Goals, Objectives and Policies for the Community Redevelopment District

GOAL 1:
To support achieving a quality sustainable community through livable community design standards as well as Green building, site design and operation strategies.

Objective 1.1
Promote a sustainable community by requiring the use of Green standards and practices for all development and redevelopment within the Community Redevelopment District by establishing minimum Green building and site design standards; and establishing incentive programs such as expedited site plan review and building permitting, and credits against impact fees in exchange for utilizing Green design standards and practices that benefit the quality and sustainability of the environment and:

❖ conserve water and other natural resources.

❖ reduce energy consumption.

❖ improve air quality by reducing Greenhouse gas emissions.

❖ reduce impacts on infrastructure by participating in ride sharing and shuttle service programs.

❖ reduce urban heat by reducing paved surfaces, reduce the need for parking by participating in shared parking plans, employer ride-share and shuttle service programs.

❖ reduce urban heat and encourage pedestrian mobility by planting additional shade trees.

❖ reduce waste through efficient design and recycling programs.

❖ promote a walkable environment by providing on-site pedestrian pathways that link to adjacent properties and off-site sidewalks to reduce traffic impacts and Greenhouse gas emissions.

❖ provide trolley stops or improve existing trolley stops as a comfortable, safe, convenient and attractive experience that encourages mass transit use.

Policy 1.1.1
Require minimum Green standards and encourage the use of Green redevelopment practices that exceed minimum standards for public and private development.
Policy 1.1.2
The City shall establish an incentive program for the implementation of Green standards, practices and technologies for new construction, major renovation and redevelopment within the Community Redevelopment District that exceed minimum requirements.

Policy 1.1.3
The City shall adopt and implement Green standards and an incentive program Citywide.

Policy 1.1.4
The City shall adopt and implement an incentive program that may include expedited site plan review, expedited building permit review and processing, and credits against impact fees or building permit fees that rationally relate to the environmental benefits being achieved such as lower water and energy consumption, reduced Greenhouse gas emissions, and reduced traffic impacts through the implementation of mitigation measures described in Policies 1.1.5, 1.1.6 and 1.1.7 below.

Policy 1.1.5
Encourage site design that promotes safe, comfortable pedestrian pathways internally within the site and provides externally pedestrian pathway linkages to activity centers, shopping, dining and entertainment.

Policy 1.1.6
Encourage employer-sponsored ride-share programs, mass transit subsidies for employees, shuttle services for employees, patrons and guests for work travel, and airport and off-site recreational, parks, entertainment and other tourist destinations.

Policy 1.1.7
Encourage temporary lodging facilities to have bicycles available for guest use.

Policy 1.1.8
Encourage construction waste management and recycling.

Policy 1.1.9
Encourage the use of fountains and water features that promote water conservation.

Policy 1.1.10
Encourage the use of low flow fixtures and high energy efficient rating construction materials, equipment and appliances.
Policy 1.1.11
Encourage the use of Waterwise Florida landscapes and drought tolerant plant material.

Policy 1.1.12
Encourage the use of reclaimed water and rain sensor irrigation systems.

Policy 1.1.13
Encourage the use of energy efficient and solar lighting.

Policy 1.1.14
Encourage the use of advanced storm water controls and waterfront considerations to minimize and eliminate pollutant run-off.

GOAL 2:
To meet the needs of residents and further the ideal of quality communities as a function of living, working, and recreation opportunities, the design and functionality of the Community Redevelopment District will have a renewed focus on livable community strategies that focus more on people and less on the auto with community improvements and site design that values connectivity, safe and attractive gathering places, functional and attractive design, and alternative safe mobility options.

Objective 2.1
Create livable, healthy streets that are designed and oriented towards safe pedestrian and bicycle movement.

Policy 2.1.1
Where appropriate, development and redevelopment should include the following pedestrian- friendly design features:

- Continuous sidewalks with a minimum width of ten feet, buffered from traffic by on-street parking and/or landscaping, and that include pedestrian amenities such as benches, trash receptacles, trolley shelters, and pedestrian-scale street lighting.

- Street trees to provide pedestrian-scale as well as shade and comfort to the pedestrian.

- Buildings should be served by primary walkways that directly link the main building entrance to the street, parking structure and parking areas.
Pedestrian walkways should be visually distinct from parking lot and driveway surfaces and may include textured or colored materials.

Permanent structures such as utility poles and traffic control poles within the sidewalk that restrict pedestrian movement should be discouraged.

Direct routes between destinations, especially between adjacent parcels, to create walking and bicycling connections between neighborhoods and neighborhood (activity) centers.

Additional sidewalk width and distinctive interesting sidewalk patterns for outdoor café seating.

Internal vehicular access between adjacent properties that allows vehicular movement between properties without returning to the street to reduce curb cuts and improve traffic flow on roadways.

Shared access driveways to reduce curb cuts and pedestrian-vehicular conflict.

Policy 2.1.2
The following livable roadway strategies and features shall be pursued wherever appropriate within the Community Redevelopment District and all features shall meet or exceed ADA requirements:

Sidewalks on both sides of the street.

Bike lanes.

Pedestrian roadway crossing treatments such as bulb-outs, crossing islands, pedestrian refuge islands in the median, in-pavement pedestrian lights, textured or other distinctive crosswalk paving patterns, countdown signals, mid-block signals, “hot response” signals, pedestrian bridges over Gulf Boulevard at critical activity areas, signals that are consistent with the international symbols, and crosswalk signals that assist the visually and hearing impaired and wheelchair bound citizens, with particular emphasis on Gulf Boulevard, Corey Avenue, 75th Avenue, Blind Pass Road, and Sunset Way.

Use of mid-block crossings, for blocks more than 800 linear feet in length.
Signage that is clear, easily readable, user-friendly, is consistent with international signage rules and symbols, does not create visual clutter and is part of an overall comprehensive branding signage program for St. Pete Beach.

Policy 2.1.3
Where feasible, provide trolley transit stops in conjunction with pedestrian crosswalks, bike lanes and pedestrian pathways in conjunction with amenities such as pedestrian-scale decorative lighting, landscaping, secured bicycle storage, benches, trash receptacles, public art and other elements that provide comfort and weather protection for the waiting trolley passenger.

Policy 2.1.4
The provision of landscaping near the trolley stop in the form of shade or ornamental/palm trees is encouraged to maximize passenger comfort.

Policy 2.1.5
The City shall establish an off-site public improvements review and approval process for eligibility for community improvement impact fee credits.

Objective 2.2
Parking lots and driveways should be designed to support pedestrian safety, connections and comfort by reducing the number of curb cuts and providing interconnectivity between and through sites.

Policy 2.2.1
Allow a parking requirement reduction for properties that share both cross access and a common entrance drive that utilize shared-parking agreements and cross-access agreements.

Policy 2.2.2
New commercial, office, and retail buildings and centers should be planned to reduce the number of curb cuts and driveways. Where possible, projects should share driveways and parking access with adjacent sites to provide an interconnected system of auto and service access points.
Policy 2.2.3
The location and width of driveways should be reviewed through local site plan review processes to identify opportunities for shared driveways with neighboring properties and to reduce access points on the surrounding road network to the extent possible.

Policy 2.2.4
Parking lots and driveways should provide pedestrian connections to entrances. Dedicated walkways through parking lots should be included in the design.

Policy 2.2.5
Parking lots should include trees to provide shade and reduce temperature for pedestrians.

Policy 2.2.6
In furtherance of pedestrian safety, Pinellas County will coordinate with the Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization and the FDOT to encourage the construction of traffic control/pedestrian crossings on Gulf Boulevard near beach access points.

Objective 2.3
The City will encourage and promote public art and design, and seek ways to increase opportunities for public art and design throughout the Community Redevelopment District as part of a Public Art and Design Master Plan that identifies opportunities, locations and priorities for public art and establishes an implementation/funding strategy and schedule.

Policy 2.3.1
The City will integrate art into City project designs, as appropriate.

Policy 2.3.2
The City will investigate revising building and land development regulations to create incentives to encourage private development to integrate public art into project designs, where appropriate.

GOAL 3:
To rebuild the core commercial and resort areas of the City utilizing Green practices, strategies and technologies.

Objective 3.1
Implement building and site design construction and operation practices that support long-term environmental sustainability by: protecting and conserving water resources; constructing energy efficient buildings; using Florida waterwise and native landscape
plant materials and design; recycling construction materials and debris; reducing urban heat through innovative building and site design; reducing pollutant run-off; protecting further degradation of the beach dune system and coastal wildlife species habitat and restoring or enhancing existing conditions through dune restoration measures, lighting and refuse controls and other measures.

Policy 3.1.1
All development within the Community Redevelopment District shall comply with a minimum of two environmental standards that will be established in Division 39.

Policy 3.1.2
All development within the Community Redevelopment District shall be encouraged to exceed minimum Green standards and redevelop, renovate or develop new projects that implement the “Green” objectives and policies contained in GOAL 1 of the Future Land Use Element relating to energy efficient and environmental sustainable practices.

