

# TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE



## ESSEX GREEN-EXECUTIVE DRIVE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

MAY 1, 2019



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The original of this report was signed and  
sealed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:14A-12.

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## **INTRODUCTION AND PROCESS**

The Essex Green-Executive Drive Redevelopment Area consists of five parcels totaling approximately 62 acres in area including Block 155, Lots 40.02, 40.03, 41.02, 42.02, and Block 155.21, Lot 40 (the "Area"). Three of these parcels Block 155 Lots 40.02, 41.02, and 42.02 are developed with office buildings built between 1971 and 1984. Collectively these properties are known as the Executive Drive Area.

The Essex Green portion of the redevelopment area consists of two parcels located southeast of the Executive Drive Area: Block 155, Lot 40.03, a vacant lot, and Block 155.21, Lot 40, which houses the Essex Green Shopping Center. The shopping center was built in 1957 and was renovated in 1991. Currently, an application is pending before the Township's Zoning Board to renovate portions of the shopping center and construct some new pad site buildings on the property.

On September 19, 2017, the Township Council adopted resolutions 212-17 and 213-17 to direct the West Orange Township Planning Board to investigate these properties to determine if the area qualifies as a non-condemnation area in need of redevelopment per the statutory criteria of the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law (LRHL) *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A, et seq.*

The Township's planner, Paul Grygiel, PP, AICP, of the firm Phillips Preiss, prepared a preliminary investigation report entitled, "Essex Green and Executive Drive Area in Need of Redevelopment Study", dated October 2017 (the "Study"). The Township Planning Board held public hearings on the Study on November 1, 2017, and December 6, 2017. On January 4, 2018, the Planning Board adopted Resolution 18-01, which recommended that the properties be designated as a non-condemnation area in need of redevelopment. The Township Council took action at its January 9, 2018 meeting, designating the Area as in need of redevelopment through resolution 17-18.

Heyer, Gruel and Associates was retained by the Township Council on June 12, 2018 to work with the Township Planning Board to prepare a Redevelopment Plan for the Area.

In September 2018, the Township Council adopted the "300 Executive Drive Redevelopment Plan", which proposed standards for the modernization of the office building on Block 155, Lot 42.01. This Plan is the next step in the process of comprehensively redeveloping the Area.

The Plan contains the elements required by the LRHL, sets forth goals and objectives for the area, and provides use and design standards to govern the redevelopment of the Area in a manner consistent with the Township's goals and objectives.



## STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The Local Redevelopment and Housing Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, et seq.), requires that a redevelopment plan include an outline for the planning, development, redevelopment or rehabilitation of the project area sufficient to indicate:

1. Its relationship to definite local objectives as to appropriate land uses, density of population and improved traffic and public transportation, public utilities, recreational and community facilities and other public improvements;
2. Proposed land uses and building requirements in the project area;
3. Adequate provision for the temporary and permanent relocation as necessary of residents in the project area including an estimate of the extent to which decent, safe and sanitary dwelling units affordable to displaced residents will be available to them in the existing local housing market;
4. An identification of any property within the redevelopment area proposed to be acquired in accordance with the redevelopment plan;
5. Any significant relationship of the redevelopment plan to:
  - a. The Master Plans of contiguous municipalities;
  - b. The Master Plan of the County in which the municipality is located; and
  - c. The State Development and Redevelopment Plan adopted pursuant to the "State Planning Act" P.L. 1985, C398 (C52:18A-196 et al.).
6. As of the date of the adoption of the resolution finding the area to be in need of redevelopment, an inventory of all housing units affordable to low and moderate income households, as defined pursuant to section 4 of P.L. 1985 c.222 (C.52:27D-304), that are to be removed as a result of implementation of the redevelopment plan, whether as a result of subsidies or market conditions listed by affordability level, number of bedrooms, and tenure.
7. A plan for the provision, through new construction or substantial rehabilitation of one comparable, affordable replacement housing unit for each affordable housing unit that has been occupied at any time within the last 18 months, that is subject to affordability controls and that is identified as to be removed as a result of implementation of the redevelopment plan.

This redevelopment plan includes each of these required sections, as applicable, serving as a guide for the redevelopment of the Essex Green-Executive Drive Redevelopment Area in the Township of West Orange.

## **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

### **Location and Description**

The Area consists of five tax parcels in West Orange Township: Block 155, Lot 40.02; Block 155, Lot 40.03; Block 155, 41.02; Block 155, 42.02; and Block 155.21, Lot 40. Current property records indicate that Block 155 Lots 40.02, 41.02, and 42.02 are owned by West Orange Executive Park, and Block 155, Lot 40.03 and Block 155.21, Lot 40 are owned by CLFP Essex Green LLC. The parcels total approximately 62 acres in land area.

The Area is bound by I-280 to the north; Prospect Avenue and Block 155, 40.01 to the east; Block 155 Lots 26.01 and 26.02 to the south; and Block 155 lot 42.01 (300 Executive Drive) to the west. The I-280 and Prospect Avenue interchange provides regional highway access near the Area.

Like much of West Orange Township, the Area is encumbered by steep slopes. 100 and 200 Executive Drive are positioned midway up the hills that define the topography of the Area. Essex Green and Rooney Circle are located at higher ground near Prospect Avenue.

### **Regional Context**

The Township is in central Essex County and is bisected by the Interstate 280 corridor, which runs east to west. The Garden State Parkway is several miles to the east and is the major north-south highway in the region.

The Township is bordered by several municipalities. Livingston, Roseland, and Essex Fells are located to the west, Verona and Montclair are located to the north, the City of Orange is located to the east, and Millburn, Maplewood, and South Orange are located to the South.

The Township is developed with a mix of uses. Residential neighborhoods exist in a mix of densities with single-family homes, townhouse developments, condominium developments, and multi-family developments located in the Township.

Commercial development in the Township includes highway-oriented shopping centers, campus style office parks, and Main Street and neighborhood business districts. Public land and sensitive environmental features, particularly areas with steep slopes are also important to land use patterns in the Township. Turtleback Zoo, the Orange Reservoir, and Eagle Rock Reservation are some of the most prominent open space and recreation areas in the Township.

**Existing Land Use**

The Area is currently developed with office buildings, a shopping center, and surface parking lots. 100 and 200 Executive Drive (Block 155, Lots 40.02 and 42.02), and 10 Rooney Circle (Block 155, Lot 41.02), are occupied by Class C office buildings built between 1971 and 1984.

Block 155, Lot 40.03 is a vacant lot fronting on Rooney Circle. This lot features a narrow strip that runs along the length of Rooney Circle to Prospect Avenue.

Essex Green is a shopping center with an AMC Movie Theater, Shop Rite, Sears Outlet, and Panera, among other retail and restaurant establishments. An application is pending before the Township Zoning Board of Adjustment to permit modifications to the shopping center and the construction of a new drive-through use.

Block 155, Lot 26.02, located south of Essex Green is developed with an LA Fitness gym. A Courtyard by Marriot Hotel is located to the north of Essex Green at the intersection of Rooney Circle and Prospect Avenue. Block 115 Lot 140.04, located between Essex Green and the office building at 10 Rooney Circle, was approved for another hotel by the Zoning Board of Adjustment in 2011 and construction is nearly complete on that project.

Directly south of 100 and 200 Executive Drive are PSE&G transmission lines. A neighborhood of single-family residences

and the Essex Green Villa Condominium development are located south of the PSE&G transmission corridor.

The Villas at Eagle Ridge Townhome development is located across Prospect Avenue to the east.

**Existing Zoning**

The Area is located in two zoning districts. The properties that comprise the Executive Drive portion of the area (Block 155, Lots 40.02, 41.02, and 42.02) are in the OB-1 Office Buildings Zone, and the properties that are part of the Essex Green portion of the area (Block 155, Lot 40.03, and Block 155.21, Lot 40) are in the P-C Planned Commercial District.

