



### Unleashing the Downtown Market GOALS

- Clearly define the downtown market in ways that are easy to understand.
- Position the opportunity so downtown is attractive to the development community.
- Affirm to decision makers the rationale for public investments that are taking place.
- Adapt public policy with the position: "what can we do to get to yes" provided it encourages economic vitality.
- Engage Gulfport residents and the region in the value of downtown.

#### Unleashing the Downtown Market

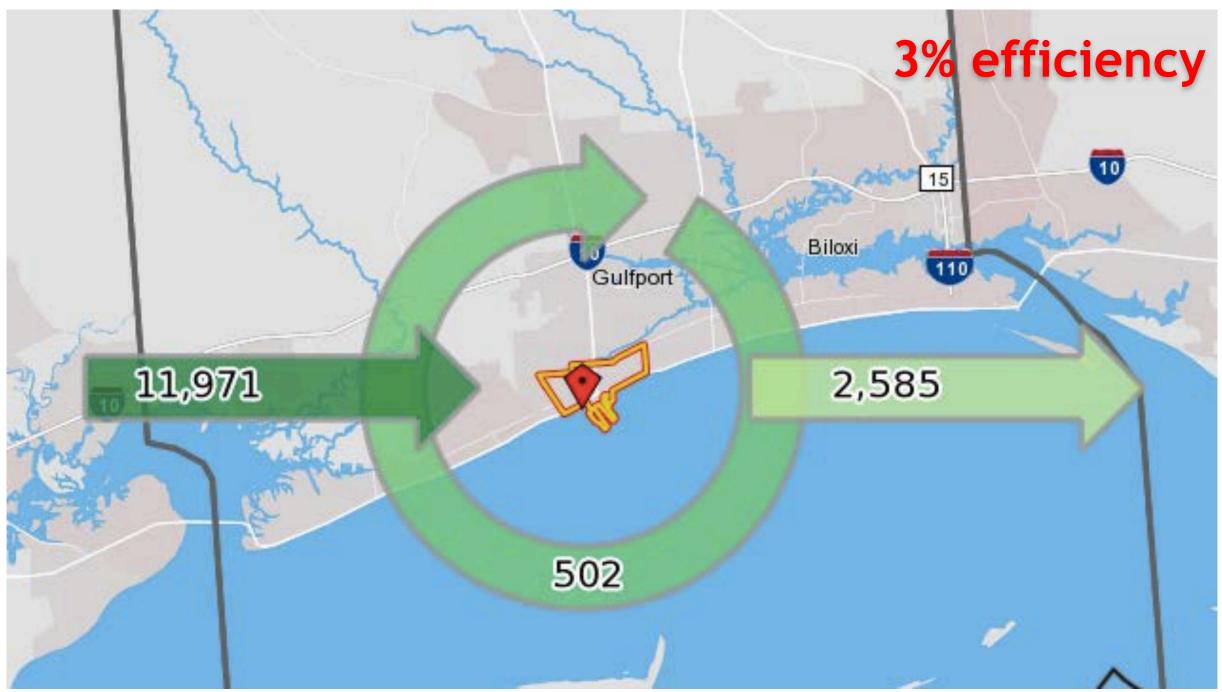
#### Each Day in Downtown Gulfport

- 12,473 employees.
- •31% of all jobs in the City are in downtown.
- 40% of all jobs pay over \$40K. (33%)
- 25% of jobs are college grads. (18%)



Source: 2015 data On the Map US Census

## Unleashing the Downtown Market A Day in the Life of Downtown



Source: 2015 data On the Map US Census

#### Unleashing the Downtown Market

#### The Potential Gulfport Housing Market

- 12,144 households in a 10 minute drive time.\*
- Fastest growing city on the Mississippi Gulf Coast at 6.3% between 2010 and 2016.\*\*
- Over 4,800 new residents between 2010 and 2016.\*\*
- Projected growth 3,500 residents by 2023.\*\*\*
- A capture rate of 10% of NEW residents would result in 200 potential new residential units in downtown Gulfport.