Policy 3.1.3
All development within the Community Redevelopment District shall be encouraged to implement as many livable community design and operation strategies to promote safe and comfortable pedestrian, bicycle and mass transit mobility that will reduce the consumption of nonrenewable resources, reduce the need for parking and thus reduce urban heat and polluted run-off, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
(a) **Designation of Densities and Intensities in General.** Densities and intensities shall be designated for each classification of use in each character district within the Community Redevelopment District. The City Commission shall amend its LDC and adopt densities and intensities for each character district which shall be consistent with, and implement the Community Redevelopment District guidelines, standards, goals, objectives and policies as established herein. Further, the City shall amend its LDC to include densities and intensities for each character district that shall:

1. not exceed the overall density approved within the Community Redevelopment District and the City limits; and

2. ensure that a comprehensive redevelopment strategy can be and shall be implemented through land development regulations that maintain the City’s heritage of quality residential living complemented by resort facilities and supported by a tourist-based economy that includes temporary lodging uses, local retail, restaurants and local pubs and bars; and

3. recognize that successful redevelopment of each character district is interdependent upon the implementation of successful redevelopment strategies in each of the other character districts; and

4. require the adoption and implementation of land development regulations by the City Commission or the registered voters of St. Pete Beach, as may be required by the City Charter and Code of Ordinances, for each character district that shall be consistent with and allow the implementation of an economically feasible strategy that promotes comprehensive redevelopment of consistent quality for the Community Redevelopment District as a whole and within each designated character district; and

5. not be exceeded by approval of variances.

(b) **Temporary Lodging Unit Density Pools ("TLU Density Pools") - Generally.**

1. **General Purpose.** The TLU Density Pools are intended to provide adequate and available temporary lodging unit density to those existing temporary lodging use properties to redevelop as economically viable resort facilities in the areas of the City where they have traditionally existed for decades. The initial base density provided for the temporary lodging uses in the Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District are intended to bring almost every existing resort hotel property back into conformity which will allow them to rebuild as a resort hotel in the event of a natural disaster or other catastrophic event. The density provided above the base level, including reserve or density pools, is intended to provide economic incentives to redevelop existing temporary lodging properties as resort projects
rather than multi-family residential projects.

2. **Limiting Overall Density.** Realistically, not all existing resort properties can or will be redeveloped as such. In some cases, the existing density is not only higher than the 30 units per acre allowed under the existing land use designation is higher than the density allowed in the character districts providing for increased density for temporary lodging uses within the Community Redevelopment District. Therefore, rather than allowing every existing property the maximum potential density which would overestimate the need for density, and further, to ensure that almost every existing property first and foremost has the opportunity to become a conforming property in terms of use, TLU Density Pools shall be created to allow density to be utilized in meaningful ways in the areas of the City where temporary lodging uses currently exist. The goal and intent is to promote economic redevelopment but also provide an absolute overall maximum density cap to ensure that the overall approved density for the Community Redevelopment District is not exceeded and overdevelopment does not occur. Each TLU Density Pool shall have a maximum cap on the allocation of density on a project by project basis to ensure the redevelopment occurs on an orderly basis overtime throughout each character district and avoid a potential overdevelopment scenario that could arise without a cap and a program of first-come first-serve.

3. **TLU Density Pools Established.** TLU Density Pools shall be established in the following seven specific character districts*:

   a. Boutique Hotel/Condo*
   b. Town Center Core*
   c. Upham Beach Village*
   d. Town Center Core Corey Circle**
   e. Town Center Core Coquina West**
   f. Activity Center **
   g. Bayou Residential**

The total number of temporary lodging units approved in 2005 as part of transient unit density pools for the three character districts designated with one asterisk* was 350 units. That 350 unit total for those three designated character districts* remains unchanged in this plan.

In the 2007 amendment, temporary lodging use density was reduced in the Large Resort District from 80 to 75 units per acre over 65.16 acres. The total temporary lodging unit decrease in the Large Resort District is 325 units. Therefore, these 325 units are available for redistribution to character districts with the potential for temporary lodging use redevelopment. These 325 available units are redistributed for potential use in the Town Center Core Corey Circle, Coquina West, Activity Center, and Bayou Residential Districts** upon approval of a conditional use request and on a first come, first serve basis. These two additional
character districts are identified as having temporary lodging use redevelopment potential as a result of their location at either terminus of the Corey Avenue main street corridor and proximity to waterfront.

The TLU Density Pool for each character district was determined based upon the following factors:

a. The existing number of temporary lodging units in each district.

b. The degree of existing non-conforming densities.

c. The base temporary lodging density allowed in the specific character district.

d. The realistic number of units that may be potentially utilized to promote temporary lodging use redevelopment balancing both acreage and the actual number of existing temporary lodging facilities.

e. The potential to maintain waterfront access and views for the public.

f. The potential to redevelop temporary lodging uses in close proximity to entertainment, shopping, dining and activity centers.

4. **TLU Density Pool Allocation.** Any units allocated under this provision shall be by conditional use approval and shall be specific to each character district’s existing temporary lodging use classifications (i.e., hotel, boutique hotel, motel, resort condominium, and bed & breakfast inn). The allocation of TLU density shall only be by ordinance of the City Commission approving a conditional use on a project by project basis. Such allocations shall not exceed the maximum allocation cap per project and further, shall not exceed total available remaining density in each TLU Density Pool for each of the character districts listed in subsection (b) 3 above. *This limitation on density is absolute.*

5. **Large Resort District Not Eligible.** Temporary lodging uses in the Large Resort District shall not be eligible for any TLU Density Pool allocations.

(c) **Affordable Housing Mitigation Programs & Density Bonus**

1. **Existing Conditions.** Pinellas County, as in many areas of the State of Florida, is experiencing an affordable housing crisis. A scarcity of land, increasing land

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1 The Affordable Housing Density Bonus as established herein allows only 50% of the potential increased density that was approved in the 2005 Plan. In 2005, the maximum density bonus approved was ten (10) temporary lodging units per acre. It was the decision of the City, County and DCA in 2005 that any density bonus that may be utilized in the Large Resort District is speculative and as a result of countervailing public policies to promote and encourage affordable housing as well as the redevelopment of temporary lodging uses that support tourism as the #1 economy in Pinellas County and the State, the potential number of affordable housing bonus units was not calculated against the overall density cap for the Community Redevelopment District. Consistent with the policy for affordable housing density bonus calculation approved in 2005, the potential five (5) temporary lodging units per acre potentially available, subject to certain requirements and restrictions, as part of a voluntary affordable housing mitigation program in addition to the mandatory general mitigation program requirements, will not be calculated against the overall density cap for the Community Redevelopment District.
values and rising insurance and property taxes are creating a substantial impediment to providing affordable housing options for City and County residents who provide needed services to our community. Meaningful affordable housing solutions will require public/private partnerships and innovative strategies. At the time of this proposed amendment, several affordable housing mitigation strategies are being explored by the County and local municipal governments within the County. It is the express intent of St. Pete Beach to participate in any such adopted affordable mitigation strategies as agreed to by the City and County in cooperation with existing affordable housing programs in The City of St. Petersburg and Pinellas County to create affordable housing units within reasonable proximity to the City of St. Pete Beach.

2. **Interpretation and Construction.** This affordable housing provision is intended to enable the implementation of any and all affordable housing strategies mandated by any lawful means by the State, County or City, as may be established and amended from time to time. The City shall work in partnership with the County and neighboring jurisdictions to establish an affordable housing mitigation program. This provision shall be construed to be consistent with any future implementing land development regulations that provide affordable housing mitigation strategies.

3. **General Affordable Housing Mitigation Program Implementation, Limitations and Restrictions.** The City shall establish an affordable housing general mitigation program that includes impact fees or alternative mitigation options that shall be imposed on net development, with credit provided for any existing units or floor area which is removed during the redevelopment process. Alternative mitigation options in lieu of mitigation fees may include eligible, qualified and approved: a) construction of on-site workforce living accommodations; b) credits for off-site construction of affordable housing; c) credits for land purchases or donations that are legally restricted and used for affordable housing only; d) credits for participation in employer-assisted housing programs; or e) such other affordable housing mitigation strategies that may be established by the City in partnership with the County and neighboring jurisdictions. This general mitigation program shall be imposed on a City-wide basis. Jurisdictions, agencies and programs that will receive the revenues generated will be determined through negotiation with appropriate authorities.

