



PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning Commission June 7, 2022 / Mayor and City Council Meeting June 29, 2022

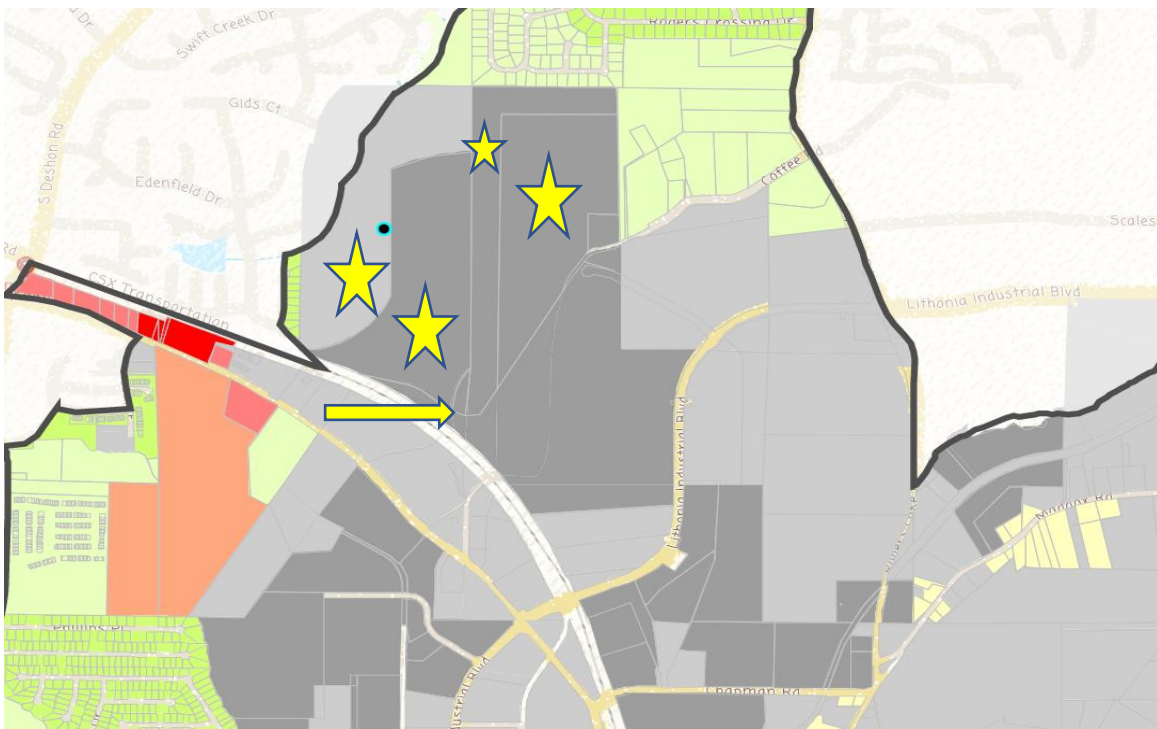
GENERAL INFORMATION

Petition Number:	RZ-22-002
Applicant:	Nick Faber, IDI Logistics
Owner:	James W. Kelly, Jr. and Daniel H. Kelly
Project Location:	2300, 2330, 2368 and 2376 South Stone Mountain Lithonia Rd and 1801 Coffee Rd.
Parcels:	16-125-01-002, 16-125-01-153, 16-124-01- 003, 16-132-01-019, and 16-132-01-001).
District:	District 1
Acreage:	205.12 +/- acres
Existing Zoning:	M (Light Industrial) / M-2 (Heavy Industrial)
Proposed Zoning:	M (Light Industrial)
Comprehensive Plan Community: Area Designation	HIND (Heavy Industrial)
Proposed Development/Request:	The applicant is requesting to rezone the subject properties from M and M-2 for the development of three warehouse building
Staff Recommendations:	<i>Approval/Conditional</i>
Planning Commission	<i>Recommended to defer</i>



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Zoning Map



Zoning Case: RZ-22-002

Address: 2300, 2330, 2368, 2376 South Stone Mountain Lithonia Rd and 1801 Coffee Rd.