\*Source: 2018 ESRI courtesy of Mississippi Power,

\*\*Source: US Census Quick Facts

\*\*\*Source: Arnett Muldrow & Associates.

#### Unleashing the Downtown Market

#### The Retail Market

- Gulfport is a net gain retail market with retail sales gain of \$769 million in 2018.
  - Regional attractor
  - Spending of employees exceeds that of residents Tourism represents a portion of expenditures
- Nearly all retail segments in Gulfport are individually at a gain.
- Gain index is -32.9
- Underperforming retail categories:
  - **General Grocery Stores index -12.9**
  - Specialty Food Stores index +47.1 (\$3.2 million)
  - **Clothing Stores -19.5**

## Unleashing the Downtown Market Conclusions

- Gulfport is "exceptional" in downtowns of this size with regard to downtown residential.
- Begs the questions of "what is the impediment" to downtown housing?
- Growth will put ongoing pressure on the market should not take much time.
- Community MUST not ignore this issue must be addressed head on – likely to require public/private partnership.
- Gulfport's retail base has early energy but no critical mass.
- Policy decisions must address the difference between "retail" rates and "commercial" rates.
- Public policy should be: consistent, clear, and affirmative.

## Unleashing the Downtown Market Conclusions

Investing in a major attraction (The Missisippi Aquarium and connection to Jones Park) begs the questions:

Are all policies related to downtown aligned to "receive" the influx of visitors? Is there a sustainable funding mechanism to ensure a consistent downtown Economic Development program?

Is the overall infrastructure "complete enough" to handle the changes that will happen?

Is there a cohesive strategy to ensure that the retail, dining, accommodation, and entertainment uses will be in place to capture the impact of visitors?









