



February 27, 2020

Marcell R. Todd Jr, Director
Detroit City Planning Commission
208 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
Detroit, Michigan 48226

RE: A resolution to amend the Future General Land Use map for the Middle East Central neighborhood in Detroit Master Plan of Policies, containing the area generally bounded by Superior Street, Jos. Campau Street, Gratiot Avenue, and Orleans and to amend the goals and polices of that neighborhood (Master Plan Change #26)

Director Todd:

Pursuant to the City of Detroit's City Charter (Section 8-102), the Planning and Development Department has submitted for your consideration and action a proposed amendment to the Detroit Master Plan of Policies. Adoption of this resolution would accommodate changes in the Master Plan of Policies that reflect updated land use policies that were developed as outcomes of the 2019 Eastern Market Neighborhood Framework Plan.

Location

The subject site is located in the Neighborhood Cluster 4, Middle East Central Neighborhood Area of the Master Plan of Policies. The proposed map changes are generally bounded by Superior Street, Jos. Campau Street, Gratiot Avenue, and Orleans Street. This area includes areas just east of the historic Eastern Market core.

Existing Site Information

The subject area of the proposed Middle East Central map amendment includes portions of the historic Eastern Market, the area surrounding the Dequindre Cut Greenway, and portions of largely vacant residential land between St. Aubin Street and Chene Street. The area is comprised of a mix of uses. The properties along the Dequindre Cut Greenway touch the Eastern Market Core with a mix of food production uses, warehouse and wholesale buildings (both operating and vacant), restaurants, and vacant industrial land. The subject site between St. Aubin and Chene Street is comprised of scattered site housing, churches, a police precinct, and a majority vacant land.

The Master Plan designations of the subject area are currently Low/Medium Density residential (RLM), Light Industrial (IL), Mixed Residential / Commercial (MRC), Neighborhood Commercial (CN), and Industrial Port / Distribution (IDP) land uses. The current zoning is a mix of residential (R1, R2, R3), business (B4), and manufacturing (M3 and M4).

The areas currently designated as Low / Medium Density Residential (RLM) are primarily vacant, with scattered homes and a police precinct. The area currently designated Light Industrial (IL) is occupied by warehouse and distribution-related uses. The areas currently designated as Industrial Port / Distribution (IDP) that would be changed are occupied by warehouse and distribution-related uses, a restaurant, and an electrical substation.

Surrounding Site Information

Property to the north of Superior Street and east of Dequindre is comprised of a mix of uses. Just north of Willis Street is St. Albertus Church and a cluster of residential developments, such as St Aubin Square Apartments. The land along Dequindre Street is of industrial use, including the beverage plant and a number of industrial production facilities. The area north of Warren and east of St. Aubin is home to Recovery Park. The area east of Grandy Street is primarily designated as residential with regard to both zoning and the Master Plan. To the south, across Gratiot Avenue, is commercially-zoned and designated properties.

Project Proposal

With the introduction of the 2011 Food Security and Modernization Act, many existing Eastern Market businesses are out of compliance with food safety and production standards and many existing businesses are unable to modernize or expand in place. The area just east of the current Eastern Market has been identified as a location for these food production business to relocate or expand to, in a location near Eastern Market, with easy access established freight routes. Properly zoned industrial lands that can accommodate food related businesses will help ensure Detroit remains a center of the food industry in the region and will preserve a source of significant employment in the city.

To this end, the Master Plan is being revised to facilitate the land use changes required to accommodate the expansion of food related industries and to support the development of mixed-use housing and workforce housing in the area. These land use changes are recommendation of the 2019 Eastern Market Neighborhood Framework. As a result, the proposed amendment to the Future General Land Use map will designate the area east of the Eastern Market to Mixed Residential – Industrial (MRI) to support new residential development and the expansion of food related production, storage, and distribution uses.

Policies and Goals Amendments

The goals and policies have been updated to reflect high-level outcomes of the 2019 Eastern Market Neighborhood Framework, including the expansion of the food-related uses into a predominately vacant area, mixed use development along the Dequindre Cut Greenway, and along select nodes of St. Aubin and Chene, encouraging the use of stormwater management and visual screening to separate residential from food production uses, and finally, supporting the protection and authenticity of the historic market.

