

City of Jonesboro Metropolitan Area Planning Commission
Staff Report – RZ 26-06
300 S. Church Street/Municipal Center
For Consideration by Planning Commission on March 24, 2026

REQUEST: To consider a rezoning of 6904 E Highland Dr, East of Easley Ln
PURPOSE: A request to consider recommendation to Council for a rezoning from “R-1”, single family residential district, to “C-3” general commercial district and “I-2” General Industrial district
APPLICANT: **John Easley**
LOCATION: 6904 East Highland Dr
SITE DESCRIPTION: **Total Size:** Approx. 13.64 Acre- 594,230 S.F.
Street Frontage: Approx. 1068’ ft along Highland Dr and 1392 ft along Easley Ln

Existing Development: Circa 2002, and 2003 this site was designed and approved as a subdivision.

Physical Characteristics of the Site: Vacant Lot

SURROUNDING CONDITIONS:

ZONE	LAND USE
North	R-1 and I-2
South	R-1
East	R-1 and I-2
West	R-1

HISTORY:

ZONING ANALYSIS:

City Planning Staff has reviewed the proposed Zone Change and offers the following findings:

Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map:

The Current/Future Land Use Map recommends this location as Rural Intensity Growth Sector and Industrial Growth Sector

Rural Intensity:

Rural intensity uses are extremely low intensity that happen in areas that have traditionally been devoted to agriculture.

Typical Land Uses:

- Commercial business serving agricultural needs
- Large lot single family residential
- Small retail
- Open space
- Agricultural
- Stable or kennel
- Churches
- Institutional (waste water treatment plants, sludge ponds, water towers, landing strips, Cell towers, drainageway)

Density: Single family residential on > 5 acres lot

Industrial Growth Sector :

Industrial uses those considered heavy such as large scale manufacturing, production concerns, including assembly and processing, regional warehousing and distribution, bulk storage and utilities. Located close to major transportation corridors and should generally be buffered from surrounding development by transitional uses or landscape areas.



Land Use Map

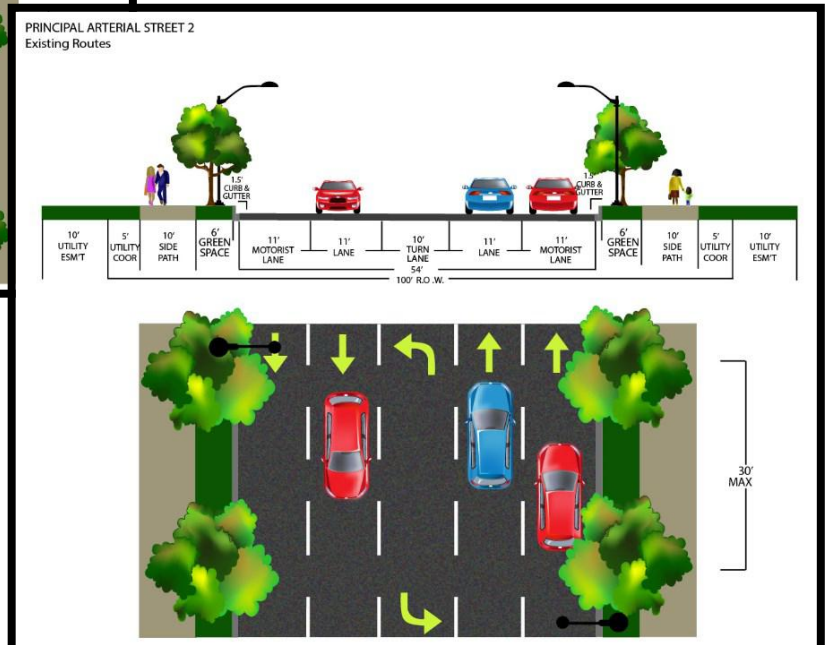
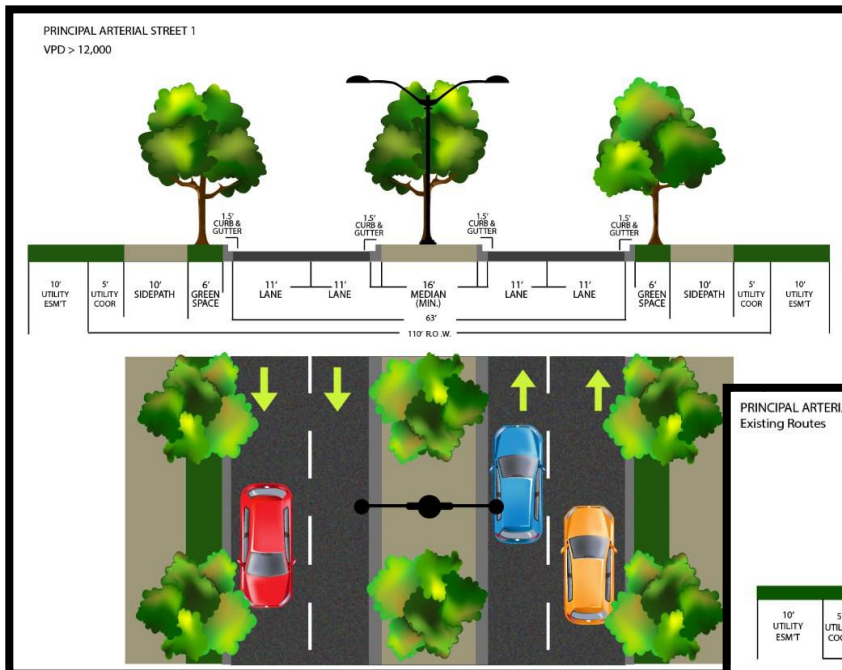
Master Street Plan/Transportation