Current Zoning: M (Light Industrial) and M-2 (Heavy Industrial)

Proposed Zoning: M (Light Industrial)



Subject Property



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Aerial Map

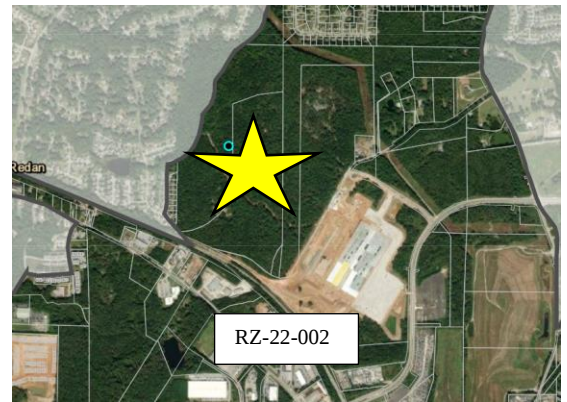


PROJECT OVERVIEW

Location

The subject properties are located at 2300, 2330, 2368, 2376 South Stone Mountain Lithonia Road and 1801 Coffee Road (Parcel IDs: 16-125-01-002, 16-125-01-153, 16-124-01-003, 16-132-01-019, and 16-132-01-001). The Subject Property consists of a ±205.12-acre assemblage off five parcels located in Land Lots 124, 125 and 132, 16th District, City of Stonecrest, DeKalb County, Georgia (“Subject Property”).

The property is bounded by Deshon Estates to the west, by The Villas at Rogers Crossing to the north and Home Depot to the southeast. Located to the south is CRX Transportation Services.



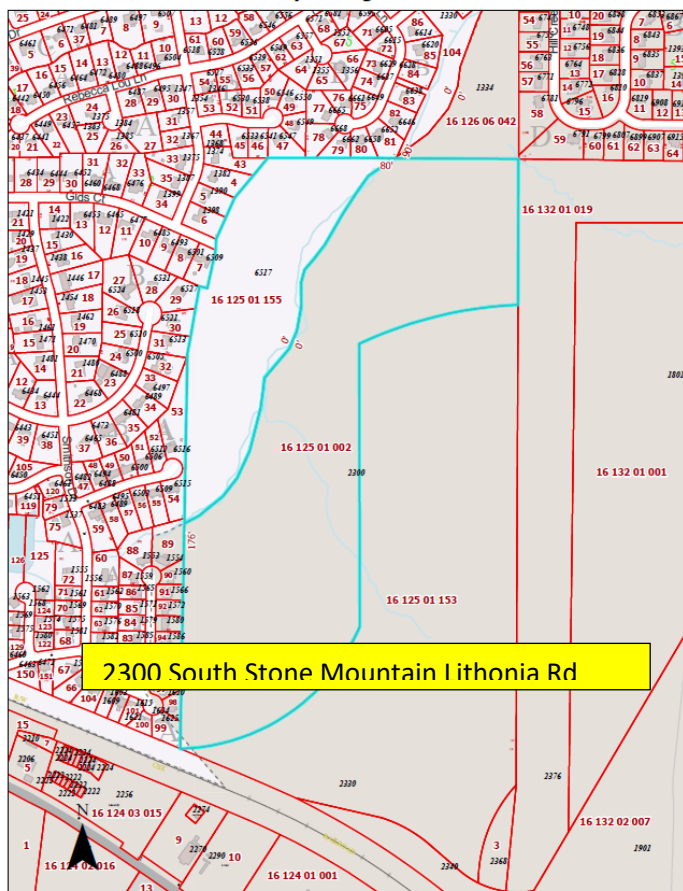
Subject Property



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Background:

The applicant is requesting to rezone the 205.12 +/- acres of the subject property from M (Light Industrial) District and M-2 (Heavy Industrial) District to M (Light Industrial) District to allow the development of a three-building warehouse project. Subject Property consisting of three warehouse buildings totaling $\pm 1,932,122$ square feet, parking, and associated site improvements. The Applicant intends to rezone all parcels comprising the Subject Property to the M zoning district to create a uniform zoning for the development and allow the consolidation and replatting of the property in the future. In addition, the Applicant seeks to amend the conditions of zoning to better align with current design practices and to allow the Proposed Development. On May 20, 2022, staff was advised by DeKalb County GIS there was a subdivision of Parcel # 16 125 01 002. Parcel 16 125 01 002 have total of 50.61 AC and newly created parcel 16 125 01 155 total acreage 18.08 AC. This update will cause the legal description to be erroneous and staff has made this advisement to the applicant. The owner of the subject property will need to update the legal description and have it recorded with the DeKalb County Superior Court. Please see the property line update below.



