

# Montgomery County Planning Board

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Mailing Date:

**December 14, 2023**

MCPB No. 23-112

Site Plan No. 820230100

***White Oak Self Storage***

Date of Hearing: November 9, 2023

## **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, under Section 59-7.1.2 of the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance, the Montgomery County Planning Board is authorized to review site plan applications; and

WHEREAS, on July 12, 2023, White Oak Self Storage, LLC (“Applicant”) filed an application for approval of a site plan for a 3,600-square-foot addition to the front of the existing building and a new 116,000-square-foot self-storage building on 2.61 acres of CRTF zoned-land, located at 11105 New Hampshire Avenue, 1,800 feet south of the intersection of Columbia Pike and New Hampshire Avenue (“Subject Property”), in the White Oak Policy Area and *2014 White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan* (“Master Plan”) area; and

WHEREAS, the site plan application for the Subject Property was designated Site Plan No. 820230100, White Oak Self Storage (“Site Plan” or “Application”); and

WHEREAS, following review and analysis of the Application by Planning Board staff (“Staff”) and other governmental agencies, Staff issued a memorandum to the Planning Board, dated October 30, 2023, providing its analysis and recommendation for approval of the Application, subject to certain conditions (“Staff Report”); and

WHEREAS, on November 9, 2023, the Planning Board held a public hearing on the Application and voted to approve the Application subject to conditions, on the motion of Commissioner Hedrick, seconded by Vice Chair Pedoeem, with a vote of 4-0-1; Chair Harris, Vice Chair Pedoeem, Commissioners Hedrick and Linden voting in favor. Commissioner Bartley abstained.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Planning Board approves Site Plan No. 820230100 for a 3,600-square-foot addition to the front of the existing building and a new

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Approved as to

Legal Sufficiency: /s/ Matthew T. Mills

M-NCPPC Legal Department

116,000-square-foot self-storage building, the Subject Property, subject to the following conditions:<sup>1</sup>

Density, Height & Housing

1. Density

The Site Plan is limited to a maximum of 234,800 square feet of total development on the Subject Property, including 234,800 square feet of self-storage non-residential uses.

2. Height

The development is limited to a maximum height of 55 feet, as measured from the building height measuring point, as illustrated on the Certified Site Plan.

Open Space, Facilities and Amenities

3. Public Open Space, Facilities, and Amenities

- a) Before release of the site plan surety bond, the Applicant must construct the interim streetscape improvements along the property's frontage on New Hampshire Avenue as shown on the Certified Site Plan, consistent with the *2014 White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan Streetscape Standards*.
- b) The Applicant must provide a landscape buffer between the sidewalk and the street of at least six feet.

4. Public Benefits

The Applicant must provide the following public benefits and meet the applicable criteria and requirements of the Zoning Ordinance and the *CR Zone Incentive Density Implementation Guidelines* for each one.

- a) Connectivity between Uses, Activities, and Mobility Options
  - i. Minimum Parking  
The Applicant must not provide/construct more than 12 parking spaces.
- b) Quality Building and Site Design
  - i. Architectural Elevations  
Final elevation design must be shown on the Certified Site Plan. The exterior architectural elements must be substantially similar to architectural elevations as shown on the Certified Site Plan and as determined by M-NCPPC Staff.
  - ii. Exceptional Design  
The Applicant must continue to work with Planning Staff to ensure the design quality of the project. The exterior architectural character, proportion, materials, and articulation must be substantially similar to the schematic elevations shown on the submitted architectural drawings, as determined by M-NCPPC Staff at time of Certified Site Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of these conditions, the term "Applicant" shall also mean the developer, the owner or any successor(s) in interest to the terms of this approval.

c) Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment

i. Cool Roof

The Applicant must provide a minimum solar reflectance index (SRI) of 75 for newly constructed roofs with a slope at or below a ratio of 2:12, and a minimum SRI of 25 for slopes above 2:12.

ii. Energy Conservation and Generation

The Applicant must construct rooftop solar panels that generate a minimum of 2.5% of the projected energy requirement for the new construction. The Applicant must provide an energy use/generation model with comparisons to average use/generation (in kwh) for building type based on U.S. Department of Energy standards or as modeled by a LEED-accredited professional as part of the Certified Site Plan.

iii. Recycling Facility Plan

The Applicant must provide a plastic bag recycling container, electronics/e-waste recycling collection containers and service, and a Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb Recycling container on-site. The Applicant must abide by the recommendations of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection as outlined in their Recycling Facility Plan approval letter dated August 30, 2023.