4. **Implementation.** The City shall amend its LDC to establish or amend an existing affordable housing and mitigation program, as appropriate, to be consistent with this plan amendment. The LDC shall be amended as soon as reasonably possible, but no later than thirty (30) days after receiving all final County, State, agency and City Commission approvals of this amendment to the Comprehensive Plan after approval by a voter referendum. This affordable housing mitigation program shall be established in partnership with the County and neighboring jurisdictions and shall comply with all governing County and State laws in effect at that time.
5. **Large Resort Affordable Housing Mitigation Program & Density Bonus.** In consideration of the legitimate State, County and City public interest to encourage and promote both affordable housing mitigation strategies as well as tourism which is the number one industry in both the State and County and the City’s only industry, temporary lodging unit density bonuses in exchange for affordable housing mitigation exceeding that established by the General Affordable Housing Mitigation Program shall be established for the Large Resort District. The City Commission shall amend its LDC and provide for a Large Resort Affordable Housing Mitigation program as soon as reasonably possible in accordance with the following restrictions and limitations:

a. **Density Bonus Limitations.** A density bonus in exchange for affordable housing mitigation may only be allowed in conjunction with a defined Large-scale temporary lodging use development.

b. **Density Bonus Restrictions.** A maximum temporary lodging unit density bonus shall be permitted up to, but shall not exceed an additional five (5) bonus units per acre and an additional 0.2 floor area ratio to accommodate the additional temporary lodging units for a defined Large-scale temporary lodging development. Five bonus units shall be allowed for every affordable unit constructed.

c. **Mitigation Exemption.** Temporary lodging units built as part of the affordable housing density bonus and on-site workforce living accommodations provided in compliance with the General or Large Resort Affordable Housing Mitigation programs, as applicable, shall not be subject to the affordable housing mitigation fees or other program requirements.

d. **Prohibitions and Restrictions.** All on-site workforce living accommodations shall be:

   (i) prohibited from being advertised for, or otherwise used for guest temporary lodging or home occupational licensing purposes;

   (ii) exclusively used for providing on-site workforce living accommodations for employees eligible for low income or very low income status as defined by the County and City; and

   (iii) prohibited from being advertised for or otherwise sold as a residential dwelling unit that does not qualify as an on-site affordable housing unit occupied exclusively by an employee(s) of the temporary lodging facility.

e. **Covenant Required.** A legally enforceable restrictive covenant, in form and content acceptable to the City, shall be required as a condition of site plan approval and recorded in the public records of Pinellas County upon issuance of a building permit setting forth the restrictions provided in subsection (e).
above. In addition, such on-site workforce living accommodation units shall be subject to all procedures and requirements of the hurricane closure and evacuation plan for the temporary lodging facility.

(d) **Height Standards, Restrictions and Limitations.** Height standards, restrictions and limitations are:

1. Established in response to the residents’:
   
   a. strong objection to the potential for overdevelopment of the community that could create a dense urban high-rise City;
   
   b. strong desire to restrict height increases generally to the minimum necessary to implement the desired redevelopment goals, objectives and policies; and
   
   c. strong desire to prohibit high-rise residential development throughout the City, particularly along the Gulf beaches.

2. Intended to preserve the City's heritage of quality residential living complemented by resorts and supported by a tourist-based economy in acknowledgement of the following:

   a. that a significant number of high-rise residential condominiums exceeding ten (10) stories in height exist from just north of 38th Avenue northward to the northernmost boundary of the City abutting Treasure Island; and

   b. that a substantial majority of residents desire to prohibit more such high-rise residential condominiums that do not contribute to maintaining the diverse tourist-based economy of the City and will potentially “privatize” our local beaches and waterfronts by denying public access and views to the water; and

   c. that socio-economic needs support:

      (i) Increased building height for large-scale resort redevelopment only.

      (ii) Limited height increases for small-scale resort redevelopment, boutique hotels, and Upham Beach Village motels.

3. Defined and described in each character district to promote the preservation of the City’s diverse residential resort community by allowing the redevelopment of existing temporary lodging uses throughout the areas of the City that have traditionally provided such resort and temporary lodging facilities because:

   a. socio-economic needs support limited height increases for mixed use development projects in a few select core commercial areas within the Community Redevelopment District including the Dolphin Village Shopping Center and the east and west ends of Corey Avenue to anchor the Corey
Avenue main street that will act as a catalyst for revitalization of the City’s historic downtown area; and

b. socio-economic reasons at this time support discouraging or strictly limiting height increases in the City’s land development regulations, including prohibiting variances for increased height for residential condominium development.

4. Established in the Community Redevelopment District to:

a. acknowledge the residents’ objections and desires as well as existing conditions and the socio-economic needs of the community as set forth above to promote and support the future sustainability of a quality residential and resort community;

b. provide that only certain height increases will be allowed and are limited both in actual height as well as select core areas within only 5 of the 11 character districts that represent approximately 8.5 % of the total land area of the City;

c. provide the necessary catalyst for quality reinvestment of these core areas that will enhance the overall value and opportunity for reinvestment by residents, local retail, hotel and motel owners, and investors alike;

d. selectively target those limited areas that will minimize or avoid any encroachment upon existing residential neighborhoods and provide maximum protection and opportunity for compatibility with existing uses; and

e. selectively targets only those uses that contribute significantly to our local economy and quality of life.

5. Specified in each character district within the Community Redevelopment District and shall be:

a. consistent with and allow the implementation of the redevelopment strategy for the respective types of uses provided for in each character district; and

b. subject to the height limitations contained in the City’s LDC.

6. Established in each character district. with the express intent of complying with the Section 3.18 of the City Charter, as amended on Nov. 7, 2006, that requires voter referendum approval for any increases to height allowed by the City’s LDC.

a. It is the express intent of this amendment to the Future Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan designating a Special Area - Community Redevelopment District designation, to establish such height standards not as a recommendation, but rather as a mandatory maximum height for each type
of use within each character district within the Community Redevelopment District that shall be adopted by Ordinance of the City Commission amending its LDC. These height standards are mandatory only for the purposes of establishing maximum permissible heights in both the Comprehensive Plan and the LDC and shall not be construed as requiring that a developer build the maximum height allowed, only that they may build up to, but not exceed, the maximum height for each use as established in each character district.

b. The height standards established for each use within each character district within the Community Redevelopment District have generally been determined to be the minimum necessary to implement an effective redevelopment strategy as contemplated herein for each character district and for the Community Redevelopment District as a whole.

c. It is expressly intended, and shall be construed that any increases to the maximum height in each character district shall be governed by the referendum procedures established in Section 3.18 of the City Charter, as adopted on November 11, 2009, as well as procedures established in Florida Statutes for amendments to the adopted comprehensive plan.

7. Any increases to the maximum allowable height, including by variance, established for each use in each character district within the entire Community Redevelopment District shall be prohibited unless approved by voter referendum, if required by the City Charter.

7. Variances to increase the maximum height allowed for any use or structure shall be prohibited.

(c) Public Safety Standards. Shall be required, implemented and updated as necessary in the City Land Development and Building Codes to provide the maximum flood, hurricane and tropical cyclone protection and mitigation; and further, to proactively improve public safety and emergency procedures in the event of a natural disaster with particular emphasis on emergency evacuation plans and procedures. All new construction shall comply with Federal Emergency Management Agency and National Flood Insurance Program rules and regulations as may be further restricted by local rules, regulations, ordinances, building codes or other governing laws. All temporary lodging uses shall comply with closure and evacuation procedures in accordance with State, County and local rules.

(f) Traffic Generation Characteristics. The Comprehensive Plan standard for the purpose of calculating typical traffic impacts relative to a plan amendment for this land use category shall be based upon the actual mix and intensity of land use proposed in the Community Redevelopment District plan map area and represents the maximum trip generation rate potential, calculated by using the appropriate traffic generation characteristics for each corresponding category of land use, adjusted to account for proposed density/intensity of said land use. Actual implementation of the
A comprehensive plan will not result in the maximum potential densities and intensities permitted herein. Actual implementation of land development regulations on a project by project basis will require transportation management plans and strategies. As a result, the maximum trip generation rate calculated under the maximum potential build out under this plan will further be reduced.

(g) **Infrastructure Systems & Facilities Characteristics and Standards.**

1. **Major findings:**

   a. Generally, with few exceptions, the design and materials of existing potable water, sanitary sewer, and storm water within the designated CRD are characteristic of 40-50 year old facilities.

   b. That new development and redevelopment will create additional impacts on existing and future infrastructure systems and facilities.

   c. There is a need to continue to modernize and improve infrastructure, maintain or improve levels of service provided to residents and visitors, including safety and aesthetic improvements, where practical and feasible.

   d. Physical constraints, as well as safety and aesthetic considerations affecting the feasibility and practicality of widening existing roads, require a greater emphasis on increasing mobility through strategies that do not involve road expansion and include alternative mobility strategies.

   e. That used on its own, an established letter grade system for measuring levels of service on roadways which is based primarily on travel speed, can be misleading as an indicator of roadway performance. Roadway congestion and duration of congestion also need to be considered to more accurately assess roadway performance.

   f. Escalating cost of right-of-way is cost-prohibitive.

