

## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT STAFF REPORT AMENDMENT ROUND 25-A2

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING, JANUARY 10, 2025

### I. General Data

Project Name:	Westgate/Belvedere Homes CRA (WCRA) Bonus Density		
Element:	Future Land Use Element (FLUE)		
Project Manager:	Denise Pennell, Director of Planning & Development Westgate CRA David Wiloch, Senior Planner, PBC Planning Division		
Staff Recommendation:	Staff recommends <i>approval</i> based on the findings and conclusions presented in this report.		

#### II. Item Summary

- This County proposed text amendment is requested by the WCRA to Summary: increase the number of units available in the Westgate/Belvedere Homes Community Redevelopment Area Overlay (WCRAO) Density Bonus Pool. The pool units are used to increase residential density in the WCRAO. reducing the need for Future Land Use amendments and thereby expediting redevelopment. The current allotment of 1.300 units does not reflect the current development outlook, which now considers transitoriented, mixed-use development density clusters along Okeechobee Boulevard, and within transitional areas between Okeechobee Boulevard and Westgate Avenue, as well additional housing south of Westgate Avenue. These clusters would include the potential redevelopment of several large sites, including the 47-acre Palm Beach Kennel Club, which is currently contemplating a project with 1,200 residential units. The proposed amendment would increase the number of bonus units available in the WCRAO Density Bonus Pool for a total of 4,300, to support these projects and Agency's next 20-year planning horizon, and assist in addressing the ongoing need for housing production countywide.
- Assessment: The development and redevelopment scenario proposed by the Westgate/Belvedere Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is in support of County goals, the CRA Redevelopment Plan goals, and the regional and state efforts to encourage redevelopment. The proposed additional density bonus pool units allow higher land use intensity and density resulting in a stronger output of housing units than allowed by the existing future land use. The required additional units will help provide housing for the County's population.

# III. Hearing History

Local Planning Agency:

Board of County Commissioners Transmittal Public Hearing:

**State Review Agencies:** 

**Board of County Commissioners Adoption Public Hearing:** 

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## IV. Intent of the Amendment

The intent of this amendment is to change Future Land Use Element Policy 1.2.3-b to increase the number of bonus units in the Density Bonus Pool by 3,000 units from the current allotment of 1,300 units, for a total of 4,300 units. This increase would support the Agency's next 20-year planning horizon, and the ongoing need for housing countywide.

### V. Background

The WCRAO is bounded on the north by Okeechobee Boulevard, on the south by Belvedere Road, on the east by Florida Mango Road and on the west by Military Trail. The area is approximately 1,300 acres (2.03 square miles) in size. In 1988, WCRAO was established in the Comprehensive Plan to encourage development and redevelopment with special land use provisions designed to arrest deterioration of property values, and preserve affordable housing. The CRA was created the following year, in 1989, by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) pursuant to the Community Redevelopment Act, F.S. Chapter 163, Part III, as a dependent special district for the redevelopment of the area.

The CRA established their initial Community Redevelopment Plan in 1989, which was adopted by the BCC on May 9, 1989 (by Ordinance No. 89-6). This Redevelopment Plan provided for desired future land uses, receiving areas for greater commercial intensities, an infrastructure improvement schedule, an updated economic forecast and residential bonus provisions. The residential bonus provisions were in the form of a Density Bonus Pool for the CRA area, with 300 units initially allocated to the pool through FLUE Policy 1.2.4-b. which was later changed to 1.2.3-b. Density Bonus Pool unit requests are vetted by the CRA through Policy language that states "a proposed residential project must be recommended for approval by the CRA to be eligible to receive bonus units from the density pool. The pool units may be increased through amendments to the Comprehensive Plan text." In 2003, the CRA hired the planning firm Civic Design Associates to prepare a Redevelopment Plan update that amended the original 1989 Redevelopment Plan. The update identified a need for additional housing among other needs. The original allotment of 300 units to the Density Bonus Pool was then amended by the Board of County Commissioners in 2005 (Round 05-1) to the current allotment of 1,300 units. The pool currently holds approximately 930 remaining bonus units with new residential and mixed use developments in the early entitlement process.

## VI. Data and Analysis

This section provides background information regarding the proposed amendment, and consistency of the proposed changes with the Comprehensive Plan.

A. **Proposed Text Amendment.** Currently 930 Bonus units remain in the Density Bonus Pool. This amendment request is triggered by the proposed redevelopment of a 47-acre site within the CRA district with a CH/5 FLU, which was not previously contemplated in the 2005 assignment of 1,300 bonus units. This development proposes to utilize approximately 50% of the remaining bonus units in its first phase, with more residential units anticipated in subsequent phasing. The BCC has the authority within the WCRAO to approve residential densities higher than those shown in the Future Land Use Atlas. These additional units must be obtained from a density pool of bonus units assigned to the WCRAO. Complete data and analysis to support the proposed change are provided in Exhibit 2. The data and analysis for the proposed amendment are based on the justification that an increase in bonus density pool units is necessary in order to implement the development and redevelopment activities consistent with the CRA's Community Redevelopment Plan and the County's Comprehensive Plan.

Β. Supporting Information. The WCRAO was created to encourage the development and redevelopment of the Westgate area. The special land use provisions for the Overlay are designed to arrest deterioration of property values, and preserve affordable housing and complement the efforts to implement a Community Redevelopment Plan. The 2005 Plan outlined desired locations for future land uses as well as the designation of receiving areas for the commercial and residential bonus provisions of the Overlay. The Redevelopment Plan may be amended from time to time using the procedures for adoption as included in Chapter 163, Part III, F.S. The Redevelopment Plan was amended in 2017 to refocus work efforts toward vertical redevelopment and economic development. The residential bonus provisions in Sub-objective 1.2.3 are designed to reduce the need for Future Land Use Atlas amendments, thereby expediting development entitlements. The CRA is proposing to maintain the existing future land use densities and intensities but with changes to accommodate additional units within the Overlay. The area is impacted by many constraints including a lack of contiguous or larger vacant lots, nonconforming or obsolete structures and lots, lack of adequate density and development incentives to leverage private investments, and the construction of retention projects that have taken available, developable land. In order for the Westgate CRA to accomplish its goal of revitalizing the community, it will need to attract more residents and businesses to the area. Due to the aforementioned issues, the CRA cites a need for an additional 3,000 bonus density units to accomplish its development and redevelopment goals. This action is consistent with the BCC endorsement of the modified Redevelopment Plan.

