10:30am

Agenda Item #:

PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: March 24, 2009		[] [X]	Consent Workshop	[] []	Regular Public Hearing
Department:	Planning, Zoning & Build	ding			
Submitted By:	Zoning Division				
Submitted For:	Zoning Division				
		=====			

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Title: Infill Redevelopment Overlay (IR-O).

Summary: This workshop is the first presentation to the BCC on the topic of the Infill Redevelopment Overlay (IR-O) of the Unified Land Development Code (ULDC). The overall purpose of the Infill and Redevelopment Project is to "develop" and "consolidate" Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) Regulations and related development processes needed to encourage and facilitate predictable and sustainable commercial/mixed use redevelopment in the Urban/Suburban Tier of the County. While the underlying objective of the project seeks to streamline Zoning processes, the primary focus is to develop a long-term strategic vision that will serve as a blueprint for creating more pedestrian oriented, mixed use and sustainable development to better serve the needs of the community.

There are 3 phases to this Code project. [Continued on Page 3]

Background and Policy Issues: The Zoning Division is undertaking a code amendment project to create the IR-O ordinance; this project is mandated by FLUE, Policy 1.2-I of the Comprehensive Plan, among others, which states:

The Unified Land Development Code shall be amended to require that new development or redevelopment of non-residential uses within the Urban/Suburban Tier, and to strengthen the relationship among buildings and their relationship to the street, where appropriate. [Continued on Page 3]

Attachments:	Attachment 1 - BCC Direction Attachment 2 - A White Paper of Infill Redevelop	ment Overlay Project.
Recommended by:	Executive Director	3/5/09 Date
Approved By:	Deputy County Administrator	2/17/29 Date

Deputy County Administrator

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

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B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact: The fiscal impact associated with ULDC regulation is the cost for TCRPC contract not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars. Fifty Thousand was allocated in FY 2009 budget to cover the cost for TCRPC to assist in the workshop findings. TCRPC was contracted via an Interlocal agreement in July 2008.

0001-600-6105-3401

Current Budget \$100,000 Encumbered \$42,000 TCRPC

C. Departmental Fiscal Review:

fat Da asting

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

3/9/9

Contract Dev. and Control

B. Legal Sufficiency:

County Attorney ssistant

C. Other Department Review:

Department Director

Summary (Continued from Page 1): At this time, Zoning Division is focusing on Phase 1 (See Introduction, White Paper for justification). In this workshop, the following materials will be presented to the BCC by Zoning Division/Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) staff:

- Three key goals of the IR-O: Mitigation of impediments, Alternative Redevelopment Regulations and Streamline/consolidate ULDC (See Three Key Goals, White Paper);
- An overall redevelopment strategy for the U/S commercial corridors. Propose solutions to alleviate and diminish development obstacles by establishing strategies such as the provision of more predictable zoning regulations and review/approval processes (See Strategies for Redevelopment, White Paper). Under this topic, staff will present Development Options for the IR-O and will request BCC direction on the approval options; (Attachment 1)
- Identify impediments and obstacles associated with infill and redevelopment (See Impediments, White Paper);
- Local and National precedents on infill and redevelopment projects, which provides examples of impediments and solutions. <u>Unincorporated</u> (RB)

Background and Policy Issues: (Continued from Page 1): This shall be accomplished to increase transit accessibility, pedestrian orientation, and promote creation of community spaces through consideration of the elements listed below.

- 1. Utilize building mass, placement, and orientation, build-to-lines and setbacks to increase walkability, provide spatial definition along streets, and create squares or greens at a human scale;
- Create distinct sense of identity and delineate the pedestrian system within and along public spaces and streets thereby encouraging pedestrians to walk between stores and other uses. This may be accomplished by placing human-scaled elements, such as light fixtures, casual seating, gathering spaces, water features, statuary, and landscaping;
- 3. Link the commercial center to adjacent land uses, provide convenient access to transit stops and off-site pedestrian and bicycle systems; and,
- 4. For new commercial areas, the amount of parking in the front of the building shall be limited to strengthen the relationship of the building to the street; provide for the dispersal of parking shared between adjacent businesses; and reduce the number of curb cuts and expansive surface parking areas.