5. Maintenance of Public Amenities

The Applicant is responsible for maintaining all publicly accessible amenities including, but not limited to benches and landscaping.

Environment

6. Stormwater Management

The Planning Board has reviewed and accepts the recommendations of the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Service (MCDPS) Water Resources Section in its stormwater management concept letter dated May 22, 2023, and incorporates them as conditions of approval. The Applicant must comply with each of the recommendations in the letter, which the MCDPS Water Resources Section may amend if the amendments do not conflict with other conditions of Site Plan approval. The MCDPS Water Resources Section will review, approve, and inspect all landscaping within the Storm Water Management easements and facilities.

Transportation & Circulation/Adequate Public Facilities (APF)

7. Transportation

- a) The Planning Board has reviewed and accepts the recommendations of the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services Right-of-Way Section (DPS-ROW) in its memo dated July 19, 2023 and incorporates them as conditions of approval. The Applicant must comply with each of the recommendations in their memo, which DPS-ROW may amend if the amendments do not conflict with other conditions of Site Plan approval.
- b) At the time DPS collects development impact taxes, the applicant must comply with the White Oak Local Area Transportation Improvement Program (LATIP). The LATIP may be satisfied by either the payment of the required fee according to Chapter 52 and the 2020-2024 Growth and Infrastructure Policy, or construction of an improvement identified in “White Oak Science Gateway LATR/LATIP Cost Estimating Analysis White Paper” dated May 2019, as determined by MCDOT.

8. Pedestrian & Bicycle Circulation

- a) Before issuance of the first building permit, the Applicant must record a covenant for future dedication in the Land Records of Montgomery County for a north-south 15-foot-wide easement located at the rear of the property. The covenant will allow for the future construction of a pedestrian/bike connection (by others) and unencumbered pedestrian and bicycle access.
- b) Before issuance of the first use and occupancy permit, Applicant must construct New a 10-foot-wide sidewalk with 6-foot-wide street buffer along Hampshire Avenue (MD 650), which must be designed and permitted in accordance with the requirements of the Maryland State Highway Administration.
- c) Before issuance of the first building permit, the Applicant must accommodate and make a payment to provide for the following master planned bicycle facility, the exact location, design, and construction of which must comply with requirements of the Maryland State Highway Administration, before right-of-way permit.
  - i. New Hampshire Avenue (MD 650): 6-foot-wide raised pedestrian/bicycle buffer, 11-foot-wide separated bike lane, and pavement striping.

9. Fire and Rescue

The Planning Board has reviewed and accepts the recommendations of the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (MCDPS), Fire Department Access and Water Supply Section in its letter dated September 16, 2022, and hereby incorporates them as conditions of approval. The Applicant must comply with each of the recommendations in the letter, which MCDPS may amend if the amendments do not conflict with other conditions of Site Plan approval.

10. Site Design

The exterior architectural character, proportion, materials, and articulation must be substantially similar to the schematic elevations shown on Sheets P200 to P207 of the submitted architectural drawings, as determined by M-NCPPC Staff.

11. Lighting

- a) Before Certified Site Plan, the Applicant must provide certification to Staff from a qualified professional that the exterior lighting in this Site Plan conforms to the latest Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) recommendations (Model Lighting Ordinance-MLO: June 15, 2011, or as superseded) for a development of this type. All onsite exterior area lighting must be in accordance with the latest IESNA outdoor lighting recommendations (Model Lighting Ordinance-MLO: June 15, 2011, or as superseded).
- b) All onsite down-lights must have full cut-off or BUG-equivalent fixtures.
- c) Deflectors will be installed on proposed fixtures to prevent excess illumination and glare.
- d) Illumination levels generated from on-site lighting must not exceed 0.5 footcandles (fc) at the lot line, excluding areas impacted by street lights within the right-of-way.
- e) Streetlights and other pole-mounted lights must not exceed the height illustrated on the Certified Site Plan.
- f) On the rooftop of the building, the light pole height must not exceed the height illustrated on the Certified Site Plan.

