



Agenda Item # 8

BOA-003168-2024

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

[Applicant Materials for Consideration](#)

DETAILS

Location:

660 Dunlap Drive

Applicant / Agent:

Austal USA, Joey Nunnally, Agent

Property Owner:

Austal USA, LLC and EPIC Alabama Maritime Assets

Current Zoning:

I-2, Heavy Industry

Future Land Use:

Heavy Industry

Case Numbers:

6645/6538/5486

Unified Development Code Requirement:

- A 100-foot height limit for structures in an I-2, Heavy Industry District.

Board Consideration:

- To allow a building higher than 100 feet in an I-2, Heavy Industry District.


Report Contents:

	Page
Context Map	2
Site History	3
Staff Comments	3
Variance Considerations	4
Exhibits	6

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT VICINITY MAP - EXISTING AERIAL



The site is surrounded by industrial units.

APPLICATION NUMBER <u> 6538 </u> DATE <u> January 6, 2025 </u>	 NTS
APPLICANT <u> Austal USA (Joey Nunnally, Agent) </u>	
REQUEST <u> Building Height Variance </u>	

SITE HISTORY

The subject site was originally developed as the Alabama Drydock and Shipbuilding Company in 1917, and remained such until that business ceased operations in the mid-1970s. Since then, the site has been under various ownerships, all for the purpose of marine vessel building, modification, or dismantling.

In 2008, a Tower Height Variance was approved by the Board to allow a 198-foot tall guyed weather observation tower, and in 2019, a Site Variance was approved to allow a 150-foot high flag pole on the site.

The site was granted a Building Height Variance in September 2023 to allow buildings over 100 feet in height, but that variance expired before any construction was begun.

The site has had numerous Planned Unit Development (PUD) applications approved since 1996. The over-all site last received PUD approval in 2007 to allow multiple buildings on multiple parcels with shared parking and access.

In July 2023, the Planning Commission approved a Modification to a previously-approved Planned Unit Development (PUD) to expand within two areas of the facility in order to fabricate modular components for nuclear submarines constructed by other shipyards.

STAFF COMMENTS

Engineering Comments:

No comments to the proposed variance; however; according to the submitted plans, the proposed project will require a Land Disturbance Permit. The applicant will need to have the following conditions met:

1. The proposed site improvements will require a Land Disturbance Permit be submitted through the CSS Portal.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Applicant agrees to install adequate BMPs during construction to protect from sediment/pollutants leaving the site.

Traffic Engineering Comments:

No comments.

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-sprinklered commercial buildings, within 600' of sprinklered commercial buildings, and within 100' of fire department connections (FDC) for both standpipes and sprinkler systems.

Planning Comments:

The applicant is requesting a Building Height Variance to allow buildings higher than 100-feet in an I-2, Heavy Industry District; the Unified Development Code (UDC) does not allow buildings higher than 100-feet in an I-2, Heavy Industry District.

The entire application packet is available via the link on Page 1. This request is the same as the request approved by the Board in September 2023 which expired.

The site plan submitted indicates the proposed Final Assembly Building in the Northern portion of the over-all site would have a height of approximately 180-feet. It will be used to build surface ships for the Navy and Coast Guard. In the Southern end of the over-all site, the proposed Modular Manufacturing Facility building would have a height of approximately 125-feet and would be used to build submarine modules.

The applicant states that the ships that Austal has contracts to build are taller than the current building height allowances.

VARIANCE CONSIDERATIONS

Standards of Review:

Variances are not intended to be granted frequently. The applicant must clearly show the Board that the request is due to very unusual characteristics of the property and that it satisfies the variance standards. What constitutes unnecessary hardship and substantial justice is a matter to be determined from the facts and circumstances of each application.

Article 5 Section 10-E. 1. of the Unified Development Codes states that the Board of Adjustment may grant a variance if:

- The Applicant demonstrates that the variance shall not be contrary to the public interest;
- Where, owing to special conditions a literal enforcement of the provision of this Chapter will result in unnecessary hardship; and
- The spirit of this Chapter will be observed and substantial justice done.