**OB-1 Office Building District**

The following are the standards for the OB-1 District:

*Permitted Principal Uses*

- One-Family, Detached Dwelling
- Water Reservoir, Well Tower, Filter Bed
- Federal, State, County or Township Building
- Golf Course or Golf Course House
- Farm, Nursery, Greenhouse and Similar Uses
- Hospital
- Office Buildings

*Permitted Accessory Uses*

- Required Accessory Parking

- Signs

#### *Permitted Conditional Uses*

- Commercial Recreation
- Public School
- Private School
- Library
- Museum
- Park or Playground
- Public Utility Building or Structure
- Telephone Exchange
- Private Club, Other than a Golf Club
- House of Worship
- Nursing Home
- Long-term Care Residential Health Care Facility
- Congregate Care Facility
- Assisted Living
- Commercial Antenna
- Check Cashing Facility

#### *OB-1 District Bulk Requirements*

| <b>Bulk Standard</b>      | <b>Requirement</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Minimum lot area          | 10,000 SF          |
| Minimum lot area / unit   | 6,000 SF           |
| Minimum lot width         | 60 feet            |
| Minimum front yard        | 30 feet            |
| Minimum side yards        | 10 feet + 8 feet   |
| Minimum rear yard         | 30 feet            |
| Maximum building coverage | 40%                |
| Maximum lot coverage      | 50%                |

#### *Additional Standards*

- Retail sales or service permitted as an accessory use in the OB-1 District shall be an integral part of the permitted building, shall be limited to sales or services designed for the convenience of the employees, visitors and tenants of the permitted building and no goods, advertisements or other evidence of such sales or services shall be visible

from the street. Such use shall not consist of more than 15 percent of the total first floor area in the OB-1 District and shall be designated on the preliminary site plan.

- In the OB-1 District, one square foot of open space shall be provided for each square foot of building area except that no more than 40 percent of the lot in the OB-1 District may be covered by buildings or structures. Off-street parking areas are not permitted within open space areas, except for "overflow" parking spaces that are specifically approved by the Planning or Zoning Board and are constructed in a manner acceptable to the Township Engineer. Furthermore, no accessory structure of off-site parking area shall be located within the required front yard no closer than 25 feet to the side or rear property lines in the OB-1 District.

#### **P-C Planned Commercial**

The following are the standards for the P-C District:

#### *Permitted Principal Uses*

- Retail Store
- Personal service store or studio
- Restaurant
- Bar
- Motor vehicle fueling station
- Post Office

- Civic center, limited to assembly hall and non-commercial indoor recreation facilities
- Theater on lots of 8-acre minimum

#### *Permitted Accessory Uses*

- Required Accessory Parking
- Required Accessory truck loading spaces
- Private garage
- Signs

#### *Permitted Conditional uses*

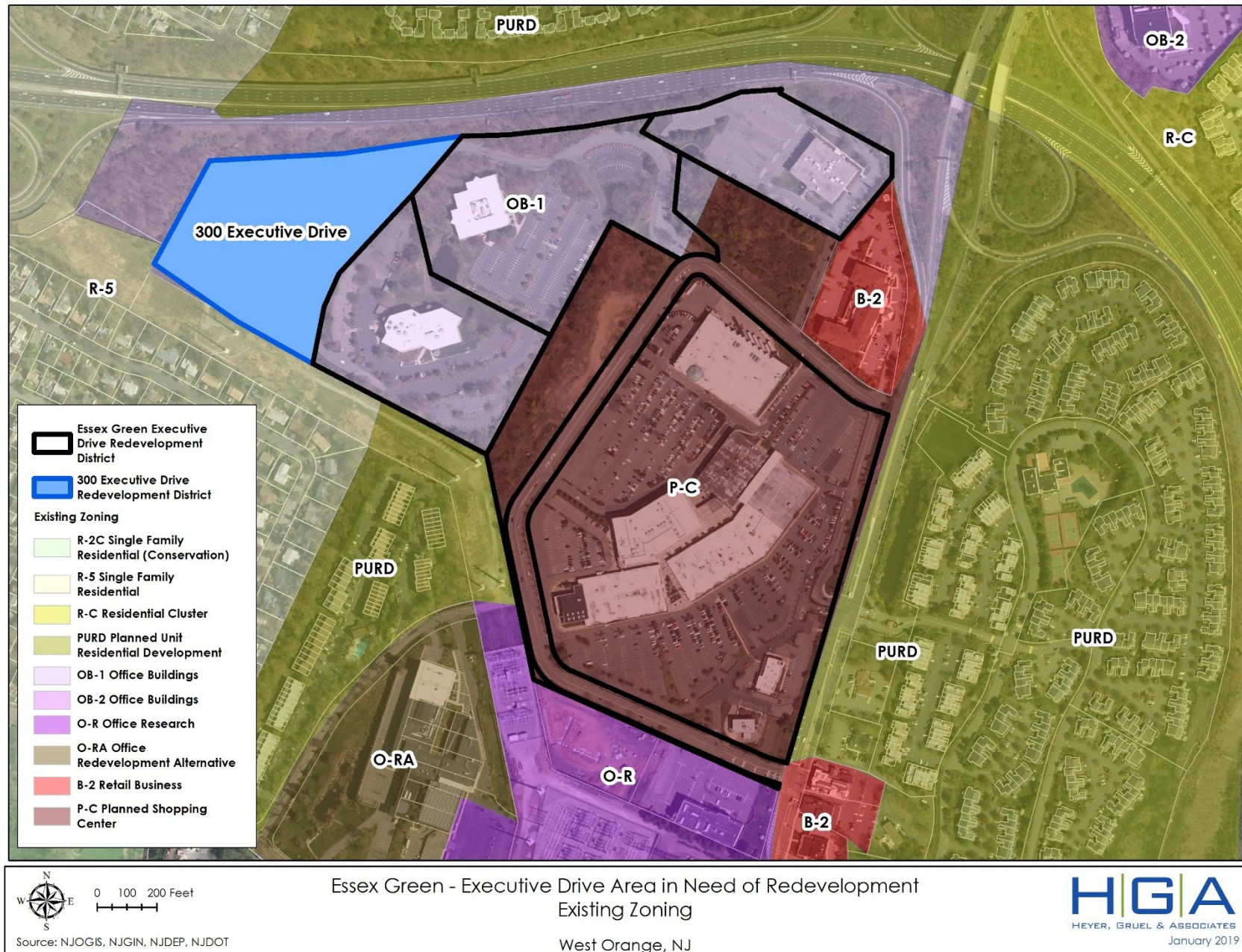
- Video or amusement arcade
- Commercial Antenna

#### *Bulk Requirements*

| <b>Bulk Standard</b>            | <b>Requirement</b>                                  |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Minimum lot area                | 8 Acres                                             |
| Minimum lot area/unit           | n/a                                                 |
| Minimum lot width               | None                                                |
| Minimum front yard              | 300 feet                                            |
| Minimum side yard (corner)      | 100 feet                                            |
| Minimum side yards              | 75 feet + 75 feet<br>100 feet adjacent to residence |
| Minimum rear yard               | 75 feet<br>100 feet adjacent to residence           |
| Maximum building coverage       | 20%                                                 |
| Maximum lot coverage            | 75%                                                 |
| Minimum Space Between Buildings | 150 feet                                            |
| Maximum building height         | 2.5 stories/35 feet                                 |

#### *Additional Standards*

- Mixed Uses and multiple principal uses on one lot shall be permitted in the P-C District.
- In a P-C District, every building or group of buildings shall make adequate provisions for the proper disposal of wastes within a screened enclosure.
- Indoor Storage and Loading. In a P-C district, no visible display of waste, trash, scrap or material of any kind shall be permitted except that items offered for sale may be displayed in accordance with an overall plan to be included as part of the preliminary site plan, and in such districts, provisions shall be made for properly enclosed truck loading areas and bays located entirely within the structure.
- Shopping Centers. There shall be only one grouping of free-standing signs identifying various businesses within the center. Individual standing signs are prohibited.



## REDEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

### SUBURBAN OFFICE MARKET

For several decades, New Jersey's economy and employment base grew substantially through the construction of suburban office parks. The majority of these facilities, built during the 1980s and 1990s predate modern technological and infrastructure needs. Facilities of this vintage are often physically outdated and located in suburban communities near highway interchanges or along highway corridors.

The most recent Rutgers Regional Report, dated October 2017, written by James Hughes and Will Irving, outlines ongoing trends in the New Jersey economy. The report discusses the change over the last 10 to 15 years of increased development in the metropolitan cores and contraction in suburban areas. Demographic changes, consumer preferences, and the nature of many industries has changed and reduced the demand for suburban office corridors and their aging infrastructure. In order to stay competitive, office buildings that were built for a singular narrow focus need to become more flexible and attractive to the modern economy and its new generation of employees.<sup>1</sup>

The existing office buildings located at 100 and 200 Executive Drive and 10 Rooney Circle were all built between 1971 and

1978, and are rated as Class C Office space, which is not well positioned to compete in the oversaturated office market described in the Rutgers report.

