



Hall County Regional Planning Commission

**Wednesday, June 6, 2012
Regular Meeting**

Item F2

**Public Hearing - Concerning an Amendment to Redevelopment
Plan Area #9, Site Specific**

Staff Contact: Chad Nabity

Agenda Item #5

PLANNING DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION TO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

May 21, 2012

SUBJECT:

Redevelopment plan amendment for property located in Blight and Substandard Area #9 at 3420 W. State Street in Grand Island Nebraska. (C-19-2012GI)

PROPOSAL:

Equity Investment Group of Fort Wayne Indiana is proposing to remodel and rehabilitate the old grocery/furniture store at 3420 W. State Street. The developer is seeking Tax Increment Financing to offset the cost of remodeling and rehabilitation of the property. Improvements will be made to the existing building to convert it from a single tenant big box into multiple tenant spaces. Several nationally known retailers have signed letters of intent occupy this space once the remodeling is done.

OVERVIEW:

The purpose of the CRA and the designated blight and substandard areas is to provide incentives for development in underdeveloped areas of the community. This project will provide commercial development in a location that is intended for these uses. Development of this property should prevent further decay of this neighborhood. This area has already been declared blighted and substandard by the CRA, the Hall County Regional Planning Commission and the Grand Island City Council.

This project is **consistent** with the **existing zoning** and the **future land use plan** for the City of Grand Island. This is evidenced by the fact that the property is zoned B2 General Business. The B2 zone permits commercial retail space as a permitted principle use.

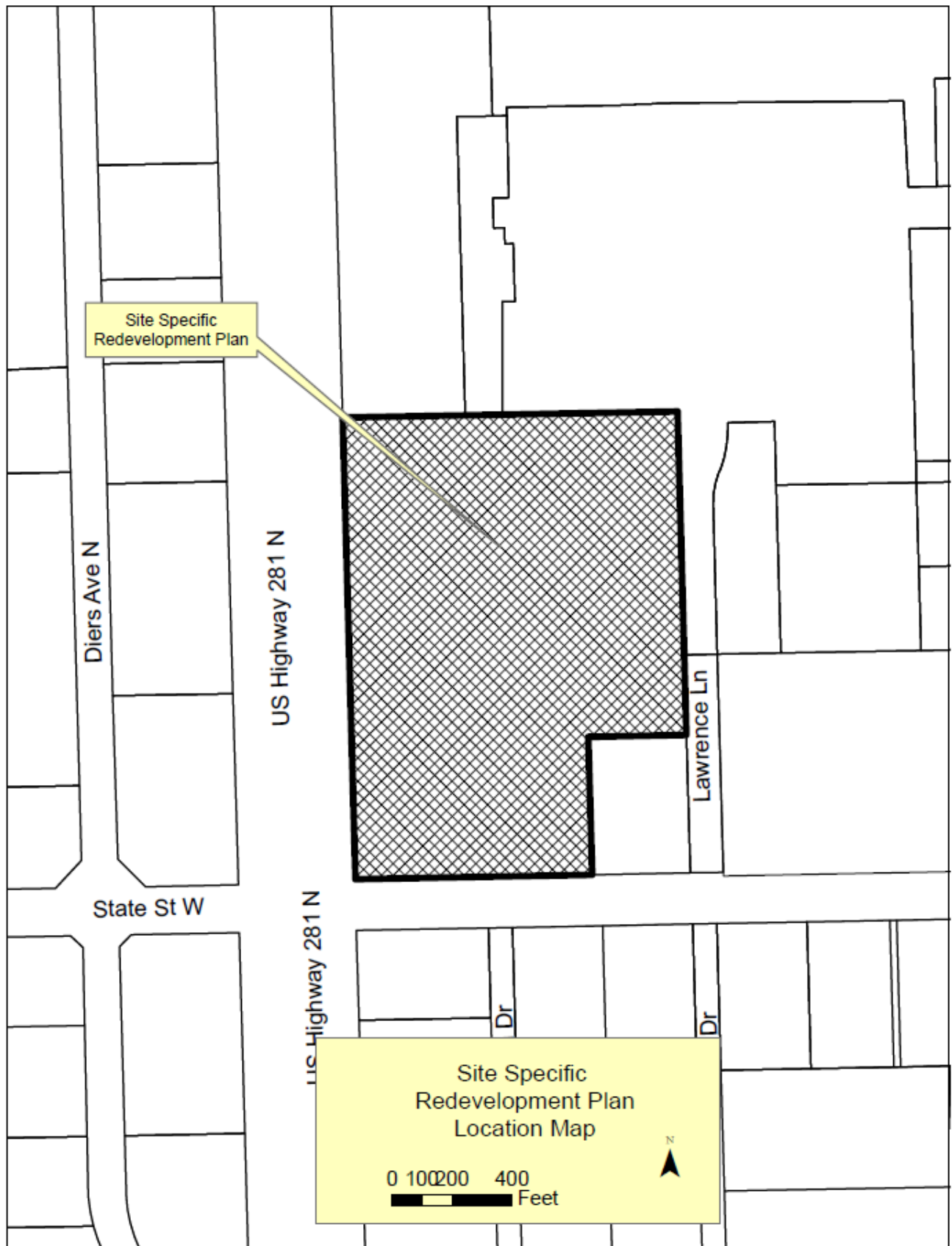
The Regional Planning Commission recommendation is limited to the appropriateness of the proposed use at this location. The Grand Island Comprehensive Plan calls for highway commercial at this location and the Zoning Map defines this area as commercial.