Analysis

A portion of the area now designated as Distribution / Port Industrial (IDP) will be changed to Mixed Residential / Industrial (MRI). The areas currently designated as Light Industrial (IL) that will be changed to MRI do not require the existing industrial designation, nor are the industrial zoning districts consistent with that Future General Land Use. The highlighted areas that are currently designated as Low/Medium Density Residential (RLM) are predominantly vacant, containing scattered homes. For consistency, those areas designated for Neighborhood Commercial (CN) and Mixed Residential Commercial (MRC) will also be changed to the MRI mixed use district, as it allows for both the proposed SD2 and B6 zoning districts.

All of the aforementioned changes are required to encourage new mixed use development near the Dequindre Cut Greenway, support the development of food-related production near the Eastern Market Core, encourage new workforce housing to support the food production industries, and stormwater management development.

Recommended Master Plan Amendment

The Planning and Development Department requests this proposed amendment to the Master Plan of Policies to accommodate new mixed use development near the Eastern Market Core. This amendment will allow for the rezoning of property to accommodate new food-related production facilities and housing opportunities. The Planning and Development Department therefore requests that the proposed Future Land Use map in the Master Plan of Policies be changed for the area generally bounded by Superior Street, Jos. Campau Street, Gratiot Avenue, and Orelans Street from Neighborhood Commercial (CN), Distribution / Port Industrial (IDP), Light Industrial (IL), Mixed-Residential Commercial (MRC), & Low / Medium Density Residential (RLM) to Mixed - Residential / Industrial (MRI).