Office Building Class Definitions: Office space is grouped into three classes ranked A through C. The rating system looks at factors including rent, building finishes, system standards and efficiency, building amenities, location/accessibility, and market perception. The scale is a subjective system that is meant to rate the competitiveness and desirability of the space in question.

- Class A buildings have the highest rents, are geographically accessible, and have state of the art systems, modern amenities, and high-quality finishes. These are new or recently upgraded facilities.
- Class B buildings are generally fair to good for the area and have adequate building systems. The rents for these buildings are generally in the average range.
- Class C buildings are identified as merely functional space that can secure below average rents in the area.

(Source: BOMA International  
[www.boma.org/research/pages/building-class-definitions.aspx](http://www.boma.org/research/pages/building-class-definitions.aspx))

<sup>1</sup> "Rutgers Regional Report – Issue Paper No. 38 "New Jersey's Economic Roller Coaster" p.20-25  
<https://rucore.libraries.rutgers.edu/rutgers-lib/54266/PDF/1/play/>

### *SHOPPING CENTER LAYOUT*

In addition to the outdated office uses, the Essex Green shopping center was built in 1957 and was last renovated in 1991. As outlined in the Study, many of the retail units are outdated by today's retail standards, with particularly long and awkward layouts with two main entrances located at both ends of the units. The shopping center was also designed with a large, centrally located courtyard which is rarely utilized by pedestrians and store patrons. Many of the vacant units have outdated mechanical equipment and HVAC systems that are in need of replacement and renovation.

Moreover, the shopping center's loading system consists of one loading dock that connects to a network of tunnels in which the goods are unloaded and then distributed throughout the shopping center. Even though each retail unit has a basement to receive deliveries, most of the tenants do not use the central loading dock and instead take in deliveries in the front of the building where it is more convenient for trucks. However, the shopping center was not designed for tenants to take deliveries in the front of the units, creating potential conflicts between delivery trucks and pedestrians and passenger vehicles.

This current layout and delivery setup may be undesirable for potential tenants. While the shopping center does host some major tenants including Shop Rite, Sears Outlet, Total Wine and More, AMC Theatres, and Panera, the presence of vacant units,

poor site layout, and antiquated building facilities present long-term barriers to the economic success of the Essex Green shopping center.

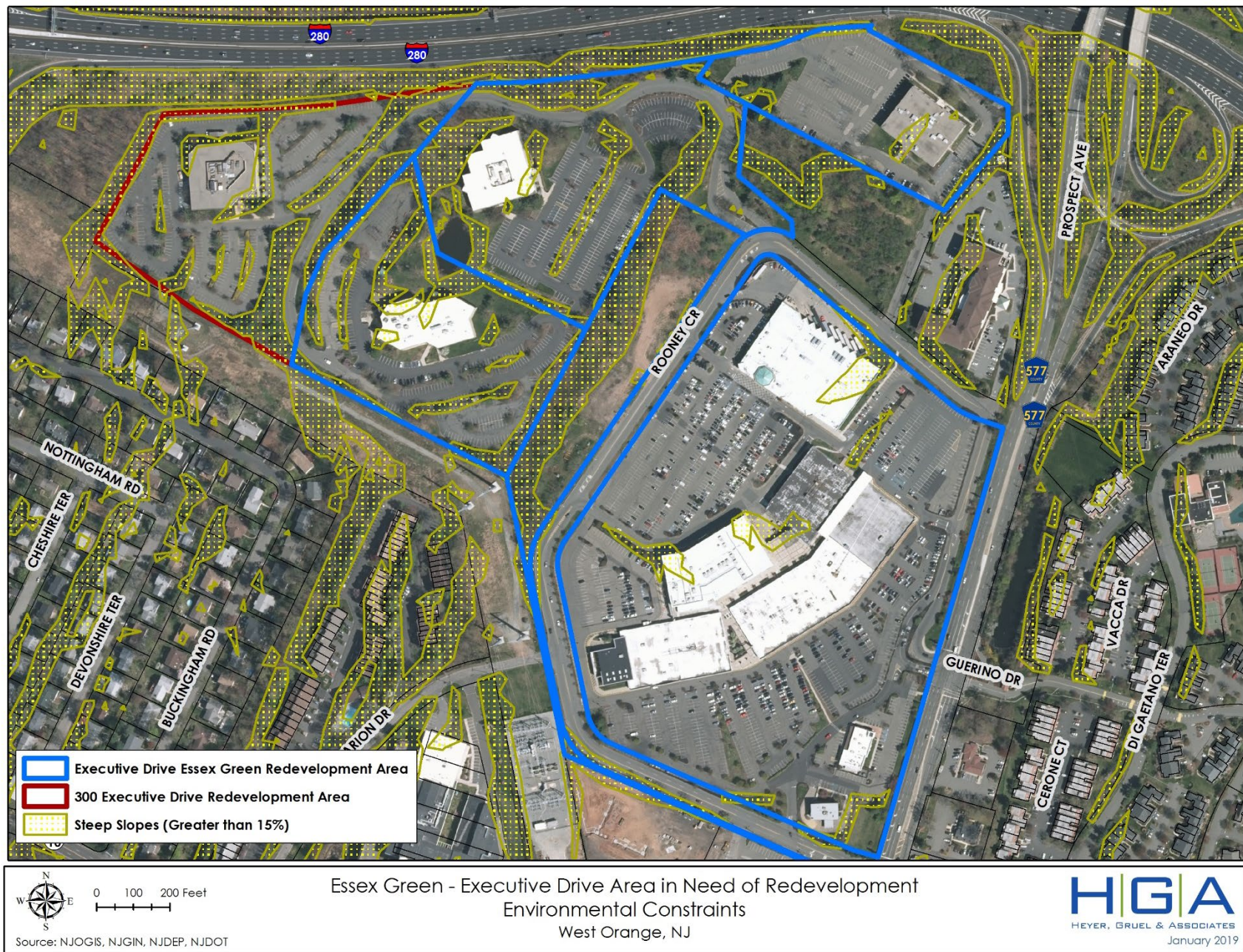


Essex Green Shopping Center June 29, 2018

### *STEEP SLOPES*

The principal environmental constraint to development in the Area is the presence of steep slopes. With the exception of Block 155 Lot 40.03, the other sites have been previously developed and portions of those properties have been re-graded. The Township Land Use Regulations are explicit about seeking to minimize disturbance within steeply sloped areas. A goal of any redevelopment project undertaken as part of this Plan is to focus development within areas that have been previously disturbed and to avoid additional disturbance within the most steeply sloped portions of the Area. Protection of these sensitive environmental areas is an objective of the Township's planning documents that this Plan seeks to reinforce.

The figure on the following page shows areas that have slopes that have been calculated to be in excess of 15%. Future applications for site plan approval will be required to quantify the steeply sloped areas on site, indicate if disturbance is proposed, and attempt to limit and mitigate the impacts of any disturbance that is deemed necessary.



**PLAN PRINCIPLES, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES***PRINCIPLES*

The Township seeks to utilize the tools offered through the LRHL to enter into a partnership with one or more designated redevelopers in order to successfully reimagine the Area as a mixed-use hub of activity that brings together residences, jobs, shopping, activities, and municipal services in an integrated setting.

*GOALS*

The overall goal of the Plan is to develop each of the component districts with a complementary blend of uses in a well-integrated manner.

The existing office buildings at 100 and 200 Executive Drive are anticipated to be redeveloped into a multifamily residential development, with a percentage of units set aside to meet a portion of the Township's affordable housing obligation. As part of the redevelopment of the Executive Drive portion of the Area, it is anticipated that a dog park will be constructed for public use.

The office building at 10 Rooney Circle is intended to remain in its current form, with modifications and upgrades as necessary, with the long-term goal of blending office space with a mix of municipal services within the building and on the site.

The Essex Green shopping center is in the process of being updated and modernized. The Plan encourages improvements to the shopping center and welcomes a mix of new tenants that will maximize the property's potential as a regional destination.

Finally, the Plan proposes developing Block 155, Lot 40.03 (currently vacant) into a mixed-use commercial and residential building that will be able to take advantage of the density of commercial uses, municipal services, and amenities in the Area.

*OBJECTIVES*

- Promote a mix of housing options accessible to households of all income levels through the construction of new multifamily units.
- Improve the viability and utilization of the land with a mix of multifamily housing, office, commercial, and municipal uses while also taking into account the environmental constraints of the site.
- Enhance Township services by providing new facilities into which departments may relocate or expand.
- Provide a public amenity in the form of a public dog park.
- Preserve and renovate existing retail and restaurant uses and encourage an influx of new tenants at the Essex Green Shopping Center to provide services, activities, and shopping to surrounding residential and office users.