2. **Concurrency Management System and Transportation Management Plan Requirements:**

   a. **Concurrency Statement.** All new development or redevelopment that increases density or intensity shall be required to prepare and submit a Concurrency Management Statement to the City, at its sole expense, to determine the sufficiency of capacity and any potential adverse impacts or degradation of the levels of service below acceptable levels established by the City or County, as applicable, on existing or future infrastructure systems and facilities except transportation which shall be required to submit a Transportation Management Plan. At a minimum, Concurrency Management Statement(s) shall be submitted for the following:
(i) potable water;
(ii) sanitary sewer;
(iii) transportation facilities;
(iv) parks and recreation facilities (for residential development only); and
(v) educational facilities (for residential development only).

b. **Infrastructure Study.** An infrastructure study may be required on one or more of the above-listed systems or facilities to determine the extent of any degradation of the infrastructure below the adopted levels of service caused by increases in density or intensity of use on the development site. Mitigation fees and/or physical or operational improvements determined to be reasonably required and in proportion to the impacts caused by the increased density and density of new development, in consideration of the long-term concurrency management plan of the local government who owns and operates the facility or system, shall be a condition of site plan approval.

c. **Transportation Management Plan.** All new development, excluding single-family and duplex residential, shall be required to prepare and submit a Transportation Management Plan (TMP) to the City, at its sole expense, to determine the extent of the impacts on existing transportation systems based upon adopted levels of service and concurrency management standards to address impacts caused by any increases to density or intensity on the development site. The TMP shall determine any necessary physical or operational improvements, alternatives and other mitigation strategies that can be implemented to maintain the adopted levels of service and address a long-term concurrency management program. A TMP that includes one or more strategies to reduce external trip generation, improve traffic flow, reduce Greenhouse gas emissions, and/or emphasizes safe and comfortable pedestrian, bicycle and mass transit mobility, will be required. TMP strategies may include, but are not limited to:

(i) Physical and operational improvements.
(ii) Expanding and improving mass transit and trolley stops with amenities that provide protection from sun and rain and are aesthetically pleasing to encourage increased mass transit/trolley rider-ship.
(iii) Employer-sponsored employee ridesharing and vanpooling programs.
(iv) Employer-subsidized mass transit passes for employees.
(v) Implementation of a temporary lodging shuttle service to the Tampa International and St. Petersburg/Clearwater Airports shall be mandatory for all Large-scale temporary lodging uses and encouraged for all other temporary lodging uses. Shuttle service to area attractions, parks and entertainment venues may be included as part of a TMP but shall not be required. Shuttle services for guests of temporary lodging facilities may be operated for one resort or as part of a shared shuttle service program with participating member resorts.
(vi) Bicycle and/or segway rental or complimentary programs for temporary lodging guests.
(vii) Provision of on-site pedestrian and bicycle linkages to external pathways to expand, improve and enhance a safe, continuous pedestrian, bicycle and segway network throughout the City.
(viii) Expansion, improvement or enhancement of off-site bike/segway lanes and sidewalks to form a continuous safe and comfortable network Citywide.
(ix) On-site secured bicycle storage areas.
(x) Additional tree canopy adjacent to sidewalks to provide shade and comfort to the pedestrian that will increase pedestrian mobility.
(xi) Pedestrian-scale decorative street lighting and street furniture along pedestrian pathways to create a safe and comfortable experience to encourage pedestrian mobility.
(xii) Monetary contributions towards a City-owned and operated Looper Trolley fleet operated solely within the City limits and fueled by alternative fuels or electrically-charged batteries.
(xiii) Construction or monetary contributions towards a Gulf Beach Boardwalk, should the City pursue a beach boardwalk or trail.
(xiv) Construction of crosswalks and related crosswalk features that facilitate safe movement across roadways.
(xv) Dedication of easements for pedestrian and non-motorized pathways.
(xvi) Right-of-way donation for turn lanes and/or wider bike/segway lanes.
(xvii) Construction or monetary contributions towards a pedestrian bridge over Gulf Boulevard linking major activity areas.

d. **Governing laws.** Mitigation or elimination of impacts shall comply with applicable State, County and City concurrency and proportionate share requirements, and shall also implement the goals, objectives and policies of the redevelopment and character district where the development is located.

(h) **Transportation Concurrency Management Standard for Large-scale Temporary Lodging Development.** In accordance with the Countywide transportation concurrency management rules and regulations, each project developed or redeveloped within the Community Redevelopment District shall be consistent with the Metropolitan Planning Organization’s (MPO) countywide approach to the application of a concurrency management system and implementation of a Transportation Management Plan requirement and shall:

1. recognize standard data sources as established by the MPO;

2. identify level of service (LOS) standards for state and county roads as established by the MPO;

3. utilize the proportionate fair share requirements consistent with Ch. 163, F.S., and the MPO model ordinance;
4. utilize the MPO Traffic Impact Study Methodology; and

5. recognize the MPO designation of "Constrained Facilities" as set forth in the most current MPO Annual Level of Service Report.

(i) **Environmental and Conservation Standards.** The City shall amend its LDC to provide minimum Green building and development standards. All development, redevelopment and major renovation projects shall be required to meet a minimum of two Green building and development standards that will be established by the City in the LDC and shall be strongly encouraged to implement Green practices in building and site design that exceed the minimum standards. All development shall be encouraged to utilize fixtures, equipment and best practices in water, energy and waste efficiency standards during and after construction is completed to support the City goal of becoming the first Coastal Green City in Pinellas County. In addition, the City shall amend its LDC, Building Code, application procedures and processes, as applicable and appropriate, to implement a pilot Green practices incentive program in accordance with GOAL 1 of the overall Future Land Use Element and Goal 3 above and Section (j)3 below of this Community Redevelopment District Future Land Use Element.

(j) **Community Involvement.** A minimum of one (1) community meeting shall be held at least thirty (30) days prior to submitting an application for administrative approval of a development or redevelopment site plan proposed to be built within the Community Redevelopment District. Single family homes, duplexes and projects less than ½ acre in size, may, but shall not be required, to host a community meeting. The purpose of the community meeting shall be to present the development project site plan to interested City residents and business owners, answer questions and solicit comments. A sign-in sheet and comment cards shall be provided to all attendees and a copy shall be provided to the City Clerk within three (3) days of the meeting. At least one City Staff person from the Community Development Services Department shall attend the community meeting. The City shall consider the written comments submitted by attendees during its administrative site plan review process, and may implement such public comment as appropriate that are consistent with and not contrary to law and local land development regulations, and are in the best interests of the public health, safety and welfare of the community.
Densities Reserved for the Community Redevelopment District

(a) Coastal High Hazard Limitations. State, County and local laws discourage an increase to the overall density within the City limits as a result of the State designation of the City as a Coastal High Hazard community. The following reserves are restricted to ensure that the overall density in the Community Redevelopment District and the City is not increased.

(b) Residential Unit Reserves ("RU Reserve"). RU Reserves are established for the following three designated character districts for a minimum of five (5) years in accordance with each district’s specific redevelopment plan:

- Downtown Core Residential District for two (2) units per acre for a total of 23 reserved residential units.
- Commercial Corridor Blind Pass Road District for three (3) units per acre for a total of 22 reserved residential units.
- Commercial Corridor Gulf Boulevard District for three (3) units per acre for a total of 64 reserved residential units.

1. Purpose and Intent. The purpose of the RU Reserve in any character district where such a reserve is established is to balance the need for redevelopment in certain diverse neighborhoods of the community against a strong desire not to overdevelop these same neighborhoods in acknowledgement of the conditions set forth in sections (b)2 and (b)3 below.

2. Existing Physical & Economic Conditions. There are two primarily commercial character districts and one mixed residential/temporary lodging use character districts where the RU Reserve will be established. The following describes their respective existing conditions:

a. The Downtown Core Residential is a very diverse neighborhood with residential and non-residential uses, including a mix of housing types ranging from single family to higher density aging multi-family apartment complexes and temporary lodging densities.

b. The two Commercial Corridor districts, one located on the south end of Blind Pass Road and the other located at the north end of Gulf Boulevard have narrow lot depths abutting residential neighborhoods that need redevelopment in a manner that will be more compatible with the residential neighborhoods located behind these character districts.

c. Several of the aging apartment complexes have already been or may be converted to condominium ownership at higher densities than allowed by current land development regulations if the existing regulatory scheme is not updated to encourage redevelopment in lieu of remodeling that does not require compliance with current building, safety, FEMA and LDCs and
3. Consequences of Existing Built Densities that Exceed Densities Allowed under Current LDC are:

a. **Maintenance and Repair Only.** Aging properties are maintained, repaired and at best cosmetically remodeled and renovated instead of rebuilt to current site design, building code and FEMA regulations. This consequence impedes the City’s ability to improve overall public safety through the implementation of current building codes and FEMA flood regulations, as well as improve the overall quality of life of its residents through the implementation of more stringent site and building design standards.

b. **Decline in Material Reinvestment.** If current safety, building, flood protection and design standards cannot be implemented because landowners find it more economically viable to remodel than to rebuild to current standards, these diverse neighborhoods will continue to see a decline in reinvestment, property value and overall quality of life from a public safety, building safety, aesthetic, and environmental perspective.

4. Implementation of RU Reserves in Three Character Districts

a. **Five-Year Waiting Period.** RU Reserves shall not be implemented through the City’s Future Land Use Plan and LDC prior to five years after final initial adoption (Ordinance 2008-15, August 26, 2008) of this plan and map amendment to:

(i) Allow the City adequate time to assess whether or not the incentive provided by this redevelopment plan is sufficient in the short-term to effectuate redevelopment without implementing all available residential density immediately upon approval of this amendment.

(ii) Avoid the potential for overdevelopment in the short-term while simultaneously allowing future Commissions to re-evaluate economic conditions beyond five years and decide if additional incentives are needed to encourage redevelopment in each specific character district.

(iii) Provide future Commissions the necessary planning tools when and if warranted, to further the stated goals, objectives and policies of the Community Redevelopment Plan.

a. **FLUE Implementation.** After the expiration of this five-year waiting period, the maximum permitted residential density for land designated in Future Land Use Plan and Map is as follows:
(i) Commercial Corridor Gulf Boulevard District and the Commercial Corridor Blind Pass Road District shall be fifteen (15) residential units per acre without further need to amend this Future Land Use Plan and Map.