The Planning Commission is required to comment on these applications to confirm that expenditure of public funds through TIF is not supporting uses that would be inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Regional Planning Commission recommend that City Council **approve** of the redevelopment plan amendment as submitted. A resolution is attached for your consideration.

_____ Chad Nabity AICP, Planning Director



Resolution Number 2012 - 05

HALL COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

**A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF A SITE SPECIFIC
REDEVELOPMENT PLAN OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA;
AND APPROVAL OF RELATED ACTIONS**

WHEREAS, the Chairman and Board of the Community Redevelopment Authority of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska (the “**Authority**”), referred that certain Redevelopment Plan to the Hall County Regional Planning Commission, (the “**Commission**”) a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit “A” for review and recommendation as to its conformity with the general plan for the development of the City of Grand Island, Hall County, Nebraska, pursuant to Section 18-2112 of the Community Development Law, Chapter 18, Article 21, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, as amended (the “**Act**”); and

WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed said Redevelopment Plan as to its conformity with the general plan for the development of the City of Grand Island, Hall County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HALL COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Commission hereby recommends approval of the Redevelopment Plan.

Section 2. All prior resolutions of the Commission in conflict with the terms and provisions of this resolution are hereby expressly repealed to the extent of such conflicts.

Section 3. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage as provided by law.

DATED: _____ 2012.

**HALL COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION**

ATTEST:

By: _____
Chair

By: _____
Secretary

EXHIBIT A

FORM OF REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

**Site Specific Redevelopment Plan
Grand Island CRA Area #9
May 2012**

The Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA) of the City of Grand Island intends to amend the Redevelopment Plan for Area #9 with in the city, pursuant to the Nebraska Community Development Law (the “Act”) and provide for the financing of a specific infrastructure related project in Area #9.

**Executive Summary:
Project Description**

THE RENOVATION OF THE FURNITURE SUPER STORE/FORMER GROCERY STORE AT THE CORNER OF U.S. HIGHWAY 281 AND STATE STREET AT 3420 STATE STREET (AND OTHER ADDRESSES) ALL LOCATED ON LOT 1 OF GRAND ISLAND MALL TWELFTH SUBDIVISION AND THE SUBSEQUENT SITE WORK, UTILITY, ENGINEERING, LANDSCAPING AND PARKING IMPROVEMENTS NECESSARY FOR THE RENOVATION AT THIS LOCATION.