Article 5 Section 10-E.2. states; no variance shall be granted:

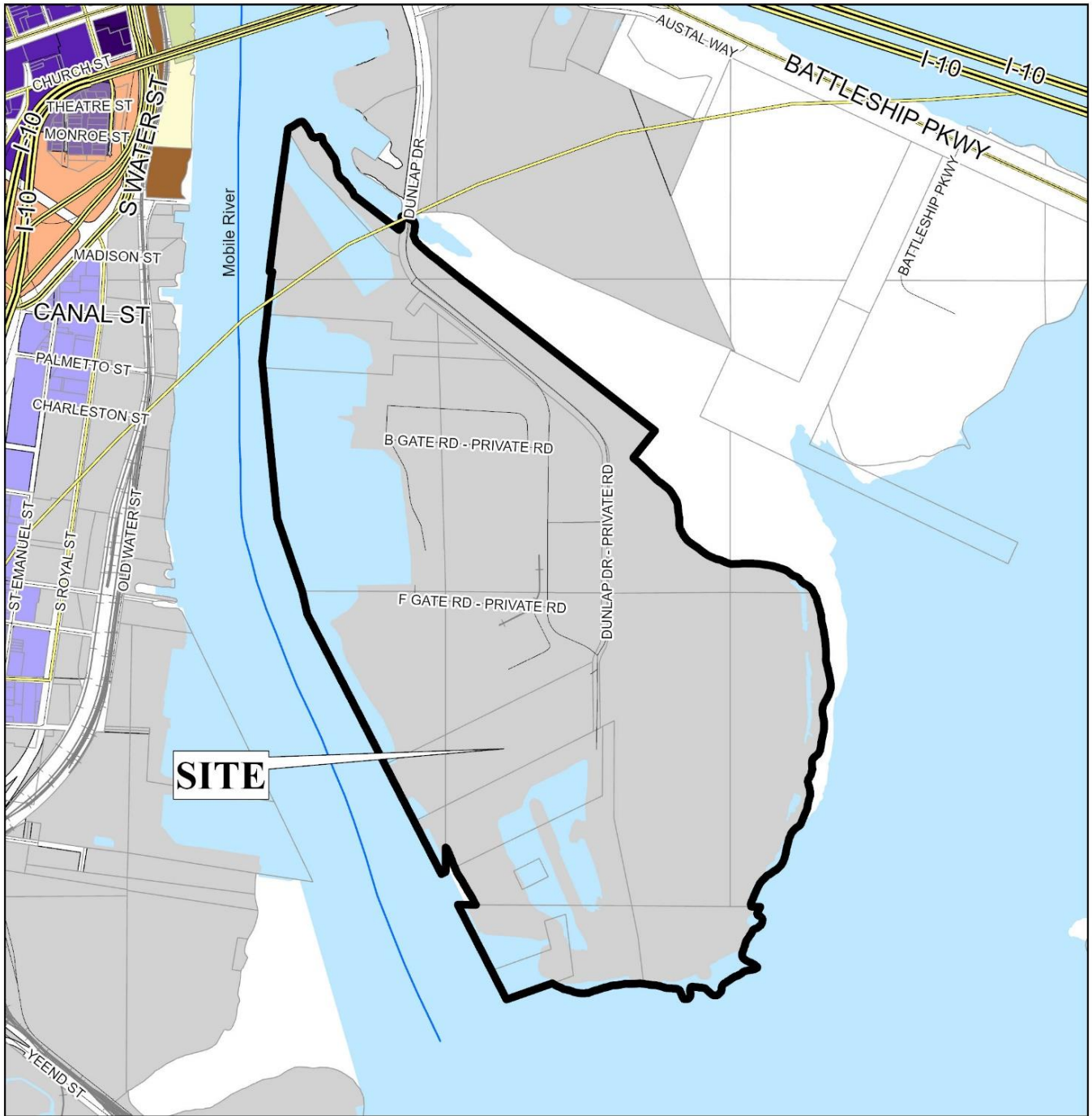
- (a) In order to relieve an owner of restrictive covenants that are recorded in Mobile County Probate Court and applicable to the property;
- (b) Where economic loss is the sole basis for the required variance; or
- (c) Where the variance is otherwise unlawful.