### C. Consistency with the Comprehensive Plan

Several provisions in the Future Land Use Element (FLUE) of the Comprehensive Plan are applicable to this amendment, and are listed below:

#### 1. SUB-OBJECTIVE 1.2.3 Westgate/Belvedere Homes Community Redevelopment Area Overlay (WCRAO)

The Westgate/Belvedere Homes Community Redevelopment Area Overlay was created to encourage development and redevelopment of the Westgate area. The special land use provisions for the Overlay are designed to arrest deterioration of property values, and preserve affordable housing and complement the efforts to prepare and implement a community redevelopment plan for the Westgate area. The Westgate/Belvedere Homes Community Redevelopment Plan (hereafter Redevelopment Plan) is intended to geographically represent the desired locations for future land uses as well as the designation of receiving areas for the commercial and residential bonus provisions of the Overlay. The Redevelopment Plan will also consist of a program to rectify the severe infrastructure problems in the area. The County staff shall use the Redevelopment Plan in making recommendations and decisions on land use matters including zoning petitions, land use amendments, bonus criteria, text changes to the Unified Land Development Code and other implementing measures. The Redevelopment Plan may be amended from time to time using the procedures for adoption as included in Chapter 163 F.S. The provisions in Sub-objective 1.2.3 are designed to reduce the need for Future Land Use Atlas amendments to implement a community redevelopment plan for the Westgate/Belvedere Homes Area. This does not preclude the ability of property owners to initiate Future Land Use Atlas amendments in the Study Area. Special Overlay designation does not eliminate the requirement to conform to the Traffic Performance Standard, other concurrency management requirements or any other requirement adopted as part of the County's Comprehensive Plan or Unified Land Development Code.

**Staff Analysis**: The County and the CRA have a goal of improving the redevelopment area, particularly older, deteriorated housing stock, and to provide new housing for residents of all income levels. In order for the Westgate CRA to accomplish its goal of revitalizing the community, it will need to attract more residents and businesses to the area. Due to the aforementioned issues, such as the proposed redevelopment of the Palm Beach Kennel Club and in anticipation of more development interests in the area upon completion of the complete street roadway improvements along Westgate Avenue, the CRA cites a need for an additional 3,000 bonus density units to accomplish its development and redevelopment goals. This action is consistent with the BCC endorsement of the modified Redevelopment Plan.

2. Policy 1.2.3-b: Bonus Density Pool - The Board of County Commissioners has the authority within the WCRAO to approve residential densities higher than those shown on the Future Land Use Atlas for areas designated residential. These additional units must be obtained from a density pool of 1,300 bonus units assigned to the Westgate/Belvedere Homes Area by this Element. A proposed residential project must be recommended for approval by the Community Redevelopment Agency to be eligible to receive bonus units from the density pool. The pool of units may be increased through amendments to the Comprehensive Plan text.

**Staff Analysis**: The amendment complements the County's goals to encourage higher densities through redevelopment and infill in designated areas, and the State's goal to provide housing for a growing population. The amendment is consistent with FLUE Policy 1.2.3-b which allows "the pool of units to be increased through amendments to the Comprehensive Plan text".

#### D. ULDC Implications

This proposed amendment will result in changes to the Unified Land Development Code.

## VII. Public and Municipal Review

**Intergovernmental Plan Amendment Review Committee (IPARC):** Notification was sent to the County's Intergovernmental Plan Amendment Review Committee (IPARC), a clearing-house for plan amendments on December 20, 2024. At the time of the printing of this report, no calls or written requests for information or objections to the amendment had been received.

**Other Notice:** The Westgate CRA held a public meeting on November 19, 2024 to discuss the proposed amendment. Responses to a community survey are provided in Exhibit 3, and overall favored the text amendment. Over 65% of residents, and all property owners, developers and business operators who responded, support the initiative. Correspondence received throughout the process is provided in Exhibit 5.

### VIII. Staff Assessment and Conclusion

The development and redevelopment scenario proposed by the Westgate/Belvedere Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is in support of County goals, the CRA Redevelopment Plan goals, and the regional and state efforts to encourage redevelopment. The proposed additional density bonus pool units allow higher land use intensity and density resulting in a stronger output of housing units than allowed by the existing future land use. The required additional units will help provide housing for the County's population. There were no inconsistencies identified with policies in the Comprehensive Plan.

Staff recommends **approval** of this amendment.

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#### A. Future Land Use Element, Westgate/Belvedere Homes CRA Bonus Density

**REVISIONS:** To increase the bonus density pool units for the Westgate/Belvedere Homes Community Redevelopment Area Overlay from 1,300 to 4,300 units. The revisions shown with the added text <u>underlined</u>, and the deleted text <del>struck out</del>.

1. **REVISE Policy 1.2.3-b: Bonus Density Pool** - The Board of County Commissioners has the authority within the WCRAO to approve residential densities higher than those shown on the Future Land Use Atlas for areas designated residential. These additional units must be obtained from a density pool of <u>1300</u> <u>4,300</u> bonus units assigned to the Westgate/Belvedere Homes Area by this Element. A proposed residential project must be recommended for approval by the Community Redevelopment Agency to be eligible to receive bonus units from the density pool. The pool of units may be increased through amendments to the Comprehensive Plan text.

# Exhibit 2

## Justification Statement provided by Westgate CRA

#### A. Request Justification & Analysis

#### SUMMARY OF REQUEST

This County proposed text amendment is requested by the Westgate/Belvedere Homes Community Redevelopment Agency to revise Future Land Use Element (FLUE) Sub-Objective 1.2.3., Westgate/Belvedere Homes Community Redevelopment Area Overlay (WCRAO), specifically Policy 1.2.3-b, Density Bonus Pool. The request supports ongoing development and redevelopment activities outlined in the Agency's 2005 and 2017 Community Redevelopment Plans. This amendment seeks to increase the number of bonus units available in the pool to support the Agency's 20-year build out development horizon, and the ongoing need for housing production countywide.

The Community Redevelopment Plan proposes smart growth principles and regulatory incentives to orient density toward the Westgate area. This is supported by its central location, transit opportunities, and improved infrastructure capacity. Through a Comprehensive Plan text amendment in 2005, the Board of County Commissioners recognized the Westgate/Belvedere Homes Community Redevelopment Area as a receiving area for commercial and residential bonus provisions beyond what is contemplated by the future land use and established a density pool of 1,300 bonus units assigned to the area. The pool of units was originally 300; the 2005 text amendment represented an increase of 1,000 previously assigned through the Policy. This revision seeks to replenish and increase the number of bonus units available in the Pool through the Policy by 3,000, to a total of 4,300, to facilitate housing production, and the CRA's long range build out projections. The acceleration of planned, entitled and constructed residential development is depleting the pool, which currently holds approximately 930 units.

The amendment request is triggered by the planned redevelopment of the historic 47-acre Palm Beach Kennel Club site within the CRA district which supports a commercial high, with an underlying 5 units per acre future land use (CH/5 FLU). The redevelopment of the site was not previously contemplated in the 2005 assignment of 1,300 bonus units. This landmark redevelopment project proposes 1,200 residential units in a phased program. To realize the residential density needed, the project will be allocated bonus density through the WCRAO Density Bonus Pool for the purpose it was established: to facilitate residential and mixed-use redevelopment within the Westgate area without the need for Future Land Use Atlas amendments. The redevelopment project proposes to utilize approximately 50% of the remaining 930 bonus units in its first phase, with more residential units anticipated in subsequent phasing.

