



## Agenda Item # 3

BOA-SE-003197-2025

View additional details on this proposal and all application materials using the following link:

[Applicant Materials for Consideration](#)

### DETAILS

**Location:**

250 St Louis Street

**Applicant / Agent:**

River Bank & Trust (Doug Thomas, Agent)

**Property Owner:**

BBS Investments, LLC

**Current Zoning:**

T-5.1 Sub-District of the Downtown Development District

**Future Land Use:**

Downtown

**Case Number:**

6653

**Unified Development Code (UDC) Requirement:**

- The Unified Development Code (UDC) requires a Special Exception approval to allow a bank with drive-thru services in a T-5.1 Sub-District of the Downtown Development District.

**Board Consideration:**

- Special Exception approval to allow a bank with drive-thru services in a T-5.1 Sub-District of the Downtown Development District.

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# BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

## VICINITY MAP - EXISTING AERIAL



The site is surrounded by commercial units.

APPLICATION NUMBER	6653	DATE	March 10, 2025
APPLICANT	River Bank & Trust (Doug Thomas, Agent)		
REQUEST	Special Exception		



## SITE HISTORY

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In January 2014, the City Council rezoned the site from B-4 to T-5.1, with the adoption of the Downtown Development District.

There have been no Planning Commission or Board of Zoning Adjustment applications associated with the site.

## STAFF COMMENTS

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### Engineering Comments:

If the proposed variance is approved the applicant will need to have the following conditions met:

- The proposed improvements shown on the submitted plans will require a Land Disturbance Permit be submitted through Central Permitting.
- The existing drainage patterns and surface flow characteristics should not be altered so as to have a negative impact on any adjoining properties or any public rights-of-way.
- Any and all proposed land disturbing activity within the property will need to be in conformance with Mobile City Code, Chapter 17, Storm Water Management and Flood Control); the City of Mobile, Alabama Flood Plain Management Plan (1984); and, the Rules For Erosion and Sedimentation Control and Storm Water Runoff Control.
- Applicant agrees to install adequate BMPs during construction to protect from sediment/pollutants leaving the site.

### Traffic Engineering Comments:

Driveway number, size, location, and design to be approved by Traffic Engineering and conform to AASHTO standards. Any required on-site parking, including ADA handicap spaces, shall meet the minimum standards as defined in Appendix A, Section 9.C of the City's Unified Development Code.

### Urban Forestry Comments:

Property to be developed in compliance with state and local laws that pertain to tree preservation and protection on both city and private properties [Act 929 of the 1961 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature (Acts 1961, p. 1487), as amended, and City Code Chapters 57 and 65]. Private removal of trees in the right-of-way will require approval of the Mobile Tree Commission. Removal of heritage trees from undeveloped residential sites, developed residential sites in historic districts, and all commercial sites will require a tree removal permit.

### Fire Department Comments:

All projects within the City Limits of Mobile shall comply with the requirements of the City of Mobile Fire Code Ordinance (2021 International Fire Code). Fire apparatus access is required to be within 150' of all non-sprinklered commercial buildings and within 300' of all sprinklered commercial buildings. Fire water supply for all commercial buildings will be required to meet the guidance of Appendices B and C of the 2021 International Fire Code. The minimum requirement for fire hydrants is to be within 400' of non-sprinkled commercial buildings, within 600' of sprinkled commercial buildings, and within 100' of fire department connections (FDC) for both standpipes and sprinkler systems.

## Planning Comments:

The applicant has requested a Special Exception approval to allow a bank with drive-thru services in a T-5.1 Sub-District of the Downtown Development District; the Unified Development Code (UDC) requires Special Exception approval to allow a bank with drive-thru services in a T-5.1 Sub-District of the Downtown Development District.

The complete application is available via the link on page 1.

The subject site is currently used as a public parking lot. The applicant is proposing to build a new bank with drive-thru services. It should be noted that a bank is allowed by-right in a T-5.1 sub-district, however the drive-thru aspect requires Special Exception approval by the Board of Zoning Adjustment. It should be noted that there are no sub-districts within the Downtown Development District (DDD) where drive-thru businesses are allowed by-right. All DDD sub-districts require Special Exception approval, except for T-3, where they are not allowed at all.

The properties abutting the subject site to the North are offices within a T-4 sub-district, property to the West is occupied by a grocery store and associated parking within a T-5.1 sub-district, property to the East (across Joachim Street) is an office in a T-5.1 sub-district, and property to the South (across St. Louis Street) is a vacant office building within a T-5.1 sub-district.