# The Gulf's Down Town

















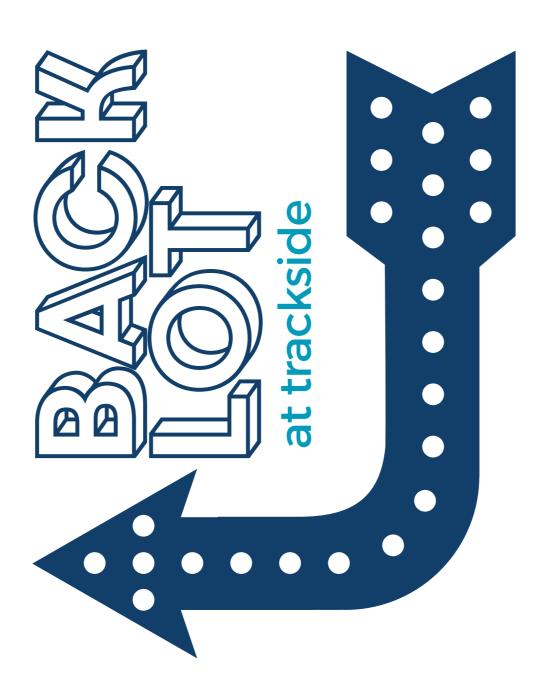






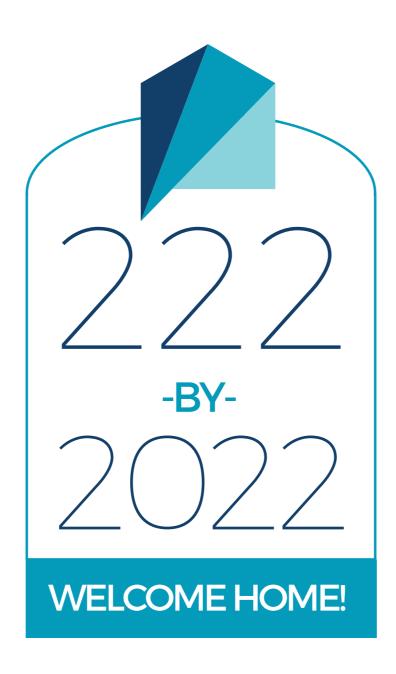


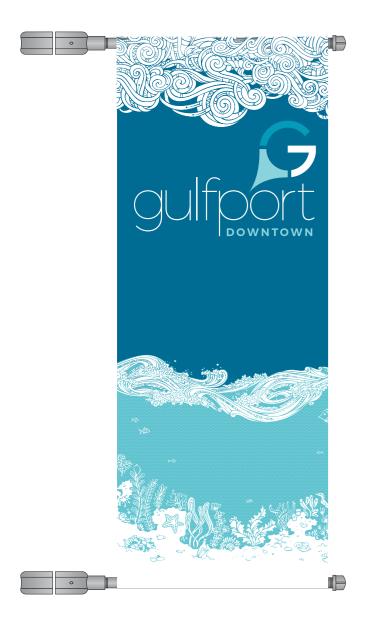




































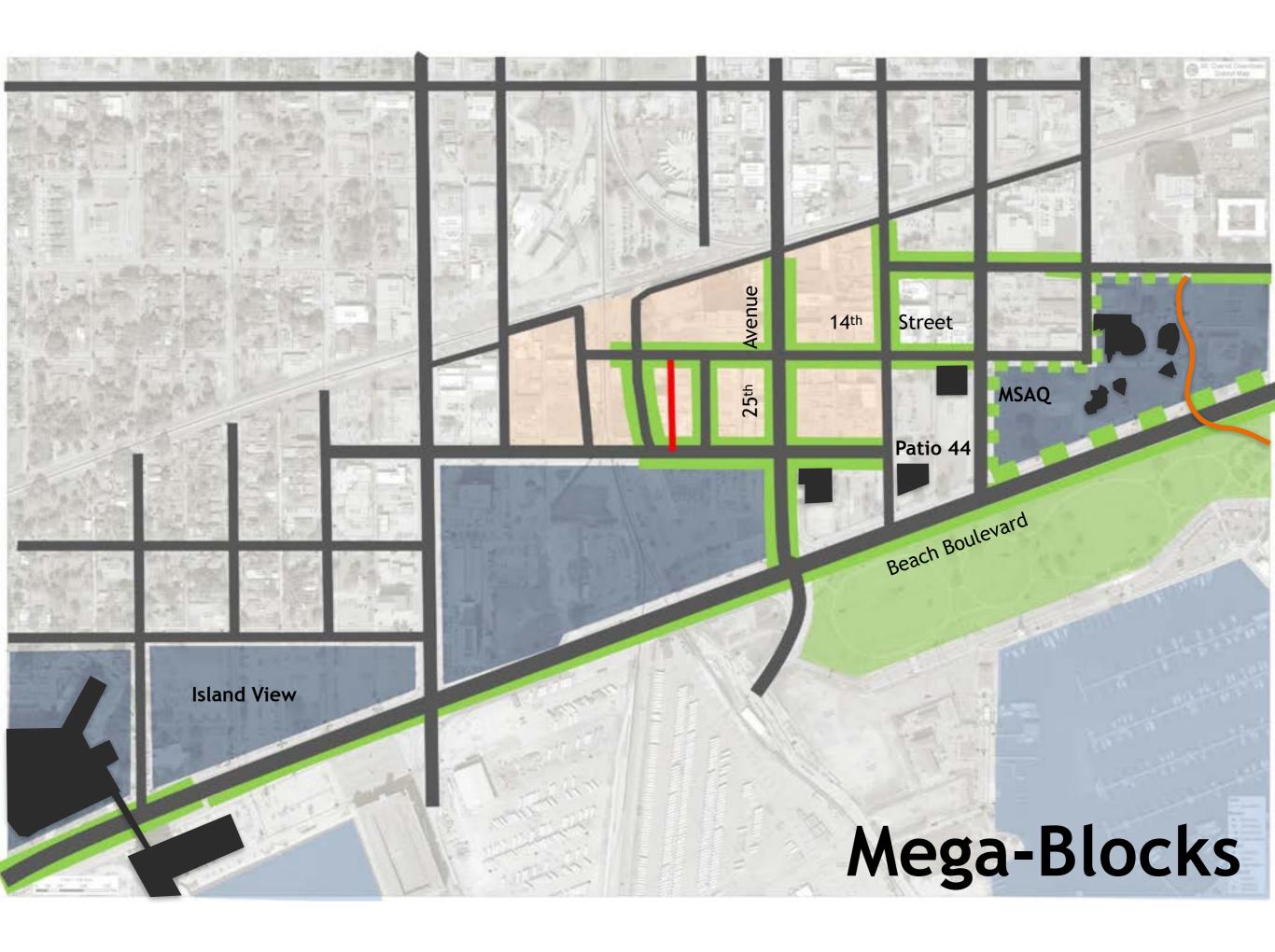