The request facilitates the future residential build out of key areas within the CRA boundaries with potential for redevelopment, supported by the goals of the Redevelopment Plan. These key areas are represented as density clusters within corresponding ULDC WCRAO Sub-areas. The implementation of the Density Bonus Pool is codified in the ULDC WCRAO, with criteria for obtaining bonus density, approvals processes, and Pool limits by Sub-area based on capacity for redevelopment. It is important to note that an allocation within the Policy language of the Comprehensive Plan does not necessarily equate to development on the ground. Multiple, often unforeseen factors, can impact development cycles, and housing market trends. It is possible that the build out scenario remains a projection, and is never fully realized.

The 20-year Density Bonus Program Multifamily Unit Projection models a total build out scenario that balances existing viable multi-family units, planned development, and a projection for new multi-family units over time. The analysis assumes that 8 units per acre is generally the highest density allowed by the FLU in selected Sub-areas, and considers acreage that is susceptible to redevelopment. It is estimated that approximately 185 acres of the 1,300 acres that comprise the CRA district have potential for higher density residential redevelopment.

Conservatively, 3,970 bonus units are needed to support a 20-year build out, less the 930 units that still remain in the pool, reflecting the rounded down request for 3,000 units. The Urban General (UG), and Urban Highway (UH) Sub-areas act as receiving areas for a majority of the bonus density requested. Within these density clusters located along Congress Avenue and Okeechobee Blvd. 135 acres are susceptible to redevelopment, and the redevelopment of three large +/-40-acre sites drive the forecast. 990 bonus units from the Pool are allocated for the redevelopment of 42 acres on the Palm Beach Kennel Club site on Congress Avenue in the UG-Sub-area to supplement 210 units allowed by the future land use; another 680 for the redevelopment of a 40-acre mobile home park site on Okeechobee Blvd. in the same Sub-area. An estimated 880 bonus units are projected for a key 40-acre redevelopment site at the intersection of Okeechobee Blvd. and Military Trail within the UH Sub-area. The anticipated need for bonus density to achieve the build out of these three sites is 2,550 units. The remaining 1,420 bonus units that comprise the balance of the 20-year Density Bonus Pool are assigned to these key cluster Sub-areas, and other priority redevelopment Sub-areas for incremental residential and mixed-use redevelopment.

This amendment requests to restock and increase the number of bonus density units available in the WCRAO Density Bonus Pool, necessary to capture a continuing demand for workforce and market rate housing, furthering the goals and objectives the Westgate/Belvedere Homes Community Redevelopment Plan to revitalize the area. Survey results from a November 19, 2024 community meeting attended by a diverse group of residents and stakeholders indicate support for the initiative. The amendment complements the County's goals to encourage higher densities through redevelopment and infill in designated central urban areas, and the State's goal to provide housing for a growing population. The amendment is consistent with FLUE Policy 1.2.3-b which allows "the pool of units to be increased through amendments to the Comprehensive Plan text".

## BACKGROUND

The Westgate/Belvedere Homes Community Redevelopment Agency is a dependent special district, created in 1989 pursuant to the Community Redevelopment Act, Chapter 163, Part III of Florida Statues. The Westgate CRA is the only Community Redevelopment Agency in unincorporated Palm Beach County, acting as the redevelopment arm of the Board of County Commissioners for the Westgate area. The CRA is mandated to promote and facilitate the revitalization, redevelopment and economic development of the area within its boundaries, as outlined in its amended Community Redevelopment Plan.

The CRA District is represented in the Comprehensive Plan as the Westgate/Belvedere Homes Community Redevelopment Area Overlay (WCRAO) in the Future Land Use Element, and as a Level of Service Exception area in the Transportation Element as the Westgate-Belvedere Homes Community Redevelopment Area Transportation Concurrency Exception Area (TCEA). The redevelopment area is centrally located in the U/S Tier of the County's Managed Growth Tier System. The WCRAO is within the Revitalization & Redevelopment Infill Overlay (RRIO), Urban Redevelopment Study Area (URA), and is a County Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) area. The CRA's 2017 Community Redevelopment Plan updated the Agency's 1989 and 2005 redevelopment plans by shifting focus toward initiatives to encourage vertical redevelopment and economic development. Focus areas include: economic development and redevelopment, market positioning, housing, community engagement, public infrastructure and public spaces, and planning for redevelopment. Many projects and programs contemplated in all previous Plans are ongoing underscoring the long arc of sustainable community redevelopment. Improvements to stormwater storage capacity, roadway and pedestrian infrastructure, the creation of community amenities, and the preservation of affordable housing remain key priorities for the Agency.

Among the focus areas of the 2017 Redevelopment Plan is housing, with a goal to "create and maintain diverse, quality housing stock that addresses a mix of community, local and regional needs and income levels." The Plan outlines actions and funding mechanisms to support a Workforce Housing Incentives Program to "encourage the development of workforce housing, and a range of mixed income housing opportunities, [utilizing] various incentives, including the Density Bonus Program, the County's Workforce Housing Program, grant application assistance, land and drainage agreements, [and] expedited review..."

Fundamentally, the existing policies and intent of the WCRAO in both the Comprehensive Plan and the ULDC were born from the CRA's 2005 Plan which included several elements that involved changes to the existing physical development pattern, requiring modifications to land development regulations to achieve redevelopment. The Plan took a more comprehensive and visionary approach drawing from influential concepts in urban planning and design, new urbanism and smart growth principles that envisioned infill vertical redevelopment in older, urbanized areas to prevent sprawl. Diverse, walkable, compact, vibrant mixed-use communities assembled in an integrated way that contain housing, work, shopping, entertainment, parks, schools and civic facilities defines new urbanism, and the enduring vision for Westgate.

Following the adoption of the CRA's 2005 Community Redevelopment Plan, the Board of County Commissioners recognized the Westgate/Belvedere Homes Community Redevelopment Area as a receiving area for residential bonus provisions beyond the future land use, and committed an additional 1,000 density bonus units assigned to the area. Criteria for obtaining bonus density for a development project are contained in the WCRAO within the ULDC, which also serves as the implementing tool for the Density Bonus Pool program. To receive an allocation from the Density Bonus Pool, projects have an obligation to provide a percentage of workforce housing units, and must receive a positive recommendation of support from the CRA.

Companion revisions to the WCRAO in the ULDC in 2006 established WCRAO zoning Subareas since none of the existing zoning districts allowed for the combination of lot coverage, setbacks, and development intensity permitted by the Redevelopment Plan (see Figure 1, below). Today, property development regulations and incentives for the WCRAO zoning overlay favor a hybrid form-based code approach which focuses on both on physical form elements such as building orientation, placement and massing, to achieve urban form, as well as land use provisions, density bonus, and incentives to achieve redevelopment objectives. To facilitate viable residential density and mixed-use development, the WCRAO zoning overlay allows for additional height, reduced setbacks, modified landscape buffers and reduced parking ratios.