The IR-O ordinance will also serve to implement other Plan policies that encourage higher intensities in mixed use developments, and to implement policies that recommend redevelopment of vacant or underutilized commercial parcels.

The proposed phasing of the IR-O code project is as follows:

- 1. Phase 1 [2009] (Revise Article 1, Create Article 3.F.17 Infill Redevelopment Overlay);
- Phase 2 [2010] (Reorganize Article 3 to include Westgate Community Redevelopment Area Overlay, Urban Redevelopment Area, and similar mixed use Zoning Districts such as Multiple Use Planned Development, Mixed Use Planned Development and Traditional Marketplace Development Districts); and,
- 3. Phase 3 [2011] (Revise other Articles, as needed).

In February 2008, through the coordination of Zoning Division, the Infill Redevelopment Task Force (IRTF) - a subcommittee of the Land Development Regulation Advisory Board was created. TCRPC was also contracted via an Interlocal agreement in July 2008 to provide technical assistance to the Zoning Division to process data collection, prepare an illustrative/floating regulating plan that helps to truth the new ordinances, and participate in meetings/discussions with Board members, interested parties, and the development industry representatives.

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ATTACHMENT 1

BCC Direction

Staff will review some initial methods to support the strategy for development incentives, which includes 2 major categories:

- 1. Form base code methodologies and predictable development regulations; and,
- 2. Streamline the review and approval process based on development thresholds.

Recommendation of proposed approval process thresholds are:

BCC Approval Process

<u>Development Order Amendments for existing approved commercial projects</u>

 a. These are requests for development amendments to commercial projects such as MUPDs. In this scenario, the applicant is required to go through <u>a one-time BCC</u> <u>approval</u> to update status of previous BCC conditions.
 b. Allow the applicant to apply for an Infill Redevelopment-Overlay to the property, and

all subsequent development order amendments for expansion and adjustments to the project could go through an administrative approval process; and,

 New Application for properties without previous approvals and without correct commercial future land use and zoning district

 Require the applicant to go through a BCC approval to obtain the necessary correct land use designation and zoning district for the property.

b. Once the correct future land use and zoning district for the property are established, allow the applicant to apply for an IR-O through an Administrative approval process.

DRO Approval Process

 New Application for properties without previous approvals but with correct commercial future land use designation and zoning district. Allow all IR-O applications to go through an administrative approval process.

BCC Consideration

Staff is requesting the BCC to approve the above options as a development incentive to be implemented under the IR-O ordinance. It is important to note that the current ULDC has established Property Development Regulations such as setbacks, building coverage, heights, landscape buffers, and Supplementary Use Regulations such as hours of operations to regulate uses in zoning districts and address potential incompatibility issues that may arise between non-residential and residential uses.

Staff is also recommending to 1) allow the current list of DRO approved uses to be expanded under the IR-O ordinance, and 2) only allow DRO approval process if the application complies with all the regulations of the IR-O.

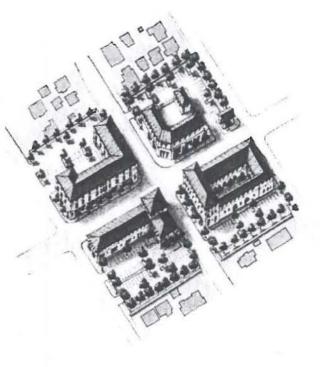
At this workshop, staff will provide examples of development thresholds, review/approval process and appeal process, and request for BCC direction.

Subsequent workshops will be held to address other issues requiring BCC direction, particularly expanded uses to be allowed thru DRO.

