

WHAT IS ZONING?

Zoning defines what can be **BUILT** on a property and how a property can be **USED**.

Zoning is meant to be applied in a fair and consistent manner, to help ensure **PREDICTABILITY** for all.

Zoning helps guide development to meet planning goals, but the process of achieving goals is INCREMENTAL.





WHO APPROVES ZONING?

CITY COUNCIL

sets policy and law



CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

ensures implementation of planning policies

approves major land development projects

CITY STAFF

implements the law parcel-by-parcel

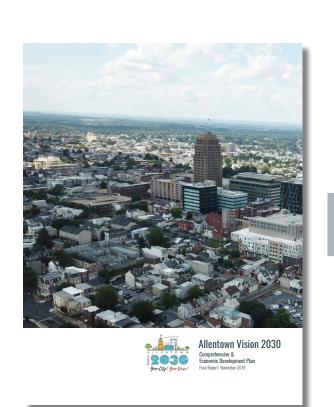
- Reviews and approves plans and permits
- Makes recommendations to planning commission and city council on planning policies

ZONING HEARING BOARD

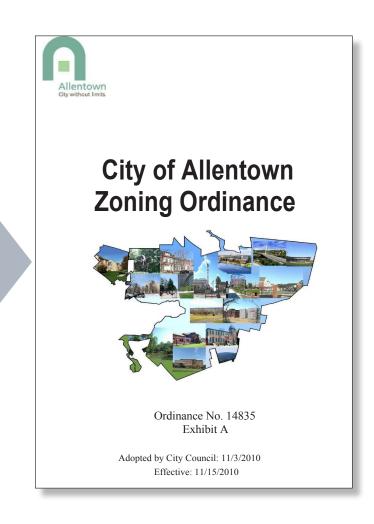
 hears appeals on administration of zoning laws

PLANNING VS ZONING?

- Plans are GUIDES; zoning is LAW
- Zoning helps IMPLEMENT plans/policies by directing development
- Zoning helps define CONTEXT areas and can preserve areas for certain activities, such as industrial







The Project COMPREHENSIVE UPDATE

Zoning Ordinance, Map (citywide rezone), SALDO

1. Align ordinances with plans and policies

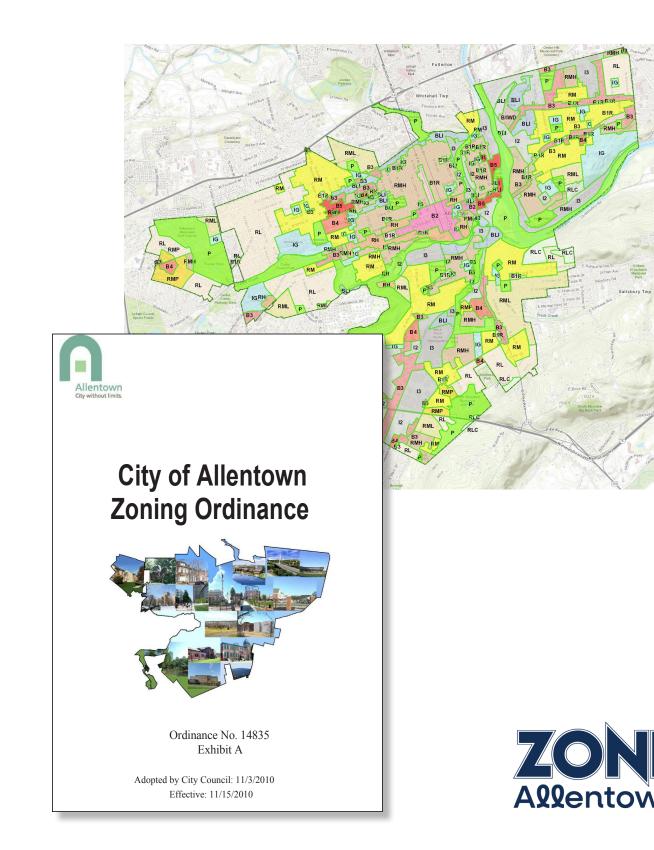
- Downtown mixed-use
- Employment areas
- Protect stable neighborhoods

2. Balance preservation and growth

- Physical/design character
- Opportunities for infill and greater housing choice

3. Simplify and modernize

- Clear, well-illustrated regulations
- Streamlined review/approval procedures



PROCESS

FIRST PUBLIC REVIEW

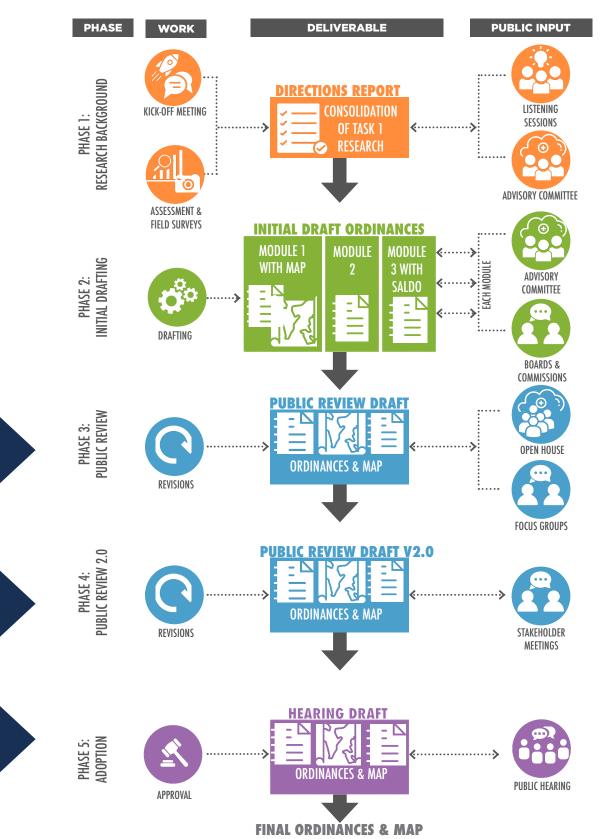
DRAFT COMPLETED

SECOND PUBLIC

WE ARE HERE!