The developer intends to use Tax Increment Financing to aid in renovation of the existing commercial space and conversion of the space from a single large user to tenant spaces. The developer is trying to attract national retailers as an anchor to the shopping center. This project would not be possible in an affordable manner without the use of TIF.

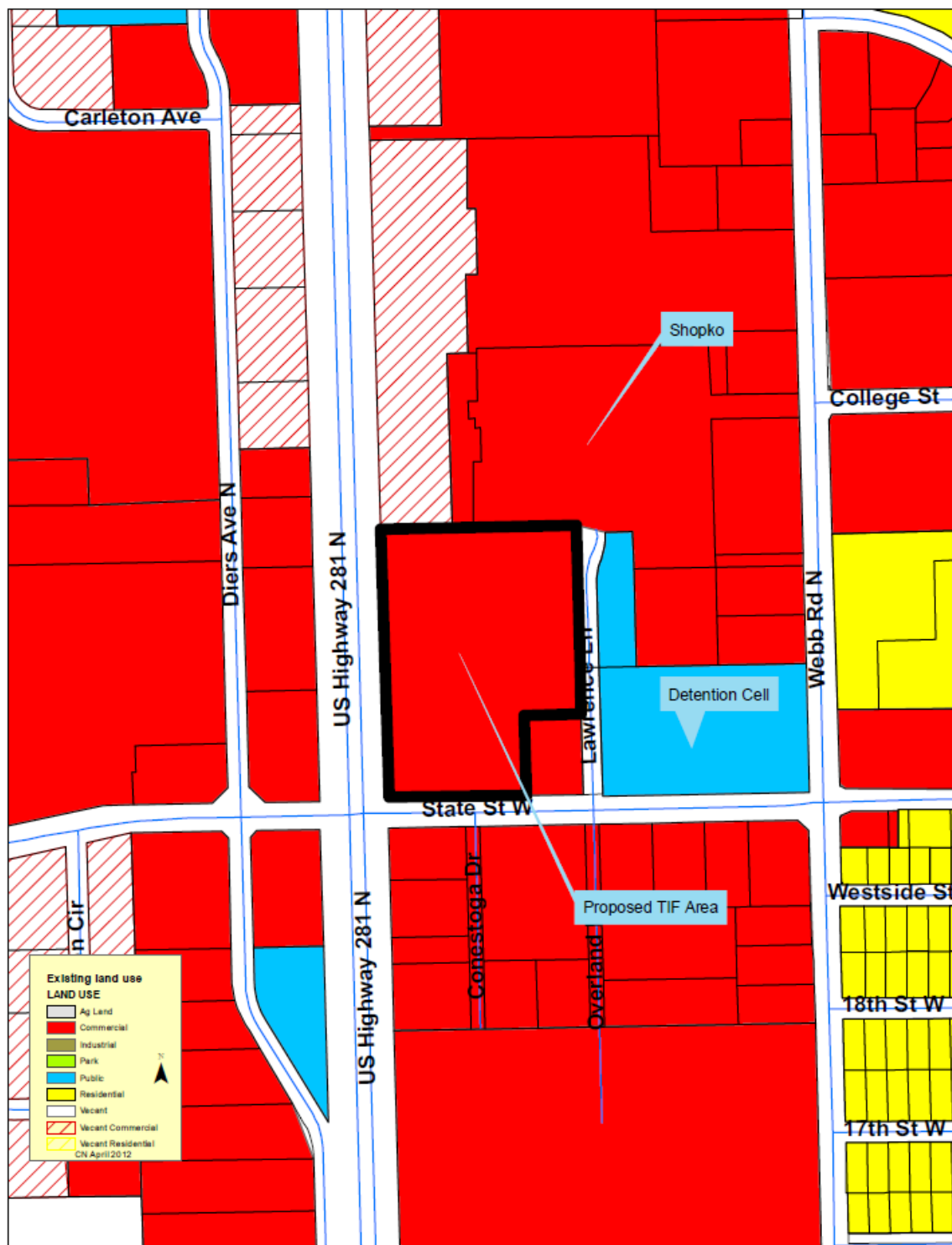
The site is owned by the developer. All site work, demolition and utilities will be paid for by the developer. The developer is responsible for and has provided evidence that they can secure adequate debt financing to cover the costs associated with the acquisition, site work and remodeling. The Grand Island Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA) intends to pledge the ad valorem taxes generated over the 15 year period beginning January 1, 2013 towards the allowable costs and associated financing for the remodeling and site work.