Two of the five total parcels that comprise the Subject Property were rezoned on November 24, 1981, then located in unincorporated DeKalb County, from R-100 (Single Family Residential) to M Light Industrial and M-2 Heavy Industrial



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zoning district pursuant to zoning ordinance Z-81143. Although the subject property was incorporated under the jurisdiction of the City of Stonecrest when it was incorporated, this did not eradicate the 1981 Rezoning conditions. Zoning conditions stay with the land.

The 1981 Rezoning was subject to seventeen conditions, the following conditions are what the applicant is seeking to amend:

1. The height of any building located on the site shall not exceed 40 feet. (#7)
2. All buildings shall use earth tone colors the same being defined as colors which shall attempt to blend with the landscape and foliage located on property. (#10)
3. The fronts of all buildings constructed on the property shall use some brick veneer, stone, wood, or a mixture of some of the same. (#11)
4. Access to the site shall be limited to the Stone Mountain-Lithonia Road or Coffey Road and no streets shall be connected to any existing street or future street which runs, or is to run, through any adjacent residentially zoned property. This paragraph does not apply to Coffey Road. (#14)
5. A cyclone fence of not less than 6 feet in height shall be placed on the North and West property lines of said property. (#17)

The applicant is proposing modern warehouse facilities that will exceed 40 feet in height (48 feet). In addition, tilt-up panel construction has become an industry standard for modern warehouse design and concrete block has become less widely used, as envisioned in the 1981 Rezoning conditions. Furthermore, the 1981 Rezoning conditions call for a cyclone fence along the property lines. The Applicant's site design will provide additional landscaped buffers in lieu of the cyclone fence. The applicant will be providing a minimum of a 150-foot of vegetated buffer (the 150-foot buffer will be composed of 75-feet undisturbed and 75-feet landscaped buffers) along the north and west property lines. In areas where the proposed grading will encroach into the 150' buffer the Applicant will replant with landscaping. Lastly, the 1981 Rezoning requires access to South Stone Mountain Lithonia Road and Coffee Road. The applicant is proposing to utilize Stonecrest Industrial Way areas. the Applicant now seeks to modify the above conditions to match the following wording:

7. The height of any building located on the site shall not exceed 50 feet.

10. All buildings shall use colors in general accordance with the concept elevations.

11. The fronts of any and all buildings constructed on the property will be of a tilt-up concrete panel construction with a color in accordance with the elevations referenced in condition.

14. Access to the site shall be limited to the Stonecrest Industrial Way or Coffey Road and no streets shall be connected to any existing street or future street which runs, or is to run, through any adjacent residentially zoned property. This paragraph does not apply to Coffey Road.

7. A 75-foot vegetated landscape strip shall be placed on the North and West property lines as generally depicted on the site plan, dated February 28, 2022.



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The applicant is seeking the following Parking requests:

	1,007,900	
BUILDING 1:	SF	
DOCK DOORS	180	
AUTO PARKING	503	
TRAILER		
PARKING	228	(FUTURE 120)
	456,840	
BUILDING 2:	SF	
DOCK DOORS	107	
AUTO PARKING	386	
TRAILER		
PARKING	120	
	467,382	
BUILDING 3:	SF	
DOCK DOORS	94	
AUTO PARKING	379	
TRAILER		
PARKING	99	
Total Auto Parking:	1268	
Total Trailer		
Parking:	447	(FUTURE 120)
Total Loading Docks:	381	

Required Parking (Warehouse)

Min. 1 space per 2,500 sf of Floor Area

Max. 1 space per 500 sf of Floor Area

	Floor Area	Min Parking Req.	Max. Parking
BUILDING 1	1,007,900	403.16	2015.8
BUILDING 2	456,840	182.74	913.68
BUILDING 3	467,382	186.95	934.76

Required Loading (Warehouse)

3 spaces up to 99,000 sf + 1 space per additional 10,000 sf

	Floor Area	Min Loading Spaces
BUILDING 1	1,007,900	93.79
BUILDING 2	456,840	38.68
BUILDING 3	467,382	39.74
	KJ	6