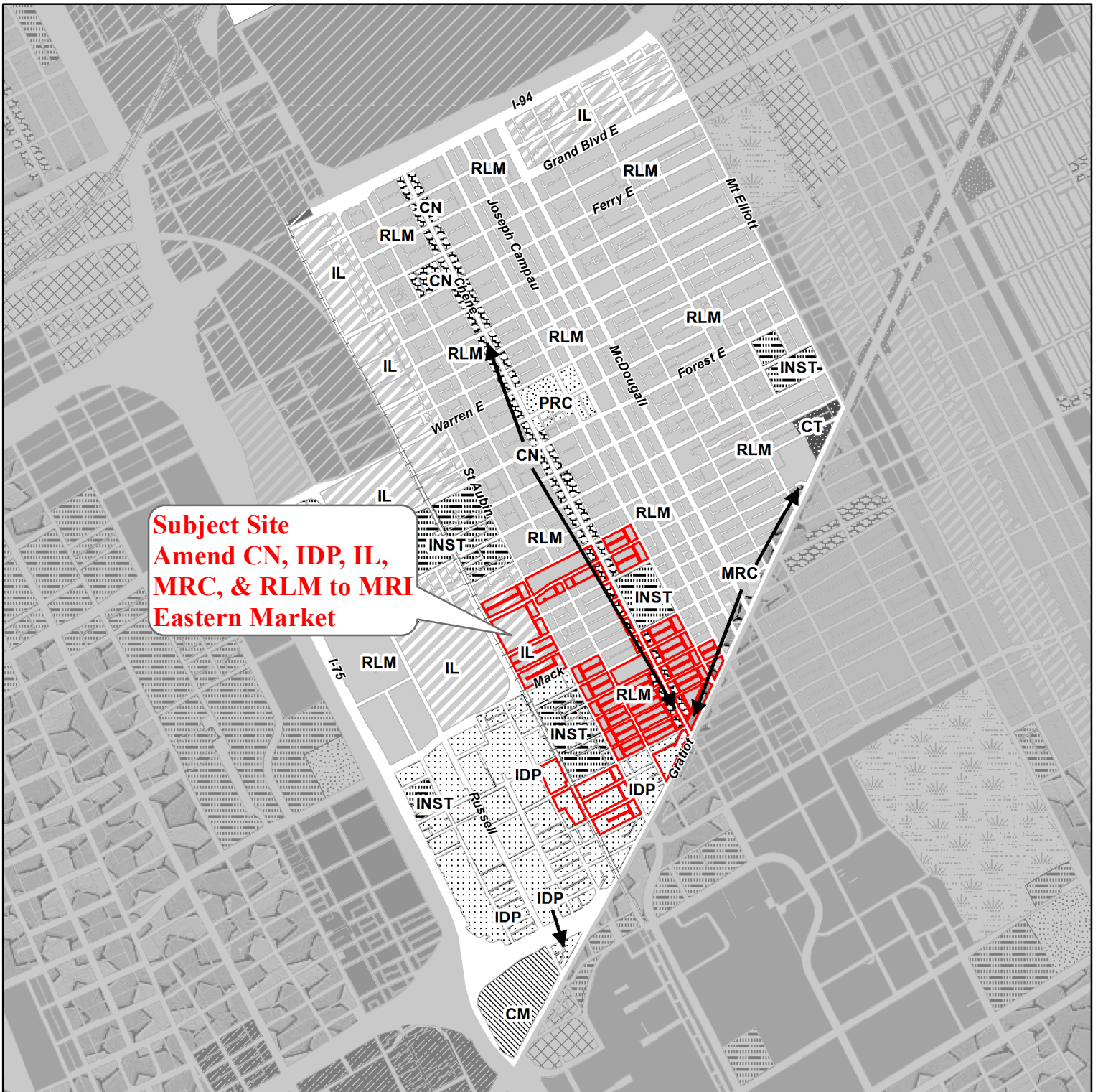
Respectfully submitted,



Karen Gage, Director
Office of Zoning Innovation
Planning and Development Department

Attachments

Future General Land Use Map: Map 4-6B, Neighborhood Cluster 4,
Middle East Central Neighborhood Text



Map 4-6B
City of Detroit
Master Plan of
Policies

Neighborhood Cluster 4
Middle East Central



Future Land Use

Low Density Residential (RL)	Thoroughfare Commercial (CT)	Mixed - Town Center (MTC)
Low / Medium Density Residential (RLM)	Special Commercial (CS)	Recreation (PRC)
Medium Density Residential (RM)	General Industrial (IG)	Regional Park (PR)
High Density Residential (RH)	Light Industrial (IL)	Private Marina (PRM)
Major Commercial (CM)	Distribution / Port Industrial (IDP)	Airport (AP)
Retail Center (CRC)	Mixed - Residential / Commercial (MRC)	Cemetery (CEM)
Neighborhood Commercial (CN)	Mixed - Residential / Industrial (MRI)	Institutional (INST)



Middle East Central

Middle East Central is generally bounded by the Ford Freeway (I-94) to the north, Gratiot to the south, Mt. Elliott to the east, and the Chrysler Freeway (I-375) to the west. The Eastern Market is in the area's southwest corner.

From 2000 to 2010, Middle East Central lost almost thirty percent of its population, far exceeding the citywide average. Vacant housing units and vacant land are at levels above the citywide average, creating considerable opportunity for reinvestment. Almost seventy percent of the housing units are renter occupied.

The Eastern Market is a strong economic anchor within this community, however, the 2011 Food Security and Modernization Act renders many existing Eastern Market food industrial businesses out of compliance with food safety and production standards. Businesses within the Eastern Market are ready to modernize or expand, but are unable to do so in place. A neighborhood framework plan involving stakeholder and community engagement was completed in 2019 that identified a new location for food production business seeking close proximity of Eastern Market, with easy access established freight routes.

In order to accommodate the development of food production facilities, land use changes are required to transform some vacant land into a food production hub. These land use changes will support the relocation of food related businesses and encourage the attraction of new food related industries, while supporting new policies to attract new housing and preserving existing residential. The neighborhood framework plan for the Eastern Market developed a vision with three goals for the area:

- A. Create jobs for Detroiters
- B. Improve the quality of life for residents
- C. Keep the authenticity and function of Eastern Market

The 2019 framework plan informed the following Master Plan recommendations for the area, including recommendations regarding land use, storm water management, design guidelines, and historic preservation.

□ Neighborhoods and Housing

Issue: There is multi-family housing south of Forest, along the Chrysler Freeway. Vacant lots and a declining housing stock characterize the residential area east of St. Aubin.

GOAL 1: Rebuild neighborhoods

Policy 1.1: East of St. Aubin, demolish vacant and/or dangerous structures and encourage the development of live-work/ workforce housing along St. Aubin and Chene to support the food industry and other businesses.

Policy 1.2: Leverage select city-owned parcels for residential development and neighborhood scale agricultural uses where appropriate.

Policy 1.3: Support and preserve existing residential areas by utilizing stormwater management features to separate residential uses from non-residential uses in the area.

GOAL 2: Increase residential density

Policy 2.1: Develop Gratiot with mixed-use development including high-density residential.

Policy 2.2: Develop urban infill, high-density mixed-used residential along the Dequindre Cut, south of Mack.