TAX INCREMENT FINANCING TO PAY FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE PROPERTY AND RELATED SITE WORK WILL COME FROM THE FOLLOWING REAL PROPERTY:

Property Description (the “Redevelopment Project Area”)

This property is located at the northwest corner of U.S. Highway 281 and State Street in northwest Grand Island. The attached map identifies the subject property and the surrounding land uses:

- **Legal Descriptions** Lot 1 of Grand Island Mall Twelfth Subdivision in the City of Grand Island, Hall County, Nebraska.



The tax increment will be captured for the tax years the payments for which become delinquent in years 2014 through 2028 inclusive.

The real property ad valorem taxes on the current valuation will continue to be paid to the normal taxing entities. The increase will come from rehabilitation of the vacant commercial space into smaller tenant spaces.

Statutory Pledge of Taxes.

Pursuant to Section 18-2147 of the Act, any ad valorem tax levied upon real property in the Redevelopment Project Area shall be divided, for the period not to exceed 15 years after the effective date of the provision, which effective date shall be January 1, 2013.

a. That portion of the ad valorem tax which is produced by levy at the rate fixed each year by or for each public body upon the redevelopment project valuation shall be paid into the funds, of each such public body in the same proportion as all other taxes collected by or for the bodies; and

b. That portion of the ad valorem tax on real property in the redevelopment project in excess of such amount, if any, shall be allocated to and, when collected, paid into a special fund of the Authority to pay the principal of; the interest on, and any premiums due in connection with the bonds, loans, notes, or advances on money to, or indebtedness incurred by, whether funded, refunded, assumed, or otherwise, such Authority for financing or refinancing, in whole or in part, a redevelopment project. When such bonds, loans, notes, advances of money, or indebtedness including interest and premium due have been paid, the Authority shall so notify the County Assessor and County Treasurer and all ad valorem taxes upon real property in such redevelopment project shall be paid into the funds of the respective public bodies.

Pursuant to Section 18-2150 of the Act, the ad valorem tax so divided is hereby pledged to the repayment of loans or advances of money, or the incurring of any indebtedness, whether funded, refunded, assumed, or otherwise, by the CRA to finance or refinance, in whole or in part, the redevelopment project, including the payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on such bonds, loans, notes, advances, or indebtedness.

Redevelopment Plan Amendment Complies with the Act:

The Community Development Law requires that a Redevelopment Plan and Project consider and comply with a number of requirements. This Plan Amendment meets the statutory qualifications as set forth below.

1. The Redevelopment Project Area has been declared blighted and substandard by action of the Grand Island City Council on April 24, 2012. [§18-2109] Such declaration was made after a public hearing with full compliance with the public notice requirements of §18-2115 of the Act.

2. Conformation to the General Plan for the Municipality as a whole. [§18-2103 (13) (a) and §18-2110]

Grand Island adopted a Comprehensive Plan on July 13, 2004. This redevelopment plan amendment and project are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, in that no changes in the Comprehensive Plan elements are intended. This plan merely provides funding for the developer to rehabilitate an existing conforming use on this property.