ATTACHMENT 2 PBC ZONING DIVISION INFILL/REDEVELOPMENT OVERLAY (IR-O) PROJECT SUMMARY WHITE PAPER

INTRODUCTION

The Infill and Redevelopment Overlay (IR-O) Project seeks to establish Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) Regulations and related processes to encourage and facilitate predictable and sustainable redevelopment in commercial corridors the of the Urban/Suburban Tier (see attached maps). The primary focus is to develop solutions to impediments to redevelopment of nonconformities, and establish a long-term strategic vision that will serve as a blueprint for creating pedestrian-oriented, mixed use and sustainable development to better serve the needs of residents. The preferred method for attaining this is to utilize form based coding principles that assign preference to the built environment rather than by more traditional Euclidean separation of uses. Underlying objectives are to consolidate existing regulations, and to simplify and streamline processes Zoning to increase the redevelopment potential of these areas.



WHY IS THE IR-O LIMITED TO COMMERCIAL ONLY?

A Residential Analysis and Summary determined that prior infill/redevelopment initiatives, a need to respect existing residential development patterns, and limited changes in residential industry building trends, among other factors, did not justify a substantial change to existing residential infill/redevelopment provisions. If additional industry trends, new Plan policies, or other similar factors change at a later date, it is anticipated that the issue will be revisited. Note that the IR-O does greatly expand other residential development opportunities by broadening the use of horizontal or vertical mixed use development alternatives on smaller infill parcels, along with an expansion of work/live units.

WHY IS THE IR-O LIMITED TO THE URBAN/SUBURBAN TIER ONLY

The Rural, Exurban and Agricultural Reserve Tiers have distinct commercial guidelines that serve to regulate new development, most of which are rural by nature. The IR-O serves to link, but does not apply to the Urban Redevelopment Area or the Westgate/Belvedere Homes CRA Overlay.

THREE KEY GOALS

- 1. Mitigating impediments to redevelopment of Non-conformities (Phase 1);
- 2. Development of alternative redevelopment regulations (Phase 1); and,
- 3. Streamline and Consolidate ULDC Regulations (Phase 2).
- GOAL 1 MITIGATING IMPEDIMENTS TO REDEVELOPMENT OF NON-CONFORMITIES Zoning staff have been analyzing known issues that preclude some existing projects from partially redeveloping. Such impediments oftentimes render redevelopment impossible, or require additional costs and time to obtain variances. Many of these limitations revolve around existing sites that are rendered "non-conforming" due to newer standards for building setbacks, parking limitations and landscaping requirements. Goal 1 will seek to identify the minimum allowances that may be made to allow such projects to redevelop, while seeking to upgrade overall site appearance to the maximum extent feasible.
- GOAL 2 DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE REDEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS: Targets existing developments that may have room to expand, vacant/infill redevelopment, or existing development intended to be demolished to make way for completely new projects. Zoning Staff is proposing to develop an alternative "Optional" Form Based Code by seeking to establish a more pedestrian, mixed use and sustainable urban form of development. The primary element of this concept is to establish predictability that

benefits the community and investment in much needed redevelopment. Many of the intended benefits of this option are highlighted under the section titled "Local and National Precedents."

GOAL 3 – STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE ULDC REGULATIONS: In many instances, different consultants or staff developed various plans and regulations currently in the ULDC. As a result, while most of the regulations have many similar goals and objectives, the regulations and text are often dramatically different. Improvements in consolidating such requirements coupled with improving legibility will result in a far more user-friendly code for staff, the public and land development professionals.

PURPOSE AND INTENT

- Facilitate commercial revitalization in the Urban/Suburban Tier, by incrementally retrofitting commercial corridors and isolated land uses with sustainable development that creates a sense of place, improved streetscapes and integration into the surrounding community;
- Implement the Goals, Objectives and Policies of the Comprehensive Plan that mandate sustainable, walkable urban/suburban redevelopment;
- Accommodate TCRPC regional goals, along with other State and Federal requirements that address future growth management challenges and problems (e.g. TCRPC Strategic Regional Policy Plan);
- Utilize Smart Growth and Form Based Coding principles to establish standards that create a predictable built form that improves the streetscape and relates to the pedestrian realm (e.g. storefronts, street trees, sidewalks, and other public use areas and amenities);
- 5. Advocate walking, cycling and mass transit as viable alternatives to automobile use;
- Foster interconnectivity between non-residential and other non-residential or residential uses;
- Foster sustainability by integrating the social, economic and ecological needs of the community with overall regional and national policy;
- Mitigate adverse impacts of commercial development to surrounding residential uses and the community as a whole;
- 9. Promote commercial and residential mixed use;
- 10. Respect market realities, industry trends, and property rights;
- 11. Address multi-disciplinary regulatory and development review processes;
- Offer property development incentives that will encourage developers or business owners to utilize the IR-O (e.g. reduced setbacks, reduced parking, increased FAR, enhanced landscaping to increase efficiency in uses of properties);
- 13. Streamline the development review process; and,
- 14. Establish a Countywide Redevelopment Overlay within the Urban/Suburban Tier that unifies multiple redevelopment efforts such as the Westgate/Belvedere Homes CRA Overlay (WCRA-O) and the Urban Redevelopment Area (URA) by bridging goals while allowing for similar benefits outside of such areas.