(ii) Downtown Core Residential District shall be twelve (12) residential units per acre without further need to amend this Future Land Use Plan and Map.

b. **LDC Implementation.** After that initial mandatory five-year reserve period, Future City Commissions may increase the residential density permitted in each of the three character districts as established immediately above by amending the land development regulations, but only if such increase is determined necessary by a future City Commission.

c. **General Residential Unit “RU” Density Pool Reserve.** is established for the entire Community Redevelopment District by reducing the previously allowed maximum residential density of 18 dwelling units per acre in the Large Resort character district by three dwelling units per acre to a maximum of 15 dwelling units per acre over the entire 65.16 acres. The total residential density reduction in the Large Resort district equals 195 residential dwelling units.

1. **Purpose and intent.** For the same purposes stated in Section 3 above relating to residential reserves for specific character districts, these 195 residential units previously permitted in the Large Resort character district shall be reserved for future use within the CRD, as may be necessary and warranted.

2. **Ten-Year Waiting Period.** The residential dwelling units contained in this General RU Density Reserve shall not be implemented through the City’s Future Land Use Plan prior to ten years after final initial adoption of this amendment (Ordinance 2008-15, August 26, 2008).

3. **FLUE Implementation.** After the expiration of this Ten-year waiting period, 195 residential dwelling units shall automatically become available as a residential density reserve for any property located within the boundaries of the Community Redevelopment District that permits residential use without further need to amend this Future Land Use Plan and Map.

3. **LDC Implementation.** After that initial mandatory Ten-year reserve period, Future City Commissions may implement the residential density pool through the LDC with proper allocation procedures and absolute density limitations to ensure that the cumulative total of allocations does not exceed the available reserve density.
Other Standards for the Community Redevelopment District (CRD)

Shall include the following:

(a) Countywide Amendment CRP Approval. The utilization of this Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Element land use plan category and corresponding Future Land Use Map change to provide for a Community Redevelopment District shall require the subject area to be formally designated as a community or neighborhood redevelopment area and a special area plan initially approved by a voter referendum as prescribed by City Charter. Thereafter, the process for the Countywide Future Land Use Plan amendment to employ or alter this land use plan category shall require recommendation by the Pinellas Planning Council and approval by the Countywide Planning Authority for the special area plan and any substantive amendments thereto. Minor plan changes that are not considered substantive shall not constitute an amendment to the Future Land Use Plan, and shall be submitted to the Pinellas Planning Council and the Countywide Planning Authority for receipt and acceptance. Where such comprehensive plan amendment is prepared pursuant to Chapter 163, Part III, F.S. or governing laws in effect at the time of voter referendum approval, all applicable provisions of that process will be complied with prior to or simultaneous with the review of the Community Redevelopment Plan under the Countywide Rules.

(b) Countywide Amendment CRP Content/Criteria. The Community Redevelopment Special Area Plan prepared in support of this land use plan category and amendment to the City’s Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Element and Future Land Use Map shall include at a minimum that information for such special area designation determined necessary by the Pinellas Planning Council to evaluate the proposed amendment in relationship to the policies of the Countywide Future Land Use Plan, the assessment of infrastructure impacts and the adequacy of provision therefore and the relationship of the proposed special area plan to the Countywide Future Land Use Plan and affected local government plans.
C. Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District

General Provisions

(a) Location and Character. The Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District contains approximately 148.20 acres of land shown on Map 2. This District represents approximately 11.5% of the total land area of the City.

(b) Purpose and Intent; Redevelopment Incentives & Deterrents. This District is one of two core redevelopment districts and this District is designed to:

1. Encourage revitalization and redevelopment of primarily:

   (i) temporary lodging uses - resorts, hotels, resort condominiums and boutique hotels on the west side of Gulf Boulevard; and

   (ii) commercial and mixed-use retail/residential projects on the east side of Gulf Boulevard with an emphasis on the central core Activity Center character district.

2. Discourage residential condominium development on the west side of Gulf Boulevard.

3. Prohibit exclusive residential use projects exceeding current height and density restrictions contained within the City's LDC, as may be amended from time to time in accordance with the City Charter.
Goals, Objectives and Policies for the Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District

GOAL 1:
Gulf Boulevard shall be a place that attracts people for living, employment and recreation. The City shall encourage the revitalization of Gulf Boulevard through commercial and temporary lodging redevelopment that will attract residents and visitors to the Gulf Boulevard core resort area as a recreation, entertainment, resort and shopping destination.

Objective 1.1
All development and redevelopment within the Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District shall further the goals, objectives and policies of the Community Redevelopment District, this District and each character district within which development occurs; and shall comply with the design guidelines and the applicable land development regulations for the respective character district.

Objective 1.2
High-rise residential condominium projects in the Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District are prohibited along the Gulf beaches and intracoastal waterways by prohibiting height and density increases for exclusively residential uses on Gulf Boulevard.

Objective 1.3
A variety of incentives shall be available to encourage commercial and temporary lodging development in the Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District, with particular emphasis on redeveloping temporary lodging uses on the west side of Gulf Boulevard along the Gulf beaches; and redeveloping appropriate commercial and residential uses on the east side of Gulf Boulevard.

Objective 1.4
The Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District shall maintain, and where practical, expand parks and recreational activities, including waterfront recreation that serves residents and visitors.

Objective 1.5
The Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District shall be a safe environment for both residents and visitors, and real and perceived public safety issues will be addressed including improved lighting, improved pedestrian circulation on the east and west sides of Gulf Boulevard and crossing Gulf Boulevard, improved bicycle lanes for safer circulation for all modes of non-vehicular transportation, and shall consider traffic flow devices and improvements to assist in daily traffic flow and emergency evacuation.
Objective 1.6
The City shall recognize the unique features of Gulf Boulevard and shall implement the Gulf Boulevard Improvement Program or develop a Master Boulevard plan that promotes uniform beautification landscape standards, provides a pedestrian and bicyclist-friendly and safe environment that minimizes pedestrian-vehicular conflict and bicycle-vehicular conflict.

Objective 1.7
Public beach access will be preserved and expanded through redevelopment of temporary lodging uses.

Objective 1.8
All new building construction shall comply with current Building and Safety Codes, FEMA and National Flood Insurance program regulations to maximize protection of the City’s built infrastructure from all manner of hazards, natural disasters and flooding. The City shall ensure compliance not only through the building permit process but through Code Enforcement and inspections as necessary to maintain the highest FEMA rating achievable for a coastal barrier island.

Objective 1.9
The City shall recognize the importance of temporary lodging uses and public beach access to its residents and visitors in preserving and maintaining its socio-economic quality of life; and further, the City recognizes that additional high-rise residential development along the Gulf beaches is not desirable and not in keeping with the City and its residents’ desire to preserve and expand public beach access and temporary lodging uses that if lost, and replaced with high-rise residential uses, will adversely impact the City’s tourism-based economy; and as a result, such high rise residential development shall be discouraged throughout the Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District and shall not be allowed to exceed current height limitations of five stories over parking for exclusively multi-family residential use projects in the Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District.

GOAL 2:
Create a quality livable community where people and vehicles can circulate in the Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District area safely, comfortably and efficiently.

Objective 2.1
Gulf Boulevard shall be reclaimed as a functioning local street to the maximum extent permitted by FDOT to operate within the Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District for vehicular, non-vehicular and pedestrian circulation.

Objective 2.2
Temporary lodging redevelopment shall be required to file an enforceable mandatory closure and evacuation plan that complies with County Emergency evacuation and management procedures and local emergency management rules and procedures,
which shall be updated and amended as may be required by the County and/or City, from time to time.

Objective 2.3
A Master Boulevard Plan shall be implemented to enhance the pedestrian and vehicular environment, invite residents and visitors into the Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment core resort area, improve traffic circulation and encourage private reinvestment and investment, subject to FDOT approval.

Objective 2.4
A variety of parking solutions for motorized and non-motorized vehicles shall be pursued to support redevelopment, while maintaining ease of access and adequate parking throughout the Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District.

Objective 2.5
Large-scale temporary lodging redevelopment shall be required to develop and implement a Transportation Management Plan that includes shuttles to and from the airport and may include shuttles to off-site amenities and attractions, an employee ridesharing or vanpooling program and a guest bicycle program.

Objective 2.6
Public and private sector development shall create and contribute to pedestrian and bicycle linkages throughout the Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District for safety, as part of the Green practices initiative to reduce Greenhouse gas emissions.

Objective 2.7
Development of on-site and off-site public parking, as well as additional and enhanced trolley stops, shall be pursued in proximity to public beach access points, pedestrian crosswalks and major retail and entertainment areas.

GOAL 3:
Maintain and improve Gulf Boulevard as a memorable place to be enjoyed by residents and visitors that emphasizes pedestrian mobility, waterfront and Gulf beach access, a quality built environment that focuses on retail services and entertainment.

Objective 3.1
The existing parks shall be improved to provide residents and visitors a memorable experience.

Objective 3.2
Public beach access points will be preserved, expanded and improved through redevelopment and coordinated with pedestrian crosswalks, bike lanes and sidewalks, trolley stops and entrances to major residential neighborhoods on the east side of Gulf Boulevard to the maximum extent practical and feasible.
Objective 3.3
Redevelopment is encouraged to create a vibrant Gulf Boulevard core resort environment containing a variety of building forms and styles of exceptional architectural design and high quality finishes that respect the Gulf Boulevard resort character and heritage, increase Green space, reduce paved surface parking, increase side yard setbacks, increase setbacks from Gulf Boulevard, and provide amenities, retail services, restaurants and waterfront beach bars that serve guests and residents alike.