The applicant submitted an application to the Consolidated Review Committee (CRC) for review, however insufficient information was provided for a complete analysis to be performed. The applicant was informed of the additional information required, the need for the Special Exception to allow the drive-thru portion of the business, and that other variances may be required (such as parking access) based on the proposed site plan layout. The applicant has advised staff that they wish to obtain the Special Exception approval before completing the exterior design of the structure for CRC review. Therefore, if approved, the applicant should be reminded that they will need CRC approval, as well as approval of any necessary variances prior to the issuance of any permits for development.

## SPECIAL EXCEPTION CONSIDERATIONS

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### Standards of Review:

Special Exceptions are those uses that may have some special impact which differs from the potential impacts of permitted uses, exceeds permitted uses in intensity, or have a uniqueness such that their effect on the surrounding environment cannot readily be determined in advance of the use being proposed in a particular location.

Article 5 Section 11-E.1. of the Unified Development Codes states the Board of Adjustment will not approve an Application for Special Exception unless the request complies with the following criteria:

- (a) The proposed use is in harmony with the general purpose, goals, objectives and standards of this Chapter, or any other plan, program, map, or ordinance adopted, or under consideration pursuant to official notice, by the City.
- (b) The proposed use at the proposed location shall not result in a substantial or undue adverse effect on adjacent property, the character of the neighborhood, traffic conditions, parking, public improvements, public sites or rights-of-way, or other matters affecting the public health, safety and general welfare either as they now exist or as they may in the future be developed as a result of the implementation of provisions and policies of this Chapter, or any other plan, program, map, or



ordinance adopted, or under consideration pursuant to official notice, by the City or other governmental agency having jurisdiction to guide growth and development.

- (c) The proposed use will be adequately served by, and will not impose an undue burden on, any of the improvements, facilities, utilities, and services specified in this subsection. Where any such improvements, facilities, utilities or services are not available or adequate to service the proposed use in the proposed location, the Applicant shall, as part of the application and as a condition to approval of the proposed Special Exception permit, be responsible for establishing ability, willingness and commitment to provide such improvements, facilities, utilities and services in sufficient time and in a manner consistent with this Chapter, and other plans, programs, maps and ordinances adopted by the City to guide its growth and development. The approval of the Special Exception Permit shall be conditioned upon such improvements, facilities, utilities and services being provided and guaranteed by the Applicant.
- (d) The proposed use is consistent with all applicable requirements of this Chapter, including:
  - (1) Any applicable development standards in Article 3; and
  - (2) Any applicable use regulations in Article 4.
- (e) The proposed use is compatible with the character of the neighborhood within the same zoning district in which it is located;
- (f) The proposed use will not impede the orderly development and improvement of surrounding property for uses permitted within the zoning district; and
- (g) The proposed use will have no more adverse effects on health, safety or comfort of persons living or working in the neighborhood, or will be no more injurious to property or improvements in the neighborhood than would any other use generally permitted in the same district.
  - (1) In making this determination, the Board of Adjustment shall consider:
    - a. The location, type and height of buildings or structures;
    - b. The type and extent of landscaping and screening;
    - c. Lighting;
    - d. Hours of operation; or
    - e. Other conditions that might require mitigation of any adverse impacts of the proposed development.
- (h) The site is designed to provide ingress and egress that minimize traffic hazards and traffic congestion on the public roads.
- (i) The site is designed to minimize the impact on storm water facilities.
- (j) The use will be adequately served by water and sanitary sewer services.
- (k) The use is not noxious or offensive by reason of emissions, vibration, noise, odor, dust, smoke or gas; and
- (l) The use will not be detrimental or endanger the public health, safety or general welfare.

Article 5 Section 11-E.2. states; that when considering a Special Exception application, the City's and the larger community's best interests and the need, benefit, or public purpose of the proposed request should also be evaluated.

Additionally, Article 5, Section 11-E.3. states:

The Board of Adjustment shall give careful consideration to the warrants and criteria set forth in this section in judging applications for Special Exceptions involving the following uses. In granting a Special Exception, the board may attach such reasonable conditions and safeguards in addition to those set forth in this section, as it may deem necessary to implement the purposes of this Chapter.