REVIEW DRAFT

COMPLETED





















- Respect traditional character
- Build on compact, walkable urban form
- Preserve high-quality, adaptable buildings



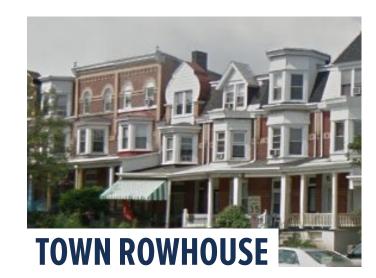


Define Building Types













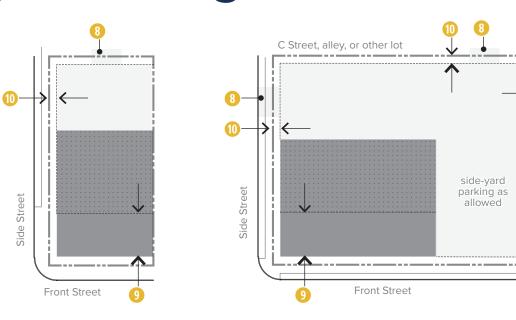


NTEXT-SENSITIVE



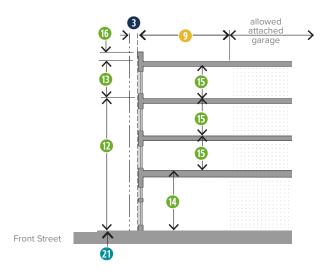
Building Massing & Scale

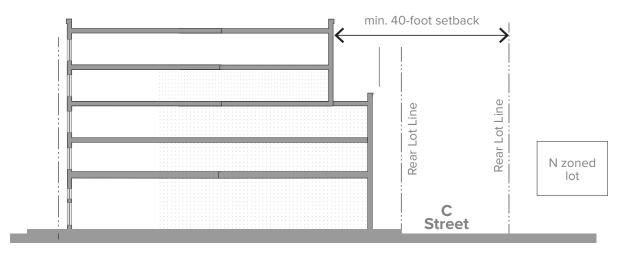
Building footprint: setbacks, max. width, parking location



- Eliminates unpredictable regulations such as lot area/dwelling unit
- Simplifies regulations
- Places focus on building scale and design

Building height: stories, step-backs







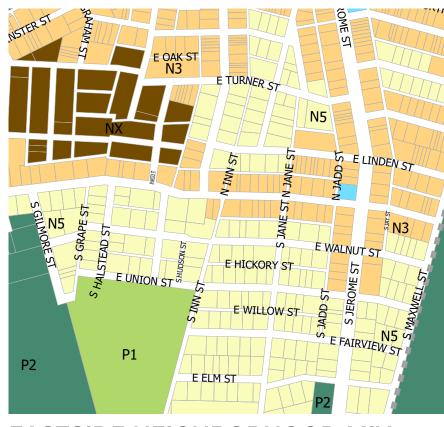
CONTEXT-SENSITIVE



Preserve Stable Neighborhoods



OLD ALLENTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT



EASTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD MIX



WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD





- Options for different life stages & incomes
- Increase supply and affordability
- Preserve existing affordable units

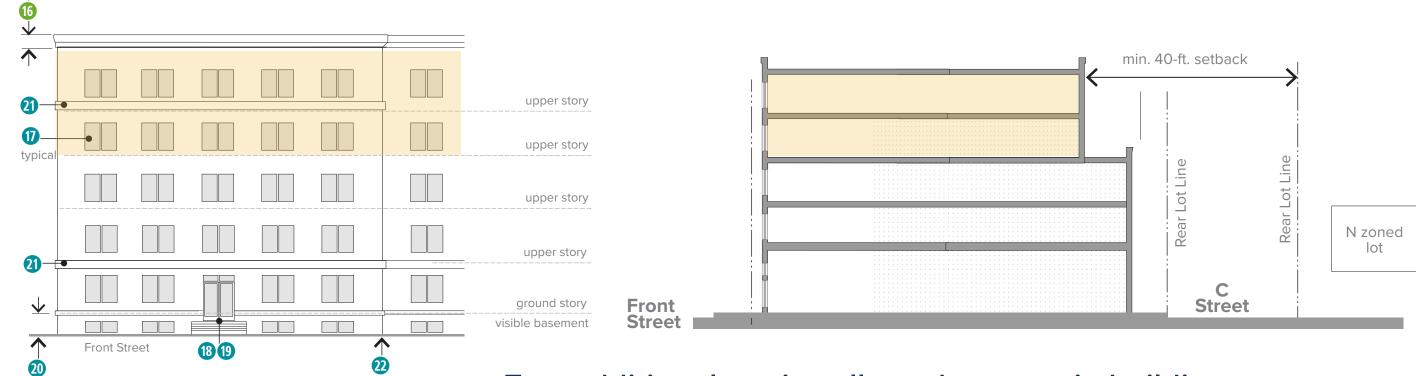








Incentivize Affordable Housing

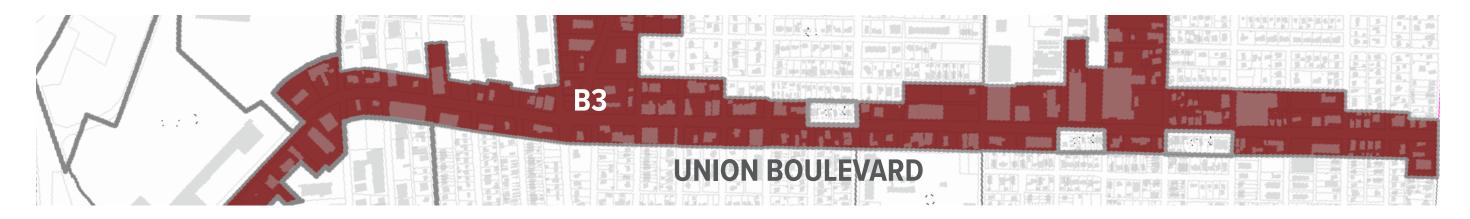


- Two additional stories allowed on certain buildings
- Exempt from Adaptive Reuse regulations except transparency
- Exempt from dwelling size (floor area) requirements
- Reduce off-street parking minimums





