		The Indianapolis Regional Center Plan 2020 is the guiding document for land use changes in the Regional Center. As part of the Comprehensive Plan for Marion County, it helps to assure orderly development, protect property values and to promote the regional welfare of the city. Development in the Sixteenth to Thirtieth Street Meridian Street Corridor is also subject to Regional Center Zoning review. The Sixteenth to Thirtieth Street Meridian Street Corridor Land Use Plan is adopted as a segment of the Comprehensive Plan and is to be used to guide development in that area.	APPRAISAL
REQ	SC 1.1.1 – Changes in a site’s land use shall be evaluated relative to its primary zoning classification and the recommendations of the Indianapolis Regional Center Plan 2020 or the Sixteenth to Thirtieth Street Meridian Street Corridor Land Use Plan. Changes in or deviations from a site’s primary zoning shall be as recommended in the Indianapolis Regional Center Plan 2020 or the Sixteenth to Thirtieth Street Meridian Street Corridor Land Use Plan.		Satisfied
SC1.2 - Mixed-Use Development		The Regional Center is a dynamic urban environment where live, work and play space is intimately related. Buildings should be mixed-use in character to reinforce this environment and to spread economic viability over several categories of markets.	APPRAISAL
NA	SC 1.2.1 – New development and changes in use in areas proposed as High-Density Mixed-Use, Medium-Density Mixed-Use, and Research Community Mixed-Use in the Indianapolis Regional Center Plan 2020 are to have multiple uses in each building or multiple uses controlled by a single development entity. In buildings that are designed primarily for a single use, such as garages or office buildings, highly active grade level uses such as retail, restaurants, cafeterias, lobbies, security, and other similar uses will be considered as mixed-use.		Not applicable
SC1.3 - Grade Level Use		Pedestrian activity is encouraged in the Regional Center, and this activity is encouraged both by the presence of pedestrian facilities like sidewalks as well as by the environment through which the pedestrian passes. An active grade level street front is encouraged.	APPRAISAL

NA	SC 1.3.1 – In areas proposed as High-Density Mixed-Use, Medium-Density Mixed-Use and Research Community Mixed-Use in the Indianapolis Regional Center Plan 2020, all grade level uses shall be designed to activate the adjacent pedestrian ways. Retail, restaurant, and commercial uses are encouraged. Exhibit windows and public art may also be acceptable for areas where retail and commercial uses are not currently feasible.	Not applicable
REQ	SC 1.3.2 – Some or all activity areas of corporate, educational, and institutional buildings should be highly visible and located at the grade level. Examples of such activity areas include food services, show rooms, meeting rooms, security offices, exercise rooms and other support functions. Special uses, such as places of worship, court buildings and sports arenas are exempt from this guideline.	See Summary
SC1.4 - Outdoor Living Space		APPRAISAL
REQ	SC 1.4.1 – New residential development including conversions of existing buildings with more than ten units shall provide 32 square feet of usable outdoor, tenant/owner accessible, plaza space per unit. This area should be designed for active use by residents and may be associated with outdoor common areas associated with the entry, in a rooftop zone, adjacent to a pedestrian way or adjacent to a parking zone. It shall contain benches, paving, screening, lighting, and landscaping. This requirement may be waived if public park, trail, or plaza space is within 400 feet (linear along the public sidewalk or pedestrian way) of the primary entrance or if private patios, porches and/or balconies provide at least 32 square feet of usable space for each unit. This requirement will not be applicable to a project that involves the conversion or reuse of an existing building when conditions prevent implementation.	See Summary
SC2.1 - Environmental Site Context		APPRAISAL
REQ	SC 2.1.1 – The design, character, grade, location, and orientation of all uses is to be appropriate for the uses proposed, logically related to existing and proposed topology, and other conditions.	Satisfied
REQ	SC 2.1.2 – Development adjacent to a public waterway or public greenway shall not prohibit or substantially hinder public access to such features.	Not applicable
INFO	SC 2.1.3 – Development regulations established by wellfield protection districts, adjacency to waterways or flood hazards, air space districts, and other environmental regulations may require deviation from some guidelines. Petitioner is to provide documentation for any requested exemption of these guidelines because of such regulations.	Information
SC2.2 - Site Circulation Context		APPRAISAL
REQ	SC 2.2.1 – New development proposals shall not (1) in cases where public right-of-way is proposed to be vacated, isolate or reduce access to nearby sites, (2) in situations where there are multiple public street frontages, create a “back door” image by placing service or security systems exclusively on one frontage and (3) reduce the alternative routes available to accommodate traffic, service access and to provide emergency access in the vicinity of the site.	See Summary
ADV	SC 2.2.2 – Primary pedestrian access to the site is to be from the public pedestrian way. However, additional pedestrian connections are also encouraged to be made in non-public right-of-way from one site to another.	See Summary
SC2.3 - Orientation		APPRAISAL
NA	SC 2.3.1 – The lower two levels of the primary facade zone of a building, is to be built to minimum height of 26 feet along the front property line(s) and is to be increased in height at a ratio of one foot vertical for each three feet horizontal if the building facade is set back from the property line. Grade level uses shall be designed to relate to the public pedestrian way and the street grid. The minimum height of 26 feet shall be exclusive of sloped roof forms.	Not Applicable

NA	SC 2.3.2 – Levels above the second floor (or above a height of 26 feet) may be oriented to relate to views, daylight, and/or energy conservation.	Not Applicable
REQ	SC 2.3.3 – In all areas with recommended land use of Residential 6-15 units per acre, buildings shall be set back consistent with the “established setback” of adjacent buildings. Major structures related to parks, plazas, monuments, churchyards, and other formal, site-related elements shall not be construed to establish setback requirements.	Not Applicable – recommended for Office commercial buffer
NA	SC 2.3.4 – In areas where High-Density Mixed-Use, Medium-Density Mixed-Use, and Research Community Mixed-Use land use are proposed by the Indianapolis Regional Center Plan 2020, and when the existing right-of-way is a minimum of 90 feet, buildings, shall be a minimum of 26 feet in height and shall be built to the property line on all sides abutting public streets. All streets in the Mile Square have 90 foot or greater rights-of-way. Along all primary and secondary arterial street corridors (as listed in the Official Thoroughfare Plan) with a right-of-way less than 90 feet, buildings shall be a minimum of 26 feet in height and shall be built to a line that is 45 feet from the centerline of the street, on all sides abutting public streets. The additional setback in these locations will enable the provision of bus shelters, deliveries, improved sidewalks, landscaping, improved vehicular circulation, curbside drop-off/pick-up and/or other assets. The following local/collector streets are to be treated as arterial streets: (1) North Alabama Street from St. Clair Street to North Street, (2) North Belmont Avenue from White River Parkway West Drive to West 10th Street, (3) Fletcher Avenue from Calvary Street to South Shelby Street, (4) Ft. Wayne Avenue from East 10th Street to Alabama Street, (5) West Merrill Street from Kentucky Avenue to South Missouri Street, (6) North Pershing Avenue continuation of White River Parkway West Drive to West 16th Street, (7) Riverside Drive East from Waterway Boulevard to West 16th Street, (8) St. Clair Street from Indiana Avenue to Ft. Wayne Avenue, (9) Waterway Boulevard from Indiana Avenue to Riverside Drive East, (10) White River Parkway West Drive from West Michigan Street to North Pershing Avenue, and (11) Milburn Street from Indiana Avenue to West 16th Street.	Not Applicable
ADV	SC 2.3.5 – Entry plazas, colonnades, programmed outdoor space and sidewalk circulation related development may be permissible in establishing the build-to line referenced in SC 2.3.1 and SC 3.2.4.	Satisfied