Policies

Policy 1:
All development shall be consistent with building and site design guidelines and standards that establish the quality of design features expected for renovation, redevelopment and new construction in the Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District.

Policy 2:
The character of each district shall be reinforced through the site plan review and approval process. Projects shall be consistent with and contribute positively to the vision of the character district in which they are located.

Policy 3:
The design of all projects in the Gulf Boulevard Redevelopment District shall make meaningful contributions to a safe and comfortable pedestrian environment through site and building design, internal connections between adjacent properties, and external connections to and along Gulf Boulevard.

Policy 4:
On-site overhead utilities shall be placed underground as part of all development projects.

Policy 5:
Utility and sidewalk easements along Gulf Boulevard may be required as part of all development projects if the existing site conditions and redevelopment plans permit the location of such easements that can be integrated into the redevelopment site plan without undue hardship to the property owner. The City may also require the construction of a sidewalk along Gulf Boulevard in a location that can be coordinated with existing off-site sidewalks and integrated with the proposed site plan to provide continuous safe pedestrian pathways.

Policy 6:
Property owners/developers are encouraged to meet with area neighborhood associations/business groups prior to submitting a major redevelopment project for City review.
Policy 7:
Residential developments shall provide on-site recreational opportunities wherever possible.

Policy 8:
Shared parking for commercial, office and mixed uses shall be accomplished wherever possible.

Policy 9:
All new development and redevelopment shall mitigate potential flood, hurricane and tropical cyclone hazards.

Policy 10:
To improve traffic flow and reduce pedestrian/bicyclist – vehicular conflict, vehicular curb cuts to access Gulf Boulevard shall be minimized, shared access driveways should be pursued, and internal connectivity between adjacent properties should be encouraged, to the practical extent feasible to allow reasonable, adequate and safe ingress and egress to new development.

Policy 11:
A Transportation Management Plan (TMP) shall be required on all development and redevelopment that increases density or intensity of development on a site. Physical and operational improvements and strategies should be considered as part of any project Transportation Management Plan.

Policy 12:
Pedestrian bridges over Gulf Boulevard shall be pursued at critical intersections along Gulf Boulevard to ensure safe and continuous pedestrian linkages between major activity core areas such as Dolphin Village and the County Park/Resort Districts as well as East and West Corey Avenue shopping, business and entertainment districts.

Policy 13:
Increased setbacks from Gulf Boulevard for any building exceeding fifty (50) above based flood elevation.

Policy 14:
All new development projects shall contribute their pro rata share to the Community Improvements Fund, as may be required at the time of building permit approval or before

Policy 15:
The assembly of smaller parcels into larger development sites will be encouraged.

Policy 16:
All new development or redevelopment shall be required to obtain administrative site plan approval prior to construction.
Large Resort District (LR)

(a) Location and Character. The Large Resort character district is a 0.9 mile strip of land, illustrated on the Future Land Use Map, containing 65.16 acres of land or approximately 5% of the total land area of the City. This District is devoted almost exclusively to larger resort temporary lodging uses that occupy approximately 84% of the land area within the District. There are five (5) existing high-rise multi-family residential condominiums in the District that likely will not be redeveloped in the foreseeable future. In addition, there are a very limited number of properties along this 0.9 mile strip of Gulf Boulevard that could potentially redevelop as Large-scale temporary lodging uses that may be eligible for increased height and density.

(b) Purpose and Intent; Redevelopment Incentives & Deterrents. Hotel redevelopment is encouraged by increasing permitted density and height for temporary lodging use only. Exclusive residential use development is strongly discouraged by decreasing permitted density and prohibiting any increases to allowable height for this type of use. It is the goal and intent of the City to limit height and density in this District to the minimum that will provide comparatively equal market value between multi-family residential use and temporary lodging use for the reasons discussed below.

Pinellas County has lost 5,000 of its 40,000 hotel rooms and has lost thousands of tourism-related jobs from 2002 -2006. Hundreds of those rooms and jobs were lost here in St. Pete Beach with an imminent risk of losing more that would adversely impact the socio-economic quality of life the City has enjoyed for more than 50 years. Vacancy rates have remained stagnant for several years even with the loss of thousands of hotel rooms. This is a strong indicator that the resort community on St. Pete Beach is losing its market share as a result of aging properties and facilities that cannot compete with other regional, National and global resort destinations despite the fact our beaches are consistently listed within the Top 5 beaches in the Country. The purpose of the Large Resort character district redevelopment plan is to provide an economically feasible choice to pursue resort reinvestment and redevelopment as an alternative to high-rise residential development overtaking the City’s Gulf beaches as it has in most other beach communities in the State.

Creating an economically viable commercial reinvestment opportunity instead of a residential redevelopment opportunity will not only stimulate the local economy, it will correct the disproportionate tax burden allocation between commercial and residential properties that exists in 2007. The disproportionate tax burden allocation is a direct result of the lack of commercial reinvestment. Substantial commercial reinvestment has not occurred in the past 25 to 30 years. By contrast, new residential construction and renovation has steadily increased residential property values for the past decade, slowing only recently due to temporary market conditions.
A decline in commercial reinvestment results in a decline in commercial property value. When combined with the increase in residential property values as a result of market conditions and new construction, the overall effect is a disproportionate tax burden shift from the commercial property tax base to the residential property tax base.

In 2007, that local tax revenue is allocated at approximately 88% residential and 12% commercial. As commercial property reinvestment remains stagnant, values will continue to decline and the tax burden shift will become increasingly progressive rather than lineal. This trend must be reversed to re-establish a sustainable and healthy economy or eventually, residents will shoulder nearly 100% of the City’s operating and capital costs with no alternative revenue sources except property taxes, special assessments and user fees. Cuts in City services may also result if a shortfall in property tax revenue is not otherwise funded. To achieve a balanced and healthy local economy in a City of this size and population, a minimum of 25% of the local tax revenue should be derived from commercial properties. Ideally, for the healthiest economy, approximately 30% to 40% of local tax revenue should be generated by commercial properties while only occupying 15%-20% of the total land area or less. Increased commercial property tax revenue plus sales tax create a long-term stable economy that reduces the tax burden on residents.

To achieve this tax allocation correction and shift a greater tax burden back to commercial properties and away from residents, commercial reinvestment and redevelopment must be encouraged through regulatory means. As a result of the disparate regulatory density scheme between residential condominiums and temporary lodging uses that has existed in the community at least since 2001, there is a significant opportunity to accomplish a tax burden correction simply by adjusting the outdated land development regulations. By increasing density only for temporary lodging use, this will stimulate reinvestment and revitalization of tourist lodging uses and discourage or limit the redevelopment of residential uses. This regulatory correction should rebalance the current disproportionate tax burden on residents by increasing commercial property values, and as a result, increase the percentage share of local tax revenue collected from commercial properties.

This type of redevelopment has several additional advantages over residential condominium development. These advantages include: 1) reduced daily vehicular travel demand; 2) improved evacuation procedures; 3) decreased number of residents needing to evacuate in the event of a hurricane watch or warning; 4) reduced demands on public facilities and services by hotel guests as compared to residents since full service resorts provide most of the services and amenities otherwise needed by a resident; 5) increased assessed property valuations that are not subject to homesteading; 6) increased sales tax that helps fund Penny for Pinellas projects that has included several parks and a portion of the Community Center in St. Pete Beach; and 7) and bed tax revenue paid only by temporary lodging uses that currently is the only source of revenue to provide the local matching funds needed for beach renourishment projects within the City and County.
(c) **Economic Disparity.** The only way to eliminate all or most of the existing economic disparity between the development of a residential condominium and a temporary lodging use is to level the economic playing field through increased density for hotels only. Many recent studies, including the Opportunities Assessment & Strategies Analysis dated May 2003 prepared by Owen Beitsch, a nationally renowned economist with Real Estate Research Consultants, Inc., found that in today’s modern economy there is roughly a 5 or 6:1 ratio of hotel rooms needed to equal the value of one Gulf front condominium. The existing Comprehensive Plan Resort Facilities Medium land use designation and zoning category provide only a 2:1 ratio of permitted temporary lodging units compared to permitted residential condominium unit density allowed.

For example, the current Resorts Facilities Medium (RFM) land use category permits up to 30 temporary lodging units per acre or up to 18 residential multi-family units per acre. The current zoning regulations allow up to 30 temporary lodging units per acre and up to 15 residential multi-family units per acre. This existing comparative ratio gives a landowner the choice of building only two (2) hotel units for every one (1) residential condo. The existing regulatory choice clearly favors the residential condominium market over the resort hotel market.

Thus, to encourage temporary lodging use redevelopment and simultaneously discouraging multi-family residential development along the Gulf beaches, the density standards approved in 1998 must be updated and modified to synchronize with current market conditions and remove the artificial regulatory barrier to normal cycles of reinvestment and redevelopment pattern experienced over time in any aging community. The regulatory correction needed is density modifications that includes a simultaneous decrease in permitted residential density with an increase in temporary lodging density to create a 5:1 ratio of hotels: residential condominiums.