Allow Housing Above Commercial





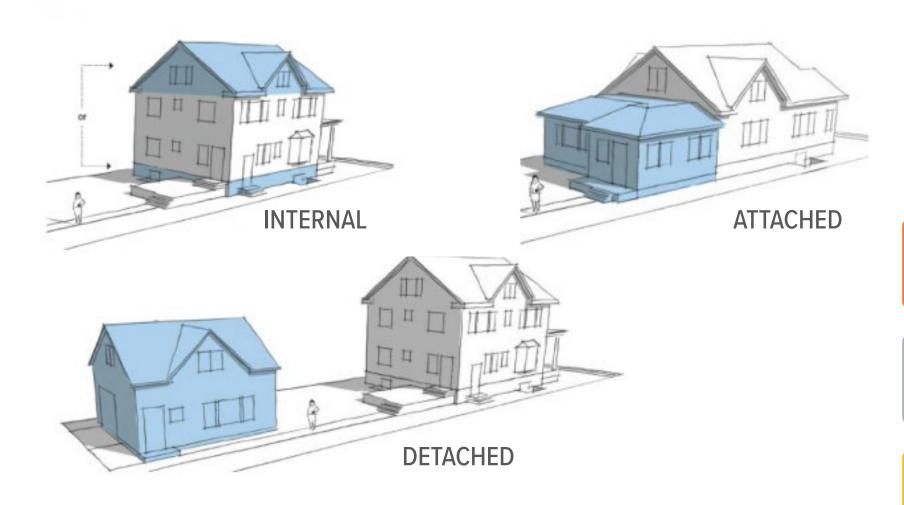


- Housing above commercial is not allowed in today's B3 and B4 zones
- B3 exists on Hanover, Lehigh, South 4th





Allow Accessory Dwelling Units



- No more than one per lot
- Size, height, and coverage limits
- Owner must live on-site
- 1 additional parking space req'd



Add to city's housing stock while helping preserve neighborhood character and scale



Additional housing options for seniors, dependent adults, & others; support aging in place



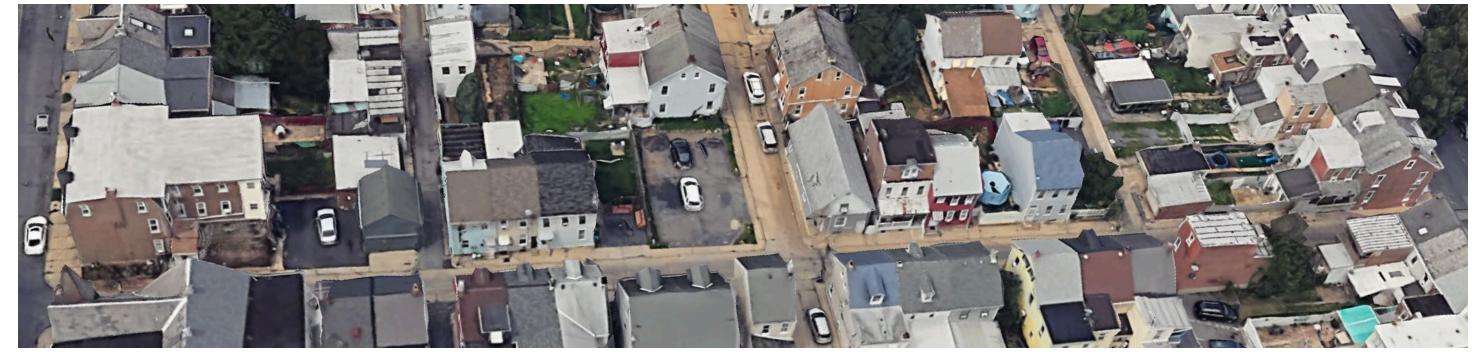


Efficient use of existing infrastructure





Legalize Existing Lane Houses



- Allowed only on existing Lane House lots fronting on "C" streets; no new Lane House lots may be created
- Allow smaller yards to match existing patterns







VIBRANT & WALKABLE

- Builds on traditional street and block pattern
- Supports transit users
- More equitable access for all
- Supports public health





Walkable Building Design



RESIDENTIAL



COMMERCIAL CONVERSIONS



TRADITIONAL STOREFRONTS



- Buildings close to the sidewalk
- Parking to the rear or side
- Engaging building facades with doors and windows
- High-quality building materials on street facades



Preserve Existing Corner Commercial







- Accommodates businesses in buildings built to be storefronts and in well-converted buildings
- Designated MX-N for neighborhood and limited higher impact uses where original storefronts exist