SC2.4 - Site Utilization, Maintenance & Safety		APPRAISAL
	The urban environment is a mix of public, quasi-public, and private uses and users, and sites should be designed to improve utilization, maintenance, and safety.	
REQ	SC 2.4.1 – Sites shall be designed to clearly define proposed site utilization and treated accordingly. The private sphere (tenant/owner private space) may be secured and/or treated as quasi-public space. Guest and visitor quasi-public space is to be supervised, lighted, landscaped and clearly marked. Publicly accessible space in the quasi-public sphere is to be treated compatibly with the street and pedestrian way treatment. When establishing any quasi-public sphere zone, ensure that the ownership/maintenance of that zone is arranged prior to opening up such a space to the public.	Satisfied
REQ	SC 2.4.2 – Portions of the site which are “leftover” such as: (1) weed lines in the space between the fence and the alley, (2) spaces between closely adjoining buildings, (3) offsets and notches at the base of the building and (4) emergency egress and loading areas, shall be designed to require low maintenance.	Satisfied
REQ	SC 2.4.3 – Each public right-of-way frontage with secured fenced or walled areas shall have at least one access gate per frontage to encourage owner maintenance and litter removal.	None proposed
SC2.5 - Adaptability		APPRAISAL
	Buildings inevitably undergo change as economic conditions change. Buildings should be designed from the beginning to maximize their adaptability to different configurations and uses. Buildings that are difficult to adapt often fall into blight and have negative impacts on surrounding properties.	

NA	SC 2.5.1 – New development that has “zero lot line” side yards abutting existing development is to be designed so that floor heights align on as many floors as possible. At a minimum, the grade level and one additional level must be aligned with adjoining buildings.	Not Applicable
ADV	SC 2.5.2 – Commercial and institutional buildings should be designed to accommodate change associated with new technologies, future needs of owners and potential reuse.	Satisfied
NA	SC 2.5.3 – All new development, including parking structures, in areas identified by the Indianapolis Regional Center Plan 2020 as High-Density Mixed-Use, Medium-Density Mixed-Use, and Research Community Mixed-Use, shall be designed and constructed with provisions for active grade level uses adjacent to pedestrian ways.	Not Applicable
SC2.6 - Building Access		As the center of the Central Indiana region and a destination for visitors from all over, the Regional Center built environment must enhance wayfinding.
		APPRAISAL
REQ	SC 2.6.1 – The primary pedestrian access to a building should be easily identifiable and directly from the public pedestrian way. In no case shall primary access across a parking zone be permitted. In situations where the primary pedestrian access to a building is not directly on the public pedestrian way, landscaped pedestrian corridors or plazas shall link entrances directly to the primary pedestrian way serving the use.	See Summary
SC3.1 - Zoning Required Parking		Each Primary Zoning classification sets forth requirements for parking. However, in the Regional Center, policies to diminish the amount of land devoted to the automobile and to encourage multi-modal transportation should be employed. Parking shall be provided as specified in the primary zoning ordinance. On-street parking, shared parking and commercial parking availability may be considered in granting variances. Existing parking located on the same parcel as new development shall be upgraded to meet all development standards and these Guidelines when there is a greater than 15 percent change in the number of parking spaces. Existing parking that will serve the new development and that is located on other parcels that are unaffected by the new development will not require Regional Center Approval.
		APPRAISAL
ADV	SC 3.1.1 – Surface parking lots are discouraged. Site related constraints that result from existing building configurations and/or that relate to small unbuildable parcels and/or that are 20 or less parking spaces in size will be taken into consideration in the review of proposed surface parking. Surface parking that is proposed as part of a master plan to achieve ultimate density recommendations will be permitted.	Satisfied
ADV	SC 3.1.2 – Parking structures are encouraged in order to increase the density of Regional Center uses.	None proposed
INFO	SC 3.1.3 – In order to support growth in the use of mass transit and to increase density, development located in the CBD 1 or CBD 2 Zoning Districts and also located in the Mile Square, and all development located in the CBD 3 Zoning District is not required to provide parking.	Information
SC3.2 - Surface Parking		Each Primary Zoning classification sets forth requirements for parking. However, in the Regional Center, policies to diminish the amount of land devoted to the automobile and to encourage multi-modal transportation should be employed. Parking shall be provided as specified in the primary zoning ordinance. On-street parking, shared parking and commercial parking availability may be considered in granting variances. Existing parking located on the same parcel as new development shall be upgraded to meet all development standards and these Guidelines when there is a greater than 15 percent change in the number of parking spaces. Existing parking that will serve the new development and that is located on other parcels that are unaffected by the new development will not require Regional Center Approval.
		APPRAISAL
ADV	SC 3.2.1 – Surface parking lots are discouraged. Site related constraints that result from existing building configurations and/or that relate to small unbuildable parcels and that are 20 or less parking spaces in size will be taken into consideration in the review of proposed surface parking. Surface parking that is proposed as part of a master plan to achieve ultimate density recommendations will be permitted.	Satisfied
REQ	SC 3.2.2 – New or substantially reconstructed surface parking areas shall be designed considering visibility and safety. They shall also be screened permeably from public rights-of-way and pedestrian ways.	Satisfied
REQ	SC 3.2.3 – When surface parking is provided with new construction locates the parking area to the rear or to the side to allow the building facade to front the pedestrian way.	Satisfied
REQ	SC 3.2.4 – Provide accessible walkways for pedestrians from the parking lot area connecting to the public pedestrian way.	Satisfied

ADV	SC 3.2.5 – Design parking areas to facilitate back-in parking to improve driver vision and safety.	None proposed
ADV	SC 3.2.6 – Provide bio-swailes at regular intervals to reduce the heat island effect and improve storm water management as well as provide places for snow storage during the winter.	None proposed