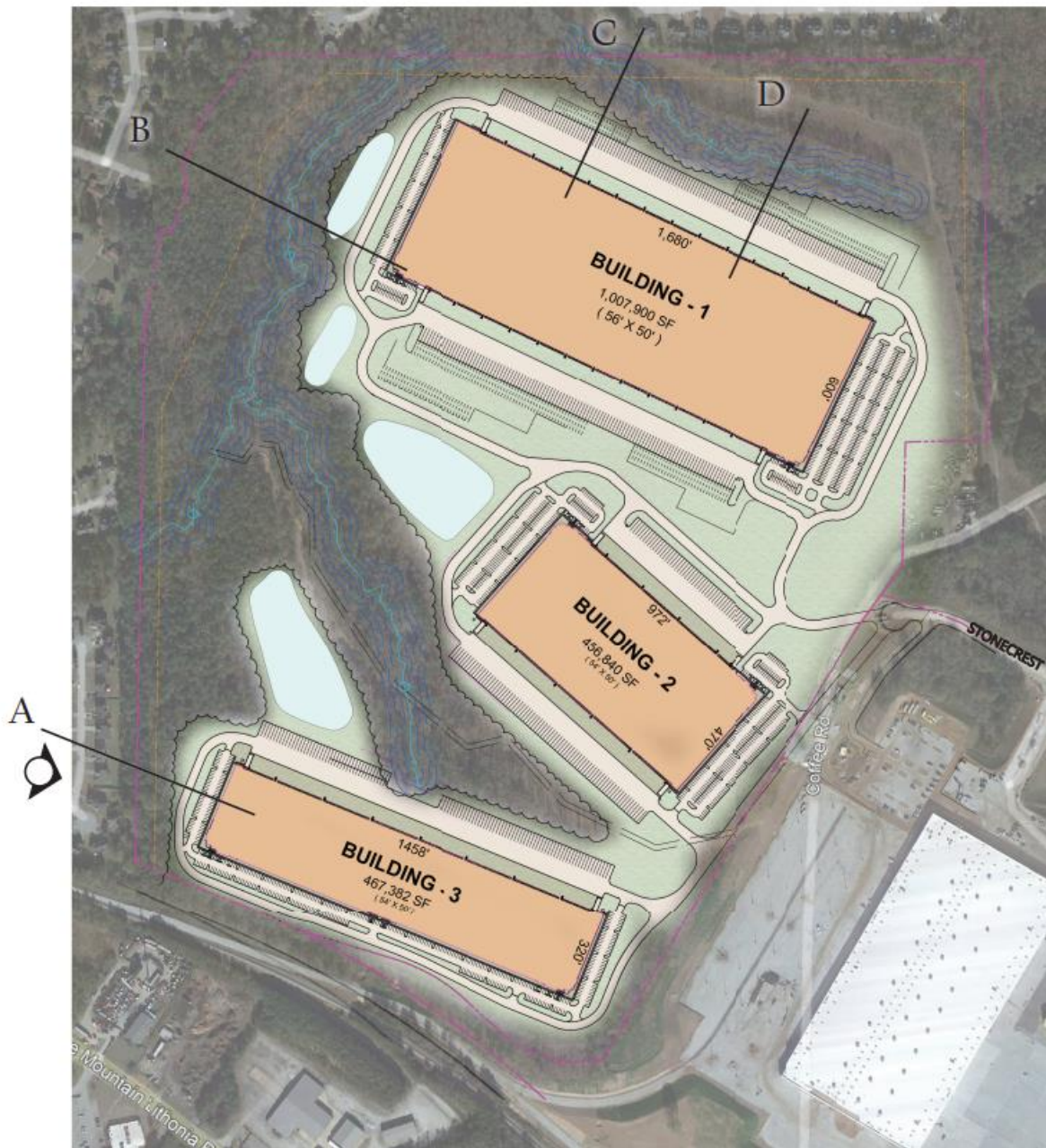


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Article 6, Section 6.1.5- “One space for each 500 square feet of floor area”

