

SUBURBAN TOWN CENTER (STC)

These areas are meant to be commercial activity nodes that are more auto-oriented such as the intersections of Hammocks Beach Road or Queen's Creek Road with NC 24. In well-designed projects, a person can patronize several businesses via access easements between businesses, a secondary road network, or on foot. Uses may be mixed, generally are larger in scale and include higher density residential including townhomes, market-rate apartments with access to major thoroughfares and existing utilities. Office, civic and institutional uses may be incorporated into this land use class. Development opportunities may occur on greenfields or sites with underutilized uses ripe for redevelopment.

CHARACTER

This auto-oriented business district, located at nodes along NC 24, supplies goods and services used by the community over the course of a week or month. These businesses are often supported by customers over a large geographic area and may be a regional draw. Uses may be mixed - often mixed horizontally - outlots and larger-scale (ex - grocery, larger-scale retail up to a certain square footage, etc.). While vehicular traffic dominates, all modes of travel are accommodated.

ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

Access management from major thoroughfares is key and the creation of a secondary internal street network can relieve or reduce the number of curb cuts and turning movements. Access to private or shared

Variety of scale and character for commercial development





Example of Suburban Town Center (STC)

parking, cross-access and shared driveways between adjacent businesses should be required in order to reduce traffic congestion. There are limited on-street parking opportunities.

Complete streets should be utilized, including bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Sidewalks should be included on all roads and from the main roads to business entrances. Ideally, sidewalks will be separated from traffic lanes by landscaping which is also used to screen the parking areas. Inter-parcel access is paramount for improving traffic circulation between developments and adjacent parcels of land.

SETBACKS

Large developments should be presented as a cohesive plan and can be implemented in phases. Smaller lot development is characterized by moderate setbacks which can accommodate vehicular circulation. Access between parcels is required. Parking may be either allowed or discouraged between the main structure and the streets, depending on context, but should be screened with landscaping.

MASSING AND BUILDING HEIGHTS

Scale is important. Large buildings setback behind a field of parking a couple hundred feet from the road is not the desired aesthetic expressed by the community. Minimum heights and maximum setbacks should be considered along thoroughfares. The orientation of entrances

to other buildings to create “spaces” that are “places” is important.

PARKING

Parking is primarily accommodated in private lots for each business or building. Some on-street parking may be present, but likely only in targeted areas.

APPROPRIATE DENSITY / INTENSITY

This district has a moderate level of density with:

- » Up to eight dwellings per acre single family detached residential.
- » Up to 12 dwellings per acre multi-family residential.
- » Development of this intensity should employ stormwater control measures that exceed the State stormwater control standards, and may include solutions that are shared between several properties. With increased density, the minimum elements of the Watershed Plan should be addressed:
 - » Identify pollution sources that need control measures
 - » Identify and detail reduction load and measures necessary to meet water quality standards
 - » Detailed management activities and the expected outcome
 - » Utilize green infrastructure