12. Site Plan Surety and Maintenance Agreement

Before issuance of any building permit, sediment control permit, or Use and Occupancy Certificate, whichever comes first, the Applicant must enter into a Site Plan Surety and Maintenance Agreement with the Planning Board in a form approved by M-NCPPC Office of General Counsel that outlines the responsibilities of the Applicant. The Agreement must include a performance bond(s) or other form of surety in accordance with Section 59.7.3.4.K.4 of the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance, with the following provisions:

- a) A cost estimate of the materials and facilities, which, upon Staff approval, will establish the surety amount.
- b) The cost estimate must include applicable Site Plan elements, including, but not limited to on-site plant material, lighting, benches, retaining walls, fences, railings, sidewalks, cool roof elements, street trees and street lights. The surety must be posted before issuance of any building permit of development and will be tied to the development program.
- c) The bond or surety must be tied to the development program, and completion of all improvements covered by the surety for each phase of development will be followed by a site plan completion inspection. The surety may be reduced based upon inspector recommendation and provided that the remaining surety is sufficient to cover completion of the remaining work.

13. Development Program

The Applicant must construct the development in accordance with a development program table that will be reviewed and approved before the approval of the Certified Site Plan.

14. APF Validity

The Adequate Public Facilities Review (APF) will remain valid for five (5) years from the mailing date of the site plan resolution in Section 50.4.3.J.5 of the County Code.

15. Certified Site Plan

Before approval of the Certified Site Plan the following revisions must be made and/or information provided subject to Staff review and approval:

- a) Include the stormwater management concept approval letter, development program, and Site Plan resolution and other applicable resolutions on the approval or cover sheet(s).
- b) Add the following notes:
  - i. “M-NCPPC Staff must inspect all tree-save areas and protection devices before clearing and grading.”
  - ii. “Minor modifications to the limits of disturbance shown on the site plan within the public right-of-way for utility connections may be done during the review of the right-of-way permit drawings by the Department of Permitting Services and/or the Maryland State Highway Administration as appropriate.”
  - iii. “The Applicant must schedule a preconstruction meeting (pre-con), preferably on-site, with staff from the Department of Permitting Services (DPS) responsible for Certified Site Plan conformance and compliance, upon approval of the Certified Site Plan (CSP). The pre-con must occur before any site development work commencement and before any work that is covered by the site plan surety and maintenance agreement. The Applicant, along with their representatives, must attend the pre-con with DPS CSP Staff. A copy of the approved Certified Site Plan along with any subsequent amendments is required to be on-site at all times.”
- c) Include approved Fire and Rescue Access Plan.
- d) Modify data table to reflect development standards approved by the Planning Board.
- e) Ensure consistency of all details and layout between Site and Landscape plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all site development elements shown on the latest electronic version of White Oak Self Storage 820230100, submitted via ePlans to the M-NCPPC as of the date of the Staff Report, are required, except as modified by the above conditions of approval; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that having considered the recommendations of its Staff as presented at the hearing and/or as set forth in the Staff Report, which the Board hereby adopts

and incorporates by reference (except as modified herein), and upon consideration of the entire record, the Planning Board FINDS, with the conditions of approval, that:

- a. *The development satisfies any previous approval that applies to the site.*

The Site Plan is consistent with the binding elements of the approved Local Map Amendment (No. H-147) and the use and densities of the approved Conditional Use (CU202302).

- b. *The development satisfies the binding elements of any development plan or schematic development plan in effect on October 29, 2014.*

This section is not applicable as there are no binding elements of an associated development plan or schematic development plan in effect on October 29, 2014.

- c. *The development satisfies any green area requirement in effect on October 29, 2014 for a property where the zoning classification on October 29, 2014 was the result of a Local Map Amendment.*

This section is not applicable because the zoning classification on October 29, 2014 was not the result of a Local Map Amendment.

- d. *The development satisfies applicable use standards, development standards, and general requirements under the Zoning Ordinance.*

- a. Use Standards

The Subject Property received approval of Conditional Use CU2020302 to allow a self-storage facility on-site.