- Provide internal pedestrian paths and sidewalks as a recreational amenity and a practical link between the office, residential, and retail components envisioned for the Area.
- Promote pedestrian safety through the application of complete streets principles and well-designed crossings and sidewalks.
- Encourage links to transit by capitalizing on the existing bus service and providing a flexible shuttle service.
- Reduce impervious coverage to allow for a reduction of stormwater runoff and increased groundwater recharge.
- Encourage sustainable development practices through incorporation of green infrastructure and other stormwater management BMPs.
- Promote sustainable and efficient energy usage through green building techniques.
- Focus on the protection and preservation of sensitive steep slopes and existing wooded areas to maximize the natural beauty of the site and prevent environmental degradation.

**RELATIONSHIP OF THE PLAN TO TOWNSHIP LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS**

This Plan shall constitute an overlay zoning district for the Area. At the time of development application, the developer may opt to utilize either the standards contained in this plan or the standards of the applicable underlying zoning district.

When utilizing the standards in this redevelopment plan, Township regulations affecting development that are in conflict are superseded by this Plan. Existing engineering standards, performance standards, and definitions shall apply. At the time of site plan application, Environmental Impact, Community Impact, and Traffic Impact Statements shall be required.

No deviations from the overlay standards may be granted which will result in permitting a use that is not a permitted use within this Redevelopment Plan. Any deviation from standards of this Plan that results in a "d" variance pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70d shall be addressed as an amendment to the Plan rather than via variance relief through the Township's Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Any deviations from bulk and other specific standards shall require "c" variance relief. The Planning Board shall have the power to grant relief to the same extent as the Board may grant relief from bulk and dimensional requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70.c.

An application requesting a deviation from the requirements of this Redevelopment Plan shall provide public notice of such application in accordance with the public notice requirement set forth in N.J.S.A. 40:55D-12a.&b.

The Planning Board may grant exceptions or waivers from design standards for site plan or subdivision approval as may be reasonable and within the general purpose and intent of the provisions for site plan review and/or subdivision approval within the Plan. The Board may grant exceptions or waivers if it is determined that the literal enforcement of one or more provisions of the Plan is impracticable or would exact undue hardship because of peculiar conditions pertaining to the site. No deviations may be granted under the terms of this section unless such deviations can be granted without resulting in substantial detriment to the public good and will not substantially impair the intent and purpose of the Redevelopment Plan and Master Plan.

All development must be approved by the Planning Board and shall be submitted through the normal site plan and subdivision procedures as identified in the Township Ordinance and by N.J.S.A. 40:55D, et seq.

Final adoption of this Redevelopment Plan by the Township Council shall be considered an amendment to the Township Zoning Ordinance and Official Zoning Map.

**LAND USE PLAN**

The Plan proposes the following land use districts:

- Executive Drive Multifamily Residential
- Rooney Circle Mixed-Use
- 10 Rooney Circle Office / Municipal Use
- Essex Green Shopping Center

Each of the land use districts and their standards are described in detail in the following pages.

**Standards Applicable to All Districts***Affordable Housing*

To further the Township's Master Plan goals, and to comply with the spirit of the Fair Housing Act and ongoing affordable housing settlement negotiations, all residential developments within the Redevelopment Area shall provide a set-aside of affordable housing units in accordance with the following standards and the administrative requirements outlined on page 40 of the Plan.

- 15% of rental units shall be affordable family rentals, with a bedroom mix and affordability mix consistent with those mandated by the Uniform Housing Affordability Controls (UHAC).
- 20% of for-sale units shall be affordable with a bedroom mix and affordability mix consistent with UHAC.

*Minimum Parking Requirements*

- Residential – All residential parking shall be provided in accordance with the Residential Site Improvement Standards (RSIS N.J.A.C. 5:21):

|                     |                                                                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Townhouse           | 1 BR – 1.8 / dwelling unit (DU)<br>2 BR – 2.3 / DU<br>3 BR – 2.4 / DU |
| Low-Rise / Mid-Rise | 1 BR – 1.8 / DU<br>2 BR – 2.0 / DU<br>3 BR – 2.1 / DU                 |

- Non-Residential – Parking for non-residential uses shall be provided based on Parking Schedule II in Section 25-12.2.b of the Township Ordinance, unless otherwise indicated in this Plan.
- ADA accessible parking including van accessible spaces shall be provided in compliance with ADA standards.
- Shared parking arrangements between uses on properties within 250 feet of each other may be permitted, subject to the approval of the Township and the Planning Board.

*Residential Unit Mix*

- Studios, One-Bedroom, Two-Bedroom, and Three-Bedroom units shall be permitted. No unit shall have more than three bedrooms.

- The number of market rate three-bedroom units in any residential development shall not exceed 20% of the total number of market rate units in the development.

*Minimum Residential Floor Area*

- Studio / Efficiency – 500 square feet
- One Bedroom – 650 square feet
- Two Bedroom – 900 square feet
- Three Bedroom – 1,000 square feet



**Executive Drive Multi-Family Residential District***Purpose:*

The purpose of the Executive Drive Multi-Family Residential District is to permit the redevelopment of the existing office buildings at 100 and 200 Executive Drive into a multi-family residential development. The district is approximately 18.3 acres in area. The envisioned development will consist of one or more types of multi-family housing in multiple buildings with an affordable set-aside. The redevelopment is also intended to include the provision of a public dog park as an amenity for the neighborhood and community at large.

*Principal Permitted Uses*

- Multifamily residential dwellings
- Townhouse residential dwellings
- Public Dog Park

*Permitted Accessory Uses*

- Parking, including parking structures
- Signage
- Uses customarily incidental to the principal use

*Bulk Standards*

|                                                          |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Minimum Lot Area                                         | 80,000 SF |
| Minimum Setback to Block 155, Lot 26.01 (PSE&G Property) | 15 feet   |
| Min. Setback to Block 155, Lot 40.03                     | 15 feet   |
| Min. Setback to Block 155 Lot 40.04                      | 75 feet   |

|                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Min. Setback to all other lots / rights-of-way      | 0 feet                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Maximum Building Height                             | Four (4) Habitable Stories (Parking structures and Garages are excluded from the calculation of habitable stories, but in no case may any parking structure exceed the height of the principal structure to which it is adjacent or attached)* |
| Maximum Residential Gross Density (Entire District) | 24 Units per Acre                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Maximum Lot (Impervious) Coverage                   | 65%**                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

\*Architectural features such as pitched roofs, gables, domes, steeples, etc. shall be permitted. Projections for roof equipment shall be permitted provided they are screened with a solid or decorative shield and do not exceed fifteen (15') feet in height above the roof deck.

\*\*Where permeable paving systems are proposed, subject to the approval of the Township Engineer, the areas with permeable paving shall be calculated as 75% impervious. For instance, a parking area and plaza paved with a permeable paving system that equals 20% of the lot area shall be calculated as 15% impervious coverage for purposes of the maximum coverage calculation as it pertains to these district standards.

*Additional Standards*

- Area for a public dog park shall be provided within the district, either as a standalone lot or as part of a development site. The lot area devoted to the dog park, inclusive of parking, landscaping, buffer areas, and surrounding natural features, shall consist of a minimum of 80,000 square feet and shall be constructed by the redeveloper at its sole cost and expense. The design of the dog park shall be reviewed and approved by the Township Council.
  - A subdivision may be necessary to create a lot for the development of the dog park.
  - The dog park shall include sufficient areas to accommodate large and small dogs.
  - The dog park area shall include a minimum of fifty (50) parking spaces.
- Applications for development shall provide topographic data, the location of existing trees, and demonstrate compliance with the Township's Steep Slope and Natural Features Ordinance (Section 25-28) and the Tree Protection and Removal Ordinance (Section 25-27).
- The existing retention basin shall be upgraded and improved to provide an on-site amenity in addition to its function as a storm water management structure.



*Dog Park in Essex County Brookdale Park*

- Amenities including but not limited to one or more community rooms, fitness centers, pools, and outdoor seating areas shall be provided for the use and enjoyment of the residents. At the time of site plan application, details regarding the amenity package shall be presented for review.
- A 15 foot buffer area consisting of a mix of deciduous and evergreen plantings and a six (6') foot tall solid fence shall be provided along the property line adjacent to Block 155, Lot 26.01.
- Structured parking shall be designed using compatible or complementary materials to the principal building(s).