Support Master-Planned Developments

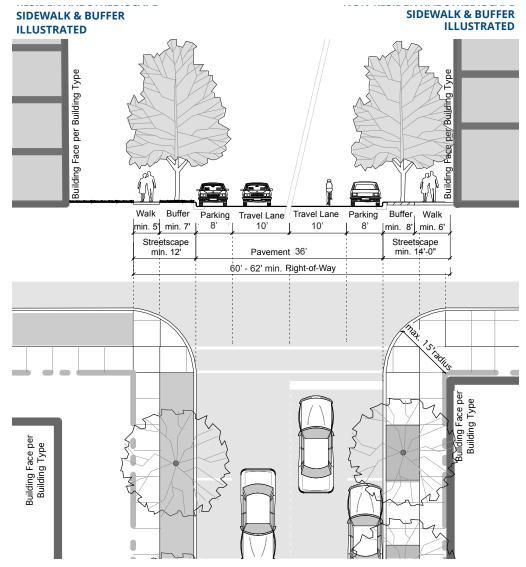


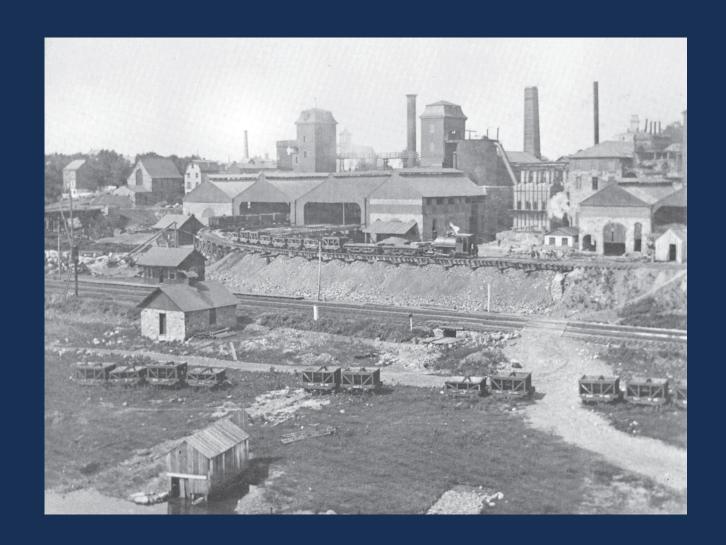
Figure 660(10) Typical Base Street

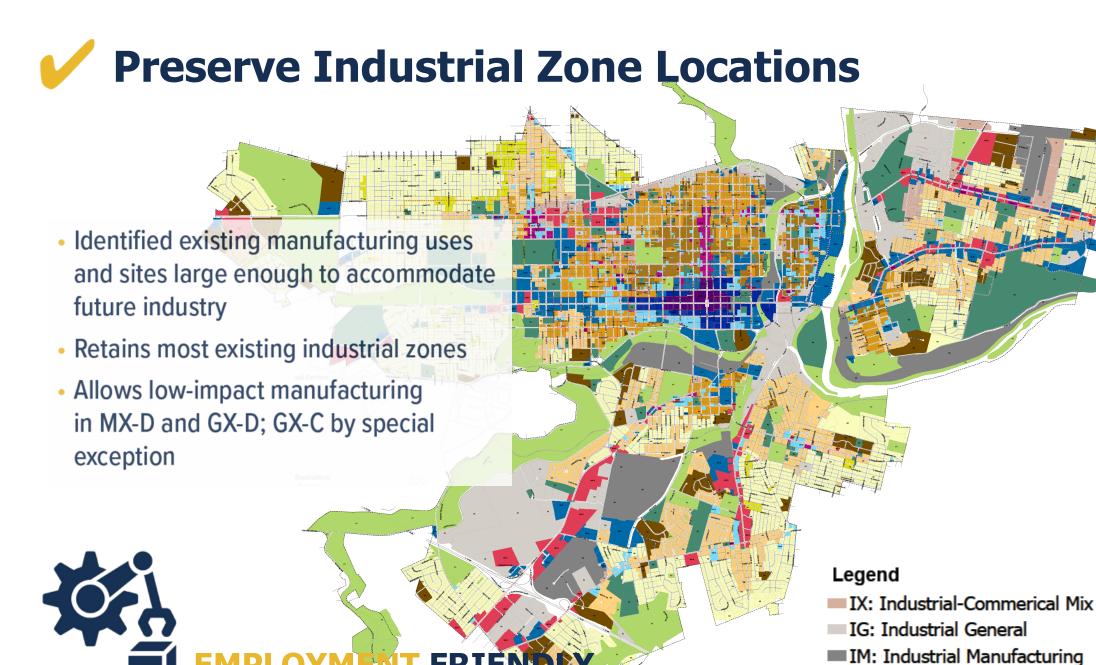
Guidance in SALDO incorporated into SALDO for larger Master-planned developments (MPDs) including:

- Walkable block sizes
- Streetscape
- Mix of building types and uses
- Waterfront standards



- Maintain history and identity of manufacturing economy
- Support job growth
- Support local entrepreneurs



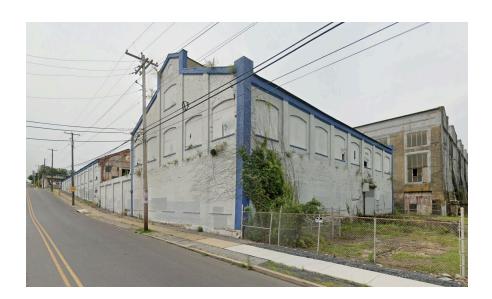




Preserve Industrial Zones for Manufacturing

- Renames I2 to IG (General) and I3 to IM (Manufacturing)
- IG and IM generally reserved for industrial uses
- Update: Large (>50k sq. ft. GFA) warehouses allowed in IG and IM subject to minimum lot sizes
- IX allows retail, consumer service uses, and self-service storage; prohibited in IG and IM (Update: Major vehicle repair, consumer maintenance and repair allowed in IG and IM)









- Resource Protection
- Sustainability
- Resiliency
- Public Health





Support for Sustainable Development Practices



Retain or add regulations for

- Solar
- Wind energy
- Community gardens
- Electric vehicle charging
- Bicycle Parking
- Tree Preservation
- Vision Zero, Complete Streets & **Transit (SALDO)**
- Parkland Dedication & Trails (SALDO)









Reduced, More Flexible Motor Vehicle Parking

	MINIMUM NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLE PARKING SPACES REQUIRED									
USE	MX-D AND GX-D ZONES	ALL OTHER ZONES	NOTES							
COMMERCIAL										
Child Care		1 per 12 enrollees								
Consumer Service, Indoor		1 per 400 sf								
Day Care Center, Adult	No minimum requirement;	1 per 12 enrollees								
Eating and Drinking Places	Maximum number	1 per 100 sf	1 per 400 when located in multi-tenant center							
Entertainment, Spectator/Participant	of parking spaces may not exceed	1 per 5 seats	1 per 400 sf if no fixed seating							
Funeral & Mortuary Service	125% of the minimum	1 per 50 sf								
Lodging	requirement that applies in all other	1 per 2 guest rooms	plus spaces required for other on-site uses							
Office	zones	1 per 400 sf								
Retail Sales		1 per 400 sf								
Vehicle Sales & Service		3 per service bay	plus 1 per 2 employees							



sf = square feet of floor area

Credits or Reductions: • Small, constrained lots

Nearby "high-capacity transit" stop

3 Car-share/bike-share space

4 Affordable housing

5 Nearby public parking lot

6 EV parking (level-2 or higher)





New Bicycle Parking

USE/BUILDING TYPE	BICYCLE PARKING SPACES (MIN)						
RESIDENTIAL USES							
0–4 Dwelling Units	None						
5+ Dwelling Units	1 per 5 dwelling units [1]						
COMMERCIAL USES							
All Commercial Uses	1 per 5,000 sf [2]						
MANUFACTURING & INDUSTRY							
All Manufacturing & Industry Uses (based on employees)	0-5: None 6-20: 2 spaces [2] Over 20: 1 per 10 employees [2]						
CIVIC & INSTITUTIONAL							
College or School	1 per classroom						
Community Assembly	1 per 5,000 sf						
Library or Cultural Exhibit	1 per 5,000 sf						

sf = square feet of floor area

[1] At least 50% must be long-term.