3. The Redevelopment Plan must be sufficiently complete to address the following items: [§18-2103(13) (b)]

a. Land Acquisition:

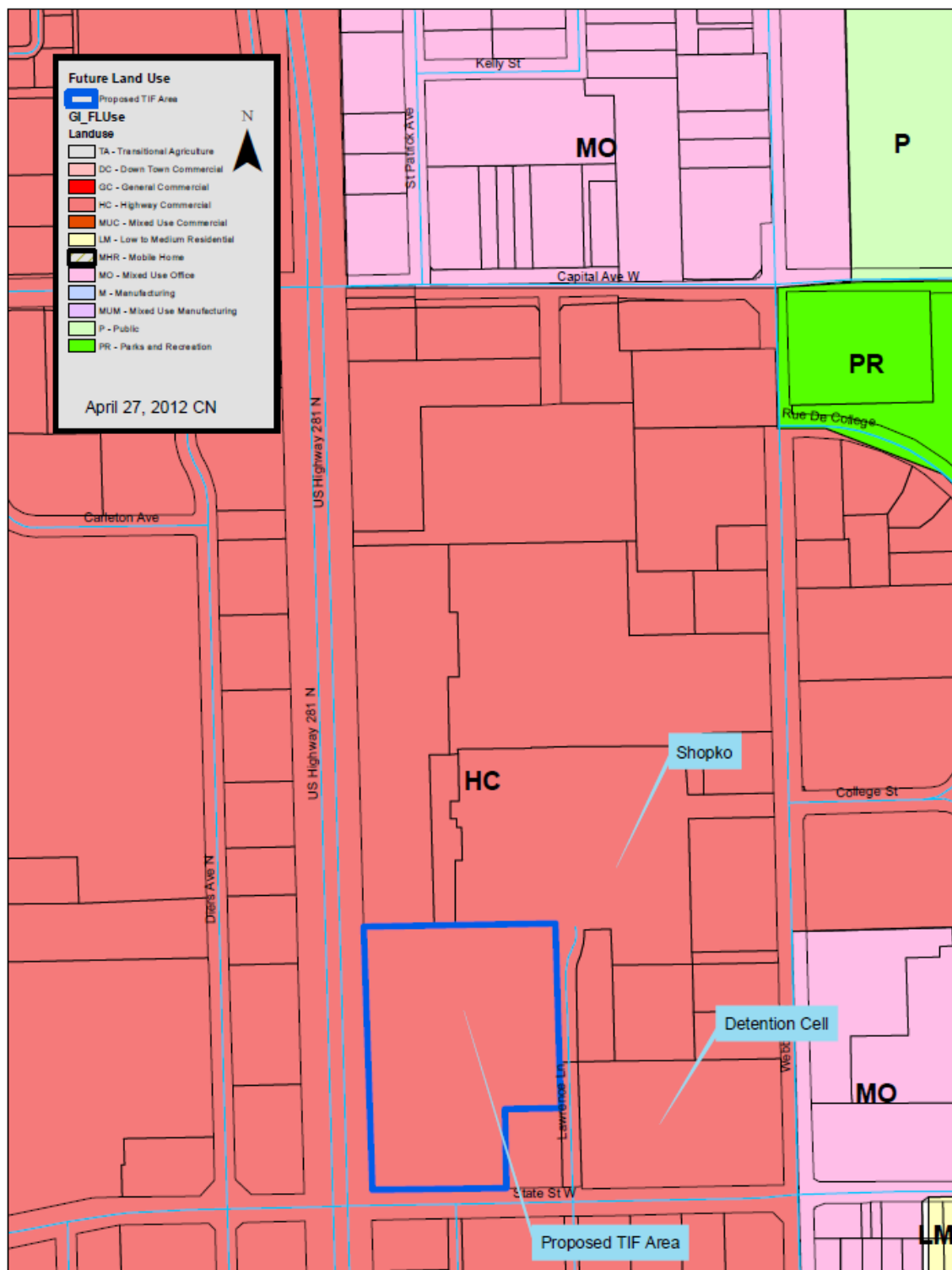
The Generalized Redevelopment Plan for Area #9 provides for real property acquisition and this plan amendment does not prohibit such acquisition. There is no proposed acquisition by the authority or the developer.