#### Planning Approach

- 1. Recognize the Assets
- 2. Build upon and Connect Assets
- 3. Strategically Locate Initial Parking and Mixed-Use Development
- 4. Preserve Future Strategic Opportunities

























## **Early Activity**

- 1. Phase II Infrastructure
  - Streetscape
  - Connections
  - Parking Deck
- 2. Trackside Innovation District
  - Backlot at Trackside
  - Mixed Use
- 3. Expanded Downtown







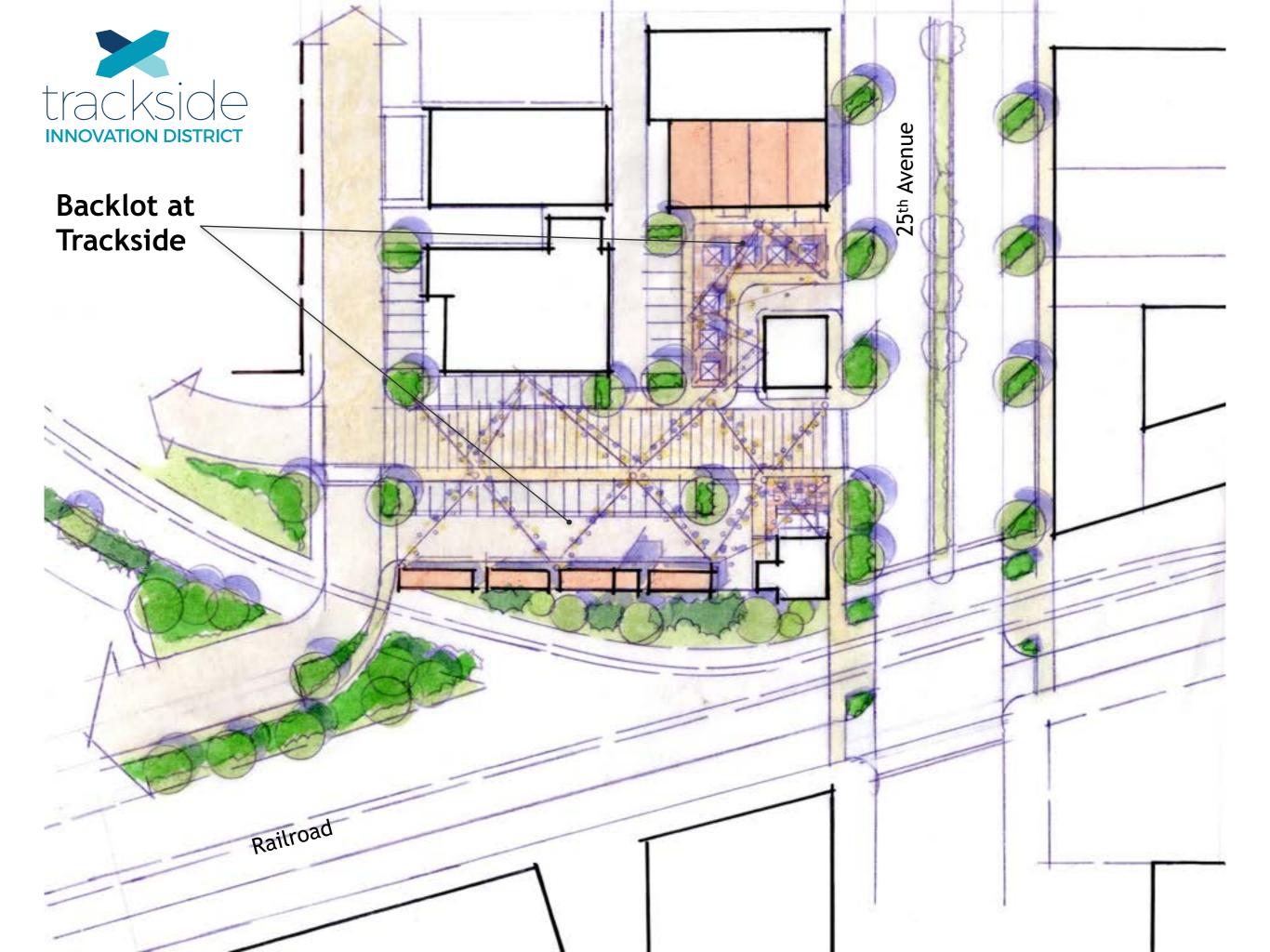
## Beach Boulevard Trail Phase II Streetscape







