[2] At least 25% must be long-term





- Easier to understand and administer
- Greater certainty
- Reduced risk/cost

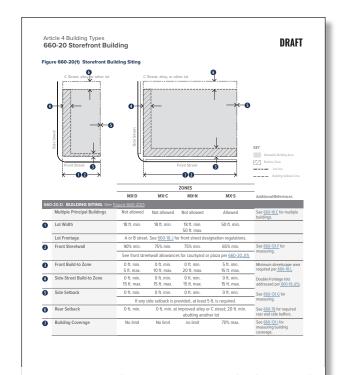


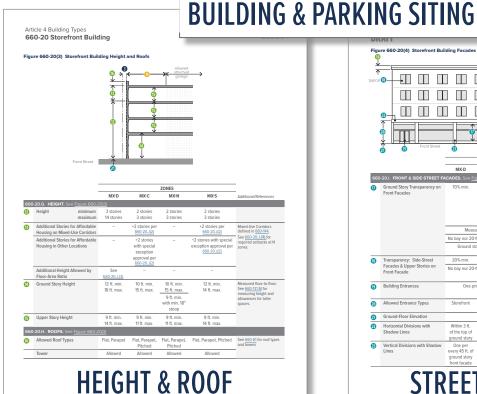
Clear, Objective Standards

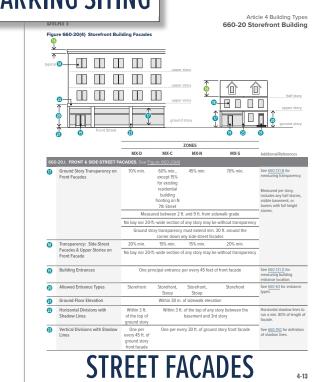
Replace existing vague guidelines

- "consider the application's consistency with the Hamilton Street Area Design Guidelines". (HSO)
- "New construction should have rooflines that are similar to adjacent buildings". (TNDO)
- "On sides visible from a street, new construction should use building materials that are similar in appearance to similar, older buildings in close proximity..."(TNDO)



