

**METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HEARING EXAMINER**

May 15, 2024

Case Number: 2025-ZON-016
Property Address: 2852 East County Line Road
Location: Perry Township, Council District #24
Petitioner: TWG Development, LLC, by Joseph D. Calderon
Current Zoning: C-S
Request: Rezoning of 6.67 acres from the C-S (TOD) (FW) (FF) to the D-9 (TOD) (FW) (FF) district to provide for multi-family dwellings.
Current Land Use: Undeveloped
Staff Recommendations: Approval, subject to the commitments noted below:
Staff Reviewer: Kathleen Blackham, Senior Planner

PETITION HISTORY

The Hearing Examiner continued this petition from the April 10, 2025 hearing, to the May 15, 2025 hearing, to provide for additional time to send notice to all those required to receive notice.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approval, subject to the following commitment being reduced to writing on the Commission's Exhibit "B" forms at least three days prior to the MDC hearing:

1. Final site plan and elevations shall be submitted for Administrator Approval prior to the issuance of an Improvement Location Permit (ILP).
2. A 51-foot half right-of-way shall be dedicated along the frontage of East County Line Road, as per the request of the Department of Public Works (DPW), Engineering Division. Additional easements shall not be granted to third parties within the area to be dedicated as public right-of-way prior to the acceptance of all grants of right-of-way by the DPW. The right-of-way shall be granted within 60 days of approval and prior to the issuance of an Improvement Location Permit (ILP).
3. A tree inventory, tree assessment and preservation plan prepared by a certified arborist shall be submitted for Administrator Approval prior to preliminary plat approval and prior to any site preparation activity or disturbance of the site. This plan shall, at a minimum: a) indicate proposed development; b) delineate the location of the existing trees, c) characterize the size and species of such trees, d) indicate the wooded areas to be saved by shading or some other means of indicating tree areas to be preserved and e) identify the method of preservation (e.g. provision of snow fencing or staked straw bales at the individual tree's dripline during construction activity). All trees proposed for removal shall be indicated as such.

4. The site and improved areas within the site shall be maintained in a reasonably neat and orderly manner during and after development of the site with appropriate areas and containers / receptables provided for the proper disposal of trash and other waste.

PETITION OVERVIEW

This 6.67-acre site, zoned C-S (TOD) (FW) (FF), is undeveloped and surrounded by floodway / floodplain of Pleasant Run Creek, to the north, zoned D-A (TOD) (FW) (FF); single-family dwellings to the south across East County Line Road (Johnson County); railroad right-of way to the east, zoned D-6II; and floodway / floodplain of Pleasant Run Creek to the west, zoned D-A (TOD) (FW) (FF) and C-S (TOD) (FW) (FF).

This site was included in petition 90-ZON-191 that rezoned a 12-acre site to the C-S district to provide for an integrated commercial center with integrated building design, access, and signs. Petition 2024-ZON-105 that requested rezoning from the C-S (TOD) (FW) (FF) district to the I-2 (TOD) (FW) (FF) district to provide for a self-storage facility was denied. Subsequently, the Metropolitan Development Commission approved a request on March 5, 2025, to waive the Rules of Procedure related to refiling after a denial to allow for this rezoning request.

REZONING

The request would rezone the site to the D-9 (Walkable Neighborhood) District. “The D-9 district is intended for higher density housing formats, with a mix of small- and moderate-scale multi-unit building types. This district can be used at transitions to walkable, commercial areas, transit stations and urban and suburban corridors, including the high-density residential recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan, and the Traditional Neighborhood, City Neighborhood, or Village or Urban Mixed-Use Typologies of the Land Use Pattern Book.”

The purpose of the Walkable Neighborhood design standards and objectives is to advance the Livability Principles of this code, and to promote walkable neighborhoods. Any exceptions to the standards in the Ordinance, or discretionary review processes related to a specific application, shall be judged against these design objectives, in addition to any other criteria in this code for the application.

The Comprehensive Plan recommends suburban neighborhood typology.

Conceptual Site Plan - February 6, 2025

The conceptual site plan, file dated February 6, 2025, provides for three, three-story buildings, with 48-dwelling units and one, three-story building with 26 dwelling units for a total of 170 dwelling units resulting in a density of 25.49 units per acre. A club house and amenity area would be located at the southeast corner of the site.

Site access would be from two driveways along East County Line Road with approximately 284 parking spaces.

An approximately 20-foot-wide buffer on the western, northern, and eastern perimeter of the site would be preserved, along with any heritage trees located within those areas.