**INNOVATION DISTRICT** 







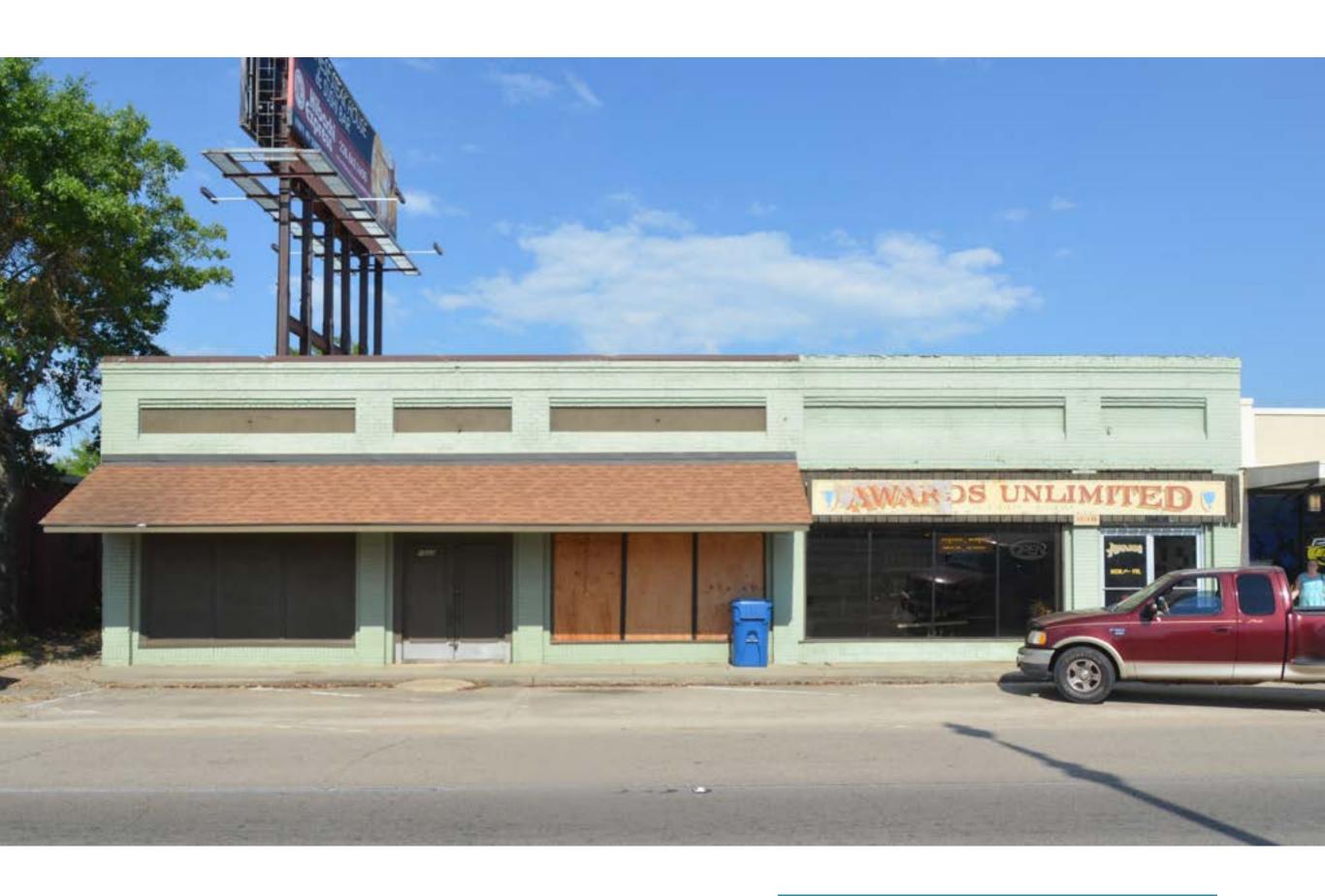
**INNOVATION DISTRICT** 