SC3.3 - Parking Structures	The density of the Regional Center necessitates the use of parking structures. Such structures should, however, be treated as buildings that contribute to the surrounding area and not simply utilitarian structures.	APPRAISAL
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REQ	SC 3.3.1 – All structured parking fronting on public pedestrian ways shall have the grade level designed to accommodate active uses that generate pedestrian activity, such as retail shops, restaurants, business services and offices.	None proposed
REQ	SC 3.3.2 – Generally, the exterior facade of garages visible from the public right-of-way shall be designed to reflect a dominant rectilinear pattern. Exposed sloped ramps often conflict contextually. If sloped parking decks are desired, they should be placed behind a rectilinear pattern facade.	None proposed
REQ	SC 3.3.3 – Parking structures shall have an articulated façade as if they were an active building. Complete facades with contextually patterned openings and materials attached to the superstructure (posts and beams) are preferred. Superstructure elements (posts and beams) may form portions of the facade if they incorporate substantial decorative castings and patterns.	None proposed
ADV	SC 3.3.4 – New parking structures serving new development should be integrated with the design of the primary building. Consistency of materials, pattern, grade level development and signage are encouraged. When existing parking structures are used to support new development, they should be improved to include consistent signage, lighting, security, and landscape features.	None proposed
REQ	SC 3.3.5 – Automobiles and glare from headlights shall be screened from view from the public right-of-way.	None proposed
REQ	SC 3.3.6 – Exits and entrances shall be designed to minimize pedestrian conflicts. When the right-of-way permits, alley access and parking structures located in the interior of the block are encouraged.	None proposed

SC3.4 - Access to Parking	Parking must be accommodated and must be easily located. However, it must also not detract from the urban environment.	APPRAISAL
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ADV	SC 3.4.1 – Grade level parking facing the perimeter of the block is discouraged.	Satisfied
REQ	SC 3.4.2 – Parking lot screening is required if parked vehicles are visible from a public street or pedestrian way. It shall be designed to be permeable, considering visibility and safety.	Satisfied
ADV	SC 3.4.3 – Entrances to parking areas should be designed for their intended audience. Public entrances should have a higher-profile entrance than an entrance to a restricted parking area.	Satisfied
ADV	SC 3.4.4 – When the right-of-way permits, alley access and parking in the interior of the block is encouraged.	Satisfied
NA	SC 3.4.5 – Commercial convenience drive-thru pick-up windows are permitted only when not located facing a public street (public right-of-way that is greater than 40 feet in width). High-density and medium-density residential development (as defined by the Indianapolis Regional Center Plan 2020) may provide convenience drop-off and pick-up improvements for residents. The improvements shall not reduce or impede pedestrian or vehicular effectiveness.	None proposed

SC4.1 - Construction Site Control	The density of the Regional Center provides all sites with a significant public profile. Construction sites should remain clean and secure and mitigate impacts on surrounding buildings or activities. The public right-of-way shall be maintained clear and free of construction materials, debris, gravel, and dust at all times unless a permit has been issued for use of such right-of-way and the construction has been appropriately secured.	APPRAISAL
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REQ	SC 4.1.1 – Construction sites shall be fully secured. Construction fences may have creative artwork or informational material specifically about the project under construction. Chain link fencing will be allowed along a pedestrian way to secure a site during construction provided it is covered with canvas or a similar material which may display artwork or informational material specifically about the project under construction.	Satisfied
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REQ	SC 4.1.2 – All barriers and alternative pedestrian routes shall be compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.	Satisfied
REQ	SC 4.1.3 – Protected pedestrian passageways (ADA compliant) shall be provided when a sidewalk needs to be closed for more than 72 hours because of maintenance activities or new construction. Continued use of vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian modes of transportation shall be provided for during the construction period.	Satisfied
SC4.2 - Service & Delivery Access		Service access to buildings in the Regional Center should balance logistical convenience and the desire to maintain design integrity, public safety, and the pedestrian experience.
		APPRAISAL
REQ	SC 4.2.1 – All service and delivery access shall be on site and fully screened, contained within the building, or located below grade and accessible from the alley when alleys serve the site.	Satisfied
REQ	SC 4.2.2 – No trash dumpsters shall be placed directly adjacent to a pedestrian way.	None proposed
SC4.3 - Security Fencing, Walls & Barriers		In some circumstances security fencing and/or barriers are required for site control. Public sidewalks, alleys, and other areas outside of the fence are areas where weeds and litter frequently accumulate.
		APPRAISAL
REQ	SC 4.3.1 – Permanent security fencing shall be designed to enhance the building design.	None proposed
REQ	SC 4.3.2 – No chain link fencing is to be visible from a sidewalk or pedestrian way.	None proposed
REQ	SC 4.3.3 – No barbed wire or razor wire is permitted.	None proposed
REQ	SC 4.3.4 – Each public right-of-way frontage with secured fenced or walled areas shall have at least one access gate per frontage to encourage owner maintenance and litter removal.	None proposed
REQ	SC 4.3.5 – Vehicle security barriers or planters are to be designed into the site, and all pedestrian ways must remain Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible. New development is encouraged to use site design (such as raised steps or planting beds) in lieu of individual security barriers or planters.	None proposed

MASSING AND DENSITY (MD) GUIDELINES

Massing & Density Guidelines relate to general building form, such as building bulk and density.

REQ = Required guideline; ADV = Recommended (Advised) guideline; INFO = Informational; NA = Guideline does not apply.

MD1.1 - Massing		Viewsheds, sight lines, landmark buildings and monuments and other larger-scale urban design elements are public assets that development should enhance and protect. Also refer to CBD Zoning Ordinance “Sky Exposure Plane” requirements.	APPRAISAL
ADV	MD 1.1.1 – New development is to be designed to maximize sight lines to and from the development. The design should provide viewing opportunities from the building of the sidewalk, public areas, and landmarks, as well as incorporate building elements which assist in wayfinding. Balconies, rooftop gardens, courtyards, large windows, grade level visibility, glass elevators, high-rise lobbies with exterior views and public observation decks are encouraged.		Satisfied
ADV	MD 1.1.2 – The impact of shadows, glare, and “wind tunnels” shall be considered in the design of landscaping and site improvements.		Satisfied
REQ	MD 1.1.3 – Views of landmarks, respect for identified Viewsheds, enhanced wayfinding and enhanced pedestrian circulation are to be identified and documented with the plans submitted.		Satisfied
ADV	MD 1.1.4 – The corners of buildings located at the intersection of two streets should be emphasized in order to create identity, take advantage of the high visibility, and enhance wayfinding.		Satisfied
NA	MD 1.1.5 – New structures shall not cast shadows on the south quadrant of the upper plaza (grade plus 20 feet and 100 feet in diameter) of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument between the hours of 10:00 AM solar time and 2:00 PM solar time, from February 21		Not applicable

	through October 21. This limitation considers the Azimuth, Altitude and the Intercept created by the 150-foot permissible height for structures located on Monument Place. During Daylight Savings Time the area is protected from 11:55 AM to 3:55 PM clock time. It shifts back one hour during Eastern Standard Time.	
MD2.1 - Density	While a variety of densities are present in even the densest of cities, it is recognized that as the center of the Central Indiana region, low-density, suburban-style development is a detriment to the promotion of pedestrian activity and to the overall economic vitality of the Regional Center.	APPRAISAL
NA	MD 2.1.1 – Regional Center Floor Area Ratios (RCFAR) shall be met in accordance with the following: High-Density Mixed-Use: 4:1 and greater; Medium-Density Mixed-Use: 2:1 and greater; Research Community: 1.5:1 and greater. Floor area data by level and use must be provided. In situations where development is proposed to be phased over a period of time greater than five years, a master plan showing phasing is to be submitted. The first phase of the proposed development shall conform to Guideline SC2.6.1: Building Access.	Not applicable

CHARACTER AND APPEARANCE (CA) GUIDELINES

Character & Appearance Guidelines relate to the look and performance of buildings and related elements. They provide guidance on architectural style, individual building components and materials, exterior user amenities and environmental performance.