## Considerations:

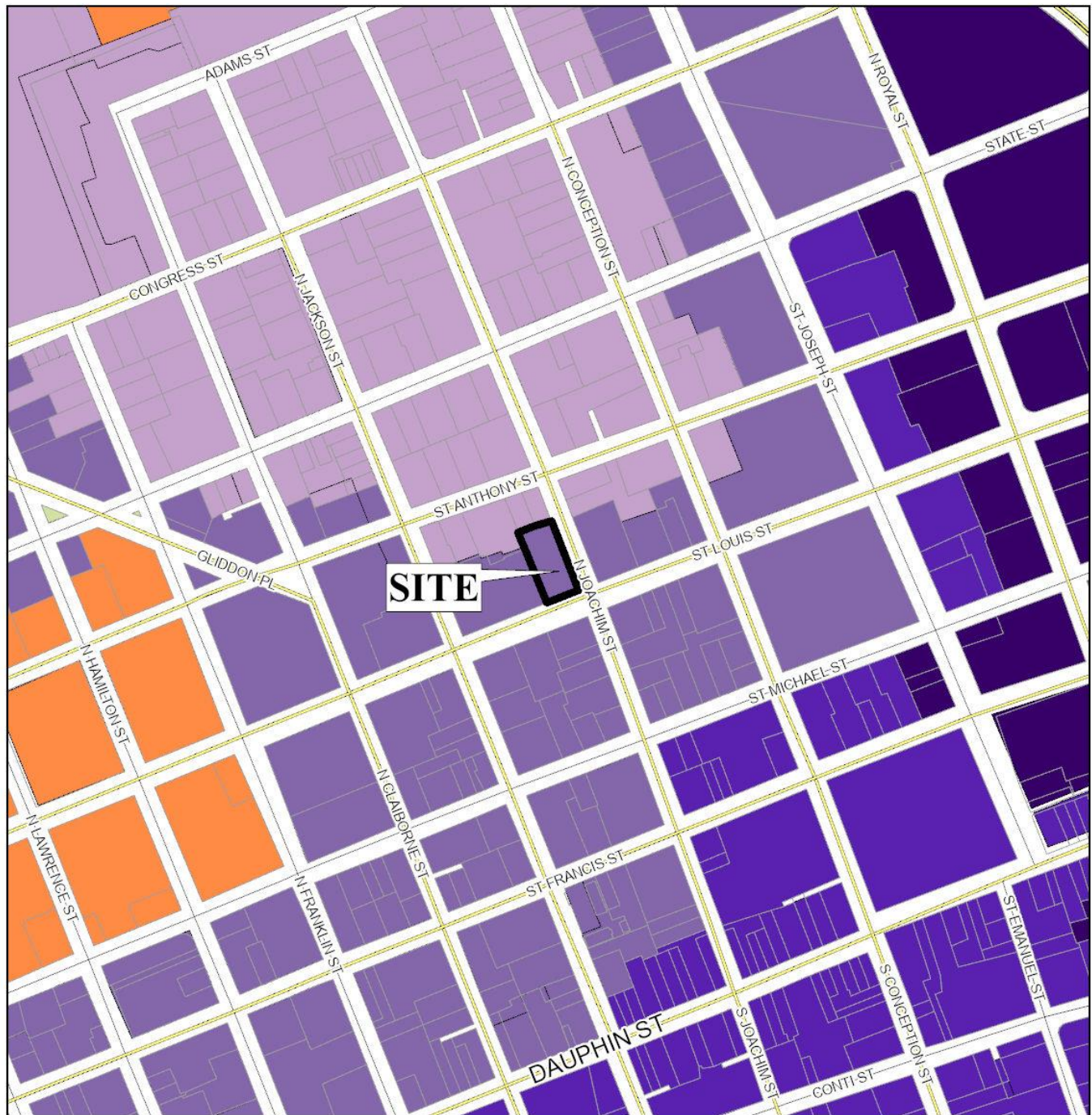
Based on the requested Special Exception application, if the Board considers approval of the request, the following findings of fact must be present:

- A) The proposed use **is** in harmony with the general purpose, goals, objectives and standards of this Chapter, or any other plan, program, map, or ordinance adopted, or under consideration pursuant to official notice, by the City.
- B) The proposed use at the proposed location **shall not** result in a substantial or undue adverse effect on adjacent property, the character of the neighborhood, traffic conditions, parking, public improvements, public sites or rights-of-way, or other matters affecting the public health, safety and general welfare either as they now exist or as they may in the future be developed as a result of the implementation of provisions and policies of this Chapter, or any other plan, program, map, or ordinance adopted, or under consideration pursuant to official notice, by the City or other governmental agency having jurisdiction to guide growth and development.
- C) The proposed use **will** be adequately served by, and will not impose an undue burden on, any of the improvements, facilities, utilities, and services specified in this subsection.
- D) The proposed use **is** consistent with all applicable requirements of this Chapter, including: any applicable development standards in Article 3; and any applicable use regulations in Article 4.
- E) The proposed use **is** compatible with the character of the neighborhood within the same zoning district in which it is located.
- F) The proposed use **will not** impede the orderly development and improvement of surrounding property for uses permitted within the zoning district.
- G) The proposed use **will** have no more adverse effects on health, safety or comfort of persons living or working in the neighborhood, or will be no more injurious to property or improvements in the neighborhood than would any other use generally permitted in the same district.
- H) The site **is** designed to provide ingress and egress that minimize traffic hazards and traffic congestion on the public roads.
- I) The site **is** designed to minimize the impact on storm water facilities.
- J) The use **will** be adequately served by water and sanitary sewer services.
- K) The use **is not** noxious or offensive by reason of emissions, vibration, noise, odor, dust, smoke or gas; and
- L) The use **will not** be detrimental or endanger the public health, safety or general welfare.

If approved, the Special Exception should be subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Submittal of a complete CRC application packet for review;
- 2) Either re-design the site so that it will comply with the Downtown Development District regulations, or obtain necessary variance approvals; and
- 3) Full compliance with all municipal codes and ordinances.

## LOCATOR ZONING MAP



APPLICATION NUMBER 6653 DATE March 10, 2025

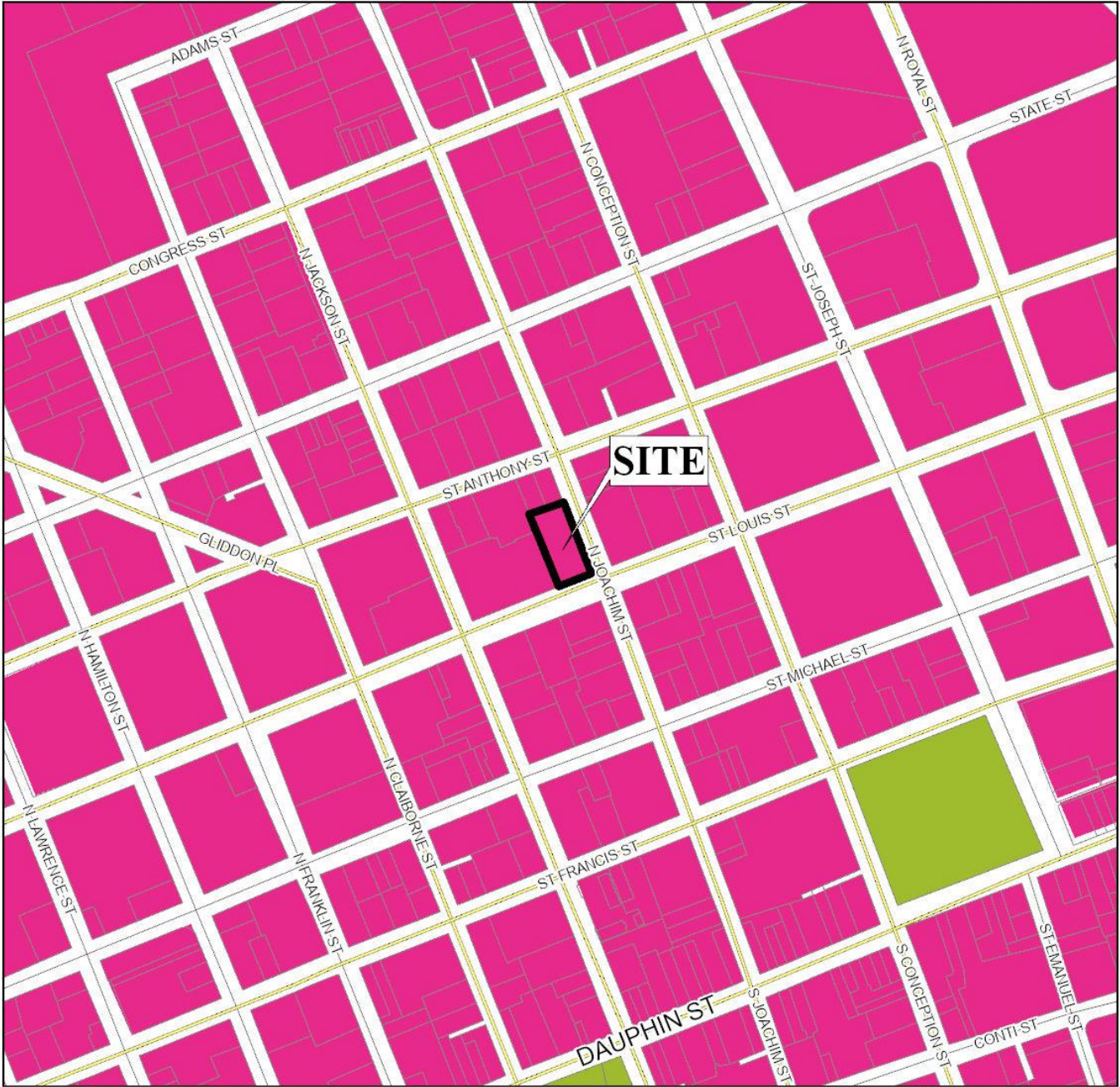
APPLICANT River Bank & Trust (Doug Thomas, Agent)