All voids in the structures shall be screened using architectural elements, green screens, scrims or other features so that lights and vehicles are not individually visible.

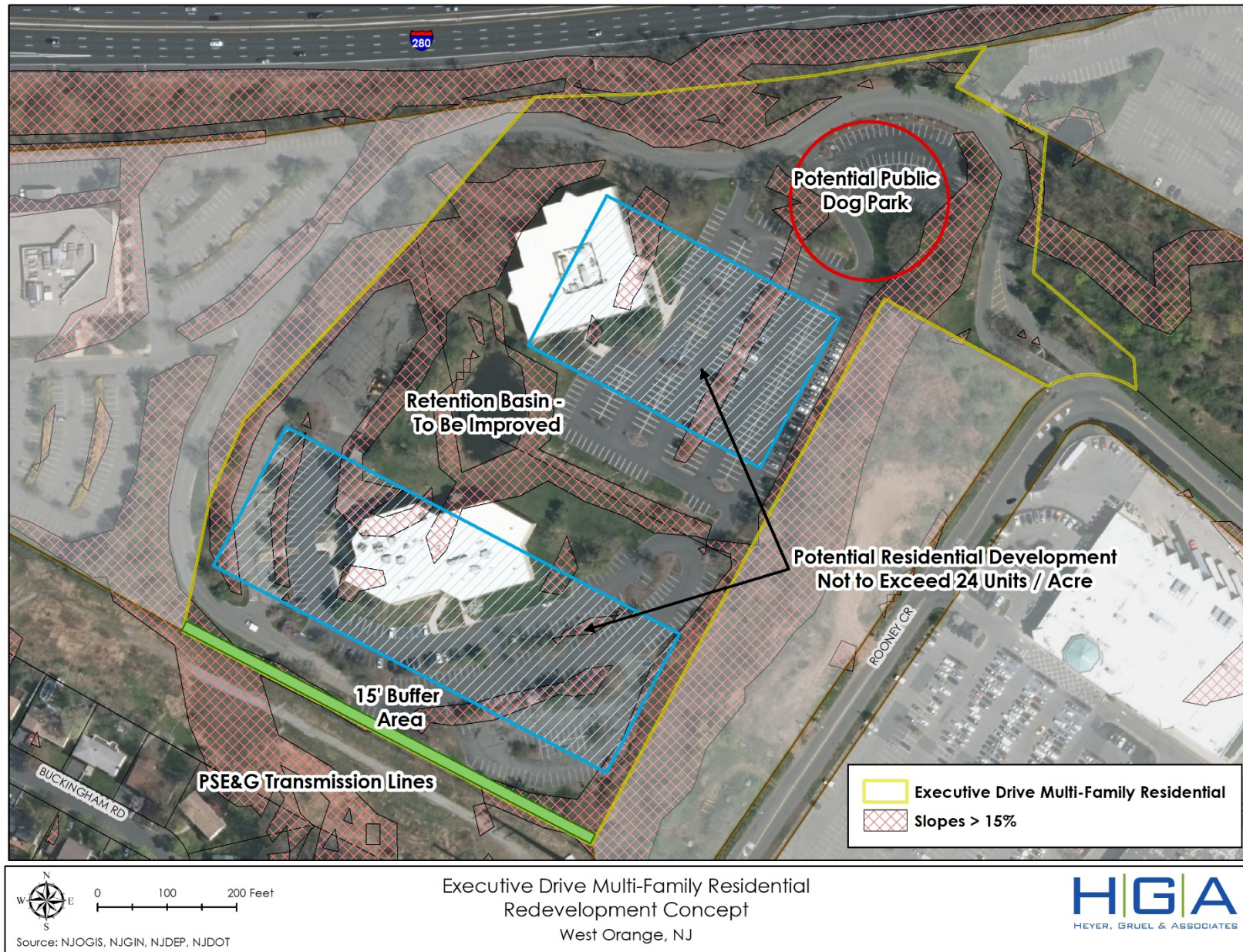
- The internal circulation for the district is shared with the adjacent 300 Executive Drive and 10 Rooney Circle properties. Modifications to the driveways and internal circulation system may be necessary. The existing access easements shall be preserved and/or updated as needed.
- The West Orange Jitney shuttle service provides a commuter link to the Orange, Mountain, and South Orange Train Stations. As part of the redevelopment of the site the Redeveloper shall work with the Township to supplement or expand the Jitney service if necessary. In addition, a shuttle from within the development to the Essex Green Bus Stop shall be provided to coordinate with the Jitney and to provide access to the shopping center and bus at other times of the day.



*West Orange Jitney Shuttle Bus*

#### *Concept*

The figure on page 22 provides a rough conceptual layout of the potential redevelopment scenario overlaid on the existing conditions. Future redevelopment on the site is intended within the previously developed portion of the site, to the extent feasible, in order to minimize the disturbance of steeply sloped areas. The concept illustrates the buffer area, potential building footprints, and the area that may be allocated for the construction of a public dog park. The concept is not binding for the Township or a potential developer, it is merely intended to provide an example of the possible redevelopment outcome.



**Rooney Circle Mixed Use District***Purpose:*

The purpose of the Rooney Circle Mixed Use District is to permit the development of a mixed-use building and associated parking areas on an existing vacant property. The district is approximately 4.7 acres in area. As part of the redevelopment, well-designed pedestrian connections to other properties within the Area, particularly the Essex Green Shopping Center, shall be provided.

*Principal Permitted Uses:*

- Retail Stores
- Personal Service stores or studios
- Offices
- Restaurants and bars
- Banks
- Fitness Centers
- Medical, dental, psychiatric or chiropractic offices
- Multi-family residential dwellings

*Permitted Accessory Uses:*

- Parking
- Signage
- Outdoor dining
- Uses which are customarily incidental to the principal use

*Bulk Standards*

|                                             |                     |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Minimum Lot Size                            | 4 Acres             |
| Minimum Setback to Rooney Circle            | 15 feet             |
| Minimum setback to all other property lines | 20 feet             |
| Maximum Building height                     | 4 Stories, 50 feet* |
| Maximum Residential Gross Density           | 24 units / acre     |
| Maximum (Lot) Impervious Coverage           | 65%                 |

\*Building height shall be measured from the mean finished grade around the building to the roof deck in the case of a flat roof or to the midpoint of the roof in the case of a sloped roof. Projections for roof equipment shall be permitted provided they are screened with a solid or decorative shield and do not exceed fifteen (15') feet in height above the roof deck.

*Additional Standards*

- Applications for development shall provide topographic data and demonstrate compliance with the Township's Steep Slope and Natural Features Ordinance (Section 25-28) and the Tree Protection and Removal Ordinance (Section 25-27).
- Structured parking shall be designed to blend into the architectural character of the building and to be screened from public view.
  - All parking structures shall be designed using compatible or complementary materials to the principal building(s). All voids in the structures

shall be architecturally screened, so that lights and vehicles are not individually visible.

- No blank walls of parking structures shall face Rooney Circle. Any Rooney Circle facing façade shall provide pedestrian interest at ground level through a building lobby, storefront, or other architectural screening / wrapping mechanism.
- Pedestrian connections shall be provided across Rooney Circle to the Essex Green Shopping Center. The connections shall feature pedestrian activated signals, raised or stamped concrete crosswalks or other similar improvements subject to approval by the Township Council, Township Engineer, and Planning Board.
- Amenity space shall be provided as part of any multi-family residential development, consisting of one or more of a community room, a roof deck, a pool, a fitness center, or other similar offering.

#### *Concept*

- The figure on page 25 provides a rough conceptual layout of the potential redevelopment scenario overlaid on the existing conditions. Future development will focus on the portion of the site that is not encumbered by steep slopes. The concept includes a potential four-story building with a footprint of 30,000 – 35,000 square feet which could accommodate a mix of uses as well as a

mix of surface and structured parking. Pedestrian connections between the site and Essex Green are crucial and meant to reinforce the relationship between the properties. The concept is not binding for the Township or a potential developer, it is merely intended to provide an example of the possible redevelopment outcome.



**10 Rooney Circle Office / Municipal Use District***Purpose:*

To allow for the continuation of office uses and provide a future opportunity to relocate or expand municipal services to the area. A mix of leasable office space, municipal office space, and other municipal or public uses is anticipated. The district is approximately 5.2 acres in area.