REQ = Required guideline; ADV = Recommended (Advised) guideline; INFO = Informational; NA = Guideline does not apply.

CA1.1 - Regional Center Zoning Ordinance	The Regional Center Zoning Ordinance, as amended, is the guiding legal ordinance and sets forth general design parameters.	APPRAISAL
INFO	CA 1.1.1 – All new development or change of use, signage, building facade treatment, street furnishings and landscaping within the right-of-way, landscape treatment on the site, development intensity and massing of structures shall be so designed to be in conformity with the Indianapolis Regional Center Plan 2020 and Regional Center Zoning Ordinance.	Information
CA1.2 - Style	The Regional Center is a dynamic place where each generation expresses itself through the built environment. The architectural style of a building should reflect the time in which it was constructed but should also be respectful of surrounding styles.	APPRAISAL
ADV	CA 1.2.1 – New design should make a conscious effort to relate in some meaningful way to its surroundings. The potential for the reinforcement of exterior space (corridors, plazas, and historic sites), the incorporation and allusion to details in the existing environment, the use of contextual colors and materials, the reinforcing of landscape precedents, the contribution to the social environment and the design response to seasonal change and the day-night cycle will be considered in the design review. This may result in new design that is reflective of the surrounding built environment, or it may result in new design that contrasts but complements the surrounding built environment.	Satisfied
ADV	CA 1.2.2 – Buildings should be designed as a whole and in general should not attempt to mix diverse architectural styles.	Satisfied
ADV	CA 1.2.3 – Literal replication of historic styles is strongly discouraged.	Satisfied
NA	CA 1.2.4 – Low- and medium-density franchise or corporate design is discouraged. Buildings should be designed to relate to their context.	Not applicable
CA1.3 – Theme	Most urban areas have very distinct districts that are identified by a unique architectural style, streetscape, or other physical design. The identity of such districts should be enhanced in the Regional Center.	APPRAISAL

	ADV	CA 1.3.1 – Historic themes and district themes related to documented initiatives (such as designated Cultural Districts) are encouraged to be promoted in site and building design. Petitioner shall cite the initiative and their design response.	Satisfied
	NA	CA 1.3.2 – Significant structures that contribute to the overall form of the Regional Center, such as buildings over 20 stories high, sports and entertainment venues and public buildings, will be reviewed in the broader context of the entire Regional Center.	Not applicable
CA2.1 – Facade Character		The facades of buildings are one of the most important contributors to the urban environment. From the interaction with a building at the pedestrian level to the appearance of skyscrapers from a distance, building facades contribute significantly to the character of the Regional Center.	APPRAISAL
	REQ	CA 2.1.1 – All new buildings shall have a cohesive architectural treatment on all facades as well as on any solid screening elements such as walls. The colors, patterns and quality of materials shall create a unified building form. In situations where there are “zero lot lines” the sides and rear of buildings may conform to the dominant contextual precedent. This guideline is not intended to prohibit variation in the facade treatment that sensitively responds to context, to building code requirements, to service access or to limit the variation in façade design that is large in scale and forms the wall(s) of exterior spaces.	Satisfied
	ADV	CA 2.1.2 – The facades of buildings shall be designed to have three-dimensional interest. Transparent facade treatment may be used. Flat and minimally textured facades are discouraged.	Satisfied
	NA	CA 2.1.3 – In new commercial buildings a minimum of forty percent of the length of the grade level facade, adjacent to the pedestrian way, shall be glazed between two feet and eight feet above grade. In situations where tenants require wall space, the back of shelving may be set back a minimum of two feet and displays placed in the window areas. This guideline is intended to encourage occupant interaction with exterior space, in order to engender “natural surveillance” and social interaction.	Not applicable
	NA	CA 2.1.4 – At the grade level, adjacent to pedestrian ways, glass and/or other glazing materials shall have high transmissivity of visible light and low reflectivity qualities. The percent of visible light transmitted less the percent reflected shall be no less than 59 percent. For example: (1) Clear monolithic uncoated laminated glass transmits 86 percent and reflects 8 percent for a net factor of 78 percent and (2) Aqua-green low reflectivity glass transmits 66 percent and reflects 7 percent for a net factor of 59 percent.	Not applicable
	ADV	CA 2.1.5 – The articulation of openings, roof line, base and materials should be designed to protect materials from staining. Care should be taken in the detailing of water run-off, use of untreated ground water, use of porous materials, and the use of copper, core-ten steel or other oxidizing metals. The impact of starling and pigeon roosting habits should also be considered and discouraged adjacent to pedestrian ways and balconies. Such birds prefer to roost on flat ledges or crevices that offer protection from the elements.	Satisfied
	REQ	CA 2.1.6 – When a new project requires that an opaque wall or fence be constructed adjacent to the public sidewalk or pedestrian way, the design shall incorporate features to provide visual interest at a minimum of 30-foot intervals. A thirty-foot-long expanse would require no features and a 40-foot-long expanse would require a minimum of two features. Permanently installed landscape, lighting features, public art, windows, and cutouts may be used to create interest. When “new tenant” leasehold improvements are made in existing buildings this guideline applies only to the new construction.	None proposed
CA2.2 – Materials		Technological advancements have produced a palette of facade materials that varies drastically from the relatively limited palette of the past. A limited palette produced districts with uniform character and appearance, and modern materials should be used to create a similar result. These guidelines are directed toward creating an overall urban fabric with a strong sense of place that reinforces the definition of corridors (such as Meridian Street, the Canal, and Mass Avenue) and places (such as University Park and Monument Circle.)	APPRAISAL