REQUEST Special Exception





# FLUM LOCATOR MAP



APPLICATION NUMBER 6653      DATE March 10, 2025  
APPLICANT River Bank & Trust (Doug Thomas, Agent)  
REQUEST Special Exception

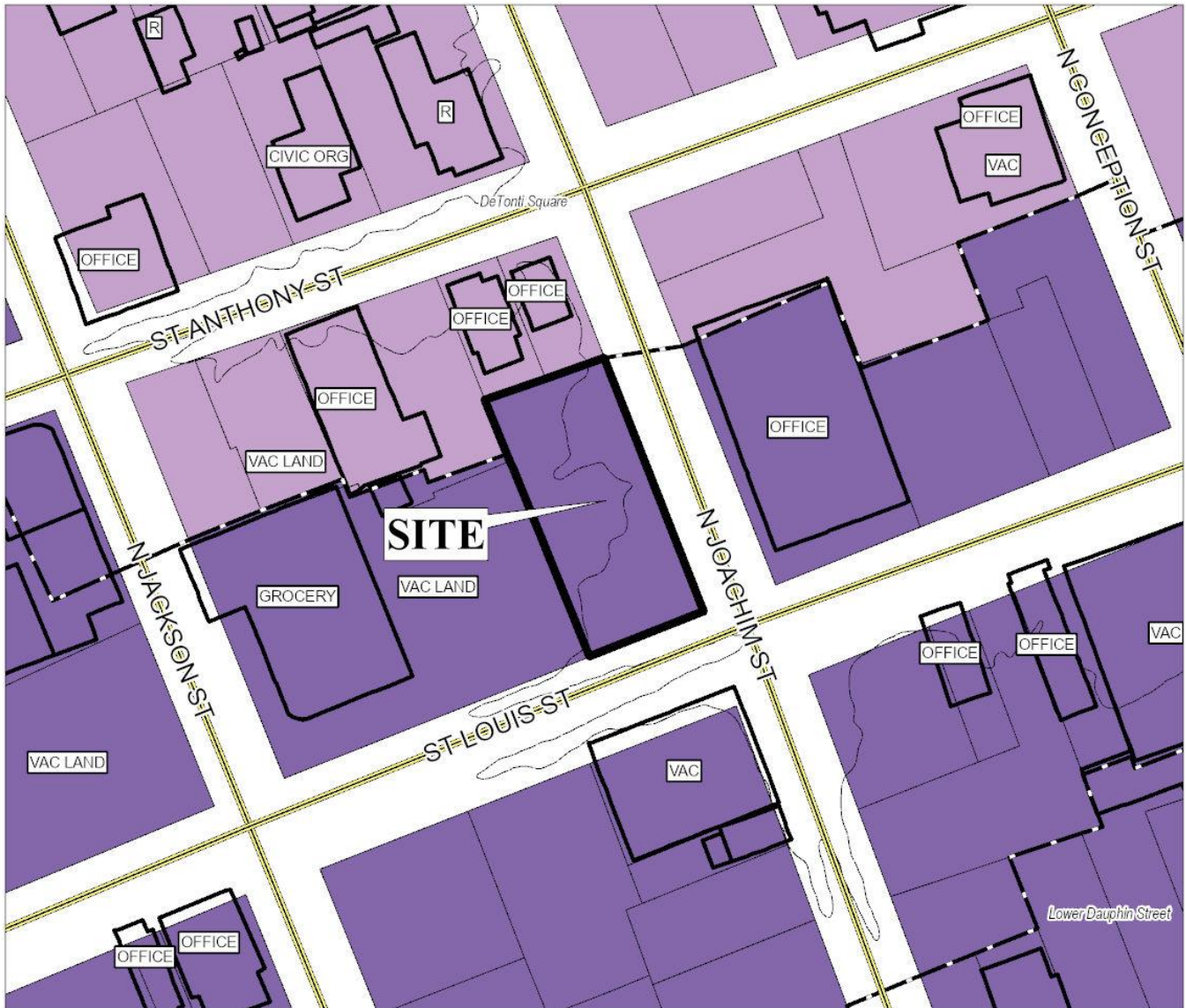
- |                           |                                   |                   |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Low Density Residential   | Neighborhood Center - Traditional | Light Industry    | Water Dependent |
| Mixed Density Residential | Neighborhood Center - Suburban    | Heavy Industry    |                 |
| Downtown                  | Traditional Corridor              | Institutional     |                 |
| District Center           | Mixed Commercial Corridor         | Parks, Open Space |                 |





# BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

## VICINITY MAP - EXISTING ZONING



The site is surrounded by commercial units.

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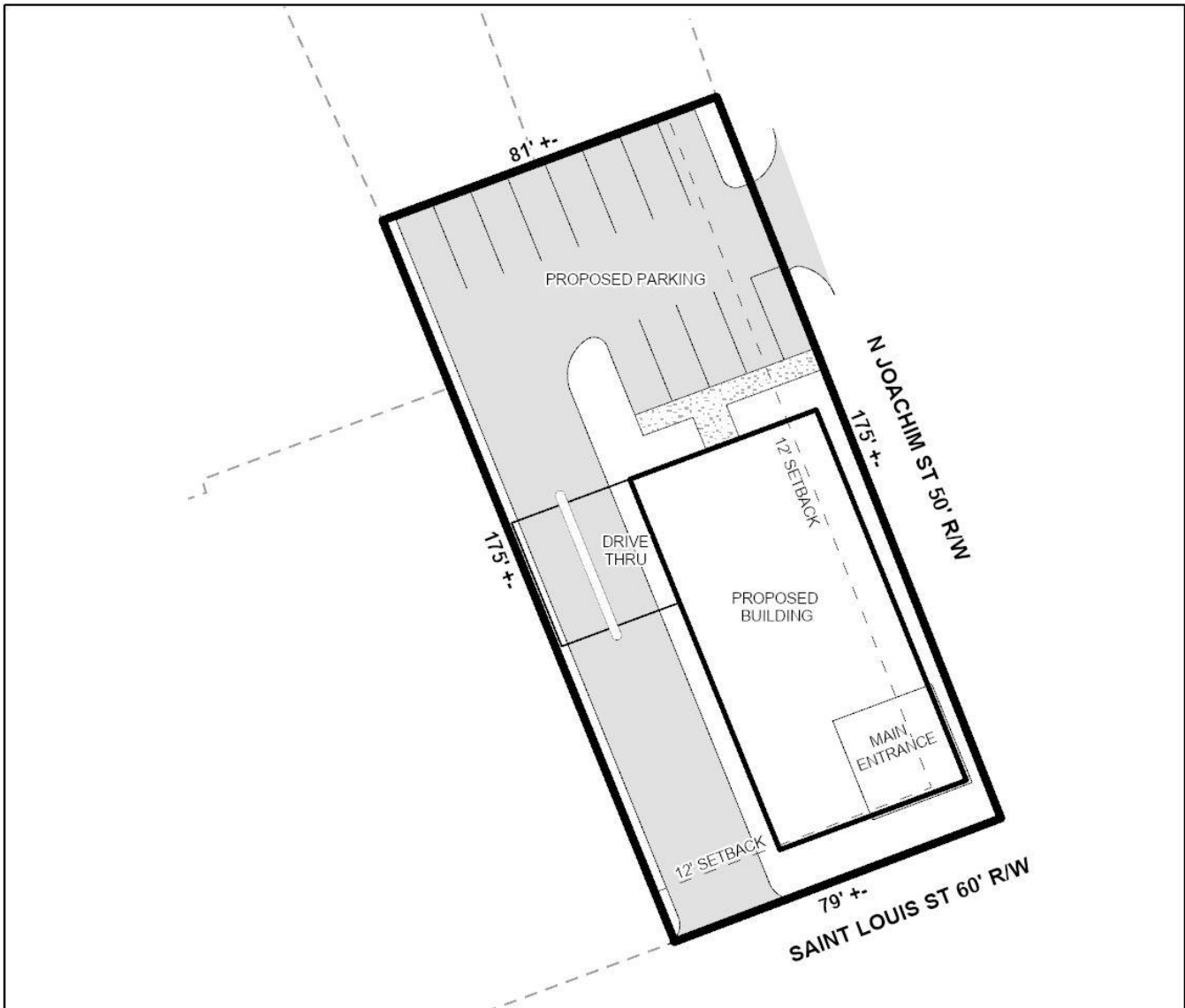
APPLICANT River Bank & Trust (Doug Thomas, Agent)