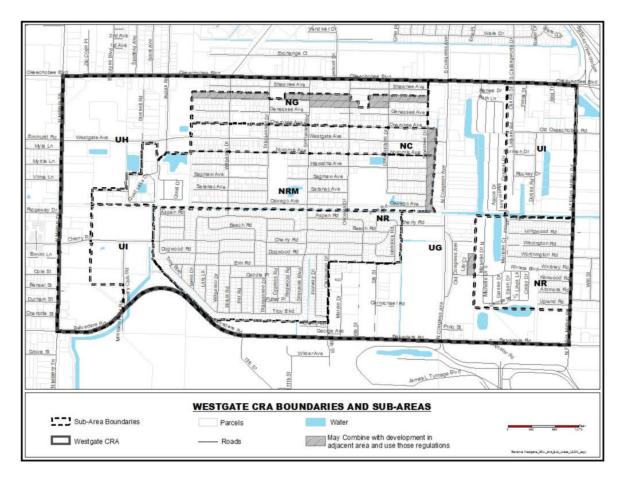


Figure 1. Westgate CRA Boundaries & WCRAO Zoning Overlay Sub-areas

### JUSTIFICATION

#### Need for Density to Achieve Redevelopment:

The CRA District is located in a prime urban location, under 2 miles west of downtown West Palm Beach, with access to arterial roadways, I-95, transit, amenities, and services. A continued program of density bonus in this area will make more efficient use of underutilized land and contribute to sustainable infill urban growth. Higher residential density supports the goals of smart growth by reducing urban sprawl, promoting infill development. From a regional perspective, the intensification of development in the centralized redevelopment area offers several advantages. Provisions for higher density accommodates significant increment growth in an already developed urban area with sufficient levels of service and supporting infrastructure.

Increasing residential density through bonus incentives can serve as a catalyst for economic revitalization within the redevelopment area. By encouraging more residential development, the area will attract additional investment, both residential and commercial, leading to job creation and local economic growth. Increased density supports a vibrant local economy by expanding the consumer base for businesses, especially retail and service-oriented establishments. The long-term presence of new residents will continue to support the area's economy.

#### **Constrained Conditions:**

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Many sectors of the CRA District cannot add more residential units either because they are built out, such as the Belvedere Homes and Belvedere Heights single family residential neighborhoods, or because they are incompatible lands not suitable for multifamily residential development, such as areas with an industrial future land use and zoning designation. The CRA can only encourage housing development in clusters, in areas designated for higher density to accomplish its housing development goals.

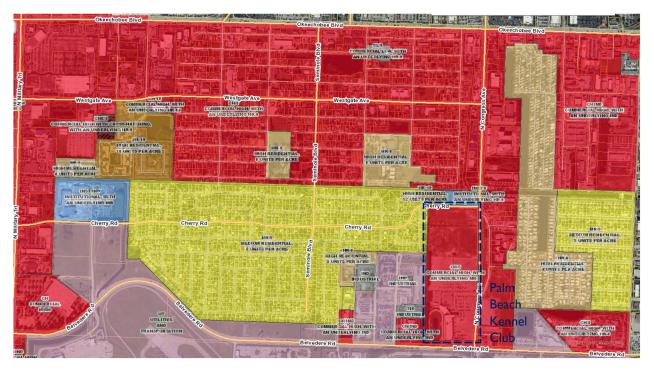


Figure 2. Future Land Use Map – WCRAO

The base density allowed by the future land use within the WCRAO, even when combined with other density bonus programs such as Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) and Workforce Housing Program (WHP) density incentives, is relatively too low to achieve urban infill redevelopment within the CRA District. The majority of the parcels in the WCRAO support a Commercial High (CH) future land use with an underlying residential future land use of 8 units per acre (see Figure 2). This low base density is inherent to the historic development pattern of unincorporated suburban Palm Beach County. Some higher density pockets of HR 12 and HR 18 do exist in the redevelopment area, along with MR-5 (5 units per acre) in single family neighborhoods, as well as Commercial Low (CL), Industrial (IND) and Institutional (INST) future land uses.

The WCRAO Density Bonus Pool serves as the established density bonus tool within the Westgate Area; others are available Countywide including the Workforce Housing Program (WHP), however, there are limitations. To achieve a density of 25 du/ac, all bonus density incentives within the WHP must be fully exhausted, often Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs) must be purchased and layered to base and bonus densities to realize the project units, and a future land use amendment is often still required to increase the base from MR-5 or HR-8 to HR-12 as the starting point in the entitlements process. The Board is beginning to approve greater densities within residential and mixed-use projects within the U/S Tier: Fount MUPD (Ord. 2022-013) on Okeechobee Blvd. was approved for 708 residential units on 27.66 acres. The application included a FLU amendment to increase the base density from 8 du/ac to 12 du/ac, and the purchase of 111 TDRs, to yield an overall project density of 25.6 du/ac. Combined with other approved developments over the past several years (Lennox North Beach-

-22.4 du/ac on 11.14 acres; R80 Residential—25 du/ac on 11.46 acres), these projects indicate a general inclination of the Board to approve densities greater than the base future land use.

Within the WCRAO, two constructed projects along Congress Avenue within the Urban General (UG) Sub-area serve as examples of how the Density Bonus Pool functions to increase density without the need for a Future Land Use Atlas amendment:

- Autumn Ridge (Control# 2020-0152) CH/8 FLU, 106 units on 3.62 acres utilized 29 dwelling units from the FLU, and 77 units from the Pool to achieve an overall density of 29.3 du/ac. The project provides 100% affordable housing for seniors
- Brandon Estates (Control# 2016-00052) CH/8 FLU, 198 units on 7.48 acres utilized 60 units from the FLU, and 138 units from the Pool to achieve an overall density of 26.4 du/ac. The project provides 60 workforce housing units.

The CRA proposes to utilize the base residential future land use, plus allowable bonus density to maximize overall residential density in underutilized areas to accommodate additional units in the community. However, maximizing density on existing developable land alone will not bring that much needed residents in the area because of continued constraints in the area. A vast amount of land within CRA district is County or Airport owned reducing the overall acreage available for redevelopment. One of the primary purposes of a Community Redevelopment Agency is to address the infrastructure needs that contribute to blight. The CRA District sits within the C-51 drainage basin requiring a percentage of a parcel to be set aside for stormwater storage, reducing buildable area.

These constraints, along with few vacant lots, lend themselves to scarcity of developable lands in the area. Retention projects have taken a greater percentage of available developable land. The C-51 rule requires as much as 30% of parcels to be set aside for on-site water retention leaving little left for actual development. To address this ongoing issue, the CRA has constructed a number of retention ponds in the North & South Westgate Estates neighborhoods. The CRA established a Stormwater Storage Mitigation Bank through South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) that would enable developers to utilize "stormwater redevelopment credits" to meet their stormwater storage requirements. The mitigation bank utilizes the Central Lake, also known as the Dennis P. Koehler Preserve, a 6.85-acre retention lake completed by the CRA in collaboration with the County in 2012, for additional stormwater storage. To date, three major development projects on Congress Avenue, the lowest point of the C-51 basin, have utilized stormwater redevelopment credits. representing a substantial savings to development costs. The CRA continues to work with SFWMD to add more retention lake credits to the mitigation bank. The CRA District is unlike any other County-designated infill redevelopment area; the Agency has been working toward correcting level of service deficiencies in sidewalks, streetlights, sanitary sewer and stormwater storage since its creation through its TIF, combined with grants, without a cost burden to the County since its creation in 1989.