Floodway / Floodway Fringe

This site has a secondary zoning classification of a Floodway (FW) and Floodway Fringe (FF). The Floodway (FW) is the channel of a river or stream, and those portions of the floodplains adjoin the channels which are reasonably required to efficiently carry and discharge the peak flood flow of the base flood of any river or stream. The Floodway Fringe (FF) is the portion of the regulatory floodplain that is not required to convey the 100-year frequency flood peak discharge and lies outside of the floodway.

The designation of the FF District is to guide development in areas subject to potential flood damage, but outside the Floodway (FW) District. Unless otherwise prohibited, all uses permitted in the primary zoning district (D-9 in this request) are permitted, subject to certain development standards of the Flood Control Secondary Zoning Districts Ordinance and would be addressed during the permitting process.

Except for a small area at the southwest corner along the railroad right-of-way, the site lies within the 100-year floodplain of Pleasant Run Creek.

Overlays – Environmentally Sensitive / TOD

This site is located within an overlay, specifically the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ES) Overlay.

“Overlays are used in places where the land uses that are allowed in a typology need to be adjusted. They may be needed because an area is environmentally sensitive, near an airport, or because a certain type of development should be promoted. Overlays can add uses, remove uses, or modify the conditions that are applied to uses in a typology.”

The Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ES) Overlay is intended for areas containing high quality woodlands, wetlands, or other natural resources that should be protected. The purpose of this overlay is to prevent or mitigate potential damage to these resources caused by development. This overlay is also appropriate for areas that present an opportunity to create a new environmental asset. This overlay is not intended for the preservation of open space.

The ES overlay for this site is related to the floodway and floodway fringe.

In addition to the floodplain, the perimeter of the entire site is lined with woodlands, both of which would be negatively impacted by the proposed development, unless those areas would be preserved.

This site is also located within a second overlay, specifically the Transit Oriented Development (TOD).

The Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) overlay is intended for areas within walking distance of a transit station. The purpose of this overlay is to promote pedestrian connectivity and a higher density than the surrounding area.

Tree Preservation / Heritage Tree Conservation

There are significant amounts of natural vegetation and trees located around the perimeter of the site. Due to their inherent ecological, aesthetic, and buffering qualities, the maximum number of these existing trees should be preserved on the site.

All development shall be in a manner that causes the least amount of disruption to the trees.

A tree inventory, tree assessment and preservation plan prepared by a certified arborist shall be submitted for Administrator Approval prior to preliminary plat approval and prior to any site preparation activity or disturbance of the site. This plan shall, at a minimum: a) indicate proposed development, b) delineate the location of the existing trees, c) characterize the size and species of such trees, d) indicate the wooded areas to be saved by shading or some other means of indicating tree areas to be preserved and e) identify the method of preservation (e.g. provision of snow fencing or staked straw bales at the individual tree's dripline during construction activity). All trees proposed for removal shall be indicated as such.

If any of the trees are heritage trees that would be impacted, then the Ordinance requires that the Administrator, Urban Forester or Director of Public Works determine whether the tree(s) would be preserved or removed and replaced.

The Ordinance defines "heritage tree" as a tree over 18 inches Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) and one of the Heritage tree species. Heritage tree species include: Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*), Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), Yellowwood (*Cladrastus kentukea*), American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*), Walnut or Butternut (*Juglans*), Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), American Elm (*Ulmus americana*), Red Elm (*Ulmus rubra*) and any oak species (*Quercus*, all spp.)

The Ordinance also provides for replacement of heritage trees if a heritage tree is removed or dies within three years of the Improvement Location issuance date. See Exhibit A, Table 744-503-3: Replacement Trees.

Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works, Traffic Engineering Section, has requested the dedication and conveyance of a 51-foot half right-of-way along East County Line Road. This dedication would also be consistent with the Marion County Thoroughfare Plan.

Environmental Public Nuisances

The purpose of the Revised Code of the Consolidated City and County, Sec.575 (Environmental Public Nuisances) is to protect public safety, health and welfare and enhance the environment for the people of the city by making it unlawful for property owners and occupants to allow an environmental public nuisance to exist.

All owners, occupants, or other persons in control of any private property within the city shall be required to keep the private property free from environmental nuisances.

Environmental public nuisance means:

1. Vegetation on private or governmental property that is abandoned, neglected, disregarded or not cut, mown, or otherwise removed and that has attained a height of twelve (12) inches or more;
2. Vegetation, trees or woody growth on private property that, due to its proximity to any governmental property, right-of-way or easement, interferes with the public safety or lawful use of the governmental property, right-of-way or easement or that has been allowed to become a health or safety hazard;
3. A drainage or stormwater management facility as defined in Chapter 561 of this Code on private or governmental property, which facility has not been maintained as required by that chapter; or
4. Property that has accumulated litter or waste products, unless specifically authorized under existing laws and regulations, or that has otherwise been allowed to become a health or safety hazard.