Considerations:

Based on the requested Variance application and documentation submitted, if the Board considers approval of the request, the following findings of fact must be present:

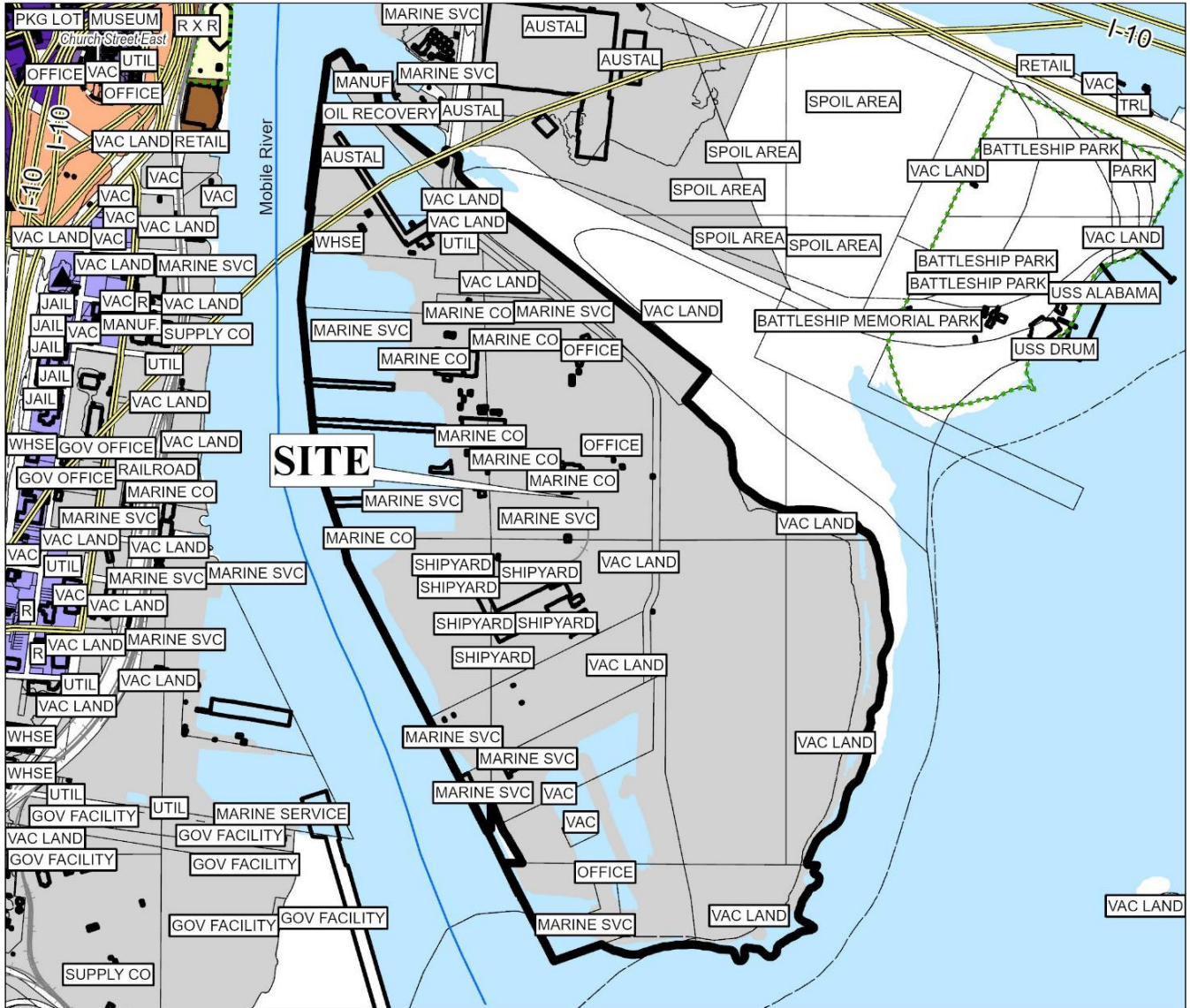
- A) The variance will not be contrary to the public interest;
- B) Special conditions exist such that a literal enforcement of the provisions of the chapter will result in unnecessary hardship; and
- C) The spirit of the chapter shall be observed and substantial justice done to the applicant and the surrounding neighborhood by granting the variance.