Addressing a Local Need for Housing Production: The Palm Beach County Housing Leadership Coalition 2023 Housing Action Plan outlined specific actions to "produce, rehabilitate preserve 20,000 units of workforce and affordable housing by 2032." and (https://www.hlcpbc.org/housing-plan-meetings-and-resources/) The plan is based on the 2020 Palm Beach County Affordable Housing Needs Assessment, a quantitative and qualitative study that explored links between housing supply, affordability, and demand. The assessment examines growth and change in the local labor market, migration patterns post-pandemic, housing values, household income and composition, noting the need for urgent action to address housing affordability issues. Among actions recommended is an "immediate focus on rental housing preservation and production." The Housing Action Plan states that "Palm Beach County has an affordable and workforce housing crisis". A shortage of quality housing stock at all levels of affordability impacts business retention and attraction, overall economic growth, and

quality of life. The Plan further identifies areas of opportunity to correct the crisis through: funding and financing, planning and regulatory reform, neighborhood revitalization and community development, and racial equity.

The CRA's request to replenish and increase the Density Bonus Pool furthers the goals of the Housing Action Plan. One of the primary justifications for increasing residential bonus density is to promote housing for all income levels within the redevelopment area. The demand for housing, particularly affordable housing in urban areas is growing due to increasing populations, rising rents, and limited available land. By increasing residential bonus density, developers can be incentivized to provide more affordable units in the project, which directly contributes to addressing the County's housing shortage. The table below shows that the population growth within the CRA boundaries and within a 1-mile radius are outpacing overall population growth County-wide.

2024-2029 Population Growth Rate					
Area	Growth Rate				
Westgate CRA District	1.53%				
Westgate CRA District – 1-mile radius	1.32%				
Zip code 33409 (West Palm Beach)	0.74%				
Palm Beach County	0.47%				
Florida	0.93%				
USA	0.38%				

#### Table 1. 2024-2029 Population Growth Rate

Source: ArcGIS Business Analyst data compiled by CRA Staff

#### Missing Middle Housing:

To facilitate future larger-scale redevelopment, well-designed "missing middle" developments can offer a lower density alternative along secondary corridors and transitional areas of the CRA District. Missing middle building types, such as two and three-story townhouses, fourplexes, courtyard buildings, or live/work projects provide a diversity of housing options and support locally-serving retail and public transportation options. The CRA has seen an increase in residential projects on less than one acre that utilize the WCRAO Density Bonus Pool to achieve an overall density of 15-18 du/acre. This highlights the flexibility of the Density Bonus Program to be utilized in a variety of residential projects, each contributing to new housing stock. With the Westgate Avenue streetscape project currently underway, the CRA anticipates more commercial redevelopment and rehabilitation will follow. "Missing Middle Housing helps solve the mismatch between the available U.S. housing stock and shifting demographics combined with the growing demand for walkability". (https://missingmiddlehousing.com/) Opticos Design describes this type of housing as missing because it is typically not seen in either urban areas, where higher density multifamily is prevalent, or suburban neighborhoods, where single-family dominates. The form and scale of "missing middle" housing differs in number of units and affordability, both in construction and end-user rents. The WCRAO Density Bonus Pool allows for missing middle housing to occur on smaller infill sites that otherwise would be restricted by site size, and the underlying future land use.

#### Methodology of Request:

To implement the Westgate/Belvedere Homes Community Redevelopment Plan and FLUE Policy 1.2.3-b, Density Bonus Pool, areas within the CRA district with capacity for redevelopment, geographically represented by WCRAO sub-areas within the ULDC, are

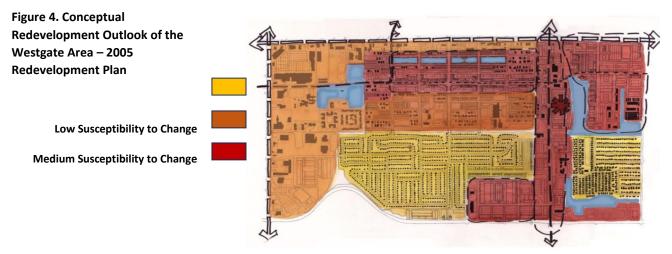
allocated a maximum number of possible bonus units per acre (see Figure 3, below). Sub-areas that comprise arterial corridors such as Congress Avenue within the Urban General (UG) Sub-area, and Okeechobee Blvd. within the Urban Highway (UH) Sub-area are permitted a higher number of density bonus units per acre to encourage transit adjacent development. The Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Sub-area, the focal redevelopment corridor of the CRA District, is targeted for medium density mixed-use. Sub-areas in transitional zones, such as the Neighborhood General (NG) and the Neighborhood Residential – Medium Density (NRM), ideal for smaller scale mixed-use development and missing middle housing, are capped at a lesser number.

Та	ble 3.B.14.	H – WCRAC	Density B	onus Pool	Limits	
	1					_

Sub-areas	NR	NRM	NG	NC	UG	UH	UI
Max. WCRAO Density Bonus per ac.	N/A	20	30	50	150	150	N/A
[Ord. 2006-004] [Ord. 2021-006]							

#### Figure 3. WCRAO Density Bonus Pool Limits

The build out analysis supporting this amendment request presupposes the preservation of single-family neighborhoods of Belvedere Homes and Belvedere Heights. These neighborhoods support an MR-5 FLU, and are not receiving areas for increased density. Redevelopment strategies within the single-family areas of the CRA District focus on affordable and workforce housing preservation and improvement, with reimbursable grant funding available to homeowners seeking to leverage investments to their property. Similarly, industrial zones with an IND FLU, are not assigned higher densities within those corresponding ULDC WCRAO Subareas.



The justification for the 2005 text amendment to the Density Bonus Program that increased the Pool to 1,300 units examined the potential for redevelopment within selected Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZ) to determine by block group the trajectory of a build out scenario where clustered housing is encouraged according to Community Redevelopment Plan (see Figure 4, previous page). At that time, the area had 6 TAZ; today the area has 21 TAZ. Build out modeling in 2005 was correlated to impact on roadways, represented by traffic trips. But using a TAZ framework as a development forecasting tool exclusively in a redevelopment area has limitations. The 2005 forecast was predicated on a redevelopment outlook that mirrors the current request, however, "susceptibility to change" density cluster areas have evolved slightly from 2005 text amendment.