REQ	CA 2.2.1 – Materials shall be compatible with the Regional Center urban environment in durability, color, texture, and use. Examples of current materials include red to brown tone brick, buff tone brick, limestone, granite, low reflectivity glass, metal frames, concrete and metal panels. Projects should be constructed to be as maintenance free as possible.	Satisfied
ADV	CA 2.2.2 – Contrasting, bright colors and light may be used (on less than five percent of facade) for design accent and building identification.	None proposed
REQ	CA 2.2.3 – Only in residential situations where context permits shall wood siding or cedar shakes be permitted as the primary cladding material.	None proposed
REQ	CA 2.2.4 – Mirrored glass polished stainless steel and other highly reflective materials shall only be used in moderation. In no case shall glare create an unsafe driving condition. An analysis of the impact of reflected sunlight (related to glare and heat) shall be submitted if greater than 20 percent of any facade is composed of materials that reflect greater than thirty percent of visible light.	Satisfied
CA2.3 – Pattern, Scale & Texture		Building facades or facade sections can provide visual cues to users through varying patterns and scales. Such cues are important in creating a legible built environment.
ADV	CA 2.3.1 – Patterns reflected in materials and/or the installation of materials should be scaled in context with their use on the building. Generally flat and minimally textured facades are discouraged. Uses that often have opaque exterior walls such as theaters, stadiums, museums, gymnasiums, utilities, and industries are to include pattern, scale, and texture elements.	Satisfied
ADV	CA 2.3.2 – The scale of entrances, fenestration, articulation of the structure and use of materials shall create a balanced, cohesive visual composition that relates to the use and size of the building.	Satisfied
ADV	CA 2.3.3 – The pattern, perceived size and placement of fenestration or other building openings and horizontal bands should reflect and/or reconcile similar patterns on adjacent buildings.	Satisfied
ADV	CA 2.3.4 – In general, patterns should be more fine-grained and provide greater texture and visual interest nearer the ground level, especially when adjacent to a pedestrian way.	Satisfied
CA2.4 – Window Treatment		Mirrored, tinted, or otherwise blocked windows create undesirable “dead zones” along the sidewalk. The interaction between the public sphere and private sphere is critical to developing an accessible, inviting, and safe pedestrian environment.
NA	CA 2.4.1 – At the grade level, adjacent to pedestrian ways, glass and/or other glazing materials shall have high transmissivity of visible light and low reflectivity qualities. The percent of visible light transmitted less the percent reflected shall be no less than 59 percent. For example: (1) Clear monolithic uncoated laminated glass transmits 86 percent and reflects 8 percent for a net factor of 78 percent and (2) Aqua-green low reflectivity glass transmits 66 percent and reflects 7 percent for a net factor of 59 percent.	Not applicable
REQ	CA 2.4.2 – Upper-level windows that are mirrored or otherwise highly-reflective must not significantly reflect light onto adjacent buildings, plazas, or public rights-of-way. Mirrored glass shall be used in moderation. An analysis of the impact of reflected sunlight (related to glare and heat) shall be submitted if greater than 20 percent of any facade is composed of materials that reflect greater than 30 percent of visible light. In no case shall glare create an unsafe driving condition. This information may be submitted conceptually at the schematic design phase. If additional analysis is warranted the architect may submit impact information at the appropriate design phase.	Satisfied
REQ	CA 2.4.3 – The fenestration pattern of grade level windows and openings shall be compatible with the grade level use and the urban context. Movable security accordion type gates and overhead security barriers are not permitted. Permanently installed grills shall be compatible and integrated with the building design.	Satisfied

REQ	CA 2.4.4 – Awnings, shutters, and other energy conservation devices shall be designed integral with the building.	None proposed
NA	CA 2.4.5 – All sides of the building with fenestration and/or required openings that are abutting developable property not controlled by the owner shall be offset and/or set back from the property line a distance consistent with the requirements of the relevant building codes and/or fire rated as required, unless air-rights (or development rights) are acquired from adjacent properties.	Not applicable
NA	CA 2.4.6 – In the Village Mixed-Use district typology, it is recommended that all grade level windows on new structures that are adjacent to the public sidewalk be able to be opened.	Not Applicable

CA2.5 – Signs	Building signage is important to help people easily locate destinations and to promote a Regional Center that is legible. Signage can also, however, detract from these purposes.	APPRAISAL
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REQ	CA 2.5.1 – Buildings shall be designed to incorporate building and business signs into the facade design. Signs shall be compatible with the architectural pattern, style, and fenestration of the building.	None proposed
REQ	CA 2.5.2 – Signs shall be “architectural type” letters. The individual letters may be lighted, back lit or neon type letters. Backlit panel or “box type” signs are generally discouraged. If these sign types are used, the background shall be non-reflective, opaque, and dark in color with lettering light in color.	None proposed
REQ	CA 2.5.3 – Projecting signs shall be permitted when they are integrated with the building design and when contextual relationships are compatible. Signs shall have maximum projection of four feet into the right-of-way with a minimum Clear Height Zone of nine feet.	None proposed
NA	CA 2.5.4 – Strobe lights, motion and other attention-getting devices shall not be used.	Not applicable
NA	CA 2.5.5 – Grade level window signs and displays are permitted but shall not obscure more than 15 percent of the total window area or more than 15 percent of any single storefront window panel and shall only contain materials for products or services (or representative of services) available on premises.	Not applicable
REQ	CA 2.5.6 – Signs are to have an 80 percent contrast ratio to enhance legibility for the sight impaired.	None proposed
ADV	CA 2.5.7 – Signs are encouraged to be designed creatively and artistically.	None proposed
REQ	CA 2.5.8 – All buildings shall have the street address number clearly visible, daytime and nighttime, from the pedestrian way and from the vehicle travel lanes for each public entrance. Numbers shall be a minimum of four inches in height.	See Recommendations

CA2.6 – Rooflines/Rooftops	In the Regional Center, rooftops are usually visible from high-rise buildings and should therefore contribute to the overall character of the area.	APPRAISAL
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REQ	CA 2.6.1 – The uppermost portion of the facade (building massing, roof form, eave, cornice, upper floor level(s), roof top design and/or parapet) of all buildings shall be articulated with a treatment in scale with the building.	Satisfied
REQ	CA 2.6.2 – Rooftop zones are to be designed integral with the building with consideration given for the view from the grade level and from other buildings. Mechanical equipment shall be placed to complement the building design and/or screened with materials consistent with the building’s design.	Satisfied
ADV	CA 2.6.3 – Public art and rooftop gardens are encouraged in rooftop design.	None proposed
ADV	CA 2.6.4 – The illumination of the uppermost portion of the facade (building massing, roof form, eave, cornice and/or parapet) of buildings over 10 stories in height is Design principles related to energy conservation and light pollution are to be followed.	None proposed

CA2.7 – Facade Lighting	The architectural lighting of facades can provide additional character at night but can also create light pollution.	APPRAISAL
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ADV	CA 2.7.1 – The architectural lighting of building features and special seasonal power should be incorporated into the building design.	None proposed
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ADV	CA 2.7.2 – <i>In the Campus, Entertainment, Urban Mixed-Use, Village Mixed-Use and Urban Core district typologies, where nighttime use is typical, the lighting of facade features is encouraged.</i>	None proposed
REQ	CA 2.7.3 – <i>Facade lighting should be done in a manner as to minimize light “overspray” onto adjacent properties or public rights-of-way. It should also be done with a minimum amount of lighting to minimize light pollution.</i>	None proposed
NA	CA 2.7.4 – <i>The illumination of the uppermost portion of buildings over 10 stories in height is recommended.</i>	Not applicable
ADV	CA 2.7.5 – <i>When lighting (such as to accent windows or architectural elements) is used to contribute significantly to the overall design of structure or site, the installation should require low maintenance and be easily accessible. When operating, no more than 10 percent of the lighting shall be nonfunctioning at any point in time.</i>	None proposed
NA	CA 2.7.6 – <i>Except in the Entertainment Mixed-Use district typology, the non-sign use of exposed neon tubing (such as to accent windows or architectural elements) should be used sparingly.</i>	Not applicable