LOCATOR ZONING MAP



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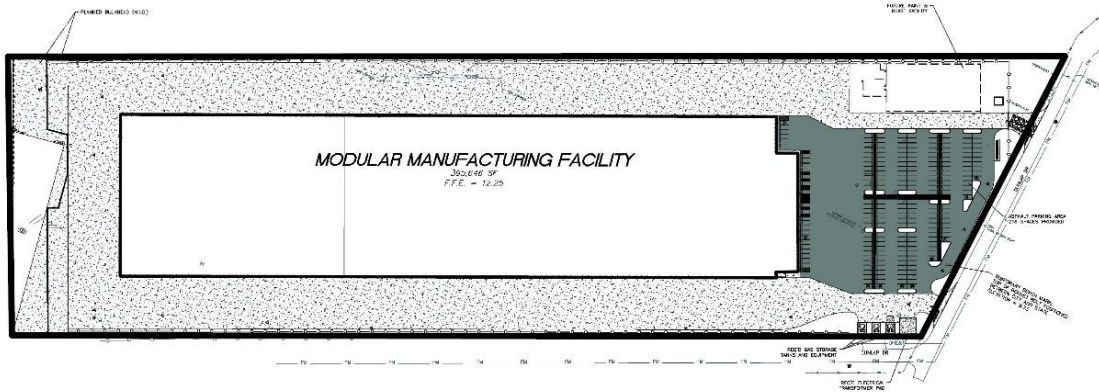
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT VICINITY MAP - EXISTING ZONING



The site is surrounded by industrial units.