STRATEGIES FOR REDEVELOPMENT

The foundation of the IR-O shall be based on Form Based Coding principles that establish zoning regulations that result in predictable development patterns that benefit property owners and developers while mitigating the potential for adverse impacts to surrounding residents and neighborhoods. The results of which are intended to create an equally predictable urban form and public realm that is visually pleasing, sustainable, desirable, and establishes a sense of place for surrounding neighborhoods and the public in general.

- FLOATING REGULATING PLAN: Applies the concept of the Transect to establish a pattern of development to allow for function and intensity appropriate to specific locations. In the case of the IR-O, the Transect can be summarized as a transition between more intense developments placed along commercial corridors, and where feasible – newly created internal streets, gradually tapering down to smaller, less intense commercial, mixed use or even residential uses, thus establishing a natural buffer that creates a more appropriate interaction with existing neighborhoods.
- BUILDING PLACEMENT: Utilize build to lines to place buildings closer to streets, creating spatial definition for streets that improve the overall visual appearance of existing commercial corridors.
- 3. ARCHITECTURE: Establish minimal architectural development standards that regulate building height, massing, scale, fenestration, placement of windows and doors to maximize visual interest and pedestrian accessibility. While a consistent or unified architectural style is generally desirable, regulations shall be flexible so as to allow for the establishment of development patterns that create unique and desirable sense of place.

- 4. IMPROVE INTERCONNECTIVITY AND CREATE BLOCKS: Establish minimum block and street standards that promote walkable communities while reducing vehicle cuts and other impediments to County transportation corridors. This entails establishing minimum block dimensions, promoting all forms of inter-connectivity, and for fragmented corridors, adopting a parallel alley system that mitigates existing redundant use of land area to accommodate deliveries, sanitation, and all other forms of vehicular traffic.
- 5. IMPROVE STREETSCAPES AND THE PEDESTRIAN REALM (SIDEWALKS, PLAZAS, SQUARES, GREENS, AND OTHER PUBLIC AREAS): Improve the "space" between buildings and street rights-of-way by redefining areas to accommodate expanded sidewalk, street tree planting, parking and underground utilities. The elimination of traditional oversized landscape buffers, and establishing building frontage with parking on the side or at the rear in an IR-O project will help to diminish the spatial separation between buildings and sidewalks, and provide more opportunity for usable open space.
- ENCOURAGE GREEN BUILDING: Provide development incentives to encourage the use of green building and site planning principles that promote energy efficient and reduce environmental impacts.
- 7. PARKING: Adjust parking aisle/stall dimensions to provide for different sizes and types of vehicles. Emphasize and enhance existing shared parking options. Allow for substantial reductions in parking ratios to better accommodate mixed use or more sustainable forms of development. Locate parking to the rear of buildings to minimize adverse impacts to pedestrian and bicycle areas, while improving the overall framing of the street.
- 8. LANDSCAPING: Increase innovative soft/hard landscaping alternatives such as: a) placement of trees in parking areas, building foundations and sidewalks by allowing tree planting in "grates" (i.e. tree cells with treated/prepared subsoil for healthy root growth) b) paving materials that are porous and/or with a low solar reflectance index to reduce heat island effect (i.e. thermal gradient differences between developed and undeveloped areas). Allow for the elimination or minimization of shrubs as part of the landscape requirements due to the building placement design concept (refer to #1.) this allows the implementation of good CPTED practices.
- 9. USES AND EXPEDITE THE DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL PROCESS: By establishing predictable development patterns, less oversight and regulation is required in the review process. Amend the existing review/approval processes and provide predictable administrative process options for projects that meet and incorporate the IR-O vision and development regulations.
- 10. MITIGATING ADVERSE IMPACTS: As noted above, the Floating Regulating Plan will apply the IR-O transect, allowing for more intense development where sufficient parcel depth is available to integrate more intense uses with the existing community. This concept serves to naturally attenuate potential adverse impacts while simultaneously fostering improved interaction with abutting neighborhoods. Additionally, in nearly all instances, a requirement for a 10-foot wide buffer and an 8-foot high concrete panel wall will further mitigate any potential for adverse impacts to abutting residential uses.
- 11. NON-CONFORMITES: Introduce new standards to accommodate existing site nonconformities such as uses, structures and lots. These standards will address site improvements to encourage increased opportunities for maintenance and renovations so long the proposed redevelopment does not create an adverse impact to the public, safety and welfare. The standards will include adjustment of the current percentage for minor nonconformities and expansion of the definition of affected areas for a previously approved project.