CA2.8 – Awnings & Canopies	Awnings and canopies can contribute to the public streetscape while providing protection from the elements for pedestrians. They may also be used for energy conservation and as signage.	APPRAISAL
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ADV	CA 2.8.1 – <i>Awnings and canopies are encouraged in order to provide energy conservation and inclement weather protection to clients and pedestrians.</i>	None proposed
REQ	CA 2.8.2 – <i>Awnings and canopies may have business identification signage on no greater than 15 percent of any surface.</i>	None proposed
REQ	CA 2.8.3 – <i>Backlit or internally-illuminated vinyl or plastic awnings are not allowed.</i>	None proposed
REQ	CA 2.8.4 – <i>Awnings shall have no greater than a four-foot projection into the public right-of-way. Marquees associated with entertainment venues will be reviewed separately as a component of entrance design.</i>	None proposed
REQ	CA 2.8.5 – <i>Awnings and canopies shall maintain the clear height zone with a minimum clearance of nine feet under the lowest part of the assembly.</i>	None proposed
NA	CA 2.8.6 – <i>Canopies and canopy support shall not impede pedestrian traffic, or narrow or otherwise restrict the pedestrian way. Canopies should not be located on building corners at intersections unless their supports do not interfere with pedestrian movement. All development in the right-of-way is subject to the issuance of an Encroachment Permit by the Indianapolis Department of Public Works.</i>	Not applicable

CA 3.1 – Building Entrances/Exits	As the center of the Central Indiana region and a destination for visitors from all over, the Regional Center built environment must be universally legible.	APPRAISAL
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NA	CA 3.1.1 – <i>New building entrances shall face the public street, be emphasized and weather protected when possible.</i>	Not applicable
ADV	CA 3.1.2 – <i>Building entrances should be designed in a manner to provide visual cues, such as entry scale, that differentiate public and private entrances.</i>	Satisfied
REQ	CA 3.1.3 – <i>Entries shall be lighted from dusk until dawn. Design principles related to energy conservation and light pollution are to be followed.</i>	See Summary
ADV	CA 3.1.4 – <i>Buildings at the intersection of two streets should consider corner access in order to treat each frontage equally and to provide easy access for pedestrians from the crosswalks.</i>	See Summary
REQ	CA 3.1.5 – <i>Exit doors that open directly into the pedestrian way, street or alley shall be designed to provide safe egress and to not conflict with the sidewalk or Pedestrian Way utilization. Each door condition should be evaluated based on the volume of use, user visibility, accessibility, and safety. Pedestrians normally maintain an 18-inch clear zone when walking adjacent to a wall.</i>	None proposed

CA 3.2 – Arcades, Tunnels & Walkways		The density of the Regional Center promotes pedestrian activity year-round. Protection from inclement weather should be promoted to enhance the pedestrian experience.	APPRAISAL
ADV	CA 3.2.1 – Interior arcades that are integral with the design of the building are encouraged in public buildings, hotels, and mixed-use buildings.	None proposed	
ADV	CA 3.2.2 – Protection from inclement weather should be provided at transit stops when possible.	None proposed	
ADV	CA 3.2.3 – Existing non-grade level walkway systems (skywalk, Canal level and tunnel) are to be extended and enhanced.	None proposed	
CA 4.1 – Exterior Site Furnishings		Exterior site furnishings located in the public and semi-public spheres contribute to the character of the public corridor and accommodate pedestrians and public gatherings.	APPRAISAL
REQ	CA 4.1.1 – All exterior light standards, tree grates, seating, etc. shall be dark finished metal, granite, or other durable materials. Dark green, dark red, black, or dark anodized colors are Color and material variations will be considered when the design of the site furnishings is directly related to the architectural materials and treatment of the building. This Guideline does not apply to art (defined as original works created by an individual or team that is experienced in their discipline.)	None proposed	
REQ	CA 4.1.2 – Benches, bollards, trash receptacles, light standards and other similar elements shall not have advertising or business identification signage.	None proposed	
NA	CA 4.1.3 – All elements that are approved to be in the public right-of-way placed by the adjacent property owner shall be maintained by the property owner and removed as required for safety, access, and utility maintenance.	Not applicable	
REQ	CA 4.1.4 – Because of the visual clutter created by the misalignment of movable exterior site furnishings, movable waste receptacles, tables and planters are to be circular in plan. This does not apply to furnishings placed as a component of a regulated Sidewalk Restaurant.	None proposed	
ADV	CA 4.1.5 – All outdoor site furniture is encouraged to incorporate artistic elements or be designed as a work of public art.	None proposed	
CA 4.2 – Pedestrian & Bicycle Amenities		The Regional Center should accommodate and promote pedestrian and bicycle activity as a way to reduce vehicle traffic and pollution and to promote public health.	APPRAISAL
ADV	CA 4.2.1 – In areas identified by the Indianapolis Regional Center Plan 2020 as High-Density Mixed-Use, Medium- Density Mixed-Use and Research Community Mixed-Use, outdoor seating, bicycle parking and weather protection are encouraged adjacent to or accessible from the pedestrian way.	None proposed	
REQ	CA 4.2.2 – Commercial and institutional developments of more than 50,000 square feet are required to provide at least one bicycle parking space per 10,000 square feet of building.	Not applicable – commercial building is under 50,000 square feet	
ADV	CA 4.2.3 – Office, institutional and industrial developments are encouraged to provide shower and changing facilities for employees commuting by bicycle or by walking.	None proposed	
REQ	CA 4.2.4 – Residential development containing 20 or more residential units shall provide sheltered and secure bicycle storage with a no-step entry for alternative transportation modes (such as bicycle, scooter, or motorcycle). Such facilities shall be provided at a ratio of at least one space per four residential units. The storage may be accommodated by providing space in a dedicated storage room designed for this purpose, space in a parking facility, or exterior storage facilities that are integrated with the site development. Projects composed of town homes or apartments with direct access to their own private garages are exempted.	See Summary	
CA 4.3 – Site Lighting		Lighting should be provided in all built environment spheres at an appropriate level to provide for the safety and security of users.	APPRAISAL