b. Demolition and Removal of Structures:

The project to be implemented with this plan amendment does not call for the demolition and removal of any existing structures.

c. Future Land Use Plan

See the attached map from the 2004 Grand Island Comprehensive Plan. The site is planned for highway commercial development. [§18-2103(b) and §18-2111] The attached map also is an accurate site plan of the area after redevelopment. [§18-2111(5)]



City of Grand Island Future Land Use Map

d. Changes to zoning, street layouts and grades or building codes or ordinances or other Planning changes.

The area is zoned B2 General Business zone. No zoning changes are anticipated with this project. No changes are anticipated in street layouts or grades. No changes are anticipated in building codes or ordinances. Nor are any other planning changes contemplated. The proposed use for commercial retail space is permitted in the B2 zoning district. [§18-2103(b) and §18-2111]

e. Site Coverage and Intensity of Use

The developer is proposing rehabilitate the existing structure a conforming structure and use in the B2 zoning district. [§18-2103(b) and §18-2111]

f. Additional Public Facilities or Utilities

This site has full service to municipal utilities. No utilities would be impacted by the development.

The developer will be responsible for replacing any sidewalks damaged during construction of the project.

No other utilities would be impacted by the development. [§18-2103(b) and §18-2111]

4. The Act requires a Redevelopment Plan provide for relocation of individuals and families displaced as a result of plan implementation.

This property, owned by the developer is maintained as retail center. The proposed use of this property would continue as a retail commercial space. No individuals or families will be relocated as a result of this project.[§18-2103.02]

5. No member of the Authority, nor any employee thereof holds any interest in any property in this Redevelopment Project Area. [§18-2106]

6. Section 18-2114 of the Act requires that the Authority consider:

a. Method and cost of acquisition and preparation for redevelopment and estimated proceeds from disposal to redevelopers.

The developer has owned the property for since 2005. The cost of property acquisition is not being included as a TIF eligible expense. Costs for rehabilitation of the existing structure and parking improvements are estimated at \$2,746,593 including all fees. The direct cost to renovate the building is estimated at \$2,290,533. Fees and reimbursement to the City and the CRA of \$6,500 are included as a TIF eligible expense.

No property will be transferred to redevelopers by the Authority. The developer will provide and secure all necessary financing.

b. Statement of proposed method of financing the redevelopment project.

The developer will provide all necessary financing for the project. The Authority will assist the project by granting the sum of \$898,350 from the proceeds of the TIF Indebtedness issued by the Authority. This indebtedness will be repaid from the Tax Increment Revenues generated from the project. TIF revenues shall be made available to repay the original debt and associated interest after January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2027.

c. Statement of feasible method of relocating displaced families.

No families will be displaced as a result of this plan.

7. Section 18-2113 of the Act requires:

Prior to recommending a redevelopment plan to the governing body for approval, an authority shall consider whether the proposed land uses and building requirements in the redevelopment project area are designed with the general purpose of accomplishing, in conformance with the general plan, a coordinated, adjusted, and harmonious development of the city and its environs which will, in accordance with present and future needs, promote health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity, and the general welfare, as well as efficiency and economy in the process of development, including, among other things, adequate provision for traffic, vehicular parking, the promotion of safety from fire, panic, and other dangers, adequate provision for light and air, the promotion of the healthful and convenient distribution of population, the provision of adequate transportation, water, sewerage, and other public utilities, schools, parks, recreational and community facilities, and other public requirements, the promotion of sound design and arrangement, the wise and efficient expenditure of public funds, and the prevention of the recurrence of insanitary or unsafe dwelling accommodations or conditions of blight.