The subject property will be served by Highland Dr and Easley Ln. The Master Street Plan classifies Highland Dr as a Principal arterial and Easley Ln as Minor arterial.

Principal Arterials provide both long distance connections through the urban area and to major traffic generators within the community. Roadways are designated principal arterials to imply the need to focus more on moving traffic rather than providing direct access to adjacent land. Traffic management techniques used to maintain a high level of traffic capacity on these roadways include the use of medians, restricting curb cuts per some spacing policy, and limiting the use of traffic signals to the intersection with other significant roadways.

FUNCTION: The primary function of a Principal Arterial is to serve through traffic and to connect major traffic generators or activity centers within an urbanized area. Since these roads are designed for through traffic and are generally located three or more miles apart, dedication of additional right-of-way is required to allow for future expansion to four through lanes plus left and right turn lanes. At intersections with Collector Streets or other Arterials (principal or minor), additional right-of-way may be required if the anticipated turning movements warrant extra lanes.

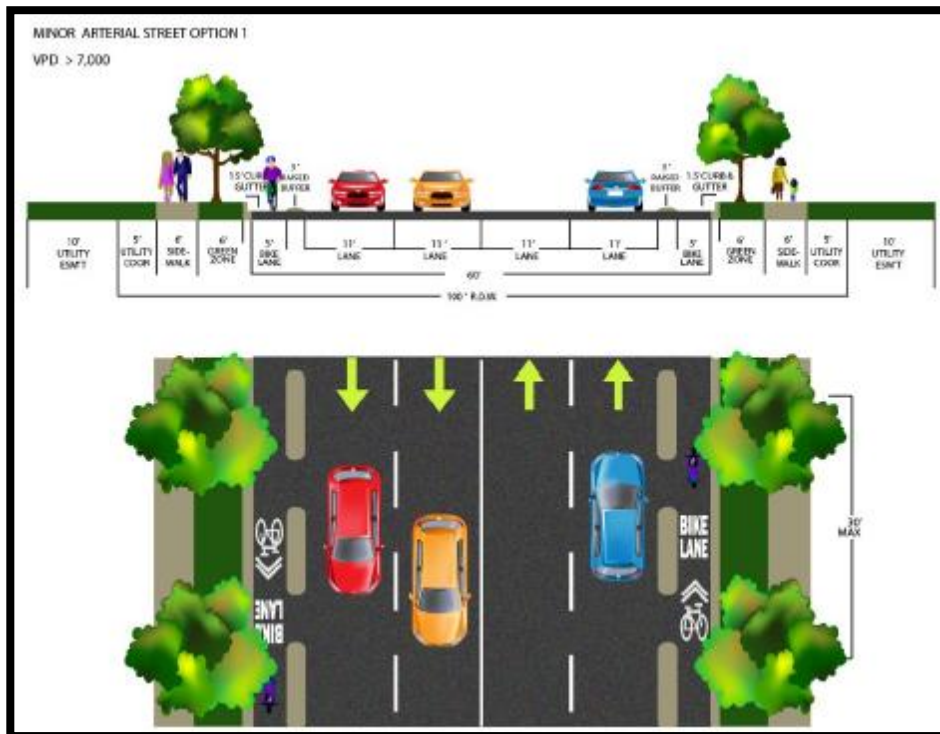
DESIGN: The standard Principal Arterial is to be used in all cases except where City Staff and the MAPC find that an unusual condition occurs. In such cases, the Other Principal Arterial Design Option provided in this section may be used. Cross-section selection shall be based on traffic impact analysis. Design in accordance with AASHTO policy on Geometric design of highways and streets (current edition).