HOW IS THE IR-O PROJECT INTENDED TO WORK?

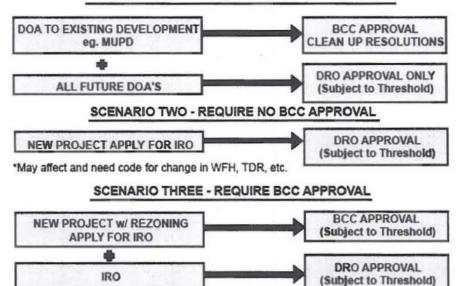
As proposed, there are generally three potential implementation options that may result with the adoption of Phase I amendments.

- Option 1 Infill or redevelopment using existing ULDC development standards and use regulations.
- Option 2: Redevelopment using amended provisions for non-conformities.
- Option 3: IR-O Form Based Sustainable Development.

To further encourage infill and redevelopment, any of the three options listed above could be used interchangeably. This would further the intent to incrementally revitalize the commercial corridors by encouraging the use of Option 3 to the maximum extent feasible.

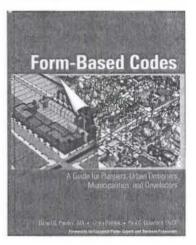
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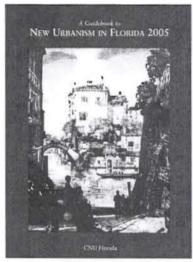
SCENARIO ONE - REQUIRE 1 TIME BCC APPROVAL



LOCAL AND NATIONAL PRECEDENTS

Form Based, Codes regulate development to achieve a specific physical form, and where associated with redevelopment - oftentimes emphasize needed improvements to the public realm, building and parking placement, increasing sustainability by reducing sprawl and other negative growth trends, while streamlining development approval processes, among many other positive factors. These codes are becoming more and more prevalent, with public, industry and governmental support as evidenced by market trends in new development, industry support from entities such as the Urban Land Institute, and by either new social experiments taking the initiative to demand sustainable development.





As evidenced in the Florida Congress for the New Urbanism publication of "A Guidebook to New Urbanism in Florida 2005", there are have been many such projects completed, with hundreds in the pipeline, all enabled by the establishment of Form Based Codes similar or infill/redevelopment plans. It is also important to note that South Florida is the home of several high profile and successful planning firms whose primary focus includes the practice of developing Form Based Codes or sustainable developments, such as the firms of Duany Plater-Zyberk and Company, the Renaissance Group, and Dover, Kohl and Partners, among many others. Worth noting, for years the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) has promoted and marketed sustainable development, as outlined in the TCRPC Strategic Regional Policy Plan. Lastly, as evidenced by prior Form Based

Code efforts and existing Plan policies, Palm Beach County government has sought to accommodate these new trends.