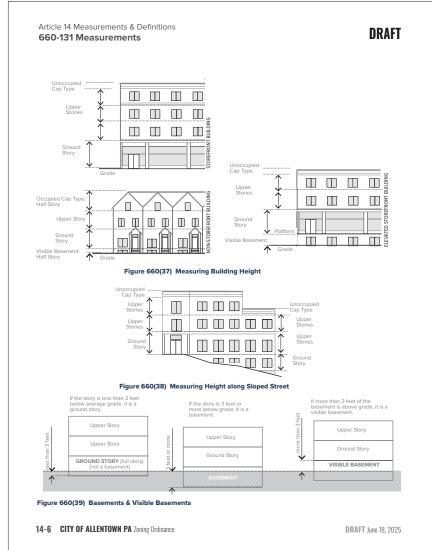








Tables, Illustrations, and Charts







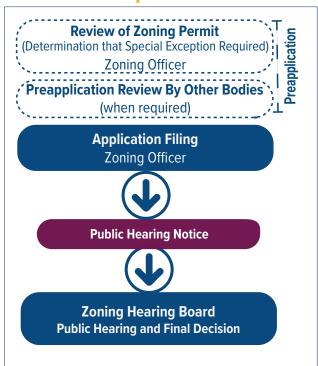


Tables, Illustrations, and Charts

Zoning **Ordinance Amendment**

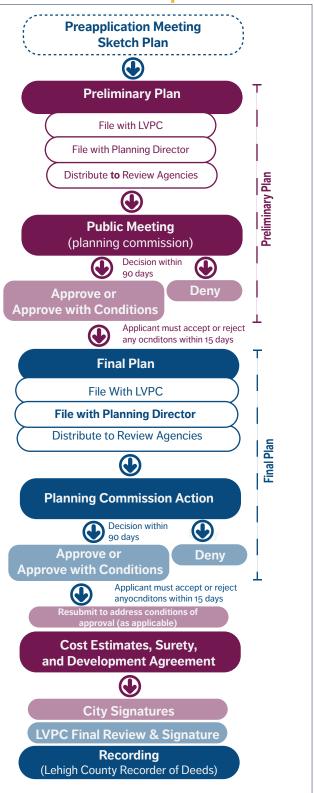


Special Exception

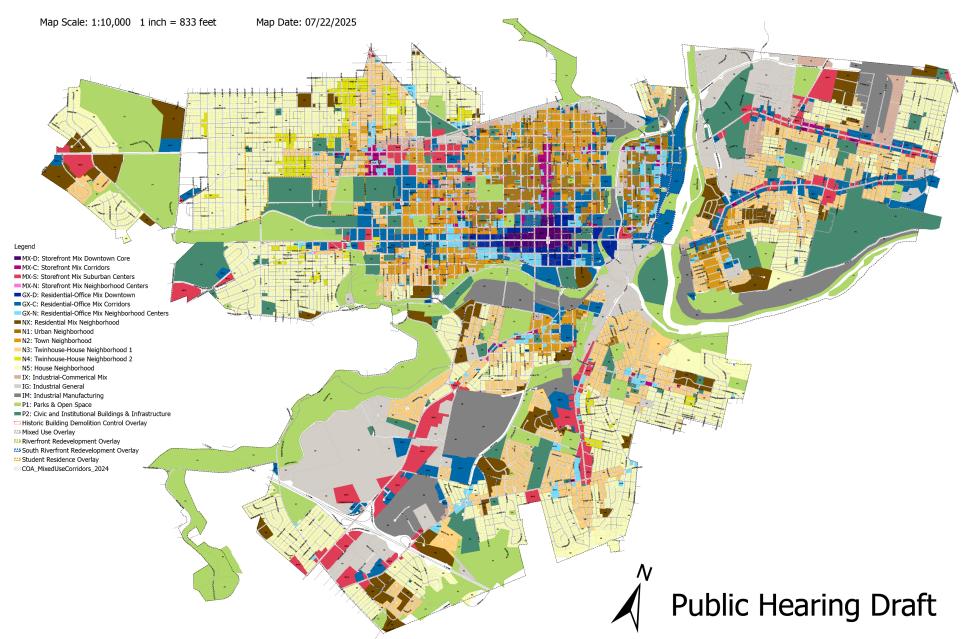




Land Development

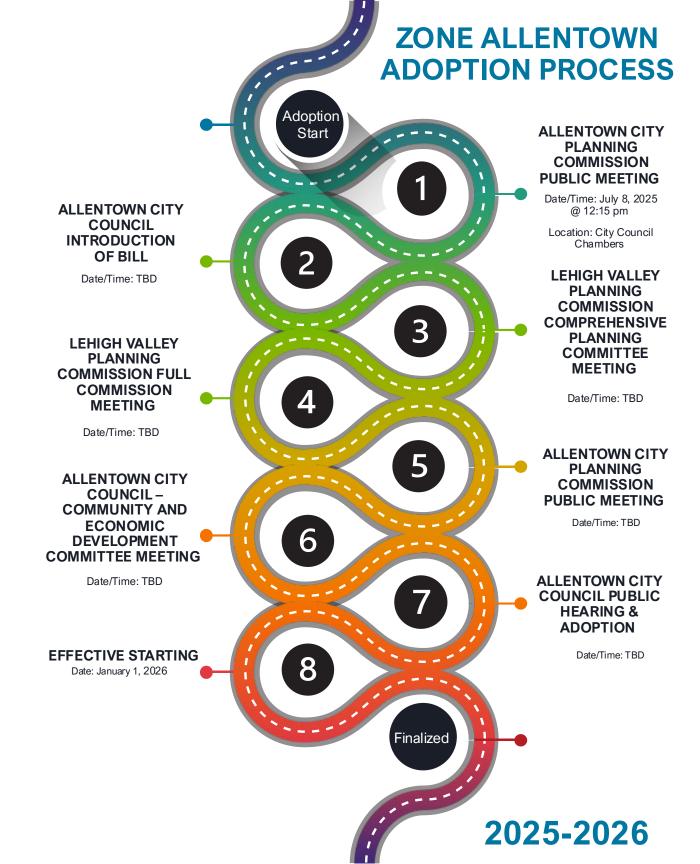


City of Allentown Zoning Map



APPROVAL PROCESS





EXISTING B-5

 Adopted Ordinance in 2022: Multifamily Urban Transition 5-stories plus 2stories for parking "Note R"

Adopted Ordinance in 2023: Lots which abut Riverside Drive, and lots located east of Riverside Drive and west of the Lehigh River unlimited height "Note T"



PROPOSED

PROPOSED:
zoning
designations
consistent with
existing
development
patterns

REQUEST from public to allow additional height.

Lots which abut Riverside Drive:
Proposed SRRO to maintain existing unlimited height.