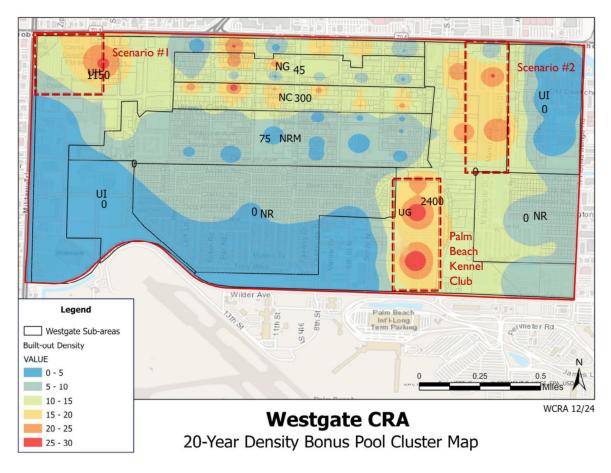


Figure 5. 2024 Density Bonus Receiving Areas "Heat" Map by WCRAO Sub-area

#### Source: Prepared by CRA Staff

The framework for modeling the build out scenario is based on a number of factors. The development outlook now considers transit-oriented, mixed-use development density clusters along Okeechobee Blvd., and within transitional areas between Okeechobee Blvd. and Westgate Avenue, as well as south of Westgate Avenue for missing middle housing. See Figure 5 above for a heat map indicating projected density clusters highlighting areas in red and orange with a potential for 20-30 du/acre. The 2005 model excluded the redevelopment of the 47-acre Kennel Club property. The development program project proposes 1,200 residential units. The CRA is requesting an increase of 3,000 units that would replenish and increase the existing pool of 1,300 units, with the remaining units to be allocated to various projects both large and small, across a 20-year build out horizon, including to the Kennel Club project.

The WCRAO Sub-areas are fully established, and Density Bonus Pool limits determine the intensity of residential redevelopment. To support the request for an additional 3,000 units, modelling is organized by density clusters corresponding to each WCRAO Sub-area, and the per acre bonus density limitations codified in the WCRAO. The analysis assumes a continued strong output of housing on underutilized and blighted land in the CRA district, over a 20-year long range forecast. Total build out is based on 8 units per acre as the highest by-right density allowed by the FLU, existing viable units, and the number of acres considered as "susceptible to redevelopment" based on potential for future redevelopment and historic trends. The table

below (Table 2) illustrates the number of units needed to accomplish housing development program.

20-Year Density Bonus Program - Multifamily Unit Projection								
WCRAO Sub-areas	UG	UI	NR	UH	NG	NC	NRM	Total
Total Multi-family Build Out	3604			2150	500	756	695	7705
Existing Multi-family Units	564			560	335	296	500	2255
Projected Multi-family Units	3040			1590	165	460	195	5450
Acres Susceptible to Redevelopment	80			55	15	20	15	185
FLU Base Density	8			8	8	8	8	8
By Right Units	640			440	120	160	120	1480
20-year Density Bonus Pool	2400			1150	45	300	75	3970
Less Remaining Units in Density Bonus Pool								930
Density Bonus Pool Increase Request								3040

#### Table 2. 20-Year Bonus Program – Multifamily Unit Projection

Source: Prepared by CRA staff

#### **Projection Assumptions:**

- Modeling estimates 3,040 density bonus units are needed in the Pool; request is for 3,000 additional units rounded down
- Total multi-family build out represents existing viable units, planned development, and potential housing stock in areas susceptible to redevelopment
- 8 units per acre is generally the highest density allowed by FLU in selected Sub-areas
- Projected multi-family units assumes high density redevelopment on larger underutilized sites, and incremental redevelopment in WCRAO Sub-areas targeted as receiving areas for Density Bonus
- Pool units are needed to make up the difference between what's allowed by right in the FLU, planned residential or mixed- use projects, and future residential build out based on the goals of the Redevelopment Plan

Modeling projects a total build out of 5,754 units within the Urban General (UG), and Urban Highway (UH) Sub-areas alone, which act as receiving areas for the most bonus density. Within these density clusters located along Congress Avenue and Okeechobee Blvd. the redevelopment of several large +/-40-acre sites drive the forecast. 4,630 new multi-family units are projected, including 1,200 units planned for the Palm Beach Kennel Club site on Congress Avenue. An estimated 1,124 units are considered viable and remain as existing. 135 acres are susceptible to redevelopment, and by applying 8 du/ac as the base density, 1,080 units are permitted by the future land use in these Sub-areas. To close the gap, the difference between existing units and by right density and total future build out projections, a total of 3,550 Pool units are needed. The remaining 420 units that comprise the balance of the 20-year Density Bonus Pool are assigned to other priority redevelopment areas for incremental residential

redevelopment such as the Westgate Avenue corridor, and areas between Westgate Avenue and Okeechobee Blvd.

#### Urban Highway (UH) Sub-area Redevelopment Scenario #1:

- 55 acres of land with potential for redevelopment in the Sub-area
- Includes the +/- 40-acre Cross County Mall site at the intersection of Okeechobee Blvd. and N. Military Trail, and 15 acres of underutilized parcels Okeechobee Blvd. extending to Congress Avenue for TOD, and redevelopment opportunities on Donnell Road
- Cluster density area with projection of 1,590 new MF dwelling units over 20-year build out
- Assume less 440 units permitted by right through FLU to equal a bonus density of 1,150 units for the Sub-area

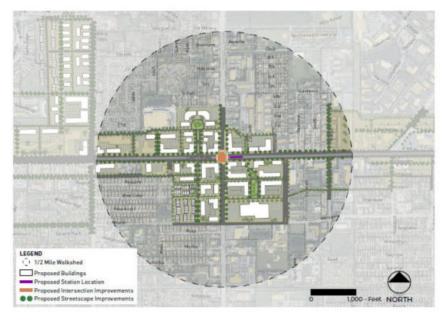


Figure 6. Palm Beach TPA Okeechobee Blvd. to SR-7 Multimodal Corridor Study – Military Trail Station concept for TOD vision

Source: https://palmbeachtpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Okeechobee-Blvd-SR-7-Multimodal-Corridor-Study-Full-Report-with-Appendices-1.pdf

# Potential Redevelopment Site – 40-acre MUPD at SE corner of Military Trail & Okeechobee Blvd.

- Prime location at the intersection of two major County arterial roadways
- Palm Beach TPA Okeechobee Blvd. & Multimodal Corridor Study Land Use & Economic Development Report (November 2022) -- <u>https://palmbeachtpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Okeechobee-Blvd-SR-7-Multimodal-Corridor-Study-Full-Report-with-Appendices-1.pdf</u> envisions a District/Town Center typology with a transit station at this intersection. The Study projects a little over 1,000 new housing units through residential infill redevelopment and the commercial redevelopment of big box retailers within the transit station area. Transit oriented development at this location would support existing Palm Tran ridership routes and transfers along Military Trail.
- To achieve an overall density of 30 du/ac on the 40-acre MUPD site, 880 units would be needed from the Density Bonus Pool
- 8 du/ac or 320 units from the base, and 22 du/ac or 880 units from the DBP

Leaving 270 DBP units for other redevelopment scenarios within the cluster area

#### Urban General (UG) Sub-area Redevelopment Scenario #2:

- Conservative estimate of 80 acres of land with potential for redevelopment in the Subarea
- Includes the +/- 47-acre Palm Beach Kennel Club site at the intersection of Congress Avenue and Belvedere Road with a planned redevelopment project proposing 1,200 housing units on 42 acres with a CH/5 FLU; a 40-acre mobile home park on Okeechobee Blvd., as well as redevelopment opportunities on varying, smaller sites along Congress Avenue and Belvedere Road.
- Cluster density area with projection of 3,040 MF dwelling units over 20-year build out
- Assumes less 640 units permitted by right through FLU to equal a bonus density of 2,400 units for the Sub-area
- 990 units are allocated the planned PBKC project