*Principal Permitted Uses:*

- Offices
- Public / Municipal facilities
- Libraries

*Permitted Accessory Uses*

- Parking
- Equipment and material storage areas associated with municipal facilities and services
- Fuel pumps associated with municipal facilities and services that are not open to the public
- Signage

*Bulk Standards*

|                                                         |                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Minimum Setback for Principal Structure (all lot lines) | 80 feet                                                     |
| Minimum Setback for Accessory Structures                | 20 feet to I-280 ROW<br>50 feet to all other property lines |
| Maximum Building height                                 | 4 stories / 50 feet*                                        |
| Maximum Lot (Impervious) Coverage                       | 80%                                                         |

\*Building height shall be measured from the mean finished grade around the building to the roof deck in the case of a flat roof or to the midpoint of the roof in the case of a sloped roof. Projections for roof equipment shall be permitted provided they are screened with a solid or decorative shield and do not exceed fifteen (15') feet in height above the roof deck.

*Additional Standards:*

- Outdoor storage of materials, equipment or vehicles shall take place in designated areas. Where possible, materials and equipment should be stored within structures and/or screened from public view.

**Essex Green Shopping Center District***Purpose:*

The purpose of the Essex Green Shopping Center District is to enhance the existing shopping center. The current uses and layout are anticipated to remain. Future development of the property may consist of minor expansions, retrofits, and adaptive reuse of existing spaces. The district is approximately 33.6 acres in area.

*Permitted Principal Uses:*

- Retail Stores
- Personal service stores or studios
- Restaurants
- Bars
- Motor vehicle fueling stations
- Post Offices
- Civic centers, limited to assembly hall and non-commercial indoor recreation facilities
- Theaters
- Self-storage facilities in basements of structures existing at the time of adoption of this Plan
- Medical, dental, psychiatric or chiropractic offices
- A maximum of three (3) drive-through facilities, which may include banks, fast food restaurants or pharmacies

*Permitted Accessory Uses*

- Required Accessory Parking

- Required Accessory truck loading spaces
- Private garage
- Signs

*Permitted Conditional uses*

- Video or amusement arcade subject to Ordinance Section 25-24.2.b.2(h)
- Commercial Antenna subject to Ordinance Section 25-24.2.b.2(e)

*Bulk Requirements*

| <b>Bulk Standard</b>               | <b>Requirement</b>                                |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Minimum lot area                   | 8 Acres                                           |
| Minimum Setback to Prospect Avenue | 100 feet                                          |
| Minimum Setback to Rooney Circle   | 20 feet                                           |
| Maximum building coverage          | 25%                                               |
| Maximum lot (Impervious) coverage  | 85%                                               |
| Minimum Space Between Buildings    | 30 feet unless buildings are physically connected |
| Maximum building height            | 3 stories / 45 feet                               |

*Additional Standards*

- Mixed Uses and multiple principal uses on one lot shall be permitted in the Essex Green Shopping Center District.
- In the Essex Green Shopping Center District, every building or group of buildings shall make adequate

provisions for the proper disposal of waste within a screened enclosure.

- Indoor Storage and Loading. In the Essex Green Shopping Center District district, no visible display of waste, trash, scrap or material of any kind shall be permitted except that items offered for sale may be displayed in accordance with an overall plan to be included as part of the preliminary site plan, and in such districts, provisions shall be made for properly enclosed truck loading areas and bays located entirely within the structure.
- Drive-through facilities shall adhere to the following standards:
  - Drive-through lanes shall be physically separated from the traffic circulation system on the site by concrete curbed and landscaped islands with a minimum width of five (5) feet for landscaping.
  - Drive-through lanes shall permit the stacking of a minimum of ten (10) vehicles.
  - There shall be a break in the physical separation to provide a bypass lane to allow vehicles to exit the queue. The location of the bypass lane shall be approved by the Board.

**Design Standards**

The following are site plan design standards. The standard for relief for any deviations from these standards shall be consistent with the MLUL requirements at N.J.S.A 40:55D-51. The design standards are intended to reinforce the physical, visual, and spatial characteristics of the Redevelopment Area. Any elements not covered by these standards shall be subject to the appropriate provisions of the West Orange Land Use Regulations.

*Architectural Design*

- Each building shall have a cohesive architectural design that provides an attractive view from all vantage points. The topography of the Area creates a unique challenge with regard to building design and material choice.
- Exterior walls of buildings shall not have large blank or featureless expanses. Building facades shall be articulated with changes in depth, porches and/or balconies, recessed windows or window bays, and decorative elements.
- All building mechanical equipment and rooftop appurtenances shall be screened in an attractive manner that is consistent with the overall architectural design of the development. Consideration should be given to screening rooftops at lower elevations that may be viewed from above.

- Building facades shall be finished with durable material that differentiates between ground floors and upper floors and provides complementary variation along the façade. EIFS and vinyl siding shall be prohibited.

*Fences and Walls*

- Fences shall not exceed four (4') feet in height in any required setback area abutting a public street.
- Fences shall not exceed six (6') feet in height anywhere else in the Area.
- The finished side of any fence shall face away from the applicant's property.
- Chain link fence, barbed wire, razor wire, and electrical wire fence shall be prohibited.
- Walls shall not exceed four (4') feet in height, except for retaining walls required as part of an approved grading plan, subject to review by the Township Engineer and Planning Board.

*Landscaping*

- Maximum effort should be made to preserve and incorporate into the landscaping plan all existing trees and vegetation within the Area.
- All open space areas shall be landscaped and maintained in an attractive condition with appropriate plant materials.

- Best management practices are encouraged to reduce stormwater runoff and improve groundwater recharge.
- Native species shall be utilized for plantings to the extent feasible. Native plant species can be found at: [http://www.npsnj.org/pages/nativeplants Plant Lists.html](http://www.npsnj.org/pages/nativeplants%20Plant%20Lists.html) and other similar sources.
- Invasive species shall be prohibited. A list of invasive species and non-invasive alternatives can be found at: <https://www.invasive.org/alien/pubs/midatlantic/midatlantic.pdf>
- Landscaping shall be provided around the perimeter of parking areas and within islands and rows separating parking spaces. One (1) tree plus ground level plantings shall be provided for each ten (10) surface parking stalls proposed.

#### *Lighting*

- A lighting plan shall be provided for review by the Planning Board. The proposed level of illumination shall be shown for all areas of the site in either lux or foot-candles.
- Minimum Illumination Levels shall be as follows:
  - Pedestrian Walkways – 6 lux / 0.6 foot-candles
  - Parking Areas – 16 lux / 1.5 foot-candles
  - Streets / Driveways – 6 lux / 0.6 foot-candles
  - Parking Garages – 75 lux / 7.5 foot-candles

- Details shall be provided for all light poles and fixtures.
- All light fixtures shall be LEDs
- All light fixtures shall be shielded to prevent off-site spillage and glare.
- Light poles shall not exceed twenty (20') feet in height or the height of the principal building, whichever is lesser.

#### *Parking and Loading*

The design of off-street parking and loading areas shall comply with the standards in Township Ordinance Section 25-12.1, 25-12.3, and 25-12.4 except as noted below or elsewhere in this Plan:

- Parking spaces shall be setback a minimum of ten (10) feet from the Rooney Circle or I-280 right-of-way and a minimum of twenty-five (25') feet from the Prospect Avenue right-of-way.
- There shall be no required setback for parking spaces adjacent to other properties in the Area or private roadways.
- Bicycle racks shall be provided near the entrances of non-residential and municipal uses.
- Bicycle storage / parking areas are encouraged as an amenity in residential developments.
- Parking structures shall be constructed of compatible and/or complementary materials to the surrounding

buildings to blend architecturally with the remainder of the development.

- The provision of electric vehicle charging stations and spaces is encouraged within structured parking facilities and surface lots. Where demand is uncertain, providing adaptable electrical infrastructure to allow for the installation of charging stations in the future is preferred.



*Electric Vehicle Charging Station*

#### *Recycling and Refuse*

- All developments shall have appropriately sized recycling and refuse enclosures that comply with Township Ordinance section 25-8.14.
- All recycling and refuse enclosures shall be constructed of durable fencing and/or masonry block, a minimum of six (6') feet in height, which provides visual screening.
- Landscaping consisting of evergreen plantings shall supplement the screening.