□ Retail and Local Services

Issue: Although it includes many vacant and underutilized sites, Gratiot is the area's most stable commercial thoroughfare. The Eastern Market, in the southwest corner, provides both wholesale and retail meats and produce. Much of the Chene commercial thoroughfare is vacant.

GOAL 3: Increase the vitality of commercial thoroughfares

Policy 3.1: Encourage high-density mixed-used development along Gratiot.

GOAL 4: Increase the vitality of neighborhood commercial areas

Policy 4.1: In conjunction with residential redevelopment, develop neighborhood commercial nodes along Chene, with a compatible mix of locally serving, small-scale businesses and medium density residential uses.

Policy 4.2: West of St. Aubin, South of Mack, encourage mixed-use residential and urban infill development to complement commercial food industry uses.

Policy 4.3: Leverage select city-owned parcels for residential and commercial development where appropriate.

GOAL 5: Reinforce the Eastern Market as a regional attraction for retail and wholesale meats and produce

Policy 5.1: Enhance the character and image of existing and new development in the Eastern Market Area with signage, landscaping and façade improvements.

Policy 5.2: Encourage more efficient handling of goods within the Eastern Market area through signage and designated areas for truck parking and loading.

Policy 5.3: Support the expansion of Eastern Market’s footprint in order to accommodate growth for existing businesses located in the Eastern Market Core that area unable to grow in place.

□ Industrial Centers

Issues: This area includes many under-utilized industrial sites. Small-scale industrial sites are scattered throughout the area west of St. Aubin, often conflicting with residential areas.

GOAL 6: Expand the availability of industrial areas for food production

Policy 6.1: West of Grandy Street, expand food related industrial areas into marginal residential pockets.

GOAL 7: Reduce conflicts between industrial and residential areas

Policy 7.1: Establish and enforce designated truck routes to and from the Ford and Chrysler Freeways.

Policy 7.2: Provide setback areas between food production and industrial uses and residential areas east through the use of vegetative screening and stormwater features.

□ Parks, Recreation and Open Space

Issues: There are few well maintained green spaces or recreational areas for neighborhood residents.

GOAL 8: Increase open space and recreational opportunities

Policy 8.1: North of Gratiot and east of St. Aubin, strategically acquire property to be utilized for the development of food production uses that will provide green stormwater infrastructure and improved open space in conjunction with new food production development.

Policy 8.2: Where possible, utilize vegetative screening and stormwater management features as accessible open space and linear parks. Fencing of these features is discouraged.

Policy 8.3: Encourage the planting of street trees and linear tree groves to enhance the tree canopy of the area west of the Dequindre Cut.

Policy 8.4: Support the use of vacant residential land for agricultural uses, north of Warren.

GOAL 9: Increase access to open space and recreational areas

Policy 9.1: Encourage a northbound extension of the Dequindre Cut Greenway to connect to the planned Joe Louis Greenway to further connect residential areas to the Riverfront

Policy 9.2: Develop greenway setback areas along the Dequindre Cut Greenway, St. Aubin Street, Chene Street, and Grandy Street to screen

warehouse and production developments from residential areas and provide areas for on-site stormwater management.

Policy 9.3: Encourage the development of publicly accessible open space/ greenways as part of the stormwater mitigation efforts in the area

□ **Environment and Energy**

Issue: The area is the site of various food processing industries. Many of the facilities are pollution sources impacting adjacent residential areas.

GOAL 10: Improve environmental quality

Policy 10.1: Attract industries that emphasize pollution minimizing technology and research. Support the modernization of existing businesses to reduce environmental emissions.

Policy 10.2: Support the use of stormwater mitigation to separate residential from non- residential uses.

Policy 10.3: Concentrate environmental cleanup and enforcement along the St. Aubin corridor to maximize development potential and minimize pollution.

□ **History, Legacies and Preservation**

Issue: The market core is home to many structures with historic significance. These include the sheds and surrounding structures.

GOAL 11: Maintain integrity of historic areas

Policy 11.1: Encourage the construction of new structures that visually reinforce historic areas of the Eastern Market Core.

Policy 11.2: Limit the height of new buildings or vertical additions to existing buildings to 45 feet within the market core area.

Policy 11.3: Do not remove historically significant structures within this area or any existing structures surrounding the Eastern Market sheds that structurally intact.