# Potential Redevelopment Site – 40-acre mobile home park along Okeechobee Blvd. at Manor Ave.

- To achieve an overall density of 25 du/ac on the 40-acre mobile home park site, 680 units would be needed from the Density Bonus Pool
- 8 du/ac or 320 units from the base, and 17 du/ac or 680 units from the DBP
- Leaving DBP for other redevelopment scenarios within the cluster area (considers 990 less from PBKC)

#### **Community Input:**

The CRA held a community meeting on November 19, 2024 to present the text amendment to increase the number of units available in the WCRAO Density Bonus Pool to key stakeholders. The meeting was attended by a diverse group representing residents, property and business owners, developers, industry stakeholders, and County Staff. 20 individuals responded to the survey during the meeting, with an additional 30 responses collected from residents and other stakeholders in the weeks following the meeting. The initiative is supported by the broader community; 90% responded in favor, with 10% opposed. A survey asked: "Do you support restocking housing units in the Density Bonus Program for future development?" Supporters highlighted its potential to boost redevelopment along major corridors, streamline housing development processes, and address Palm Beach County's housing shortage. They also saw it as an important step for beautifying and growing the Westgate CRA while increasing affordable housing options. Opponents raised concerns about the survey's limited representation of the broader Westgate community. They felt the program might favor developers over existing residents and interior areas. Some also questioned whether increasing density would truly provide affordable housing for low-income residents.

#### Mobility Strategies:

The mobility strategies proposed to address the impacts of adding 3,000 more units within the Westgate Community Redevelopment Area focus on ensuring that traffic flow and roadway capacity are effectively managed throughout the 20-year build-out projection. A traffic statement prepared by Pinder-Troutman indicates that the increase in residential development within the CRA District will have an impact on the surrounding traffic over the 20-year forecast. This growth is expected to primarily impact key arterial roadways that bound the CRA district, including Okeechobee Boulevard, North Military Trail, and Congress Avenue, all of which will experience increased trip generation.

To mitigate these impacts, internalization of trips within the district is a key strategy. This can be achieved through the implementation of traffic management strategies and other initiatives aimed at reducing the strain on external roadways, such as mixed-use development. Each development project that utilizes bonus density from the WCRAO Density Bonus Pool will be required to assess its traffic impact as part of the concurrency process; projects have the ability to utilize the Westgate TCEA pool of trips with CRA concurrence. This ensures that the cumulative effects of development are addressed in the most efficient way as per ULDC and Statutory requirements.

The traffic management strategies for addressing the increased density within the Westgate CRA focus on enhancing transportation options and reducing the reliance on automobiles, in line with the goals outlined in the CRA Plan for transportation and roadway improvements. Ongoing partnerships and coordination with the Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency (TPA), Palm Tran, Palm Beach International Airport, and the County's Traffic Division will guide the implementation of strategies to improve mobility within the area.

The CRA has a continuing program to implement streetscape improvements and complete streets on key roadways within the District. Through a partnership with the County, the Palm Beach Transportation Agency (TPA) and FDoT, the CRA has completed two pedestrian improvement projects in the Belvedere Heights neighborhood that facilitate walkability. Complete streets projects are underway on Seminole Blvd., a main north-south connector corridor, and Westgate Avenue. The Seminole Blvd. project adds multi-use paths and pedestrian lighting. The Westgate Avenue project represents a substantial investment by the CRA, acting as both a capital improvements project and an economic development driver. The project will reduce travel lanes from 5 lanes to three, add bike lanes, street trees, pedestrian lighting and on-street parking where available. This is anticipated to help reduce vehicular traffic by encouraging use of alternative modes of transportation.

One primary goal is to encourage the use of alternative modes of transportation. This includes the addition of bike lanes or multiuse paths and the development of areas with active uses to support walkability. Given the CRA's centralized location and its emphasis on infill redevelopment, the area offers a significant opportunity to reduce vehicle dependence. The inclusion of mixed-use developments and increased site interconnectivity will allow for internal trip capture, which helps reduce traffic congestion by providing convenient destinations within walking distance.

Public transit improvements will also play a critical role. Enhanced transit stations along Congress Avenue are planned, with efforts to address gaps in public transportation coverage. Ongoing collaboration with Palm Tran is focused on expanding transit service, especially in density target areas, to improve connectivity and service availability. The existing Palm Tran routes, including Routes 3, 40, 43, and 44, provide essential service within the CRA, but there are opportunities for expansion and improvement. Route 3, for example, serves Military Trail, with a major stop at the Cross County Plaza. Route 40, which connects the Intermodal Transit Center to Belle Glade, stops at Okeechobee and Congress Avenue, while Route 43 serves Okeechobee Boulevard, providing easy transfers at key intersections. Route 44 offers flexibility with a loop through the middle of the CRA, providing access to various local streets and connections to the airport.

The TPA is currently working to improve Route 40, aiming to enhance connectivity between the Intermodal Transit Center and the Palm Beach County Airport. Additionally, Palm Tran is looking to improve Route 44 by adding more buses to increase their frequency. These improvements will not only strengthen the local transit network but also improve overall access and mobility within the CRA.

Further strategies to manage traffic include the implementation of "density-based traffic control systems," such as updated signalization and the development of more connected street networks. Drawing on findings from an archived HUD Arizona study

(<u>https://archives.huduser.gov/scrc/sustainability/newsletter\_092712\_3.html</u>), it is clear that increasing residential density, along with diverse land uses, improved neighborhood walkability, and regional job access through public transit, reduces vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and encourages the use of walking and transit options. These principles, known as the "4 Ds" — Density, Diversity, Design, and Destinations — will be incorporated into traffic mitigation strategies to reduce automobile trips and VMT.

A shuttle service, similar to the Freebee or PSLX Palm Tran service, is under consideration for the Congress Avenue corridor to connect residents and commuters to the Intermodal Transit Center on downtown. This service, potentially funded through CRA or developer partnerships, would improve local mobility and facilitate access to regional transit hubs. Additionally, improvements to the road infrastructure, such as the widening of Congress Avenue and L2 canal improvements will create better routes while helping to divert traffic from Okeechobee Boulevard.

The Palm Beach TPA conducted a comprehensive study of the Okeechobee Blvd. to SR-7 corridor in 2022 to explore additional strategies for improved mobility and transit options. These efforts are being complemented by initiatives such as 15-minute bus service on major routes, implemented in September 2024, and the introduction of transit signal prioritization, which will help improve service efficiency, particularly during peak hours. A focus on limited stops and additional operations for bus Route 40 will increase efficiency and connectivity to key destinations, including the airport and the intermodal station.

Additional strategies focus on enhancing the transit infrastructure, with a plan to add more transit shelters over the next five years, and the potential to establish rapid transit lanes to provide faster and more reliable bus service. These strategies, supported by the TPA and Palm Tran, will create a robust, multimodal transportation network that effectively manages the mobility impacts of the proposed density increase within the Westgate CRA redevelopment area.