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<table style="width: 100%; font-size: small;"> <tr> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> R-A</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> R-3</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> B-1</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> B-2</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> B-5</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> ML</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> I-2</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> OPEN</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> T-3</td> <td style="width: 12.5%;"> T-5.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td> R-1</td> <td> R-B</td> <td> T-B</td> <td> B-3</td> <td> CW</td> <td> MH</td> <td> PD</td> <td> SD</td> <td> T-4</td> <td> T-6</td> </tr> <tr> <td> R-2</td> <td> H-B</td> <td> LB-2</td> <td> B-4</td> <td> MM</td> <td> I-1</td> <td> MUN</td> <td> SD-WH</td> <td> T-5.1</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		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	
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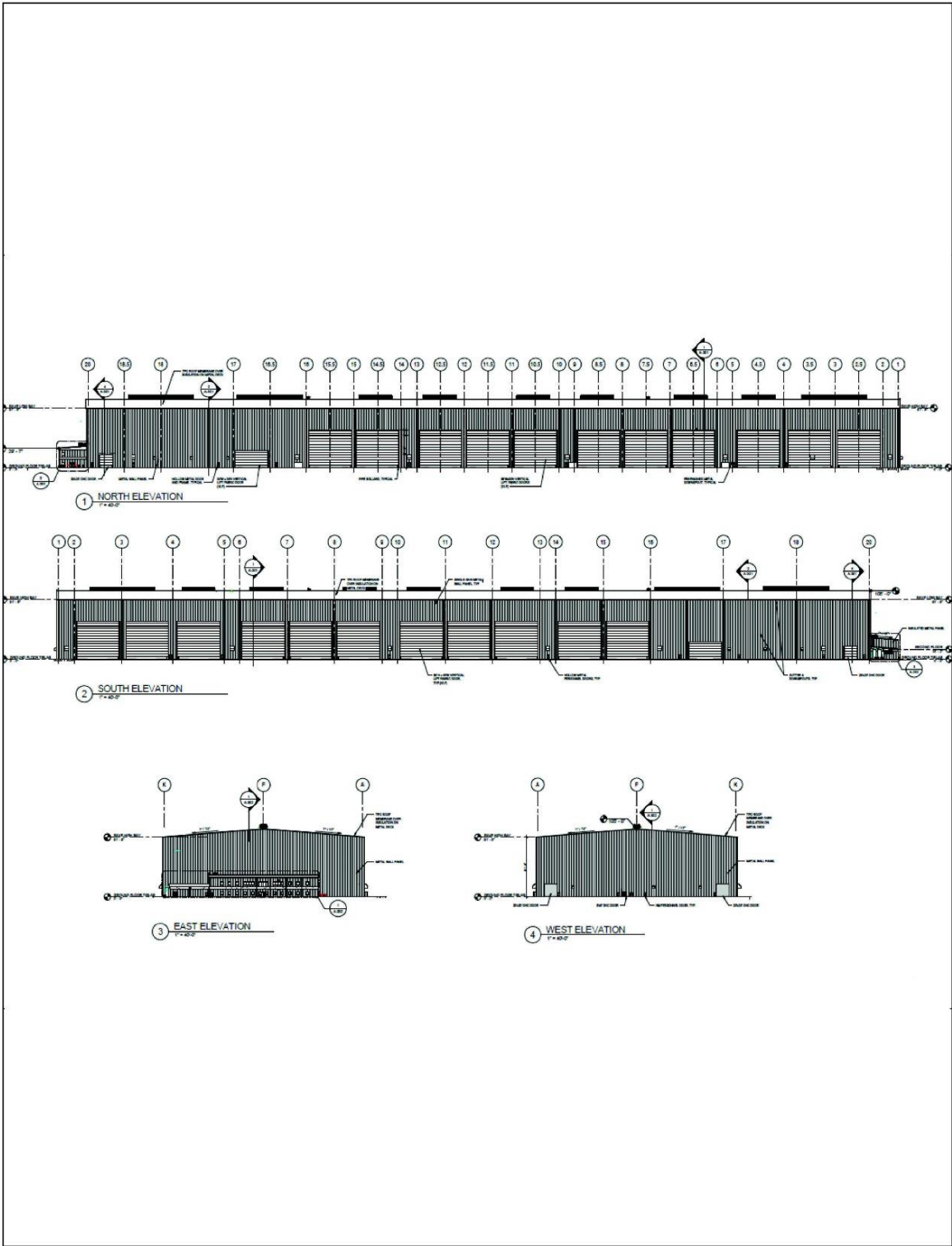
SITE PLAN



The site plan illustrates the proposed building, parking, and paint and blast facility.