REQUEST Special Exception

R-A	R-3	B-1	B-2	B-5	ML	I-2	OPEN	T-3	T-5.2
R-1	R-B	T-B	B-3	CW	MH	PD	SD	T-4	T-6
R-2	H-B	LB-2	B-4	MM	I-1	MUN	SD-WH	T-5.1	



## SITE PLAN

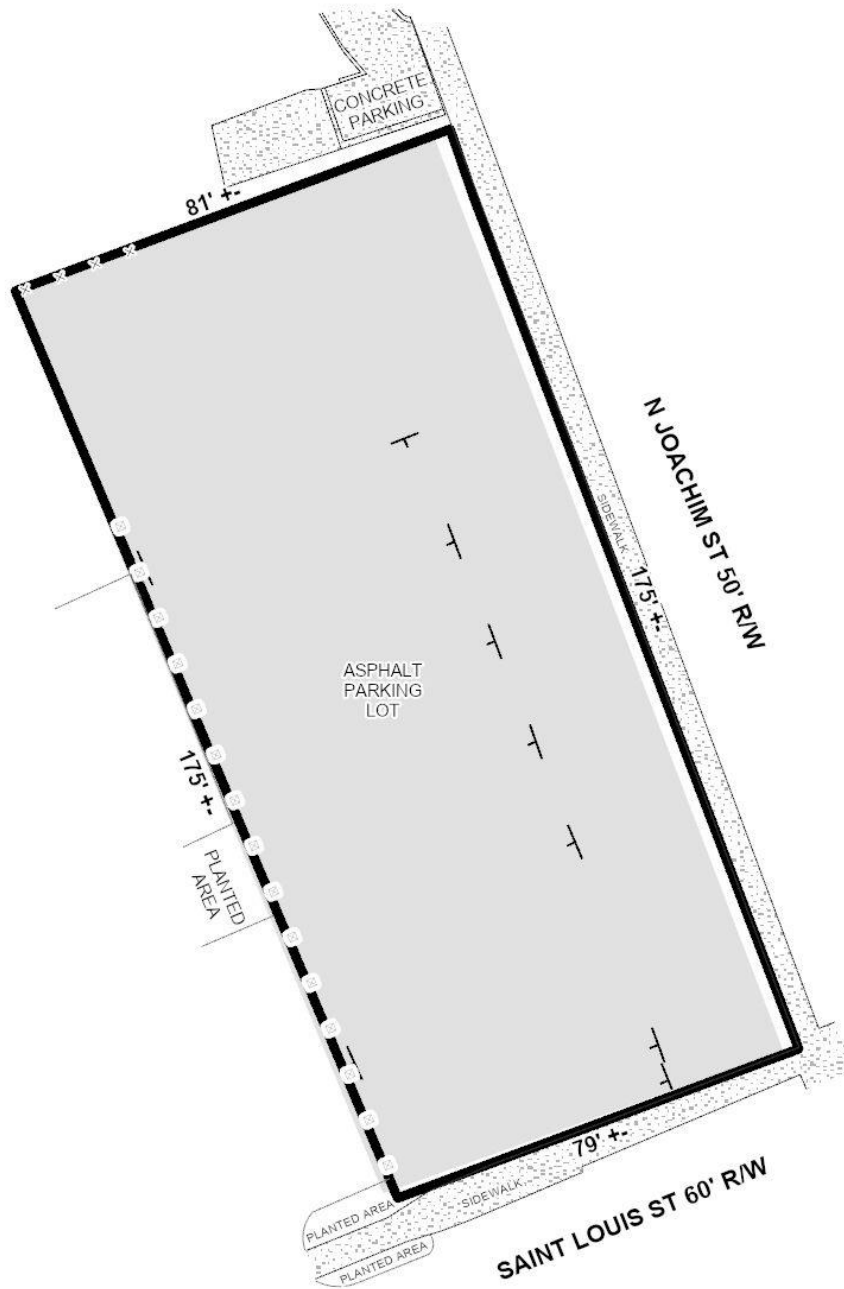


The site plan illustrates the proposed building, drive thru, parking, and setbacks.

APPLICATION NUMBER <u>6653</u> DATE <u>March 10, 2025</u>
APPLICANT <u>River Bank &amp; Trust (Doug Thomas, Agent)</u>
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## DETAIL SITE PLAN



APPLICATION NUMBER 6653 DATE March 10, 2025

APPLICANT River Bank & Trust (Doug Thomas, Agent)

REQUEST Special Exception



NTS



ZONING DISTRICT CORRESPONDENCE MATRIX																
			LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (LDR)	MIXED DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (MXDR)	DOWNTOWN (DT)	DISTRICT CENTER (DC)	NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER - TRADITIONAL (NC-T)	NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER - SUBURBAN (NC-S)	TRADITIONAL CORRIDOR (TC)	MIXED COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR (MCC)	LIGHT INDUSTRIAL (LI)	HEAVY INDUSTRY (HI)	INSTITUTIONAL LAND USE (INS)	PARKS & OPEN SPACE (POS)	DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT (DW)	WATER DEPENDENT USES (WDWRU)
RESIDENTIAL - AG	R-A															
ONE-FAMILY RESIDENCE	R-1	■					■		■					□		
TWO-FAMILY RESIDENCE	R-2	■					■		■					□	○	
MULTIPLE-FAMILY	R-3	○	■				■	■						□	○	
RESIDENTIAL-BUSINESS	R-B		○				■		■					□	○	
TRANSITIONAL-BUSINESS	T-B		○			■	■	■	■					□		
HISTORIC BUSINESS	H-B				■		■		■					□		
VILLAGE CENTER	TCD						■	■						□		
NEIGH. CENTER	TCD						■	■						□		
NEIGH. GENERAL	TCD						■							□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-6				■									□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-5.1				■		■		□					□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-5.2				■		■							□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-4				■		■		□					□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-3				■		■							□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	SD-WH										○	○		□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DD	SD	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○		○	○		□		