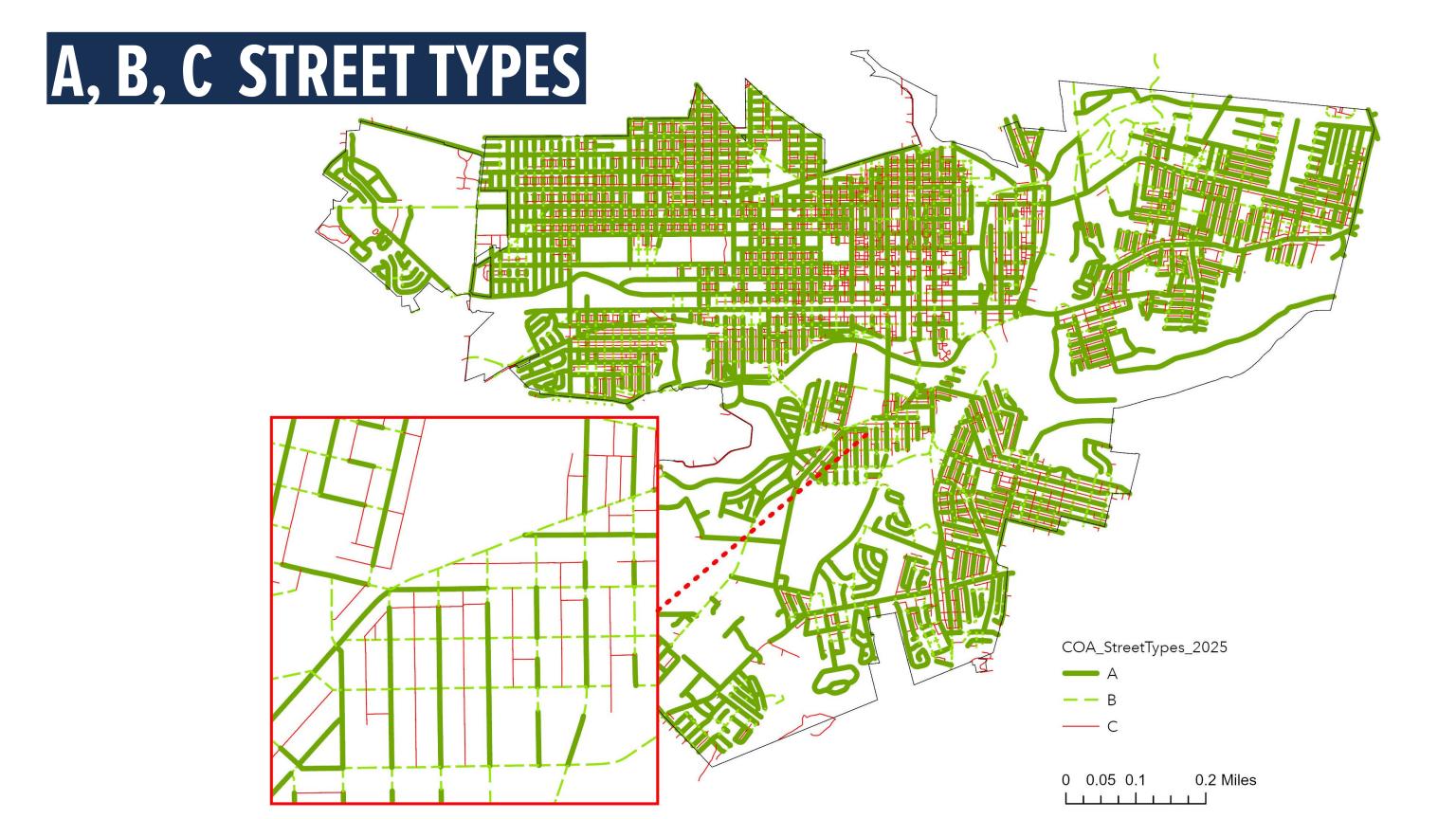


https://www.allentownpa.gov/Planning-and-Zoning/ZONEAllentown

ZONE Allentown

Proposed Zoning





BUILDING TYPES STUDY

STOREFRONT BUILDING TYPES

Storefront Building

Commercial House

Commercial Center

GENERAL BUILDING TYPES

General Building

Small General Building

ROWHOUSE TYPES

Urban Rowhouse

Town Rowhouse

Lane Rowhouse

Suburban Rowhouse

TWINHOUSE TYPES

Town Twinhouse

Suburban Twinhouse

HOUSE TYPES

Pre-War Detached House

Cottage House

Mid-20th Century House

Suburban House

OTHER BUILDING & SITE TYPES

Industrial Building

Civic Building

Parks & Open Space





Appendix: Building Types Study

This appendix outlines the process for defining a series of building types that exist in the city of Allentown, a first step towards the development of a new set of zoning districts. This process is intended to document the dominant building forms, in order to establish an initial framework for the new zoning districts and to frame pertinent questions to be answered during this initial code-drafting process.

This building types study is a first step in a long-term process and provides initial information to help guide that process. The mapping linked below illustrates where distinct building types occur; these draft maps will help define new zoning districts during the code-drafting process.

Allentown Building Types Draft Map - EAST & CENT

Allentown Building Types Draft Map - SOUTH

Allentown Building Types Draft Map - WEST

Preserving the existing building form can reduce the investment needed to improve a property and install an active, viable use, and, in the process, retaining the character of an area's building form into the future. In some cases, however, the condition of the existing building may be such that reconstruction is necessary. Using building types, the new construction will fit the character of the area.

In other cases, the existing building form is not the desired character for the future and new construction is anticipated occur. These areas of significant change, some identified in the comprehensive plan, will be further studied as the process progresses. Building types

identified in other areas of the city are proposed to be used in these areas of significant change.

Building Types

Building types are illustrated and discussed on the following pages. Each parcel in the city has a building type defined for it, designated on the maps in the links above. This information will help map and define new zones during the first phase of the zoning rewrite process.

A set of proposed initial zones is also outlined at the end of this appendix to begin discussion on application of the building type information to the new regulations. The table included in this subsection also provides an overall list of the building types included. Note that some building types may be defined as occurring in the city, but undesirable for the future. Those are noted in red on the table and proposed to be handled through a differen building types.

Finally, at the end of this appendix, a brief description of the process of defining building types for residential and mixed-use/commercial areas of the city is outlined as background information.



City Zoning Colors

R-H - High Density Residential

R-MH - Medium High Density Residential

R-M - Medium Density Residential

R-MP - Medium Density Residential -

Planned Zone

R-ML - Medium Low Density Residential

R-L - Low Density Residential

R-LC - Low Density Conservation

Residential

B/IWD - Innovation and Workforce

Deveopment

B-1/R- Limited Business/Residential

B-2 - Central Business District

B-3 - Highway Business District

B-4 - Shopping Center Business District

B-5 - Urban Commercial

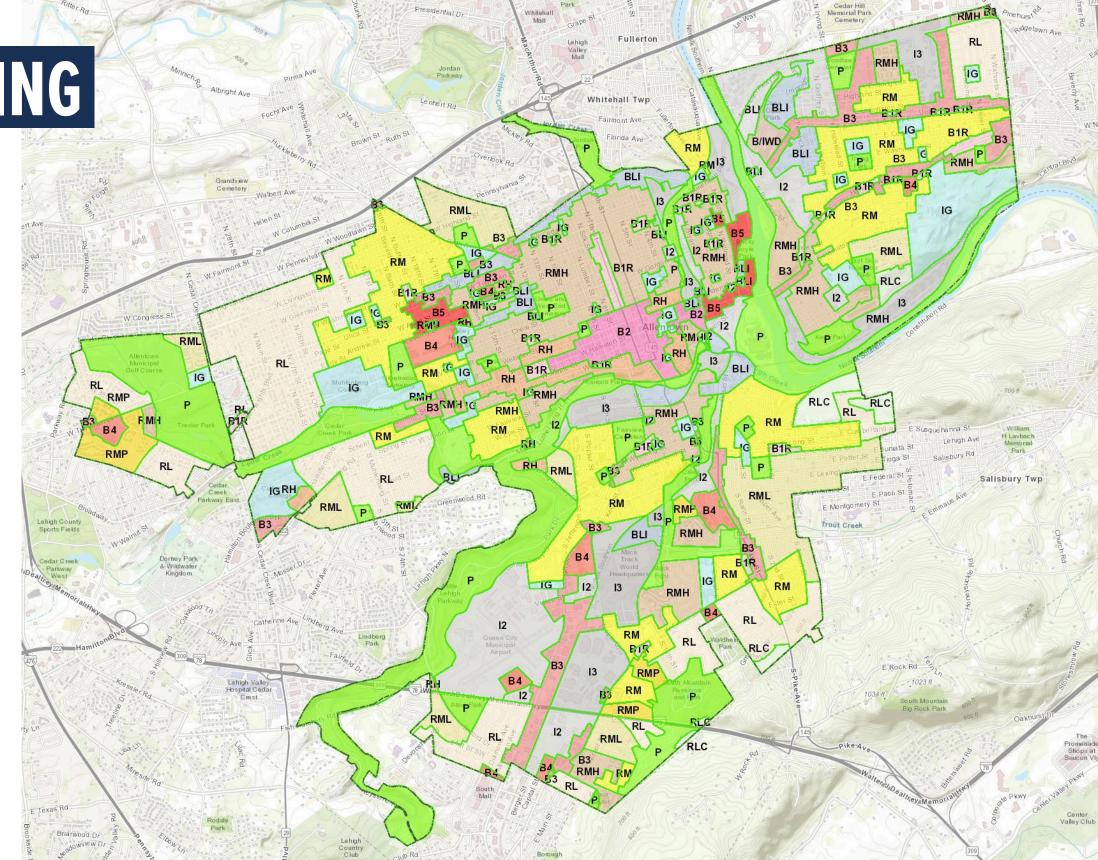
B/LI - Business / Light Industrial

I-2 - Limited Industrial

I-3 - General Industrial

I-G - Institutional and Governmental

P - Park



KEY REVISIONS

IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT COMMENTS

ZONING: NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

- To address context, GX-C zoned lots revised to GX-N and MX-S zoned lots revised to MX-C/N
- N-zoned parcels revisited in several locations to match existing context
- Minimum parking reduced for smaller buildings in N1 and N2 and exemptions added for Lane Rowhouses, as well as Urban and Town Rowhouses