Staff would request a commitment that emphasizes the importance of maintaining the site in a neat and orderly manner at all times and provide containers and receptacles for proper disposal of trash and other waste.

Planning Analysis

As proposed, this request would be generally consistent with the Comprehensive Plan recommendation of suburban neighborhood. However, the 100-year floodplain delineates areas that would be subject to potential flood damage that would be addressed during the permitting process.

Based on the parking requirements of the Ordinance (1:1 ratio) the minimum number of parking spaces would be 170, with no maximum. The Ordinance would require 17 bicycle parking spaces, of which 60% should be enclosed. Consequently, staff believes the proposed 284 parking spaces should be decreased and the parking area reduced to provide for more open space, landscaping, and amenities for the residents.

Additionally, the maximum floor area ratio (FAR) would be 0.50 and the minimum livability space ratio (MSR) would be 0.75. Both of these ratios will need to be met in the final project design.

Because this site is undeveloped, staff believes all development standards could be met and would not support any variance from development standards. Therefore, staff would request Administrator Approval of the final site plan and elevations prior to the issuance of the Improvement Location Permit (ILP) to confirm compliance with the district development standards, including the design standards of the walkable neighborhood.

Unless required by the Fire Department, staff believes that one boulevard entrance, rather than two access drives, be provided along East County Line Road due the heavily traveled road and the proximity of the railroad crossing at the eastern end of the site. In other words, staff would recommend that the easternmost drive adjacent to the railroad be eliminated.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Existing Zoning	C-S (TOD) (FW) (FF)	
Existing Land Use	Undeveloped land	
Comprehensive Plan	Suburban Neighborhood	
Surrounding Context	<u>Zoning</u>	<u>Land Use</u>
North:	C-S (TOD) (FW) (FF) / D-A (TOD) (FW) (FF)	Floodway / Floodway Fringe
South:	Johnson County	Single-family dwellings
East:	D-6II	Railroad right-of-way / Single-family dwelling
West:	C-S (TOD) (FW) (FF) / D-A (TOD) (FW) (FF)	Floodway
Thoroughfare Plan		
East County Line Road	Primary arterial	Existing 92-foot right-of-way and proposed 102-foot right-of-way.
Context Area	Metro	
Floodway / Floodway Fringe	Yes – Pleasant Run Creek	
Overlay	Yes. Environmentally Sensitive / Transit Oriented Development	
Wellfield Protection Area	No	
Site Plan	N/A	
Site Plan (Amended)	N/A	
Elevations	N/A	
Elevations (Amended)	N/A	
Landscape Plan	N/A	

Findings of Fact	N/A
Findings of Fact (Amended)	N/A
C-S/D-P Statement	N/A

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ANALYSIS

Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan recommends the Suburban Neighborhood typology. “The Suburban Neighborhood typology is predominantly made up of single-family housing but is interspersed with attached and multifamily housing where appropriate. This typology should be supported by a variety of neighborhood-serving businesses, institutions, and amenities. Natural Corridors and natural features such as stream corridors, wetlands, and woodlands should be treated as focal points or organizing systems for development. Streets should be well-connected, and amenities should be treated as landmarks that enhance navigability of the development. This typology generally has a residential density of one to five dwelling units per acre, but a higher density is recommended if the development is within a quarter mile of a frequent transit line, greenway, or park.”

Pattern Book / Land Use Plan

The Comprehensive Plan consists of two components that include The Marion County Land Use Pattern Book (2019) and the land use map. The Pattern Book provides a land use classification system that guides the orderly development of the county and protects the character of neighborhoods while also being flexible and adaptable to allow neighborhoods to grow and change over time.

The Pattern Book serves as a policy guide as development occurs. Below are the relevant policies related to this request:

- *Conditions for All Land Use Types – Suburban Neighborhood Typology*
 - All land use types except small-scale parks and community farms/gardens in this typology must have adequate municipal water and sanitary sewer.
 - All development should include sidewalks along the street frontage.
 - Hydrological patterns should be preserved wherever possible.
 - Curvilinear streets should be used with discretion and should maintain the same general direction.
 - In master-planned developments, block lengths of less than 500 feet, or pedestrian cut-throughs for longer blocks, are encouraged.

- *Conditions for All Housing*

- A mix of housing types is encouraged.
- Developments of more than 30 housing units must have access to at least one arterial street of three or more continuous travel lanes between the intersections of two intersecting arterial streets.
- Should be within a one-mile distance (using streets, sidewalks, and/or off-street paths) of a school, playground, library, public greenway, or similar publicly accessible recreational or cultural amenity that is available at no cost to the user.
- Should be oriented towards the street with a pedestrian connection from the front door(s) to the sidewalk. Driveways/parking areas do not qualify as a pedestrian connection.
- Developments with densities higher than five dwelling units per acre should have design character compatible with adjacent properties. Density intensification should be incremental with higher density housing types located closer to frequent transit lines, greenways or parks.