#### *Signage*

- One (1) off-site directory sign shall be permitted along the Area's Prospect Avenue frontage.
  - An off-site directory sign shall be defined as a free-standing or monument sign used exclusively for the purpose of identifying the tenants, occupants, or uses of buildings or properties in different districts or on different properties within the Area.
  - Setback Requirement – Shall be a minimum of ten (10') feet from any property line.
  - Height Requirement – Shall not exceed ten (10') feet in height.
  - Size Requirement – Shall not exceed fifty (50) square feet in area per side.

- A system of wayfinding signage shall be permitted throughout the Area. The wayfinding signage shall be a comprehensive coordinated system with uniform style and color that is designed to direct motorists and pedestrians to destinations within the Area. There shall be no specific limit to the number of wayfinding sign, but their placement shall be subject to the Planning Board's review and approval.
  - Location Requirement – Shall not be placed in a location that obstructs or interferes with a sight triangle or any traffic control measures.
  - Height Requirement – Shall not exceed four (4') feet in height.
  - Size Requirement – Shall not exceed six (6) square feet in area per side.
- Except as noted in this Plan, signage in the Executive Drive Multifamily Residential District shall comply with Township Ordinance Section 25-15.3.b.
- Except as noted in this Plan, signage in the Rooney Circle Mixed Use District shall comply with Township Ordinance Section 25-15.3.c.2
- Except as noted in this Plan, signage Standards in the 10 Rooney Circle Office / Municipal District shall comply with Township Ordinance Section 25-15.3.c.2.

- Except as noted in this Plan, signage standards in the Essex Green Shopping Center District shall comply with Township Ordinance Section 25-15.3.c.2.

#### *Stormwater Management*

- All development shall comply with Section 25-29 "Stormwater Control" of the Township Ordinance.
- Site design within the Area shall adhere to the New Jersey Stormwater Management Best Management Practices.
- To the extent feasible, development within the Executive Drive Essex Green Redevelopment Area should utilize green infrastructure techniques including, but not limited to the following:
  - Rain gardens/bioswales: Landscaped areas with native vegetation that capture, filter, and retain rainwater and allow to be absorbed back into the groundwater system, reducing the amount of runoff flowing to the municipal sewers.
  - Green roofs: Roofs partially or completely covered with vegetation, soil beds, drainage layer, and a water-proofing medium. Benefits include retention and filtration of rainwater, reduction of urban heat island effect and insulation, creation of habitats for wildlife, and a more aesthetically pleasing landscape.

- Permeable pavement: Surface layer that allows for the infiltration of water back into the ground instead of into the sewers. Permeable pavement can be used for sidewalks as well as other hardscaped surfaces such as parking stalls and driving aisles.

#### *Utilities*

- All utilities shall be installed underground.
- Building mounted utility meters shall be placed in enclosures, rooms, alcoves or otherwise integrated within the design of the building and screened from public view.
- Utility boxes and ground level utility structures shall be screened on at least three (3) sides by landscaping that will conceal the box throughout the year while permitting access by the utility company.



*Bioswale example of stormwater best management practice*

**SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

- *Master Plan Sustainability Plan* – New development and improvements to the site and buildings under the Executive Drive Essex Green Redevelopment Plan shall be guided by the Goals, Principles, and Actions of the most recent version of the Township of West Orange Sustainability Plan Element, adopted in the 2010 Master Plan Update.
- *Green Building Standards* – New development and site improvements shall follow the Sustainable Building and Design Standards and checklist in Section 25-51.16 of the Township Ordinance. Sustainable measures should include, but not be limited to, Sustainable Site Planning, Water Use Efficiency, Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Materials and Resource Use, Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure, and Healthy Indoor Environmental Quality. The Redeveloper is encouraged, but not required to, register the buildings in the Area in the USGBC LEED certification program.
- *Storm Water Best Management Practices (BMPs)* – Where possible, the Redeveloper is encouraged to utilize BMPs, including but not limited to rain gardens, bioswales, green roofs, and permeable pavement, to reduce stormwater runoff and improve groundwater recharge on the site.
- *Steep Slopes* – Development shall comply with the Township's Steep Slope and Natural Features Ordinance (Section 25-28) and Tree Protection and Removal Ordinance (Section 25-27) in order to minimize disturbance of any slopes greater than 15% grade and preserve existing trees.
- *Electric Vehicle Charging* – Electric vehicle charging stations should be incorporated throughout the Redevelopment Area. Office and commercial developments should offer designated spaces an amenity to employees, customers, and visitors. The Township should include EV infrastructure as part of any municipal / public uses that are developed in the Area. Multi-family residential developments should include charging stations and infrastructure that is adaptable to accommodate additional stations in the future.
- *Renewable Energy* – Redevelopment projects should explore the feasibility of incorporating renewable energy, particularly photovoltaic solar panels, into the design of projects. Roof mounted systems on office and commercial buildings or canopy systems on the top floor of structured parking or over surface parking lots are encouraged.

## **CIRCULATION PLAN**

- *Master Plan Circulation Plan* – Improvements to the site under this Plan shall be guided by the general goals and objectives of the 2010 Master Plan Circulation Plan Update. Further, the 2010 Circulation Plan Element was amended in 2016 to incorporate the principles of “Complete Streets” and to create a comprehensive, integrated, connected street network that safely accommodate all users.
- *Site Circulation Standards* – Site circulation improvements shall include provision of sidewalks or similar pedestrian pathways, protections for pedestrians at crosswalks and sidewalks, bicycle paths and routes, bicycle racks, and other site circulation best practices for multi-family residential, commercial, and office sites.
- *Walking Path* - A walking path should be constructed throughout the Area, connecting the multifamily residential housing with the dog park, Essex Green shopping center, potential future municipal uses at 10 Rooney Circle and the jitney bus stop at Essex Green.
- Executive Drive is a private road, which provides access to 100, 200, 300 Executive Drive and 10 Rooney Circle. During the course of the redevelopment project, it may be necessary to modify or realign portions of Executive

Drive. There is an existing access easement in place that shall remain and be modified during the course of the redevelopment project if necessary.

- *Transit*
  - NJ Transit Bus Route 71 stops at the Essex Green Mall. The bus route runs through Essex County and terminates at Newark Penn Station. Wayfinding signage including route information, schedules, and other pertinent details should be provided at key points throughout the Area.
  - NJ Transit Rail Service with Mid-Town direct and Hoboken bound trains is available from three nearby stations. The Orange Train Station, the Mountain Station and the South Orange Station are approximately 3, 3.5 and 4.5 miles from the Redevelopment Area, respectively. The West Orange Jitney offers connecting service that stops at Essex Green in the morning and evening peaks. A shuttle within the redevelopment area should be provided in coordination between the Township and Redeveloper(s) that links the Jitney service to the potential residential, office, municipal, and retail users throughout the Area.

**CONFORMANCE WITH TOWNSHIP OBJECTIVES**

The Township's most recent comprehensive Master Plan was adopted in 1989. Since that time, two Reexamination Reports and updates to several Plan Elements have been prepared. The most recent Reexamination Report, as well as a Master Plan update including a Sustainability Plan and updates to the Land Use, Economic Development, and Historic Preservation Elements was adopted in 2010. An update to the Circulation Element was adopted in 2016, which includes a subsection of the recommendations section that incorporates a Complete Streets policy.

The 300 Executive Drive Redevelopment Plan, was adopted in September 2018 for the property adjacent to the Redevelopment Area to the west. The goals and objectives of that Plan are consistent with, and complementary to, this Plan.

**Master Plan Reexamination Report and Update (2010)**

The Township adopted a Master Plan Reexamination Report and Update in 2010. The following goals, objectives, and policies in the Plan are relevant to the Area and the formulation of this Redevelopment Plan:

*Land Use Plan*

- The existing land use of the Area is shown mostly as "Commercial," and Block 155, Lot 40.03 is shown as vacant. The plan does not contain any specific

discussion of the Area and does not recommend any changes to the Zoning for the Area.

*Economic Development Recommendations*

- The Economic Development Element recognizes the existing office / commercial developments clustered at I-280 and Prospect Avenue, and recommends that the Township continue to maintain a mix of land uses.
- The Plan continues the recommendation from 2004 that states: "development that generates employment opportunities and beneficial commercial/retail activity should continue to be encouraged where it is compatible with adjacent land uses, and sensitive natural and environmental features, and should be balanced by the need to maintain adequate public infrastructure and facilities, services and pedestrian and vehicular circulation patterns.
- The Essex Green shopping center and surrounding area is identified as a "Regional Center" for its variety of retail, restaurant, and entertainment establishments, as well as the complementary uses located close by including office, hotel, and personal services. Improvements to the regional business districts should continue to be encouraged. The Plan states that "A key for this area is to maintain a balance of land uses, which will have benefits with regard to traffic as well as fiscal impacts."