The Authority has considered these elements in proposing this Plan Amendment. This amendment, in and of itself will promote consistency with the Comprehensive Plan, in that it will allow for the utilization of and redevelopment of commercial lots. This will not significantly impact traffic on at the intersection of State Street and U.S. Highway 281. Renovated commercial development will raise property values and provide a stimulus to keep surrounding properties properly maintained. This will have the intended result of preventing recurring elements of unsafe buildings and blighting conditions.

8. Time Frame for Development

Development of this project (including demolition, site preparation and new construction) is anticipated to be completed between July 2012 and December of 2012. Excess valuation should be available for this project for 15 years beginning with the 2013 tax year.

9. Justification of Project

The U.S. Highway 281 Corridor is a major entrance for the City of Grand Island from the north and from I-80. The majority of the new commercial development in Grand Island in the past 10 years has occurred along this stretch of highway. The Grand Island Mall area was one of the first pieces in this corridor to develop. The pattern that has been most successful with buildings facing onto U.S. 281 was not as obvious a pattern for success as it is today. The opportunity to partner with owners of key building along this corridor as they redevelop and reinvest in their properties is important to making those favorable first impressions.

10. Cost Benefit Analysis Section 18-2113 of the Act, further requires the Authority conduct a cost benefit analysis of the plan amendment in the event that Tax Increment Financing will be used. This analysis must address specific statutory issues.

(a) Tax shifts resulting from the approval of the use of Tax Increment Financing;

The redevelopment project area currently has an estimated valuation of \$4,126,165. The proposed renovation of this facility will result in an estimated additional \$2,746,593 of taxable valuation based on an analysis by the Hall County Assessor's office. No tax shifts are anticipated from the project. The project creates additional valuation that will support taxing entities long after the project is paid off.

(b) Public infrastructure and community public service needs impacts and local tax impacts arising from the approval of the redevelopment project;

No additional public service needs have been identified. Existing water and waste water facilities will not be impacted by this development. The electric utility has sufficient capacity to support the development. It is not anticipated that this will impact schools. Fire and police protection are available and should not be impacted by this development.

(c) Impacts on employers and employees of firms locating or expanding within the boundaries of the area of the redevelopment project;

The proposed facility will provide jobs for persons employed by the contractors that will be involved with the project. It could result in a new national retailers locating in Grand Island. The new retail facilities will employ managerial and sales staff at these locations.

(d) Impacts on other employers and employees within the city or village and the immediate area that are located outside of the boundaries of the area of the redevelopment project; and

This may create additional demand for retail service employees in the Grand Island area and could impact other retailers. The proposed retailers represent businesses not located in Grand Island but they will potentially create competition for businesses located here.

(e) Any other impacts determined by the authority to be relevant to the consideration of costs and benefits arising from the redevelopment project.

This will improve the northern entrance into the City of Grand Island. The updates and upgrades a portion of one of the oldest commercial areas along U.S. Highway 281. Since these are proposed for retail commercial use and the proposed retailers are not currently located in Grand Island this may give the City a greater opportunity to capture more sales tax dollars.

Time Frame for Development

Development of this project is anticipated to be completed during between July 2012 and December of 2012. The base tax year should be calculated on the value of the property as of January 1, 2012. The tax increment on excess valuation should be available for this project for 15 years beginning in 2014. Excess valuation will be used to pay the TIF Indebtedness issued by the CRA per the contract between the CRA and the developer for a period not to exceed 15 years or an amount not to exceed \$898,350 the projected amount of increment based upon the anticipated value of the project and current tax rate. Based on the estimates of the expenses of the cost of renovation, site preparation, engineering, expenses and fees reimbursed to the City and CRA, and financing fees the developer will spend over \$2,700,000 of TIF eligible activities over \$2,200,000 of which are directly related to remodeling and rehabilitating the existing building.

See Attached Building Plans