The establishment of an infill/redevelopment Form Based Code is not a radical new concept, with numerous examples having been adopted and implemented nationally, including dozens within the State of Florida. As an ever increasing number of local governments are turning to Form Based Codes to better manage new growth or encourage redevelopment, Zoning staff was able to identify or review hundreds of local or national examples, as well as multiple resources.

INFILL/REDEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE (IRTF)

A kick-off meeting for the IR-O project was organized in February 2008, and an Infill Redevelopment Task Force (IRTF) was created consisting of members of various land development related industries and interested parties. The Task Force is a subcommittee of the LDRAB, and assists by providing staff local examples of infill and redevelopment projects; identifying the impediments associated with their experience in these projects, and recommended solutions and policies for incorporation into the IR-O code. At this stage, several

BCC Workshop, March 24, 2009

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IRTF meetings were held from March to December 2008 to discuss different topics ranging from visioning of the IR-O, predictable review/approval process; street cross sections; drainage; traffic; blocks; building types and building placements.

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (TCRPC)

Through an Interlocal Agreement that was signed on July 22, 2007 between the TCRPC and PBC. The Zoning Division requested TCRPC to provide technical assistance in drafting amendments to address the need for infill and redevelopment in the commercial corridors. TCRPC's tasks includes the following: assist staff in presenting research/data on key issues to facilitate meeting discussions and respond to questions, provide a Benefit/Burden Analysis, which is a qualitative assessment exploring the 'value" added to the development community by utilizing the IR-O option. TCRPC staff was tasked with reviewing ten Form Based Codes, with goals of identifying core elements that would best contribute to addressing known impediments identified by the IR-O Project. In selecting these codes, emphasis was placed on reviewing prior PBC examples, others in close proximity with similar impediments, as well as other well known national examples that have similar impediments, scope or scale.

- 1. Downtown Master Plan West Palm Beach (DPZ) West Palm Beach, Florida
- 2. Model Form Based Code for Pre-platted Corridors (Becker Road) Port St. Lucie, Florida
- 3. Towns, Villages and Countryside St. Lucie County, Florida
- 4. Miami 21 Miami, Florida
- Sarasota Planned Mixed Use Infill District Sarasota, Florida
 Traditional Development Districts (TDD) Palm Beach County, Florida
- 7. Traditional Marketplace Development (TMD) Palm Beach County, Florida
- 8. Westgate Belvedere Homes CRA Overlay (WCRA-O) Florida
- 9. Santa Ana Renaissance Specific Code Santa Ana, California
- 10. Columbia Pike Special Revitalization District Form Based Code Analysis Arlington County, Virginia

At this stage, the TCRPC is preparing an Illustrative plan for a specific area of the County (intersection of Lake Worth Road and Military Trail), the function of this plan is to provide dimensional information that is used to test different site conditions against the objectives of the IR-O. The plan will consist of a series of detailed site plans of individual lots to demonstrate that the IR property development requirements such as setbacks, frontage roads, rear parking and how they will physically placed and fitted in different sites. The illustrative plan is a tool to assist staff in truthing the IR-O vision. This will serve as a basis for a Floating Regulating Plan that will apply to each parcel of land to be developed with an IR-O.

The TCRPC will further assist facilitate LDRAB meeting discussions; discuss and respond to questions on draft/final code language in LDRAB meetings; assist staff in presenting new Code to ZC/BCC and provide expert witness testimony to substantiate any information or documentation of the IR-O code.