This density readjustment needed to create economic equilibrium and balance is accomplished by increasing density for exclusive temporary lodging use from 30 units per acre to 50-75 units per acre at the same time as decreasing the multi-family residential density from 18 units per acre to 15 units per acre. The result will provide an economically feasible choice for hotel owners and operators to redevelop as a resort facility as an alternative to selling existing resort properties for redevelopment as a residential condominium project.

(d) **Nonconforming Densities.** Further exacerbating the economic disparity described above, the existing temporary lodging properties located within the Large Resort District lost approximately 16.5 acres to the City’s implementation of the Countywide Preservation designation in 2003. Prior to 2003, those 16.5 acres were calculated by the City for density purposes at thirty (30) temporary lodging units per acre. As a result, 495 potential temporary lodging units were lost after November 2003.
In addition, the reduction of acreage by government regulation for every property abutting the Gulf beaches in 2003 created a significant disconnect between the number of units actually built on the ground as compared to the number of units that are potentially allowed under the current land development regulations. This circumstance is referred to as non-conforming density for a permitted land use.

The existing as-built density on the ground in the Large Resort district averages approximately 50 hotel units per acre, some properties are more, some just slightly less. One hotel property is already over 80 units per acre as it is built today. However, the current land use and zoning classifications only allow thirty (30) units per acre, or roughly 60% or less of the number of units actually built. The result is that every single existing hotel and motel along the west side of Gulf Boulevard has a non-conforming density.

Non-conforming density status prohibits the rebuilding of the existing number of units in the event of a natural disaster, and also precludes or severely limits financing or refinancing needed for reinvestment in these aging properties. Reinvestment into non-conforming properties is not practical or feasible unless a portion of the property is sold off as residential condominiums to raise capital for reinvestment. The non-conforming status of these temporary lodging properties as they continue to age and reach functional obsolescence, only serves to encourage redevelopment as residential condominiums, unless a regulatory remedy is adopted.

**Policies**

*Policy 1:*
Architectural design features that provide visual interest, are aesthetically pleasing and relate to the human scale at ground level are equally important for both the street and water side of buildings. Blank wall facades shall be prohibited.

*Policy 2:*
At least one functional public beach access a minimum of ten (10) feet average width shall be provided on all temporary lodging use development projects if: (a) the buildable site is at least three gross acres in size; and (b) new construction exceeds 67% or more of the total aggregate floor area located on the buildable site; and (c) the buildable site has a westerly boundary abutting the Gulf beaches or is part of an overall unified development that has a westerly boundary abutting the Gulf beaches. Abutting resort owners will be encouraged to combine public beach access on adjacent boundaries in the site plan approval process to maximize the width and meaningful public access to the Gulf beaches wherever possible. Any combined public beach access shall be an average fifteen (15) feet in width. Further, wherever practical and feasible, public beach access will be encouraged and pursued in coordination with trolley stops, crosswalks, bike and pedestrian pathways.
Policy 3:
A functional public beach access may be required that shall not exceed seven (7) feet average width for temporary lodging use redevelopment projects if: (a) new construction is 67% or less but exceeds 50% of the total aggregated floor area located on the buildable site; (b) the site has a westerly property boundary abutting the Gulf beaches; and (c) only if the conditions of site redevelopment permit its location without causing undue hardship on the property owner as a result of existing site conditions that may impede the reasonable location of an easement for the public that can be integrated with the overall site development. Abutting resort owners will be encouraged to combine public beach access on adjacent boundaries in the site plan approval process to maximize the width and meaningful public access to the Gulf beaches wherever possible. Further, wherever practical and feasible, public beach access will be encouraged and pursued in coordination with trolley stops, crosswalks, bike and pedestrian pathways.

Policy 4:
Public beach access will be by foot traffic and wheelchair only and shall be directed to marked paths or dune walkovers in order to protect the dune system. Emergency police, fire rescue and lifeguard response vehicles, or bicycles will be allowed access in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts to the dune system to the maximum extent possible.

Policy 5:
All development and redevelopment projects may be required to provide an easement to the City for a beach boardwalk or trail Gulfward of the Florida Coastal Construction Control Line in the event the City pursues the development of a beach boardwalk or trail and the location is necessary to provide a continuous, uninterrupted pedestrian beach system.

Policy 6:
Professional landscaping and design standards consistent with the standards contained in the LDC shall be required on the entire building site where any large-scale development or development of an entire site occurs, with particular emphasis on the Gulf Boulevard frontage.

Policy 7:
Professional landscaping and design standards consistent with the standards contained in the LDC shall be the minimum required for all redevelopment projects that are not redeveloping the entire buildable site for those areas of the development site being redeveloped only; and may be required where practical and feasible on the remainder of the development site if new construction exceeds 50% of the total buildable site area; all with particular emphasis on the Gulf Boulevard frontage. All landscape design including the type and quantity of plant material as well as hardscape design, shall be of exceptional quality and consistent with the character and vision of a high quality tropical resort destination.
Policy 8:
Temporary lodging facilities shall comply with all County and local hurricane closure and evacuation procedures that will ensure orderly evacuation of guests and visitors prior to evacuation orders being issued for residents in Zone A.

Policy 9:
All temporary lodging uses shall comply with adopted City rules and regulations that ensure that projects approved as temporary lodging facilities are built, function, operate and are occupied exclusively as temporary lodging uses.

Permitted Uses & Standards

(a) Primary uses - Temporary lodging uses – hotel, motel, resort condominium; medium density multi-family residential.

(b) Secondary uses - Commercial and office.

(c) Density/Intensity and Height Standards – Density and intensity shall be calculated on the basis of those portions of the site which are landward of the Florida Coastal Construction Control Line and shall be permitted as follows:

A. Scenario 1: Existing development, and all development that does not qualify as Large-scale development under subsection B. Scenario 2 below:

1. Density – shall not exceed the following:
   a. 50 temporary lodging units per acre; or
   b. 15 residential dwelling units per acre; and
   c. Variances to exceed the maximum density above as established in this Future Land Use Plan shall be prohibited.

2. Intensity Standards for Temporary Lodging Use - shall include indoor amenities and shall exclude structured parking, any on-site affordable housing or worker living accommodations\(^2\) and outdoor amenities including but not limited to tennis courts, pools, and the like. The floor area ratio for Scenario 1 shall not exceed the following:
   a. 1.8 floor area ratio; and
   b. shall not include additional floor area for freestanding non-residential facilities; and
   c. Variances to exceed the maximum floor area ratio above as established in this Future Land Use Plan shall be prohibited.

\(^2\) Providing on-site affordable housing or worker living accommodations shall neither be calculated as part of any density permitted nor shall it entitle the landowner or developer to any density bonuses; however, such accommodations shall be eligible for affordable housing mitigation fee credits and shall not be subject to any General or Large Resort Affordable Housing Mitigation requirements adopted by the City or County. In addition, any such workforce living accommodations shall also be subject to the same legally enforceable closure and evacuation plan required for all temporary lodging uses pursuant to the LDC.
3. **Height** - shall not exceed, but shall be permitted up to the following, subject to height limitations contained in the City’s LDC:
   a. One hundred (100) feet above base flood elevation, inclusive of structured parking, for any building that exclusively contains only temporary lodging uses; or
   b. Fifty (50) feet above base flood elevation for any building containing temporary lodging and residential dwelling units; or
   c. Fifty (50) feet above base flood elevation for any building containing residential dwelling units only; and
   d. **Variances to increase the height above shall be prohibited unless approved by voter referendum, if required by the City Charter.**

B. **Scenario 2 Large-scale Development:** shall mean development of a parcel that is at least three gross acres in size or greater and provided that new construction exceeds sixty-seven percent (67%) of the combined aggregate floor area of new and existing principal buildings and accessory structures that constitute the entire unified development scheme on the buildable site.

1. **Density** – shall not exceed the following:
   a. 75 temporary lodging units per acre excluding any affordable housing density bonus; or
   b. 15 residential units per acre; or
   c. a combination of residential and temporary lodging units which shall be prorated on an acreage basis allocated to each use, provided that a minimum of 200 temporary lodging units are provided; and
   d. **Variances to exceed the maximum density above as established in this Future Land Use Plan shall be prohibited.**

2. **Intensity Standards for Temporary Lodging Use** shall include indoor amenities and shall exclude on-site affordable housing or workforce living accommodations, structured parking and outdoor amenities including but not limited to tennis courts, pools and the like. The maximum floor area ratio for Scenario 2 shall not exceed the following:
   a. 2.6 floor area ratio; and
   b. as a bonus, street level retail and restaurant uses facing Gulf Boulevard that are accessible by pedestrians along Gulf Boulevard and serve the general public, may be constructed but shall not exceed an additional floor area ratio of 0.15 of the building site; and
   c. the preceding intensities may include the normal ancillary residential for on-site security, maintenance and management, and normal ancillary non-residential guest facilities; and
   d. **Variances to exceed the maximum floor area ratio above as**
established in this Future Land Use Plan shall be prohibited.