- b. Development Standards

The Subject Property includes approximately 2.61 acres zoned CRTF. The Application satisfies the applicable development standards as shown in the following data table:

Development Standard	Permitted/ Required	Approved
Tract Area	n/a	2.62 acres
Site Area	n/a	2.62 acres
Commercial (GFA/FAR)	2.25 FAR	2.06 FAR
Total Mapped Density (GFA/FAR)	2.5 FAR	2.06 FAR
Building Height	200 feet	55 feet
Public Open Space (min s.f.)	n/a	n/a
Minimum Setbacks (ft) – Front*	25 feet	25 feet
Minimum Setbacks (ft) – Rear*	15 feet	15 feet
Minimum Setbacks (ft) – Side*	0 feet	0 feet
Parking Spaces (min)	25 spaces	12 spaces**

\*Established by approved Local Map Amendment H-147

\*\*Parking Waiver for 13 spaces granted by the Hearing Examiner in Conditional Use CU202302

The Subject Application achieves 50 Public Benefit points. A description of how the Subject Application meets the criterion of the proposed Public Benefit categories is below.

Public Benefit	Maximum Points Allowed	Approved
<b>Connectivity and Mobility</b>		
Minimum Parking	10	10
<b>Quality Building and Site Design</b>		
Architectural Elevations	20	10
Exceptional Design	10	5
<b>Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment</b>		
Cool Roof	10	5
Energy Conservation and Generation	15	15
Recycling Facility Plan	10	5
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>50 (required)</b>	<b>50</b>

## CONNECTIVITY AND MOBILITY

### Minimum Parking

The Applicant requests 10 points for providing fewer than the maximum allowed number of parking spaces. Points for this incentive are granted on a sliding scale from no points for providing maximum allowable number of on-site spaces to 10 points for providing no more than the minimum number of spaces on-site. The Applicant is providing even fewer than the minimum parking spaces as outlined in the Zoning Code and received a parking waiver to allow



the provision of 12 spaces as part of the approved Conditional Use for the Subject Property. The Planning Board supports and hereby awards 10 points for this category.

## QUALITY BUILDING AND SITE DESIGN

### Architectural Elevations

The Applicant requests 10 points for Architectural Elevations. The Project proposes to reinvest in the existing building architecture. The revised building architecture features a modern, new corner element, to emphasize the main visitor entrance. This element utilizes unique geometry to add interest and depth to the existing façade. The front façade of the existing building incorporates fiber cement siding with a natural wood appearance to provide warmth, which is designed to contrast with the dark charcoal elements expressed through the aluminum surrounds. Furthermore, the existing brightly colored opaque roll-up doors facing the front on the ground floor have been removed to provide a more neutral appearance. The loading doors along the front façade will be substantially screened by the cantilevered building addition. The storefront glass will remain at the front main entrance, which will create an inviting and activated expression, with ample ground-floor transparency.

Per CR Incentive Density Guidelines, 10 points is appropriate for development that provides and is bound by architectural elevations as part of the Certified Site Plan. The Applicant agrees to be bound by the following design parameters:

- Minimum of 12% transparency along the front elevation at the upper floor;
- Maximum of 30-foot separation between operable doors on existing building, facing New Hampshire Avenue; and
- Maximum front building setback of approximately 28 feet and maximum height of 49.5 feet along New Hampshire Avenue, consistent with recommendations of the Design Guidelines.

The Planning Board supports and hereby awards 10 points for this category.

### Exceptional Design

The Applicant is seeking 5 points for Exceptional Design. The Applicant's reinvestment in the existing building will significantly elevate the appearance of the Property and hopefully serve as a catalyst for other nearby reinvestment and redevelopment. The Project meets the criterion established by the Zoning Ordinance and the Commercial/Residential and Employment Incentive Density Implementation Guidelines for Exceptional Design, as discussed below:

- Providing innovative solutions in response to the immediate context;

The existing self-storage facility has a very plain and somewhat sterile expression, with muted exterior colors that appear to the naked eye as a big concrete block, with bright colored, opaque metal roll-up doors at the base of this prominent frontage. This industrial looking architecture, and significant building setback, fails to activate the street, or contribute toward the goals of the Master Plan, which, in part, seeks to revitalize the commercial properties within the White Oak Center.