BUFFER BUSINESS	B-1		□				□	■	■	■				□	○	
NEIGH. BUSINESS	B-2		○				□	■	■	■				□	○	
LIMITED BUSINESS	LB-2		○				□	■	■	■				□	○	
COMMUNITY BUSINESS	B-3					■				■			○	□	○	
GEN. BUSINESS	B-4				■					■			○	□	○	
OFFICE-DISTRIBUTION	B-5									■	■			□	□	
LIGHT INDUSTRY	I-1										■			□	□	□
HEAVY INDUSTRY	I-2											■		□		□

#### Zoning District Correspondence Matrix

- Directly Related
- Elements of the zoning category are related to the future LU category, but with qualifications (such as a development plan with conditions)
- Land use category is appropriate, but the district does not directly implement the category (e.g., open space in an industrial district)



## **DOWNTOWN (DT)**

Downtown is called out as a separate land use designation due to its distinct role, layout and fabric.

As a land use district, Downtown is the ultimate mixed-use environment. Land development and redevelopment will emphasize variety, mixed uses, and unity of form within buildings or complexes.

As the City's and region's center for commercial and service employment, Downtown supports intense development and a dynamic combination of uses: specialty and regional retail shopping and offices; business support services; urban housing at higher densities (starting at 10 du/ac); civic, educational and cultural destinations; entertainment options; and other public amenities including active and passive park space. The successful integration of a mix of housing types and densities will be critical to achieve a vibrant, 24/7, active Downtown Mobile.

Development in the DT district will focus on new, redeveloped and adaptively reused buildings that frame attractive, human-scaled streetscapes, memorable public spaces, bicycle and pedestrian-friendly streets and convenient transit access to jobs, housing and entertainment. Accordingly, certain areas of Downtown will be more intensively developed to facilitate that pedestrian orientation.