3. **Height** shall not exceed, but shall be permitted up to the following, subject to any height limitations contained in the City’s LDC:

   a. One hundred-forty six (146) feet above base flood elevation, inclusive of structured parking, for any building exclusively contains only temporary lodging uses as part of a Large-scale Development project; or
   
   b. Fifty (50) feet above base flood elevation, inclusive of structured parking, for any building containing multi-family residential units combined with temporary lodging units; or
   
   c. Fifty (50) feet above base flood elevation, for any buildings containing residential dwelling units only; and
   
   d. Any increases to, including variances to increase, the maximum height for each type of use set forth above for this Large Resort character district shall be prohibited unless approved by voter referendum, if required by the City Charter.

4. **Impervious Surface Ratio Standards.** In both Scenarios 1 and 2, the maximum impervious surface ratio shall not exceed:

   a. 0.85 for temporary lodging uses only;
   
   b. 0.70 for residential use only; and
   
   c. a combination of residential and temporary lodging units not to exceed the floor area ratio for each use set forth above, which shall be prorated on an acreage basis allocated to each use, and
   
   d. **Variances to exceed the maximum impervious surface ratios above as established in this Future Land Use Plan shall be prohibited.**
Boutique Hotel/Condo District (B-HC)

(a) **Location and Character.** The Boutique Hotel/Condo District contains 22.5 acres and less than 2% of the total land area of the City. This District is illustrated on the Future Land Use Map. Several multi-family residential condominiums exist and several more are currently under construction or have been recently constructed in this District. It is anticipated that only approximately two or three boutique hotel projects potentially could be developed or redeveloped in the Boutique Hotel/Condo District that will qualify for increased height and density under this proposed plan and map amendment.

(b) **Purpose and Intent; Redevelopment Incentives & Deterrents.** The following policies shall govern development and redevelopment in the Boutique Hotel/Condo District and are intended to preserve the remaining inventory of Boutique Hotels to the maximum extent possible within this District by increasing density for temporary lodging uses and prohibiting height and density increases for residential condominium development.

**Policies**

**Policy 1:**
Architectural design features that provide visual interest, are aesthetically pleasing and relate to the human scale at ground levels are equally important for both the street and waterside of buildings. Blank wall facades shall be prohibited.

**Policy 2.1:**
At least one functional public beach access a minimum of seven (7) feet average width shall be provided on all new development projects that redevelop more than 75% of the buildable site unless a hardship exists resulting from a property width that is less than 150 feet.

**Policy 2.2:**
Public beach access will be by foot traffic and wheelchair only and shall be directed to marked paths or dune walkovers in order to protect the dune system. Emergency police, fire rescue and lifeguard response vehicles, or bicycles will be allowed access in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts to the dune system to the maximum extent possible.

**Policy 3:**
All development projects may be required to provide an easement to the City for a beach boardwalk or trail easement Gulfward of the Florida Coastal Construction Control Line in the event the City pursues the development of a beach boardwalk or trail and the location is necessary to provide a continuous, uninterrupted pedestrian beach system.
Policy 4:
Professional landscaping and design standards consistent with the standards contained in the LDC shall be the minimum required on the entire building site for new development that exceeds 75% of the buildable site, with particular emphasis on the Gulf Boulevard frontage and screening from any adjacent low-rise residential use that may include landscaping and privacy walls. Landscape design, including the type and quantity of plant material as well as creative tropical hardscape designs, shall be consistent with the quality and character of a high quality tropical resort destination.

Policy 5:
Increased building setbacks from Gulf Boulevard shall be required for increases to building height allowed for temporary lodging uses.

Policy 6:
Temporary lodging uses shall comply with all County and local hurricane closure and evacuation procedures that will ensure orderly evacuation of guests and visitors prior to evacuation orders being issued for residents in Zone A.

Policy 7:
All temporary lodging uses shall comply with adopted City rules and regulations that ensure that projects approved as temporary lodging facilities are built, function, operate and are occupied exclusively as temporary lodging uses.

Permitted Uses and Standards

(a) Primary uses - Temporary lodging use – hotel, motel, resort condominium; medium density residential.

(b) Secondary uses - None.

(c) Density/Intensity and Height Standards - shall be calculated on the basis of those portions of the site which are landward of the Florida Coastal Construction Control Line and shall be permitted as follows:

1. Density - Shall not exceed the following:
   a. 50 temporary lodging units per acre unless approved by ordinance of the City Commission to provide additional temporary lodging units from the TLU Density Pool established below; or
   b. 18 residential units per acre; and
   c. Any increases to temporary lodging unit density is subject to the restrictions and limitations in Section (2) below - Temporary Lodging Unit Reserve; and
   d. Variances to exceed the maximum residential density above as established in the Future Land Use Plan shall be prohibited.

2. Temporary Lodging Unit Density Pool (“TLU Density Pool”) - The City shall
establish a TLU Density Pool not to exceed a total of 125 units for the entire Boutique Hotel/Condo district and the following shall govern the allocation of density from the TLU Density Pool:

a. The TLU Density Pool shall be allocated to individual projects by ordinance of the City Commission upon request of an individual property owner; and
b. Such allocation may be up to but shall not exceed twenty (20) temporary lodging units per acre and further, the cumulative allocation shall not exceed sixty (60) units per development project; and
c. The number of available temporary lodging units remaining after such project allocation shall be specified in each City Commission ordinance allocating such units and each such ordinance shall provide that no units beyond those TLU Density Pool units remaining available to the Boutique Hotel/Condo District shall be allocated to any subsequent temporary lodging use project; and
d. This limitation shall be absolute and shall apply regardless of the proposed size or density of the project requesting such allocation. Such units shall be established exclusive of any other use provided for in the District.

(d) Intensity Standards.

1. **Temporary lodging use** shall not exceed an aggregate floor area of 750 square feet per temporary lodging unit excluding indoor amenities, common areas and structured parking. Indoor amenities and common areas shall not exceed an additional 0.2 floor area ratio combined. For example: 50 units x 750 square feet = 38,500 square feet plus 0.2 x total parcel square feet for common areas & indoor amenities = total building square footage, excluding structured parking.

2. **Variances to exceed the maximum floor area ratio above as established in the Future Land Use Plan shall be prohibited.**

(e) **Height** shall not exceed, but shall be permitted up to the following, subject to height limitations contained in the LDC:

1. Seventy-six (76) feet above base flood elevation for any building that exclusively contains only temporary lodging uses with a minimum setback of one hundred (100) feet from Gulf Boulevard; or
2. Sixty-five (65) feet above based flood elevation for any building that exclusively contains only temporary lodging uses with a minimum setback of seventy-five (75) feet from Gulf Boulevard; or
3. Fifty (50) feet above base flood elevation for any buildings containing multi-family residential dwelling units, or any temporary lodging facility that does not comply with the minimum setbacks required for additional height established in sections (e)1 and (e)2 above, subject to a minimum setback of fifty (50) feet from Gulf Boulevard; and
4. Any increases to, including variances to increase, each of the maximum heights set forth above for this Boutique Hotel/Condo Resort character
district shall be prohibited unless approved by voter referendum, if required by the City Charter.

(f) Impervious Surface Ratio Standards—shall not exceed:

1. 0.85 impervious surface ratio for any exclusive temporary lodging uses; or
2. 0.70 impervious surface ratio for any residential use or combined residential and temporary lodging use; and
3. Variances to exceed the maximum impervious surface ratio above as established in the Future Land Use Plan shall be prohibited.
Activity Center District (AC)

(a) Location and Character. The Activity Center District contains 52.68 acres or approximately 4% of the total land area of the City. This District is illustrated on the Future Land Use Map. It includes the Dolphin Village Shopping Center which is the hub of commercial activity in the Gulf Boulevard area and is located across from the County Park to the west.

(b) Purpose and Intent; Redevelopment Incentives and Deterrents. The following policies shall govern development in the Activity Center District and are intended to encourage commercial revitalization through reinvestment and redevelopment throughout the District. The primary focus of commercial redevelopment is Dolphin Village Shopping Center which is the most significant commercial hub on Gulf Boulevard.

The Activity Center is a primary commercial core of the City in need of revitalization, not a change of core character. Therefore, exclusive residential use is prohibited in this district. Commercial redevelopment will be encouraged in a manner that will serve the retail services needs of residents and visitors alike for several decades into the future.

As a result, a more comprehensive and unified approach to commercial redevelopment will be encouraged by allowing a secondary residential component if certain minimum standards are met. One important requirement is the assembly of land to reduce the existing number of smaller lots and provide opportunities for unified redevelopment that reduces curb cuts on Gulf Boulevard that will result in improved traffic flow and reduced vehicular-pedestrian conflict.

Parcel assembly combined with mixed use redevelopment also enables other livable community strategies such as increased open space and buffering opportunities from residential neighborhoods to the east and increased opportunities for pedestrian linkages to neighborhood services that will reduce vehicular trip generation and greenhouse gas emissions.

These policies and development standards are also needed from a public safety standpoint to encourage and facilitate modern utilization of land along the east side of Gulf Boulevard that includes buildings that comply with current Building and Safety Codes, FEMA regulations, as well as architectural, landscaping and drainage standards.

In addition, encouraging commercial redevelopment through the use of regulatory tools and incentives will provide the best opportunity to implement Green building and site design standards and strategies that not only benefit the landowner but also patrons and the community-at-large.