	REQ	CA 4.3.1 – Pedestrian circulation corridors are to have pedestrian scale lighting.	See Summary
	REQ	CA 4.3.2 – Building entries, sidewalks and heavily used pedestrian areas in areas designated by the Indianapolis Regional Center Plan 2020 as High- Density Mixed-Use, Medium-Density Mixed-Use, or Research Community Mixed-Use, as well as in the Campus district typology, are to be lit to a level of 4 to 8 foot-candles. Metal halide lamps (because of more effective visibility and better color rendition in the ultraviolet range) are preferred in high activity pedestrian areas. General lighting shall be provided to light vehicular parking, vehicular travel surfaces, plazas, and service areas. The foot-candle level shall be designed to provide the minimum lighting needed for safety. A level of 1 to 5 foot-candles with a maximum variance of 4 to 1 for the brightest to dimmest lit spot is recommended by the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA). High pressure sodium may be used in areas where general lighting is provided. Outdoor lighting design should take into account, (1) specific site conditions, (2) reducing light pollution, (3) reducing energy consumption, (4) improving safety and (5) aesthetic considerations.	See Summary
	REQ	CA 4.3.3 – Light sources shall be “full cut” shielded and direct light onto the surface area only. Lighting filaments in excess of 2000 lumens shall not be visible at the lot line, adjacent buildings or from above the source. Likewise, shall the level of light from a light source not exceed one foot-candle at the lot line, entering an adjacent building or above the source. When appropriate, exceptions may be made for decorative, ornamental and “historic period” lights (acorn globe, pendant, etc.), which shall be designed to minimize light overspray and light source contrast.	See Summary
CA 4.4 – Screening		The impact of parking zones and service/utility equipment and similar facilities should be minimized aesthetically and functionally on surrounding properties and pedestrian ways.	APPRAISAL
	REQ	CA 4.4.1 – Mechanical equipment, loading docks and trash removal areas shall be screened from view from the public streets and pedestrian ways. Dumpsters shall not be located adjacent to a pedestrian way.	Satisfied
	REQ	CA 4.4.2 – Screening materials are to be the same as the primary building materials and/or composed of permanent landscape elements such as: architectural metal fencing, masonry, trees, evergreen plant material, and berms.	Satisfied
	REQ	CA 4.4.3 – Surface parking areas adjacent to the public right-of- way or pedestrian way shall have a minimum four-foot-deep planting area to provide for screening with trees, walls, berms and/or ground planting. Clear sightlines between three feet and seven feet above the sidewalk grade are to be maintained to promote visibility and safety (except where the primary zoning ordinance requires clear sightlines between two and one-half feet and nine feet at clear sight triangle areas at vehicular intersections). The design of the lower three feet (two and one-half feet in clear sight triangle areas) of the screening shall be permanent, durable, and easily maintained. A solid “knee wall” or berm with ground level evergreen planting is recommended.	Satisfied
CA 4.5 – Paving Materials		Paved areas of a site, including sidewalks, plazas, and parking zones should be designed integral with the building and should also minimize storm water runoff that significantly contributes to water pollution.	APPRAISAL
	ADV	CA 4.5.1 – Paving materials and installation patterns shall complement the building design and site utilization.	Satisfied
	REQ	CA 4.5.2 – Plazas, sidewalks, outside eating areas and all other paved areas in the public or quasi-public spheres and not in a parking zone or service zone shall be constructed of masonry pavers or concrete (no asphalt or crushed stone permitted.)	Satisfied
	REQ	CA 4.5.3 – Parking zones with more than 20 parking spaces shall be constructed of a permanent permeable material (such as permeable asphalt or unit masonry systems) or shall provide and maintain bio-swales or other natural methods to substantially eliminate storm water runoff. Creative and artistic solutions are encouraged. If petitioner proposes standard asphalt, concrete or other non-permeable paving, runoff and onsite detention documentation must be provided.	Satisfied

	REQ	CA 4.5.4 – <i>Paving systems and materials installed in the right-of-way by property owners shall meet Department of Public Works and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.</i>	Satisfied
CA 4.6 – Urban Forestry & Plant Material		The density of development in the Regional Center produces an “urban heat island” created by the absorption of heat by pavement and buildings. Planting materials can mitigate this effect while also reducing pollution and storm water runoff and creating a more aesthetic environment.	APPRAISAL
	REQ	CA 4.6.1 – <i>Plant materials are to be selected to exhibit seasonal coloration and flowers. All landscape design is to emphasize seasonal variation.</i>	See Summary
	REQ	CA 4.6.2 – <i>In parking zones, deciduous shade trees (minimum of four-inch caliper) are to be provided and maintained at a minimum of one tree for each 1,600 square feet of paving in order to achieve 25 percent canopy coverage in 10 years of growth. Required trees may be clustered in islands, but only if such clustering will not impact the target of 25 percent of the parking zone being covered by tree canopy in 10 years of growth.</i>	See Summary
	REQ	CA 4.6.3 – <i>Tree islands in parking lots should be a minimum of 130 square feet per tree with irrigation or 150 square feet per tree without irrigation. This minimum requirement may be waived if the pavement is permeable. All tree islands shall be curbed to prevent damage to the tree.</i>	See Summary
	REQ	CA 4.6.4 – <i>Planting materials selected must be suitable to urban conditions. Trees with shallow root systems that could severely impact paved areas, or be severely impacted by paved areas, should be avoided. A wide range of species might be used depending on general conditions such as hardiness and site-specific conditions related to performance, soil, sunlight, exposure to pollutants, etc. Each site plan will be reviewed to determine the appropriateness of the proposed plant material.</i>	See Summary
	REQ	CA 4.6.5 – <i>Interior trees should be selected that have large canopies in order to maximize the surface area of pavement covered by the tree canopy. Perimeter trees should be selected that are columnar in order to visually maintain the urban “wall” of the corridor. Also consult guidelines relating to the adjacent public corridor for guidelines relating to street trees.</i>	See Summary
	REQ	CA 4.6.6 – <i>Clear sightlines between three feet and seven feet above the sidewalk and/or parking grade are to be maintained to promote visibility and safety.</i>	Satisfied
	REQ	CA 4.6.7 – <i>All trees in parking zones or adjacent to a pedestrian way or activity zone must maintain a clear height zone of no less than nine feet. Only deciduous trees are permitted to be planted in the public sphere (right-of-way) or adjacent to the pedestrian way.</i>	Satisfied
	INFO	CA 4.6.8 – <i>Alternative, documented systems of reducing urban heat buildup may be proposed.</i>	Information
	INFO	CA 4.6.9 – <i>Designers should consult the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Area Multi-Modal and Public Space Design Guidelines for information related to plantings in the public right-of-way. Designers should also refer to current City Ordinances that regulate maintenance, planting, and trees.</i>	Information
CA 5.1 – LEED Standards		Development in the Regional Center should reflect innovation in environmentally sustainable building methods and materials.	APPRAISAL
	ADV	CA 5.1.1 – <i>Building and site development which conforms to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Standards published by the U.S. Green Building Council are encouraged.</i>	Information
	INFO	CA 5.1.2 – <i>Environmentally sound design solutions may include elements that are not anticipated in these Design Guidelines. Exceptions to the Design Guidelines will be considered for documented energy and environmental components.</i>	Information
CA 5.2 – Rooftop Gardens		Green roofs can reduce urban heat islands, reduce sewage system loads by assimilating large amounts of rainwater, absorb air pollution, collect airborne particulates, store carbon, and insulate a building from extreme temperatures.	APPRAISAL