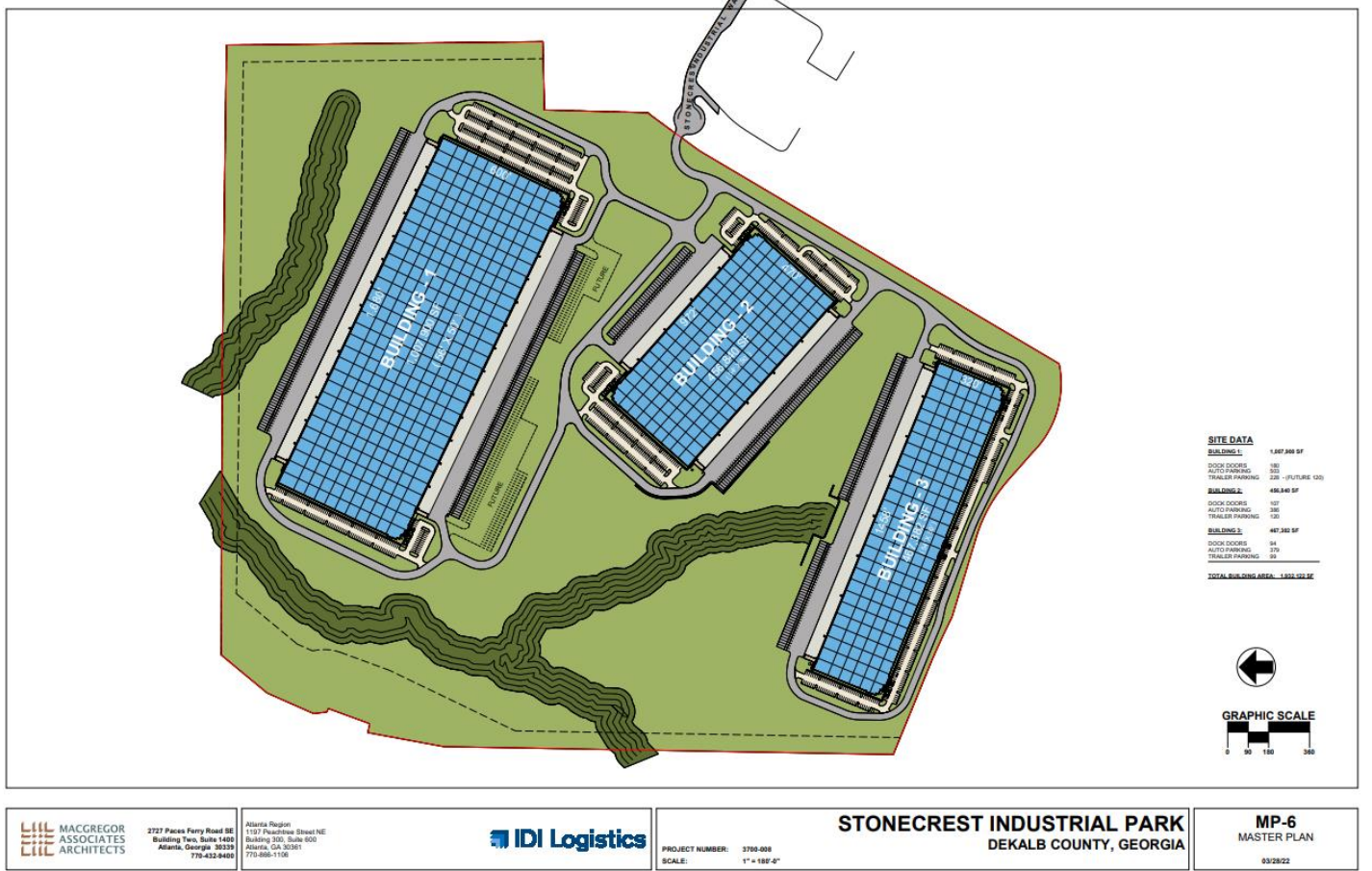
Conceptual Site Plan

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Public Participation

Community Planning Information Meeting is on May 24, 2022.



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STANDARDS OF REZONING REVIEW

Section 7.3.4 of the Stonecrest Zoning Ordinance list eight factors to be considered in a technical review of a zoning case completed by the Community Development Department and Planning Commission. Each element is listed with staff analysis.

- **Whether the proposed land use change will permit uses that are suitable in consideration of the use and development of adjacent and nearby property or properties.**

As shown in the table below, the subject property is surrounded by industrial and residential development. *
Please see the map below table

ADJACENT ZONING AND LAND USE		
	Zoning	Zoning Land Use
Adjacent: North	RSM(Residential Small Lot) District	Single-family (The Villas at Rogers Crossing)
Adjacent: East	M (Light Industrial) District	Industrial (Home Depot Flatbed Distribution)
Adjacent: South	M (Light Industrial) District	Industrial (CSX Transportation)
Adjacent: West	R-100 (Med Residential) District and RSM (Residential Small Lot) District	Residential (Deshong Estates Subdivision)



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Zoning Criteria, Analysis and Comments

- **Whether the proposed land use change will adversely affect the existing use or usability of adjacent or nearby property or properties.**

The existing land use is Heavy Industrial and will not adversely affect the existing use or usability of adjacent or nearby property or properties. The current zoning of the property is the recommended zoning classification for the proposed land use and would be similar to adjacent property and properties.