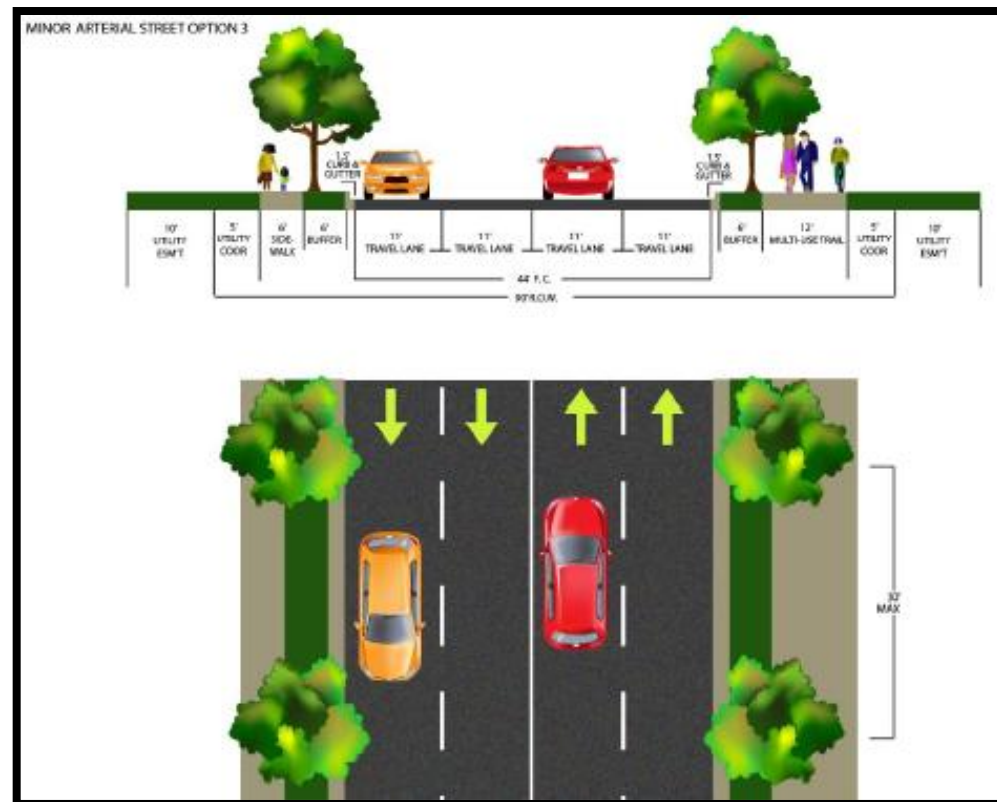
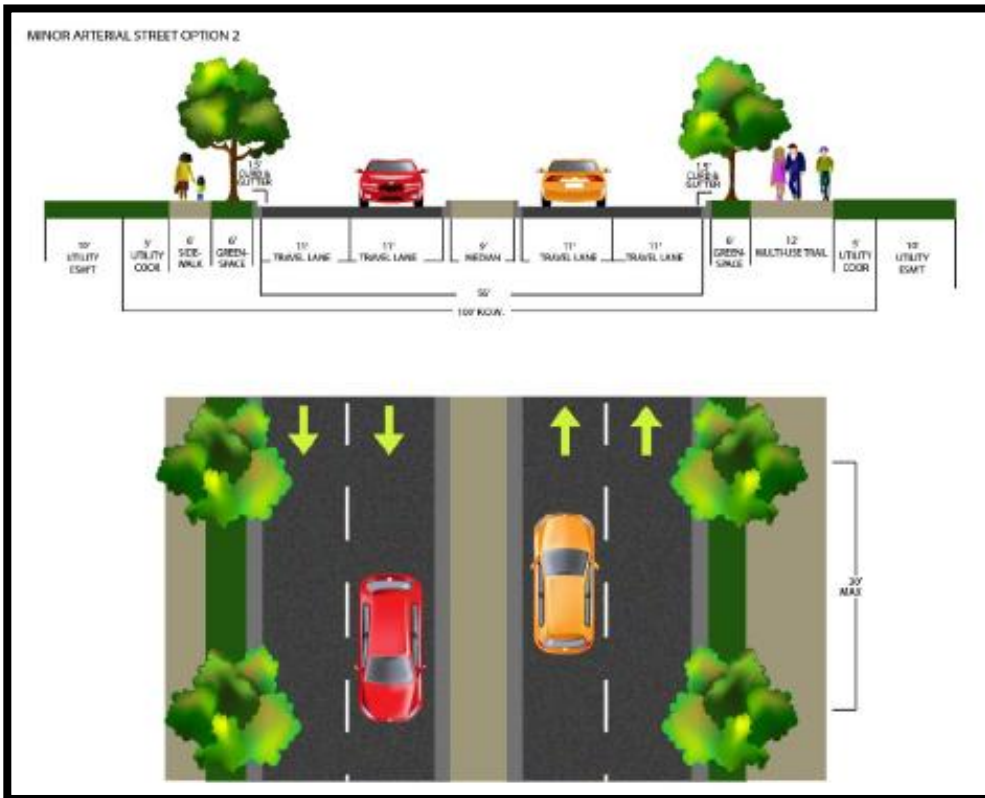


Minor Arterials function similarly to principal arterials, but operate under lower traffic volumes, serve trips of shorter distances, and provide a higher degree of property access than principal arterials.

FUNCTION: Minor Arterials provide the connections to and through an urban area. Their primary function is to provide short distance travel within the urbanized area. Since a Minor Arterial is a high volume road, a minimum of 4 travel lanes is required. At intersections with Collector Streets or other Arterials (principal or minor), additional right-of-way may be required if the anticipated turning movements warrant extra lanes.

DESIGN: Cross-section selection shall be based on anticipated traffic volume and speed limit, or traffic impact analysis, if applicable. Design in accordance with AASHTO policy on Geometric design of highways and streets (current edition).





Approval Criteria- Chapter 117 - Amendments:

The criteria for approval of a rezoning are set out below. Not all the criteria must be given equal consideration by the MAPC or City Council in reaching a decision. The criteria to be considered shall include, but not be limited to the following.