IMPEDIMENTS

The following is a summary list of several commonly known impediments to redeveloping Palm Beach County's commercial corridors:

- 1. Concurrency: Adequate potable water, sanitary sewer, solid waste, drainage, public schools, parks, road and mass transit facilities, and fire rescue are all required to be in place to support new development. Drainage and traffic are frequently difficult to obtain or resolve:
- 2. Existing built environment: Most existing developments are automobile oriented, with parking lots separating streets and sidewalks from buildings, parcels are isolated with little or no pedestrian or vehicular inter-connectivity, streetscapes and building forms are inconsistent, and there is rarely a functional pedestrian realm with exception to required sidewalk connections.
- 3. Lack of pedestrian and vehicular interconnectivity: While most developments provide both a connection to the street and its related pedestrian network, this increases the distance pedestrians or cyclists have to travel to get to each adjacent business, and further contributes to poor traffic performance by putting more and more trips onto roadways.
- 4. Lack of local uses: Being automobile oriented, many commercial projects fail to provide for local neighborhood or community shopping needs. While this is advantageous in an easily mobile society, as more options can be provided where business owners can minimize development expenses, the overall cost to society is adverse in situations where energy costs are excessive.
- 5. Predictable development approval processes: While the ULDC establishes minimum standards for development, oftentimes additional review and approval processes are required to ensure that new development does not adversely impact the health, safety and

welfare of the community. This leads to uncertainty as to whether or not a project can be approved, or if there will be additional unforeseen costs tied to an approval.

- No mixed use: Historical Euclidean Planning standards result in a distinct separation between uses, and have been institutionalized in the County's Zoning Codes for over 50 years.
- 7. Landscaping: While highly desirable for aesthetic purposes, and where used to separate incompatible land uses the development of automobile oriented developments has required excessive R-O-W landscaping to buffer unsightly parking lots, and the use of perimeter buffers has been used to buffer compatible uses. In many instances, these misplaced requirements oftentimes not only increase the cost of development, but in some instances unnecessarily restrict the amount or location of land available to support development.
- 8. Parking: As outlined in the book "The High Cost of Parking" the subsidization of automobile oriented use is extremely expensive, all the more so where land prices are high or where parking facilities are required, the cost of concrete and other materials are also costly. Current ULDC parking standards are oftentimes justifiable as a result of current isolated development patterns, as evidenced by many businesses choosing to incorporate the maximum number of spaces permitted.
- Architectural requirements: As noted above, the current standard of placing buildings away from the street and behind a sea of parking increases the need to improve the aesthetic appearance of buildings due to their lack of functional integration.
- 10. Mass transit functionality: Where buildings and uses are placed away from the street network, mass transit stops create an isolated pedestrian environment that requires a duplication of shelters and benches that may already be provided along building frontages.
- 11. Open Space: Existing commercial projects provide little if any relevant functional open space.
- Signage: Buildings placed away from the street require multiple or duplicate signs to help guide customers to a business, including freestanding signs, wall signs and directional signs.
- 13. Non-conformities: Note that non-conformities are generally categorized by use, building standards, or parcel standards. While oftentimes non-conforming uses are deemed such due to undesirable or incompatible characteristics, non-conforming buildings and parcels often have little or no adverse impact on the health, safety and welfare of the community. As such, existing non-conforming building and lot limitations oftentimes stymie desirable maintenance, expansion or redevelopment activities.

It is important to note that many of the above are the result of historical industry trends, market forces, State or Federal laws, as well as historical Euclidean Planning and Zoning policies, and was not necessarily considered impediments in the not too recent past. However, new trends in land development, such as public desire for more sustainable development patterns that creates more traditional placemaking coupled with newly developing Federal, State and Regional development goals, such as green building, and other energy saving and community development objectives, current patterns are quickly being identified as unsustainable and undesirable.

LIMITATIONS AND DISCLAIMERS

As currently proposed, the IR-O Project is substantially ambitious, and as such it is important to note that new infill/redevelopment options will seek to implement the main values of sustainable revitalization in the Urban/Suburban Tier, but that not all components of Smart Growth, Form Based Coding, or other needed development regulatory solutions may be attainable at this stage. This project simply seeks to establish a revised framework in anticipation of any future regulatory changes that might enable more intense infill and redevelopment. Changes that are needed to encourage a more intense infill/redevelopment program include, updates to the States Growth Management Act, updates to the Comprehensive Plan, mitigating traffic concurrency issues, large scale drainage solutions, resolution of future local government funding availability for bricks and mortar infrastructure improvements, and changes in the consumer desires for different more urbanized development and use of alternative modes of transportation, among many others.

END

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