#### Conclusion:

The WCRAO Density Bonus Pool creates a competitive advantage for the redevelopment area, making it more attractive to potential developers. In areas where land is scarce or costly, developers need sufficient incentives to invest in projects that might otherwise be financially challenging. The increased density allows for more units to be developed, improving the economic feasibility of a project. This, in turn, makes the area more competitive compared to others without such incentives, encouraging private investment and accelerating the redevelopment process.

The request proposed by the CRA is in support of County 'housing for all' goals, the goals and objectives of the CRA's Community Redevelopment Plan, and regional and state efforts to encourage urban infill redevelopment in centralized areas. The proposed additional density bonus pool units allow higher land use intensity and density resulting in a stronger output of housing units than allowed by the existing future land use. The required additional units will contribute to providing much needed housing stock for the County's growing population.

# Exhibit 3

Community Survey Summary provided by Westgate CRA



#### **COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY**

#### Community Meeting Date: November 19, 2024, at 5:30 PM.

**Key Agenda:** Discussing the Density Bonus Program – Comp Plan Amendment to add 3,000 housing units to the pool.

On November 19, 2024, the CRA hosted a community meeting to discuss several topics, including the Density Bonus Program. The meeting was well-attended, with approximately 20 participants representing a diverse group of stakeholders, including residents, property owners, developers, industry professionals, business owners, a current and former County Commissioner, and CRA and County staff.

During the meeting, the CRA presented information about the Density Bonus Program and then distributed a survey to gather community input. The survey included the following question, accompanied by a blank space for participants to provide additional comments or concerns:

#### "Do you support restocking housing units in the Density Bonus Program for future development?"

Following the meeting, the CRA received 10 additional survey responses, bringing the total to 30 responses.

The survey results are summarized below, including numerical responses and the most significant comments from participants who supported or opposed the proposal.

It is important to note that the breakdown of responses by stakeholder type does not add up to 30, as many participants identified as being multiple stakeholder types (e.g., both a resident and a business owner).

Response	Total	Breakdown by Stakeholder Type
Yes	25	<ul> <li>Resident: 10</li> <li>Property Owner/Developer: 8</li> <li>Industry Stakeholder: 4</li> <li>Business Owner/Operator: 7</li> <li>Other*: 6</li> </ul>
No	5	<ul> <li>Resident: 5</li> <li>Property Owner/Developer: 0</li> <li>Industry Stakeholder: 0</li> <li>Business Owner/Operator: 0</li> <li>Other: 0</li> </ul>

#### Survey Results Overview

\* Former BCC commissioner, CRA staff, planner, former employee, PBC planner, County staff.

1280 N. Congress Avenue, Suite 215 West Palm Beach, Florida 33409 561-640-8181 westgatecra.org



Based on the results, it is notable that **83.33% of the total responses are supportive** of adding 3,000 more bonus units in the Density Bonus Program, while only **16.66% were opposed**.

The survey's comments present both support and opposition to the proposal to restock housing units in the Density Bonus Program. Supporters highlighted its potential to boost redevelopment along major corridors, streamline housing development processes, and address Palm Beach County's housing shortage. They also saw it as an important step for beautifying and growing the Westgate CRA while increasing affordable housing options.

Opponents raised concerns about the survey's limited representation of the broader Westgate community. They felt the program might favor developers over existing residents and interior areas. Some also questioned whether increasing density would truly provide affordable housing for low-income residents.

#### Supportive Feedback Key Comments:

- "The replenishment will set the stage for future development, especially along major corridors."
- "Restocking housing units will greatly assist the beautification and redevelopment of WCRA."
- "I see a lot of people struggling and being put out on the streets because they can't afford the rents. The low-income people could use all the help that can be provided."

#### **Opposing Responses Key Comments:**

- "This seems to support developers only, leaving Westgate's interior behind."
- "We need more workforce and affordable housing options before increasing density."
- "We are overpopulated already."

#### Conclusion:

The results of this survey indicate an overall support for adding 3,000 new units to the Density Bonus Program, with the majority recognizing its potential to address housing shortages and foster redevelopment in the Westgate CRA. However, the feedback also emphasizes the need to address concerns surrounding affordability. The CRA believes this proposal will help tackle both housing availability and affordability—not only by increasing the number of workforce housing units through the program but also by enhancing market supply, which can help drive down overall housing costs.

1280 N. Congress Avenue, Suite 215 West Palm Beach, Florida 33409 561-640-8181 westgatecra.org

# Exhibit 4 Traffic Statement provided by Westgate CRA

**PTC** Transportation Consultants

601 Heritage Drive, Suite 493 Jupiter, FL 33458 (561) 296-9698

December 17, 2024

Ms. Denise Pennell, FRA-RA Director of Planning & Development Westgate CRA, Palm Beach County 1280 N. Congress Avenue, suite 215 West Palm Beach, FL 33409

#### Re: Westgate CRA Text Amendment - #PTC24-104 Traffic Statement

Dear Ms. Pennell:

The purpose of this letter is to provide a traffic statement for the proposed text amendment to increase the density pool of bonus units by 3,000 potential residential units within the Westgate CRA. The build out of residential development utilizing the WCRAO Density Bonus Pool assumes a long-range 20-year forecast. The proposed increase in the number of bonus units supports the CRA's goals to revitalize the area and encourage higher densities to provide housing for a growing population.

A Transportation Concurrency Exception Area (TCEA) was adopted for the Westgate CRA. Any proposed development within the Westgate CRA not utilizing the TCEA pool of trips must meet transportation concurrency. Each new residential development will submit their own traffic analysis demonstrating compliance with the Palm Beach County Traffic Performance Standards. These additional units will be developed as separate residential or mixed-use projects in areas targeted for higher density within the CRA over time and will be required to address concurrency individually through use of various tools:

- Using the TCEA pool of trips.
- Demonstrating the project's insignificant traffic impact.
- Demonstrating the project's ability to meet level of service standards.
- Payment of proportionate share contributions for improvements.
- Demonstrating that "transportation deficiencies" are due to background traffic per Florida Statutes 163.3180.

Transportation mitigation strategies will also be developed within the CRA to address any increase in traffic. These could include transit improvements, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, intersection turn lane improvements and ride sharing and technology improvements that minimize vehicles on the road.

Please contact me by phone or at <u>rmulcahy@pindertroutman.com</u> if you need any additional information or have any questions.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by Rebecca Mulcahy Date: 2024.12.17 15:43:18 -05'00' Rebecca J. Mulcahy, P.E.

Rebecca J. Mulcahy, P Vice President

Rebecca J. Mulcahy, State of Florida, Professional Engineer, License No. 42570

This item has been electronically signed and sealed by Rebecca J. Mulcahy, P.E. on 12/17/24 using a Digital Signature. Printed copies of this document are not considered signed and sealed and the signature must be verified on any electronic copies.

Traffic Statement 24-104 12-17-24.docx

Pinder Troutman Consulting, Inc.

# Exhibit 5 Correspondence