ADV	CA 5.2.1 – Wherever practical, install “green roofs” consisting of vegetation and soil, or a growing medium, planted over a waterproof membrane. Additional layers, such as a root barrier and drainage and irrigation systems may also be included.	None proposed
CA 5.3 – Passive Heating/Cooling	Buildings designed for passive solar, and daylighting incorporate design features such as large south-facing windows and building materials that absorb and slowly release the sun’s heat. No mechanical means are employed in passive solar heating. Incorporating passive solar designs can reduce heating bills as much as 50 percent. Passive solar designs can also include natural ventilation for cooling. Windows are an important aspect of passive solar design. In cold climates, south-facing windows designed to let the sun’s heat in while insulating against the cold are ideal. Interior spaces requiring the most light, heat, and cooling are located along the south face of the building, with less used space to the north.	APPRAISAL
ADV	CA 5.3.1 – All projects should incorporate passive solar heating, cooling and daylighting strategies recommended by the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) section of the U.S. Department of Energy.	Information
CA 5.4 – Energy Use	For businesses and residential development, a strategic approach to energy management can produce significant savings for operation costs and the environment. Also, the Federal Energy Policy Act of 2005 outlines energy efficient residential systems for which Federal Tax Credits are available. The eligible energy systems include certified: (1) Windows & Doors, (2) Roofing Insulation, (3) HVAC Systems, (4) Water Heaters, (5) Solar Energy Systems, (6) Fuel Cells, (7) Air Source Heat Pumps, (8) Geo-Thermal Heat Pumps, (9) Solar Water heating, (10) Photovoltaic Systems and (11) Fuel Cells.	APPRAISAL
ADV	CA 5.4.1 – All projects are encouraged to follow standards recommended by Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) ENERGY STAR partnership which offers an energy management strategy that helps in measuring current energy performance, setting goals, tracking savings, and rewarding improvements.	Information
CA 6.1 – Utilities	The Regional Center is the postcard of Central Indiana, the primary destination for visitors to the area and a major economic center. Therefore, the visual presence of utilities should be minimized. The inherent maintenance and innovation related to utilities should be planned and incorporated into the building and site to minimize future disruption.	APPRAISAL
REQ	CA 6.1.1 – All on-site utility service access is to be buried when new construction is located more than 20 feet from an existing utility supply. New development is encouraged to provide for long-term utility and communication access flexibility.	Satisfied
REQ	CA 6.1.2 – Any utility and service connections and equipment placed along a pedestrian way are to be placed in the frontage zone and shall not impede the pedestrian way. Where possible, all such connections and equipment should be located in a screened service zone or other area not adjacent to a pedestrian way.	Satisfied
CA 6.2 – Curb Cuts/Driveways	In the Regional Center, accommodating the pedestrian is paramount. Service drives, parking access drives, and other crossing zones must be designed in a way so as not to impede the continuity of the accessible pedestrian network.	APPRAISAL
REQ	CA 6.2.1 – Pedestrian way paving treatment shall be continuous through curb cuts (and also compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.) Textured pavement and other “Traffic Calming” devices shall be used to create a safe environment for pedestrians.	Satisfied
ADV	CA 6.2.2 – When the right-of-way permits, alley access and parking in the interior of the block is encouraged.	Satisfied
REQ	CA 6.2.3 – Locate driveway aprons outside of the pedestrian way, with the sloped portion entirely within the separation zone (SZ).	Satisfied
REQ	CA 6.2.4 – Maintain the pedestrian way pavement and pattern at a cross slope of 1:50 (one foot high, 50 feet long) across the driveway.	Satisfied
ADV	CA 6.2.5 – Where necessary to keep the driveway slope from exceeding 1:10 (one foot high, 10 feet long), the sidewalk may be partially dropped to meet the grade at the top of the apron. This is preferred to extending the sloped apron into the pedestrian way.	Satisfied

SUMMARY

Review of the proposed plans against the Guidelines reveals the following items remain outstanding or require explanation.

1. The Center Township Lan Use Plan recommends the site for office commercial buffer. The existing use, an office building, is consistent with this recommendation. However, a mixed-use development that includes residential and supportive commercial uses would be a minor deviation of the Plan and would support one of the goals of the Regional Center, which is to increase residents living in the downtown. Therefore, Guideline US 1.1.1 is waived.
2. The submittal did not include a detailed landscape plan, with plant species. A detailed landscape plan shall be submitted for staff review and approval prior to issuance an Improvement Location Permit, in accordance with Guidelines US 1.3.2, CA 4.6.1, CA 4.6.2, CA 4.6.3, CA 4.6.4, and CA 4.6.5.
3. The proposed dance studio would have reduced transparency along Talbott Street and 30th Street. Additionally, pedestrian access to the structure would be from the surface parking lot to the west and south of the building. The dance studio will be for kids, so privacy is paramount for their safety. Therefore, Guidelines SC 1.3.2, SC 2.2.1, SC 2.2.2, SC 2.6.1, and CA 3.1.4 are waived.
4. No details were submitted for outdoor recreational areas or bicycle parking for residents, as required per Guidelines SC 1.4.1 and CA 4.2.4 apply. Details of outdoor recreational areas and resident bicycle parking shall be submitted and subject to planning staff review and approval prior to issuance of an Improvement Location Permit.
5. A lighting plan was not submitted to the file to identify the location of lighting standards or fixtures. Additionally, a photometric plan has not been submitted to the file. A photometric plan should detail light standards and photometric levels for the site and at each entrance. Lighting must be provided at each entrance and must be dusk to dawn. Only full cut and shielded light standards are permitted with minimum foot-candle power outlined in CA 4.3.2 and CA 4.3.3. Pedestrian areas and entries must be lighted for safety (CA 3.1.3 and CA 4.3.1). A lighting plan should be submitted prior to the hearing to ensure compliance with these requirements. If such a plan is not available, a detailed lighting plan shall be submitted and subject to planning staff review and approval prior to issuance of an Improvement Location Permit.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff **recommends approval** of the Regional Center Approval petition, subject to the following conditions:

1. The Summary items 2, 4, and 5 must be met.

2. All additional signage within two years of MDC approval requires planning staff review and approval. After the two-year period, a new Regional Center Approval petition would be required for review and subsequent approval of any proposed signage.
3. Address numerals shall be installed on the building façade (CA 2.5.8), prior to building occupancy.

ZONING HISTORY

2025-CZN-826 / 2025-CPL-826 / 2025-CVR-826; 2955 North Meridian Street, requested rezoning of 8.966 acres from C-1 (RC) (TOD) to the C-S (RC) (TOD) classification to provide for a mixed-use development, to provide for a subdivision of 8.966 acres into 21 lots, and to provide for various development standards variances of the Consolidated Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance, **approved**.

JY