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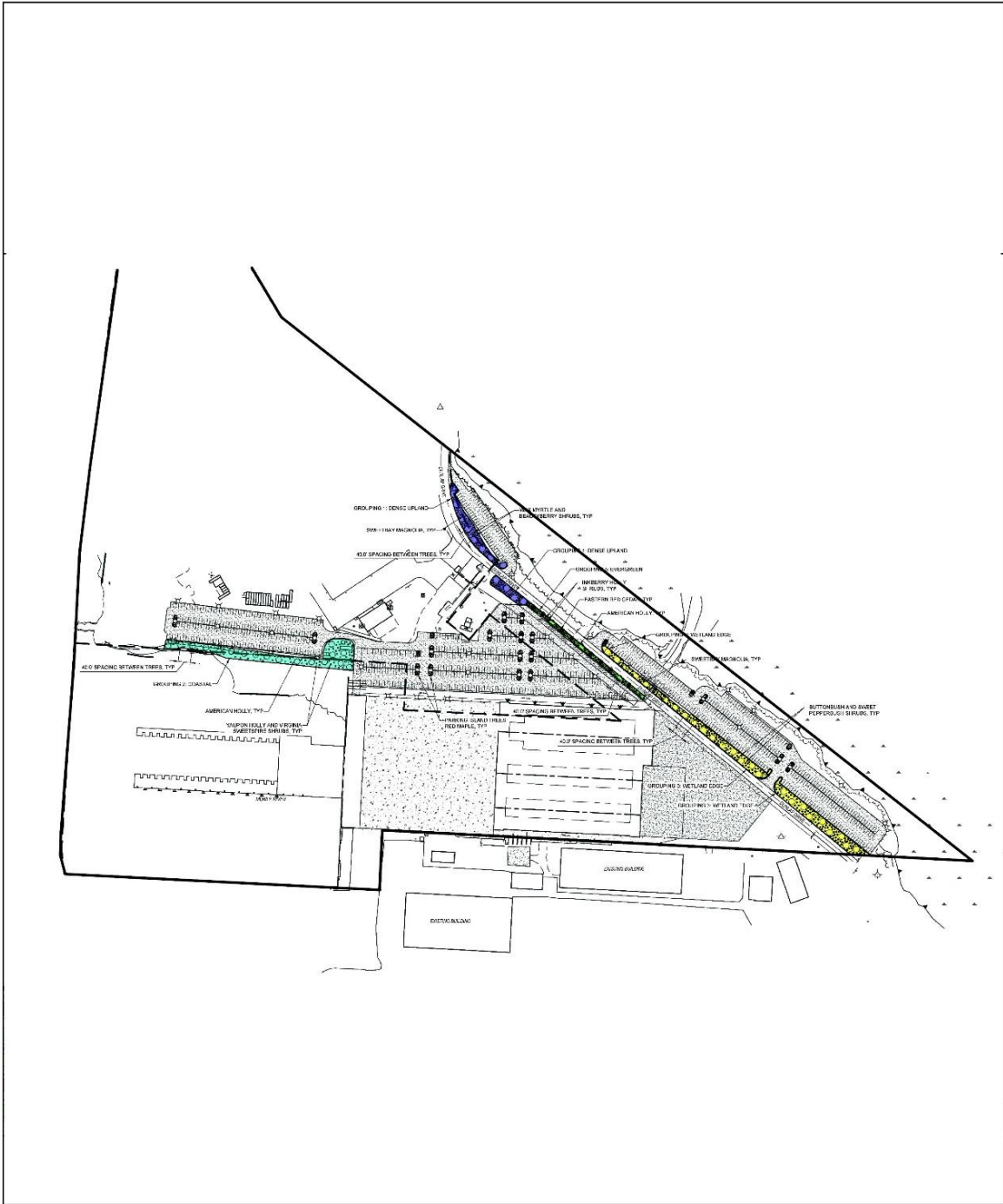
DETAIL SITE PLAN