- **Whether the proposed land use change will result in uses which will or could cause excessive or burdensome use of existing streets, transportation facilities, utilities, or schools.**

There is one full-access point proposed on Stonecrest Industrial Way within the cul-du-sac, which it is planned to connect to Lithonia Industrial Boulevard. Lithonia Industrial Boulevard provides connection to the regional truck route Rock Chapel Road which is a Regional Thoroughfare and Regional Truck Route. The project is expected to generate a total of 2,012 daily new car trips and 1,036 daily new truck trips. The Transportation Impact Study does not recommend any roadway improvement conditions of approval.

- **Whether the amendment is consistent with the written policies in the comprehensive plan text and any applicable small areas studies.**

The proposed use of a warehouse facility is in accordance with the written policies in the Stonecrest comprehensive plan. The land use designation for the subject properties is HIND, Heavy Industrial.

- **Whether there are potential impacts on property or properties in an adjoining governmental jurisdiction, in cases of proposed changes near county or municipal boundary lines.**

On March 17, 2022, A DRI review of a proposal to construct 1,904,300 SF of industrial space on a 138.12 site on Stonecrest Industrial Way in the City of Stonecrest in Dekalb County. Currently the entire site is forested with significant stream and wetland areas. Three one-story industrial space buildings are proposed: Building 1 with 445,500 SF; Building 2 with 456,840 SF; and Building 3 with 1,002,000 SF. A total of 1,286 car parking spaces and 780 truck/trailer spaces are included. The local DRI review trigger is an application for a land disturbance permit. There will be one phase with build-out expected in 2024.

The site is currently entirely wooded. Additional retention of existing trees on the site would be desirable and in keeping with regional goals regarding carbon sequestration and climate change/heat island effect mitigation. The project can further support The Atlanta Region's Plan in general by incorporating other aspects of regional policy, including green infrastructure and/or low-impact design, e.g., pervious pavers, rain gardens, vegetated swales, etc., in parking areas and site driveways, and as part of any improvements to site frontages. Approximately 33 acres of the site are shown as not disturbed on the site plan. This includes site boundary buffer and stream buffer



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areas. There may be potential opportunities for linking these fragmented undeveloped areas with adjacent undeveloped or protected areas to ensure their maintenance and productive use.

- **Whether there are other existing or changing conditions affecting the use and development of the affected land areas which support either approval or denial of the proposed land use change.**

There are existing conditions affecting the use and development of the proposed warehouse facility as to why the applicant is seeking a rezoning to amend conditions Z-81143. The current zoning of the property (M) is a permitted zoning classification of warehouse and truck parking.

- **Whether there will be an impact on historic buildings, sites, districts or archaeological resources resulting from the proposed change.**

There are currently no historic buildings, sites, districts, or archaeological resources on the subject property, therefore there will be no impact on historic buildings.

STANDARDS OF REZONING REVIEW

Section 7.3.5 of the Stonecrest Zoning Ordinance list eight factors to be considered in a technical review of a zoning case completed by the Community Development Department and Planning Commission. Each element is listed with staff analysis.

- **Whether the zoning proposal will permit a use that is suitable in view of the use and development of adjacent and nearby property or properties.**

Yes. The Proposed Development will complement the existing industrial development in the area and will fully mitigate its impacts on the adjacent single family residential to the north and west. Additionally, the Applicant's request will not result in a different use than what is allowed under the current zoning, rather to seek a uniform zoning and to make technical changes to the current conditions to allow an updated design. Also, there is no proposed change in intensity beyond what is allowed under the current M-2 and M zoning districts. In addition, the Applicant is proposing enhanced buffers that are a minimum of 150 feet wide along the northern and western property lines to mitigate any impacts on the adjacent property. See attached as Exhibit 3, the concept sight-line sections illustrating the proposed buffers. As a result, the requested modification will have no bearing on the use and development of adjacent properties and will be a positive improvement in design over what the 1981 Rezoning allows.