The existing self-storage use will remain unchanged. Additionally, given the internal configuration of the existing building, which will remain unchanged by the Application (e.g. elevator location and need for two points of access, given the length of the existing building), the existing parking and loading at the front of the site must remain. Nonetheless, the Applicant has developed a creative solution that will allow the Applicant to bring the building up to the street, in line with the goals of the County and Master Plan, while still accommodating the existing site constraints. This front building expansion will help to define and activate the pedestrian environment along this prominent frontage.

- Enhancing the public realm in a distinct and original manner;

The Subject Application will significantly enhance the public realm. The Applicant proposes to construct a third-floor elevated addition that will bring the building up to the street and visually conceal the necessary parking and loading in front of the building. The Subject Application will also provide new landscaping and seating opportunities along New Hampshire Avenue, to further enhance the streetscape and provide passive public gathering space. This, in combination with the substantial façade modifications to the existing building, will significantly transform and revitalize the site and the public realm.

- Introducing materials, forms, or building methods unique to the immediate vicinity or applied in a unique way;

With the goals of the Master Plan in mind, the Applicant is proposing to transform the existing building by redesigning the existing façade with new materials and building forms, to provide a more engaging and warm expression. The existing expressionless building will be updated to provide new massing proportions between the existing three-story building and the new elevated third-floor addition. The street frontage of the existing building and the new addition will introduce a variety of a new, modern color palette and textures. The use of wood-tone siding will provide warmth, which will be juxtaposed against charcoal aluminum metal panels. The use of masonry, steel, and glass as additional materials will aid in the updated building design.

- Designing compact, infill development so living, working and shopping environments are more pleasurable and desirable on a problematic site; and

The Property is a long narrow lot, the rear of which is currently used for vehicular storage. The Subject Application proposes to provide infill development on this challenging site, through the construction of a new self-storage building at the rear of the Property. This expanded self-storage facility will better serve the surrounding community and will be more compatible with the surrounding neighborhood, as compared to the existing vehicular storage lot.

- Integrating low-impact development methods into the overall design of the site and building, beyond green building or site requirements.

The Subject Application will significantly improve the treatment of stormwater management on-site, through the introduction of modern stormwater practices. Additionally, the new building will incorporate both cool roof and solar panels.

The Planning Board supports and hereby awards 5 points for this category.

## PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

### Energy Conservation and Generation

The Subject Application will provide solar panels on the roof of the new building that will provide renewable energy generation on-site equivalent to 2.5% of the new building's energy requirements. As such, the Planning Board supports and hereby awards 15 points for this category.

### Cool Roof

In accordance with the CR Incentive Density Guidelines, on sites larger than 1 acre, 5 points is appropriate for constructing any roof area that is not covered with vegetated roof with a minimum solar reflective index (SRI) of 75 for roofs with a slope at or below a ratio of 2:12.

The Planning Board supports and hereby awards 5 points for this category.

### Recycling Facility Plan

The Subject Application proposes to incorporate a recycling plan and facilities that will meet or exceed the Executive Regulations 15-04AM and 18-04. In accordance with the CR Incentive Density requirements, five points are appropriate for developments that meet this requirement. The proposed Recycling Facility Plan has been accepted and approved by the Montgomery

County Department of Environmental Protection – Recycling and Resource Management Division. The Planning Board supports and hereby awards 5 points for this category.

c. General Requirements

i. *Site Access*

Vehicular access will occur via the existing driveway access on New Hampshire Avenue (MD 650). Pedestrian access will also be made off New Hampshire Avenue (MD 650) utilizing the improved ten-foot-wide sidewalk which will be separated from the street with a six-foot-wide landscaped buffer. The existing six-foot-wide on-street bicycle lane will remain. However, as conditioned, the Applicant will make a payment-in-lieu for an 11-foot-wide separated bikeway to be constructed as either a Capital Improvement Project or as part of adjacent redevelopment. The Subject Application does not preclude the future bicycle facilities from being implemented.