ZONING: DOWNTOWN

- MX-D (storefronts) applied along Hamilton between 5th and 10th, and on 7th Street
- Taller building heights now managed by increased FAR on larger lots

ZONING: 7TH STREET

- Corridor rezoned MX-C and MX-C modified to match existing context
- New residential limited to above ground floor and in the rear to match current code
- Parking exemptions created for small nonresidential uses abutting 7th Street

KEY REVISIONS

ZONING: INDUSTRIAL

- Design standards for Workshop buildings simplified in IX and more flexible in IG and IM
- Large warehouse uses allowed in I2 and IM, subject to minimum lot sizes

ZONING: AFFORDABILITY

- Parking reductions for residential with 5 or more units and lots on high-capacity transit corridors
- Tiny home villages allowed as temporary shelters
- Some Building Design regulations removed or made discretionary

ZONING: OTHER

- Uses modified to address existing businesses and supplemental standards added to address impact
- General revisions to address typos, diagramming, organization, usability, staff interpretations, and general administration

KEY REVISIONS

SUBDIVISION AND LAND USE ORDINANCE

- Streetscape, site design and Master Plan Development regulations moved to SALDO (from zoning)
- Added parkland dedication/fee in-lieu regulations to SALDO
- Added complete Vision Zero and Complete Street design requirements to SALDO, including consideration of transit, pedestrian, and bicycle improvements
- Added requirements for consultation with LANTA and authorization to require transit/paratransit access
- Added trail easement requirements when trails identified in adopted trails plan
- Highlighted role of LVPC in subdivision/land development plan approval process
- General revisions to address typos, diagramming, organization, usability, staff interpretations, and general administration

HOW TO USE THE ZONING ORDINANCE

DRAF1



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BUILDING TYPES

Table 660-3. Allowed Building Types by Zone

	MIXED-USE ZONES MX GX							NEIGHBORHOOD ZONES						INDUSTRIAL ZONES			PUBLIC & INSTITU- TIONAL ZONES			
																			i	
Building Types	-D	-C	-S	-N	-D	-C	-N	NX	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	IX	IG	IM	P1	P2	Section	
Storefront Building			•	•	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	660-20	
Commercial Center	_	_	•	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	660-21	
General Building	_	_	_	_	•	•	_	•	_	_	_	_	_	•	•	•	_	•	660-22	
Small General Building	_	_	_	_	_	•	•	•	0	0	•	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	660-23	
Town Rowhouse	_	_	_	_	_	•	•	_	_	•	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	660-24	
Urban Rowhouse	_	_	_	_	_	_	•	_	•	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	660-25	
Lane Rowhouse	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	•	•	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	660-26	
Suburban Rowhouse	_	_	_	_	_	•	_	•	_	_	•	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	660-27	
Twin House	_	_	_	_	_	•	•	_	_	_	•	•	_	_	_	_	_	_	660-28	
House A	_	_	_	_	_	•	•	•	_	•	•	•	_	_	_	_	_	_	660-29	
House B	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	•	•	•	_	_	_	_	_	660-30	
House C	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	•	_	_	_	_	_	660-31	
Workshop Building	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	•	•	•	0	0	660-32	
Civic Building	0	_	_	_	•	•	•	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	•	•	660-33	

KEY:

= Allowed= Only if fronting on a C street, unless otherwise stated

= Requires special exception approval

– = Not allowed

ZONES

CURRENT ZONES

- B-1/R- Limited Business/Residential
- B-2 Central Business District
- B-3 Highway Business District
- B-4 Shopping Center Business District
- B-5 Urban Commercial
- R-H High Density Residential
- R-MH Medium High Density Residential
- R-M Medium Density Residential
- R-MP Medium Density Residential -
- Planned Zone
- R-ML Medium Low Density Residential
- R-L Low Density Residential
- R-LC Low Density Conservation
 Residential
- Residentiai
- B/IWD Innovation and Workforce

 Deveopment
- B/LI Business / Light Industrial
- I-2 Limited Industrial
- I-3 General Industrial
- I-G Institutional and Governmental
- P Park

18 CONTEXT-SPECIFIC ZONES

Table 660-1. Zones

Table 660	9-1. Zones						
SYMBOL	ZONE NAME						
MIXED-USE ZONES							
MX-D	Mixed-Use Downtown Core						
MX-C	Mixed-Use Corridors						
MX-S	Mixed-Use Suburban Centers						
MX-N	Mixed-Use Neighborhood Centers						
GX-D	Residential-Office Mix Downtown						
GX-C	Residential-Office Mix Corridor						
GX-N	Residential-Office Mix Neighborhood Centers						
NEIGHBOR	HOOD ZONES						
NX	Residential Mix Neighborhood						
N1	Urban Neighborhood						
N2	Town Neighborhood						
N3	Twinhouse-House Neighborhood 1						
N4	Twinhouse-House Neighborhood 2						
N5	House Neighborhood						
INDUSTRIA	L ZONES						
IX	Industrial-Commercial Mix						
IG	Industrial General						
IM	Industrial Manufacturing						
PUBLIC-INSTITUTIONAL ZONES							
P1	Parks and Open Space						
P2	Civic and Institutional Buildings and Sites						

5 OVERLAY ZONES

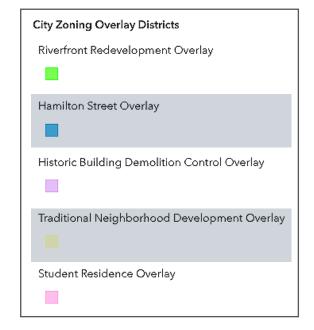




Table 660-2. Overlay Zones

SYMBOL	ZONE NAME						
OVERLAY Z	ONES						
SRO	Student Residence Overlay						
SRRO	South Riverfront Redevelopment Overlay						
HBDO	Historic Building Demolition Overlay						
RRO	Riverfront Redevelopment Overlay						
MUO	Mixed-Use Overlay						