#### *Sustainability Plan*

- Encourage improved energy efficiency in existing commercial buildings.

#### *Circulation Plan Element*

- Essex Green is noted as being one of two shopping centers that is responsible for half of all pedestrian/auto accidents in the Township.
- The Township offers commuter shuttle routes (West Orange Jitney) that connect the nearby train stations to neighborhoods and commuter lots. This Plan seeks to integrate the Jitney service with new development and enhance it as necessary.
- This Plan promotes pedestrian connections throughout the development and requires design improvements to the circulation system that are consistent with the 2016 Complete Streets Plan Element.

### **RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS**

#### **State Development and Redevelopment Plan (SDRP)**

In 2001, the State Planning Commission adopted the State Development and Redevelopment Plan (SDRP). The SDRP is a document that, while not binding, guides State-level development and redevelopment policy as well as local and regional planning efforts. Eight statewide goals are articulated in the Plan, along with dozens of corresponding implantation policies. The goals are as follows:

1. Revitalize the State's cities and towns.
2. Conserve the State's natural resources and systems.
3. Promote beneficial economic growth, development and renewal for all New Jersey residents.
4. Protect the environment, prevent and clean up pollution.
5. Provide adequate public facilities and services at a reasonable cost.
6. Provide adequate housing at a reasonable cost.
7. Preserve and enhance areas with historic, cultural, scenic, open space, and recreational value.
8. Ensure sound and integrated planning and implementation statewide.

This Plan meets stated goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 8 of the SDRP.

- The intended redevelopment of the outdated and underutilized office buildings into multi-family residential housing will bring a productive use to the site for the future.
- The Plan intends to minimize environmental disturbance by using existing infrastructure and building with respect to the sensitive environmental features on the site.
- Revitalizing and redeveloping the surplus of suburban office space to restore its economic benefit is a State-wide challenge that this Plan seeks to address.

- Relocating the Department of Public Works or Library to the office building at 10 Rooney Circle expands the Township's ability to provide municipal services.
- Constructing affordable, family rental housing fulfills the Township's affordable housing requirements while also providing housing for families of all income groups.
- The Redevelopment Area is located in PA-1 and is in close proximity to major highways. Redevelopment of the site is consistent with good planning principals and integrated land use planning and implementation.

The SDRP also includes a State Plan Policy Map, which divides the state into regions known as Planning Areas. This Redevelopment Area is located in the Metropolitan Planning Area (PA-1), which is characterized by intensive existing development and is the target for redevelopment efforts. The goals for PA-1 include the following:

1. Provide for much of the state's future redevelopment.
2. Revitalize cities and towns.
3. Promote growth in compact forms.
4. Stabilize older suburbs.
5. Redesign areas of sprawl.
6. Protect the character of existing stable communities.

This Plan meets stated goals 1, 3, 4, and 5 for Planning Area 1.

- The redevelopment project promotes the reuse and revitalization of a parcel whose current improvements are outdated. The best
- The redevelopment of a previously disturbed and developed site is consistent with concept of promoting growth in compact forms.
- The suburban office park model has declined in viability; this plan seeks to stabilize the Area's economic future by building more affordable housing options and promoting mixed-use development.
- Suburban office parks are a symbol of sprawling development patterns. This Plan seeks to develop buildings that were built during a period of suburban expansion and is currently outdated, and construct in their place new, affordable, multi-family housing.

### **State Strategic Plan**

The final draft of the State Strategic Plan was released in 2012. While the State Strategic Plan has not been officially adopted, and the SDRP is still the official State Plan, it is still prudent to review the relationship between this Plan and the State Strategic Plan Draft. This Plan is consistent with the stated goals of the State Strategic Plan. This Plan exemplifies the guiding principle of "Spatial Efficiency", where new development is encouraged to be located in areas where infrastructure is already in place to support growth.

This Plan meets the following “Garden State Values” of the State Strategic Plan:

- Prioritize Redevelopment, infill, and existing infrastructure
- Increase Job and Business Opportunities in Priority Growth Investment Areas
- Create high-quality, livable places

### **Essex County Plans**

The only recent county-wide planning document adopted by Essex County is the 2013 Comprehensive Transportation Plan. The County also has a Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan that dates to 2003.

#### *Essex County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (2013)*

The County Comprehensive Transportation Plan’s vision is to “Develop a safe coordinated and integrated multimodal transportation system that provides accessibility for all users while promoting connectivity, economic vitality and productivity, our communities’ livability, and our ecosystem’s viability.”

- The West Orange Jitney System, which stops at Essex Green, is identified in the Transportation Plan as a link to the Orange and South Orange Train Stations, which offer Midtown-Direct train service.

- The Prospect Avenue corridor is identified as a location with a high percentage of auto trips with potential to be diverted to transit.

### **Master Plans of Adjacent Municipalities**

The Redevelopment Area is centrally located within West Orange Township and does not border or impact any of the adjacent municipalities.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS****Redevelopment Entity**

The Township Council shall serve as the Redevelopment Entity to implement this Redevelopment Plan. The Redevelopment Entity must designate a redeveloper prior to the submission of an application for any approval to the Planning Board.

**Property to be Acquired**

The Area has been designated as a non-condemnation redevelopment area. No property acquisition through the use of eminent domain is authorized or anticipated as a part of this Plan.

**Relocation Assistance**

Eminent domain is not authorized as part of this plan and any transfer of property and subsequent relocation requirements are purely voluntary so no plan for relocation assistance is necessary.

**Affordable Housing**

There are no housing units in the Area, so there are no affordable housing units identified for removal as part of the implementation of this redevelopment Plan.

**Provision of New Affordable Housing Units**

Redevelopment Plans are permitted to require the provision of affordable housing units per the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-7.b).

Affordable units shall be family rental units. Residential units shall be developed in conformance with the Uniform Housing Affordability Controls (UHAC, N.J.A.C 5:80-26:1 et seq. or any successor legislation, with the exception that in lieu of 10% of the affordable units in rental projects being required to be affordable to households earning at or below 35% of the regional median income, 13% of the affordable units in such projects shall be affordable to households earning at or below 30% of the regional median income, consistent with and as required by the Fair Housing Act.

Deed Restrictions shall be filed ensuring that the affordability controls remain in place for at least 30 years pursuant to UHAC.

**Amending the Redevelopment Plan**

Upon compliance with the requirements of applicable law, the West Orange Township Council may amend, revise or modify this Redevelopment Plan, as circumstances may make such changes appropriate.

**Duration of the Redevelopment Plan**

This Redevelopment Plan shall be in full force and effect for a period of thirty (30) years from the date of approval of this Plan by the Township Council.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF REDEVELOPMENT PLAN****Redevelopment Agreements**

The following restrictions and controls on redevelopment are statutorily imposed by the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, in connection with the selection of a redeveloper or redevelopers and shall apply notwithstanding the provisions of any zoning or building ordinance or other regulations now or hereafter in force. The restrictions and restraints shall be implemented by appropriate covenants or other provisions in redeveloper agreements and/or disposition instruments.

- The redeveloper(s) will be obligated to carry out the specified improvements in accordance with the Redevelopment Area Plan.
- The redeveloper(s), its successors or assigns shall devote land within the Redevelopment Area to the uses specified in this Redevelopment Plan.
- The redeveloper(s) shall begin the development of said land for the use(s) required in this Redevelopment Plan within a period of time that the Township Council fixes as reasonable.
- Until the redeveloper(s) completes construction of the improvements, the redeveloper(s) will not be permitted to sell, lease, or otherwise transfer or dispose of property within the Redevelopment Area without prior written consent of the Township.
- Upon completion of the required improvements, the conditions determined to exist at the time the Redevelopment Area was determined to be in need of redevelopment shall be deemed to no longer exist.
- No covenant, agreement, lease, conveyance or other instrument shall be effected or executed by the redeveloper(s), the Township Council, or the successors, lessees, or assigns of either of them, by which land in the Redevelopment Area is restricted as to sale, lease, or occupancy upon the basis of race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex or marital status.
- Neither the redeveloper(s) nor the Township Council, nor the successors, lessees, or assigns shall discriminate upon the basis of race, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex or marital status in the sale, lease or rental or in the use and occupancy of land or improvements erected or to be erected thereon, or any part therein.