The 2014 White Oak Master Plan identifies a through-block connection between Lockwood Drive to the north and the FDA campus located to the south. To comply with this Master Plan connection, the Applicant is providing a covenant for future dedication of a 15-foot-wide easement at the rear of the property, along the Subject Property's eastern edge to allow for a future through-block connection. This is consistent with the previously approved Conditional Use and Local Map Amendment applications.

ii. *Parking, Queuing, and Loading*

Within the Site, a drive aisle will provide vehicular circulation between the two parking and loading areas. The first parking and loading area is located under the cantilevered expansion of the existing building. The second parking and loading area is located between the existing building and the proposed second building.

A total of twelve parking spaces and five loading spaces will be provided, including two ADA spaces. This is fewer spaces than the minimum parking requirements for the land use under the Zoning Code. However, the Hearing Examiner approved a 13-space Parking Waiver pursuant to Section 59.6.2.10 as part of the approved Conditional Use application (CU202302), allowing the Applicant to provide 12 parking spaces and 5 loading spaces on site. The proposed parking is also in compliance with condition number 5 of approved Conditional Use CU202302, requiring a minimum of 12 parking spaces and five loading spaces on site.

iii. *Open Space and Recreation*

Pursuant to Sections 59.5.3.5.D.2.b and 59.4.5.4.B.1.a, based on the Property's tract area and number of existing and proposed right-of-way frontages, no open space is required to be provided on-site. The project will provide enhanced landscaping and seating opportunities along New Hampshire Avenue, which will serve as a passive gathering space for the community and

significantly enhance the pedestrian environment.

iv. *General Landscaping and Outdoor Lighting*

The Subject Application's landscaping and lighting meets all requirements of the Zoning Code.

e. *The development satisfies the applicable requirements of Chapters 19 and 22A of the Montgomery County Code.*

a. Chapter 19, Erosion, Sediment Control, and Stormwater Management

A Stormwater Concept Plan was approved by the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services on May 22, 2023. The plan will meet stormwater management requirements using micro-bio planter boxes and a request for a waiver.

b. Chapter 22A, Forest Conservation

The Board finds that as conditioned the Forest Conservation Plan complies with the requirements of the Forest Conservation Law.

The total net tract area for forest conservation purposes includes the tract area of 2.622 acres and 0.11 acres of off-site disturbance for a total of 2.73 acres. The Property is zoned CRTF-2.5, C-2.25, R-1.5, H-200' and is a commercial development. The Property contains no forest but there is a 0.41-acre afforestation requirement as calculated in the Forest Conservation Worksheet. The afforestation requirement will be met off-site in a forest bank or by payment of fee-in-lieu.

f. *The development provides safe, well-integrated parking, circulation patterns, building massing, and where required, open spaces and site amenities.*

The project provides safe, adequate and efficient vehicular, pedestrian, and bicyclist access, circulation, and parking and loading. Vehicular access to the Site will occur off New Hampshire Avenue (MD 650) via an existing access point. Within the Site, a drive aisle will provide vehicular circulation between the two parking and loading areas. The first parking and loading area is located under the cantilevered expansion of the existing building. The second parking and loading area is located between the existing building and the proposed second building. Bicycle and pedestrian access will be made using the improved frontage on New Hampshire Avenue (MD 650).

g. *The development substantially conforms to the recommendations of the applicable master plan and any guidelines approved by the Planning Board that implement the applicable plan.*

The Subject Property is within the 2014 White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan area.

The proposed expansion of the existing self-storage use was found to have been compliant with this Master Plan as part of the review and approval of the Local Map Amendment and Conditional Use for the property. The Subject Application is wholly consistent with what was previously approved, and the proposal continues to be in compliance with the Master Plan. The Master Plan's vision states that "reimagining existing centers – and providing a framework for reinvestment – is vital to the community's longevity". The Master Plan also envisions redevelopment that enhances "the entire area's quality of life, appearance, walkability, and sense of place." The Subject Application is designed to comply with this vision by reinvesting in an existing property in a way that will significantly improve the property's appearance and streetscape.

Given the demand for self-storage facilities, the existing use will remain for the foreseeable future, in any scenario. The Subject Application allows for the expansion and reinvestment in the existing improvements on-site, which accomplishes several of the goals of the Master Plan which are focused on physical improvements within the White Oak Center. The proposed exterior improvements will enhance the aesthetics of the Subject Property by elevating the building architecture and improving the building's relationship with the street.