Criteria	Explanations and Findings	Comply Y/N
(a) Consistency of the proposal with the Comprehensive Plan/Land Use Map	The proposed district rezoning is consistent with the Adopted Land Use Plan. This property is in the Rural growth sector and industrial growth sector.	
(b) Consistency of the proposal with the purpose of Chapter 117-Zoning.	The proposal will achieve consistency with the purpose of Chapter 117, with compliance with all District standards.	
(c) Compatibility of the proposal with the zoning, uses and character of the surrounding area.	Compatibility is achieved with this rezoning considering the surrounding area includes residential and commercial zoning and uses.	
(d) Suitability of the subject property for the uses to which it has been restricted without the proposed zoning map amendment;	Without the proposed zoning map amendment, this property cannot develop.	
(e) Extent to which approval of the proposed rezoning will detrimentally affect nearby property including, but not limited to, any impact on property value, traffic, drainage, visual, odor, noise, light, vibration, hours of use/operation and any restriction to the normal and customary use of the affected property;	With proper planning there should not be any adverse effects caused by the property.	
(f) Impact of the proposed development on community facilities and services, including those related to utilities, streets, drainage, parks, open space, fire, police, and emergency medical services	Minimal impact if rezoned because the area is already equipped to handle residential uses.	

Staff Findings:

Applicant's Purpose

The proposed area is currently classified as "R-1", single family residential district. The applicant is applying for a rezoning to allow C-3 general commercial and I-2 General industrial at this location.

Rezoning this property is consistent with the *Jonesboro Comprehensive Plan* and the *Future Land Use Plan*.

Chapter 117 of the City Code of Ordinances/Zoning defines C-3 and I-2 as follows:

C-3, general commercial district. The purpose of this district is to provide appropriate locations for commercial and retail uses which are convenient and serve the needs of the traveling public. The district also provides locations for limited amounts of merchandise, equipment and material being offered for retail sale that are more suitable for storage and display outside the confines of an enclosed structure. Appropriate locations for this district are along heavily traveled arterial street. Development of groupings of facilities shall be encouraged, as opposed to less desirable strip commercial.

I-2, general industrial district. This district is intended for the more intensive industries and those manufacturing facilities making products from raw materials. Regulations are the minimum for mutual protection between industries. Rail service is typically necessary, as is adequate highway access.

Departmental/Agency Reviews:

The following departments and agencies were contacted for review and comments. Note that this table will be updated at the hearing due to reporting information that will be updated in the coming days:

Department/Agency	Reports/ Comments	Status
Engineering	No issues were reported	
Streets/Sanitation	No issues were reported	
Police	No issues were reported	
Fire Department	No issues were reported	
MPO	No issues were reported	
Jets	No issues were reported	
Utility Companies	No issues were reported	
Code Enforcement	No issues were reported	

Conclusion:

The Planning Department Staff finds that the requested zone change submitted for the subject parcel should be evaluated based on the above observations and criteria of Case RZ-26-06 ; a request to rezone property “R-1”, single family residential district, to “C-3” general commercial District and “I-2” General industrial district. The following conditions are recommended:

1. The proposed site shall satisfy all requirements of the City Engineer, all requirements of the current Stormwater Drainage Design Manual and Flood Plain Regulations regarding any new construction.
2. A final site plan subject to all ordinance requirements shall be submitted, reviewed, and approved by the Planning Department, prior to any redevelopment of the property.
3. Any change of use shall be subject to Planning Department approval in the future.

Respectfully Submitted for Planning Commission Consideration,
The Planning and Zoning Department

Sample Motion:

I move that we place Case: RZ 26-06 on the floor for consideration of recommendation by MAPC to the City Council with the noted conditions, and we, the MAPC find that to rezone property from “R-1”, single family residential district, to “C-3” general commercial District and “I-2” General commercial district, will be compatible and suitable with the zoning, uses, and character of the surrounding area.