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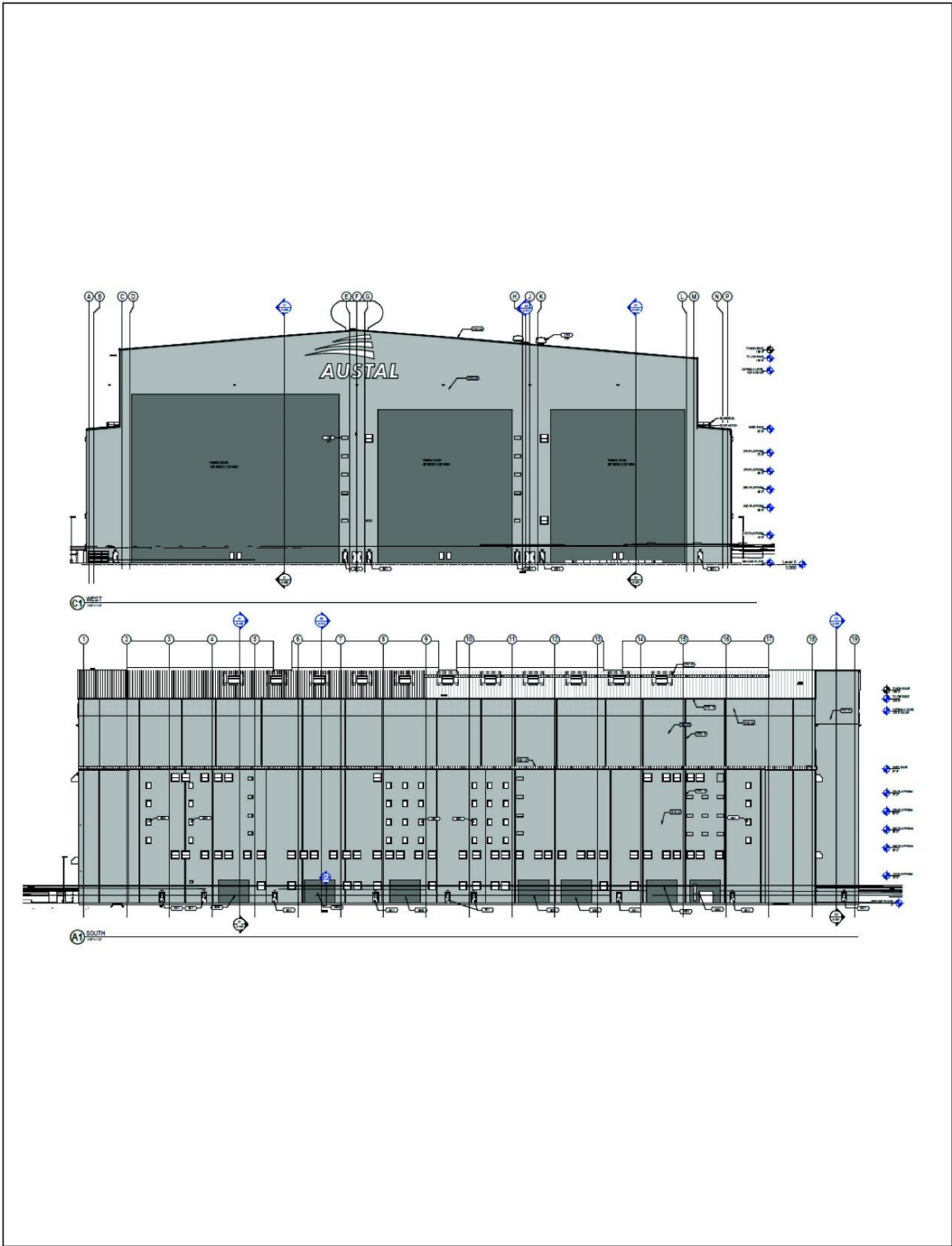
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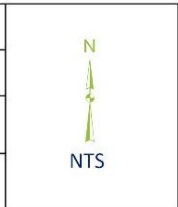
The site plan illustrates the existing buildings, parking, and landscaping.