- **Whether the zoning proposal is in conformity with the policy and intent of the comprehensive plan.**

The subject property is located within the Heavy Industrial character area of the Stonecrest Comprehensive Plan. The character area intends to lend to both industrial and single-family dwellings in unincorporated DeKalb



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County. The proposed zoning change and development of residential development would be in keeping with the policy and intent of the comp plan.

- **Whether the property to be affected by the zoning proposal has a reasonable economic use as currently zoned.**

The property is currently zoned M, which permits the development of a light industrial use such as warehousing. The property is also located in residential/industrial area where industrial uses are heavily present. The property does have reasonable economic use as currently zoned.

- **Whether the zoning proposal will adversely affect the existing use or usability of adjacent or nearby property or properties.**

The proposed zoning proposal is not anticipated to have a negative impact on the existing use or usability of adjacent or nearby properties. Staff believes the applicant has shown good faith by reaching out to staff several months in advance to discuss the proposed project and has conducted independent meetings with the surrounding community.

- **Whether there are other existing or changing conditions affecting the use and development of the property, which gives supporting grounds for either approval or disapproval of the zoning proposal.**

There are existing conditions affecting the use and development of the property, which give supporting grounds for either approval or disapproval of the zoning proposal. The current zoning is the same proposed zoning classification.

- **Whether the zoning proposal will adversely affect historic buildings, sites, districts, or archaeological resources.**

There are currently no historic buildings, sites, districts, or archaeological resources on the subject property.

- **Whether the zoning proposal will result in a use that will or could cause excessive or burdensome use of existing streets, transportation facilities, utilities, or schools.**

The zoning proposed would not cause excessive burdensome; however limited existing infrastructure in these areas will constrain the amount of additional growth that is possible. Transportation improvements are needed within these Developing Suburbs, but care should be taken not to spur unwanted growth. No EV charging stations are proposed; inclusion of some EV charging stations would be supportive of regional EV infrastructure development plans.

- **Whether the zoning proposal adversely impacts the environment or surrounding natural resources.**

The zoning proposal will not adversely impact the environment or surrounding natural resources.



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STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends **APPROVAL/CONDITIONS** of RZ-22-002. The conditions are the following:

1. The applicant shall provide a minimum of 250 feet buffer of natural vegetation between the adjacent residential dwellings along the western and northern property line. Said buffer shall be undisturbed
2. The applicant shall dedicate the conservation areas to the City of Stonecrest
3. The applicant shall supply at least 4 EV parking spaces
4. A 50 foot undisturbed, buffer shall be provided along the Western property line South of Lot 31 Block D of Deshong Estates to the Railroad Right-of-way, as shown on said site plan.
5. The applicant shall provide a landscape plan for the entrance at Stonecrest Industrial Way.
6. Any and all roadways, proposed streets, or industrial boulevards found within the site shall be grassed to the edge of the right-of-way, said right-of-way to be not less than 60 feet.
7. All surface water retention facilities shall be designed to 10% above requirements as set forth in the DeKalb County Code.
8. The height of any building shall not exceed 50 feet in height.
9. Rear yard loading and unloading shall be prohibited on all buildings constructed on property which is adjacent to Deshong Estates.
10. No building located on property adjacent to Deshong Estates shall have exposed concrete block.
11. All lighting on buildings located on property adjacent to any existing R-100 zoned property shall be focused and directed toward the building and away from said existing R-100 property.
12. Internal lit signs are prohibited on the property
13. No lights shall be located above the roofline of any building
14. All lights shall be of concealed source type so that the illumination therefrom shall be controlled in a particular direction away from Deshong Estates and Rogers Lake Crossing
15. Signs above the roofline are prohibited
16. Access to the site shall be limited to the Stonecrest Industrial Way and no streets shall be connected to any existing street or future street which runs, or is to run, through any adjacent residentially zoned property.
17. There shall be no discharge of any sewage or wastewater into Swift Creek.
18. There shall be a cyclone fence of not less than 6 feet in height shall be placed on the North and West property lines of said property in addition to the 75 foot vegetation buffer.
19. All truck access shall be through Stonecrest Industrial Way and not through Coffee Road or Rogers Lake Road.
20. All Truck traffic shall be limited to Lithonia Industrial Blvd, through Stonecrest Industrial Way.
21. A plat showing the connection of Stonecrest Industrial Way rights-of-way to the property line for the proposed road shall be provided.
22. Complete any missing sidewalks on Stonecrest Industrial Way to provide pedestrian access to sidewalk on Lithonia Industrial Blvd.