- *Multifamily Housing*

- Should be located along arterial or collector streets, parks, or greenways.
- Parking should be either behind or interior to the development.
- Individual building height, massing, and footprint should gradually transition from adjacent developments. Specifically, buildings located adjacent to existing residential developments should be no more than one and a half times the height and no more than twice the average footprint of the existing adjacent residential buildings.

Red Line / Blue Line / Purple Line TOD Strategic Plan

The Red Line Transit-Oriented Development Strategic Plan (2021).

The Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) overlay is intended for areas within walking distance of a transit station. The purpose of this overlay is to promote pedestrian connectivity and a higher density than the surrounding area.

This site is located within a ½ mile walk of a proposed transit stop located along East County Line Road and Greenwood Park Mall, with a District Center typology.

District Center stations are located at the center of regionally significant districts with several blocks of retail or office at their core. Development opportunities include infill and redevelopment, dense residential, employment near transit stations, neighborhood retail and a focus on walkability and placemaking.

- Characteristics of the District Center typology are:
 - A dense mixed-use hub for multiple neighborhoods with tall buildings
 - Minimum of 3 stories at core with no front or side setbacks
 - Multi-family housing with a minimum of 5 units
 - Structured parking only with active first floor.

Neighborhood / Area Specific Plan

Not Applicable to the Site.

Infill Housing Guidelines

Not Applicable to the Site.

Indy Moves

(Thoroughfare Plan, Pedestrian Plan, Bicycle Master Plan, Greenways Master Plan)

The Marion County Thoroughfare Plan (2019) “is a long-range plan that identifies the locations classifications and different infrastructure elements of roadways within a defined area.”

The following listed items describe the purpose, policies and tools:

- Classify roadways based on their location, purpose in the overall network and what land use they serve.
- Provide design guidelines for accommodating all modes (automobile, transit, pedestrians, bicycles) within the roadway.
- Set requirements for preserving the right-of-way (ROW)
- Identify roadways for planned expansions or new terrain roadways
- Coordinate modal plans into a single linear network through its GIS database

ZONING HISTORY

2024-ZON-105; 2951 East County Line Road, requested rezoning of 6.67 acres from the C-S (TOD) (FW) (FF) district to the I-1 (TOD) (FW) (FF) district to provide for a self-storage facility, **denied**.

90-Z-191; 2910 East County Line Road, requested rezoning of 12 acres, being in the D-A / FP district, to the C-4 / FP classification to provide for commercial development, **approved**.

VICINITY

70-Z-107; 8900 block of Madison Avenue (west of site), required rezoning of 6.36 acres, being in the A-2 district, to the C-4 classification to provide for office uses, **approved**.

68-V4-227; 3030 East County Line Road (north of site), requested a variance of use, setbacks, and floor area to provide for apartments, **granted**.

2852 East County Line Road

Country Estates Dr

Freddy Dr

County Line Rd

D7

SU18

D4

D3

DA

C1

C4

CS

D6H

Country Line Rd

2852 East County Line Road

Source: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), Swis, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



2852 East County Line Road

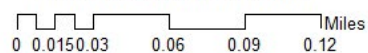


EXHIBIT A

Heritage Tree Conservation

Removal of any Heritage Tree is prohibited unless any of the following determinations are made before removal:

1. The Administrator or the city's Urban Forester determines that the tree is dead, significantly and terminally diseased, a threat to public health or safety, or is of an undesirable or nuisance species.
2. The Director of the Department of Public Works determines that the tree interferes with the provision of public services or is a hazard to traffic.
3. The Administrator determines that the location of the tree is preventing development or redevelopment that cannot be physically designed to protect the tree.
4. The site from which the tree is removed is zoned D-A and the tree is harvested as timber or similar forestry product.

Table 744-503-3: Replacement Trees		
Size of tree removed or dead (inches)	Number of Trees to be planted to replace a Heritage Tree	Number of Trees to be planted to replace an existing tree
Over 36 DBH	15	10
25.5 to 36 DBH	11	8
13 to 25 DBH	8	6
10.5 to 12.5 DBH	6	4
8.5 to 10 DBH	5	4
6.5 to 8	3	2
4 to 6	2	2
2.5 to 3.5	1	1

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View looking east along East County Line Road



View looking west along East County Line Road



View of site looking north



View of site looking north



View of site looking northwest



View looking south across East County Line Road



View from site looking southwest across East County Line Road