The Subject Application also proposes environmental improvements in accordance with the Master Plan. The Master Plan recommends that imperviousness be reduced and that stormwater management be added to areas that currently lack treatment. The project will provide stormwater management where it does not currently exist through on-site micro-bioretenement planters. The imperviousness of the project will remain approximately the same, and the self-storage buildings will incorporate cool roofs and solar panels.

The Subject Application is also in compliance with the connectivity goals of the Master Plan. The front building addition will bring the building mass up to the street to define and enhance the streetscape. This, in combination with the landscaping and seating proposed along the Property frontage, will significantly improve the pedestrian experience. The Applicant will also record a covenant for future dedication of a 15-foot-wide trail easement, allowing the connection to be realized if and when the properties to the north redevelop and the FDA permits this connectivity. The *2014 White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan* included this recommendation as a future pedestrian connection, and does not call for this connection to be a vehicular connection or transit connection.

- h. The development will be served by adequate public services and facilities, including schools, police and fire protection, water, sanitary sewer, public roads, storm drainage, and other public facilities.*

The public facilities will be adequate to accommodate the proposed development. The

Traffic Statement submitted with the Conditional Use application demonstrates that the Project will result in fewer than 50 net new peak hour person trips.

Additionally, in accordance with the 2020-2024 Growth and Infrastructure Policy, a transportation impact study is not required to satisfy the LATR test because projects within the White Oak Policy Area are exempt from the LATR but are subject to a Local Area Transportation Improvement Program (LATIP). By virtue of this exemption, the transportation portion of the Growth and Infrastructure policy is satisfied and Adequate Public Facilities exist to serve this site. The Adequate Public Facilities validity period for the Project will be five years from the mailing date of the Planning Board Resolution. The Applicant will pay a fee per their assumed impact based on trip generation, to the satisfaction of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), which operates the LATIP program, prior to the issuance of building permit.

The Project has no residential component and as such, will have no impact on school facilities. The Property already is served by existing water and sewer. The Property is located within water and sewer categories W-1 and S-1. Water and sewer needs are expected to be met by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission ("WSSC") through connections to the existing water and sewer lines. WSSC will evaluate the water and sewer capacity through a Hydraulic Planning Analysis in connection with the building permit. There is a new water service connection and new sanitary service connection planned for the new self-storage building proposed at the rear of the Property. The existing water and sanitary service to the existing building will be reconfigured to accommodate the front building addition. Electric, gas and telecommunications services will also be available. Other public facilities and services including police stations, firehouses, and health care facilities are currently operating in accordance with the Growth and Infrastructure Policy and will continue to be sufficient following completion of the Project expansion.

- i. *The development is compatible with existing and approved or pending adjacent development.*

The Project has been designed to ensure that it is compatible with, and not detrimental to, existing and future development surrounding the Property. Consistent with previous approvals, the Project will have a maximum height of 55 feet. The new self-storage building proposed at the rear of the property has a rear setback of 15 feet from the property line, which results in a minimum of 42 feet and a maximum of 109 feet between the rear self-storage building and the adjacent garden apartments. The compatibility requirements of Section 59.4.1.8 do not apply to the Property because it does not abut an Agricultural, Rural Residential, Residential Detached, or Residential Townhouse zone. The abutting property to the east is zoned R-20, which is a Residential Multifamily zone.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution incorporates by reference all evidence of record, including maps, drawings, memoranda, correspondence, and other information; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Site Plan shall remain valid as provided in Montgomery County Code § 59-7.3.4.H; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution constitutes the written opinion of the Board in this matter, and the date of this Resolution is

**December 14, 2023**

(which is the date that this resolution is mailed to all parties of record); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any party authorized by law to take an administrative appeal must initiate such an appeal consistent with the Maryland Rules for the judicial review of administrative agency decisions.

\* \* \* \* \*

**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Montgomery County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission on motion of Commissioner Hedrick, seconded by Vice Chair Pedoeem, with a vote of **4-0-1**, Chair Harris, Vice Chair Pedoeem, and Commissioners Hedrick, and Linden, voting in favor of the motion, Commissioner Bartley abstaining, at its regular meeting held on Thursday, November 30, 2023, in Wheaton, Maryland and via video conference.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Artie L. Harris, Chair  
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