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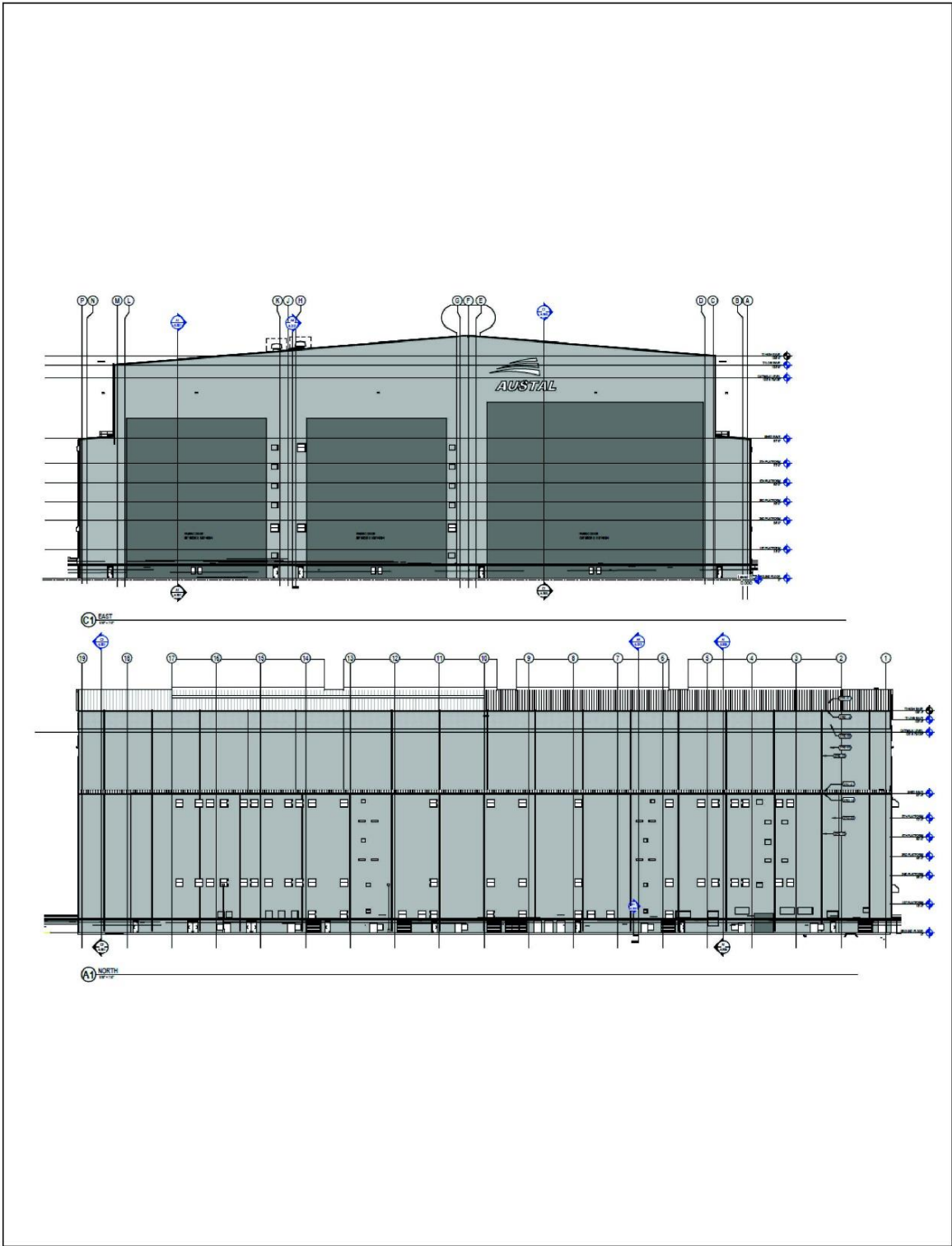
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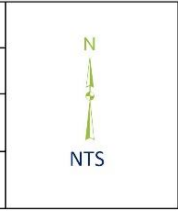
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DETAIL SITE PLAN



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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)



HEAVY INDUSTRY (HI)

This designation applies to larger parcels primarily devoted to high-impact industrial activity which is preferably removed from residential and commercial uses. Light industry, industrial business or heavy commercial lands may separate heavy industry from other land uses.

Heavy industrial areas include collection, treatment, and manufacturing processes which use raw materials, are distinguished by the presence of noise, vibration, and/or odors, and benefit from easy access to a multimodal freight transportation network. Certain types of

heavy industry are characterized by low building coverage and activities that rely on large areas of outdoor storage of raw material stockpiles and/or waste-product disposal areas, storage tanks, pipelines, and transportation yards to handle the transfer of heavy materials. The outdoor storage areas should be screened as much as possible by the nature of the stored materials.

Land designated as HI may be underdeveloped due to the presence of wetlands on portions of the parcel. In these cases, the wetlands may serve to buffer surrounding uses from the potential impacts of the heavy industrial use. Undeveloped areas of HI parcels that have tree cover may be used as

buffering between the heavy industrial use and other uses. Where buffers do not exist naturally, they should be provided as spelled out in the zoning and subdivision regulations. Open areas reserved for dredge disposal are also designated as HI and may contain wetlands.

In Mobile, port terminal facilities, docks, shipyards, drydocks, etc., are mostly owned by the State of Alabama. Although not subject to local zoning, these facilities are shown as heavy industrial uses in the FLUM.