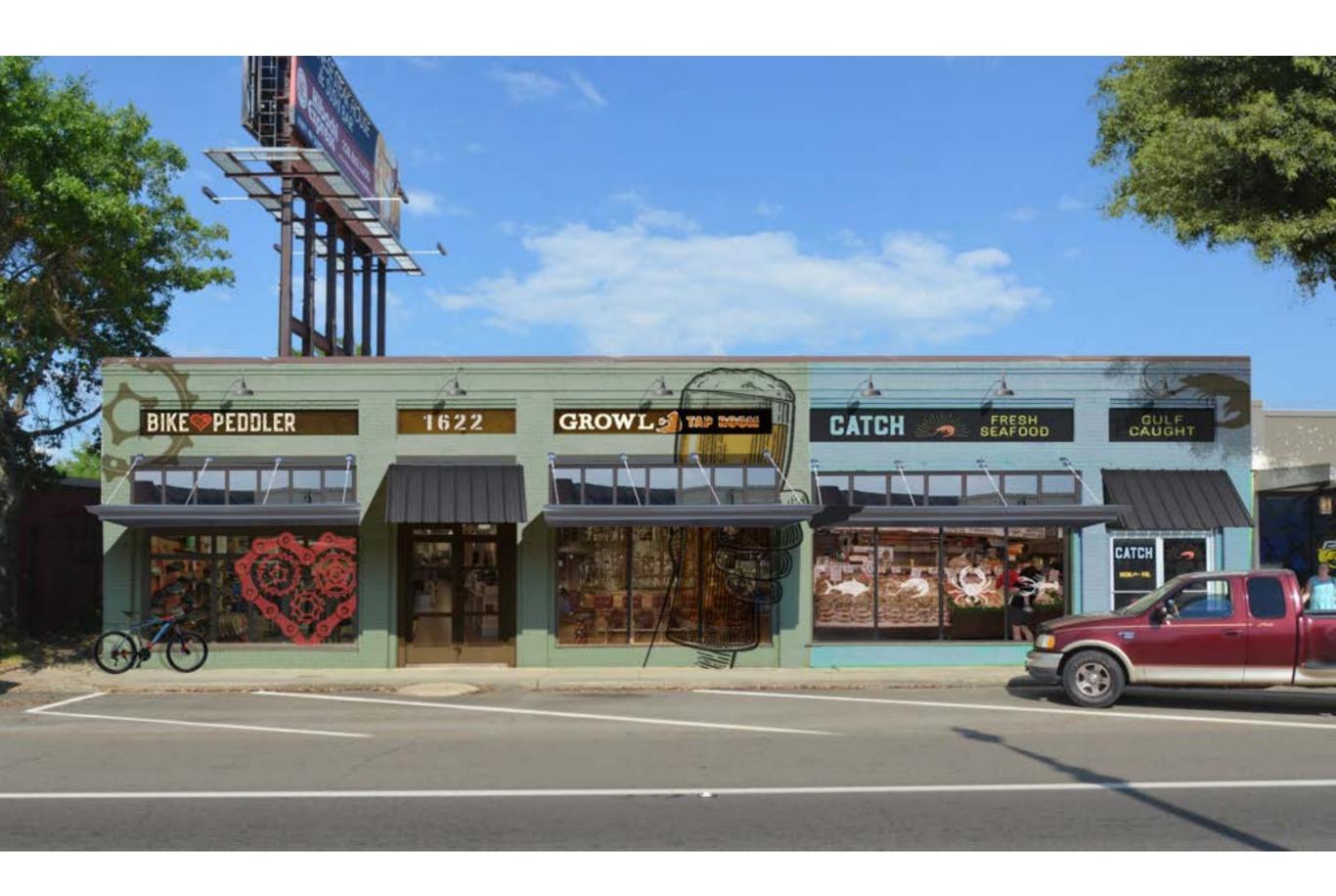


**INNOVATION DISTRICT** 

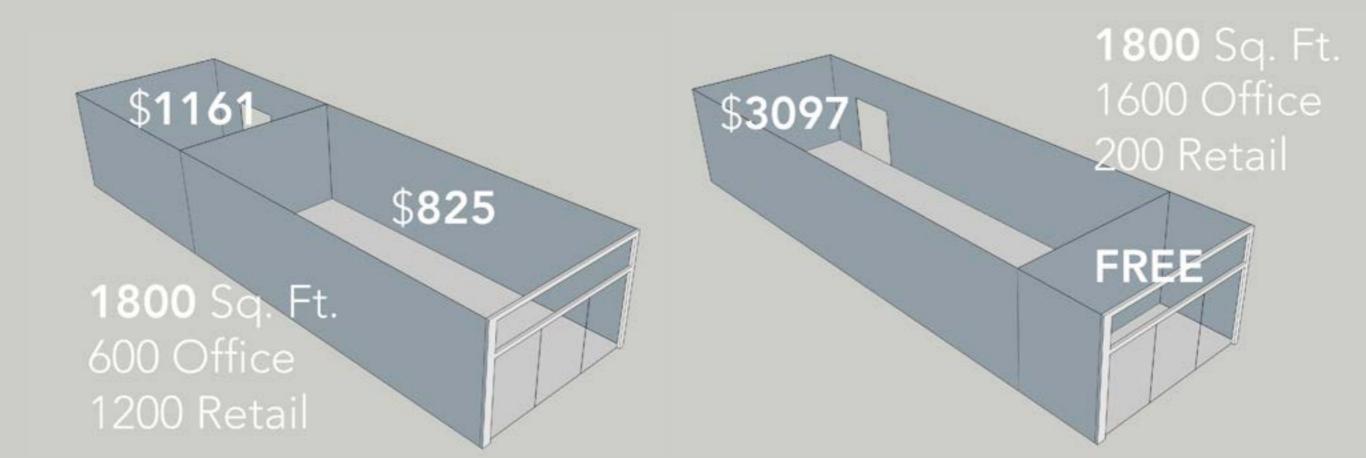






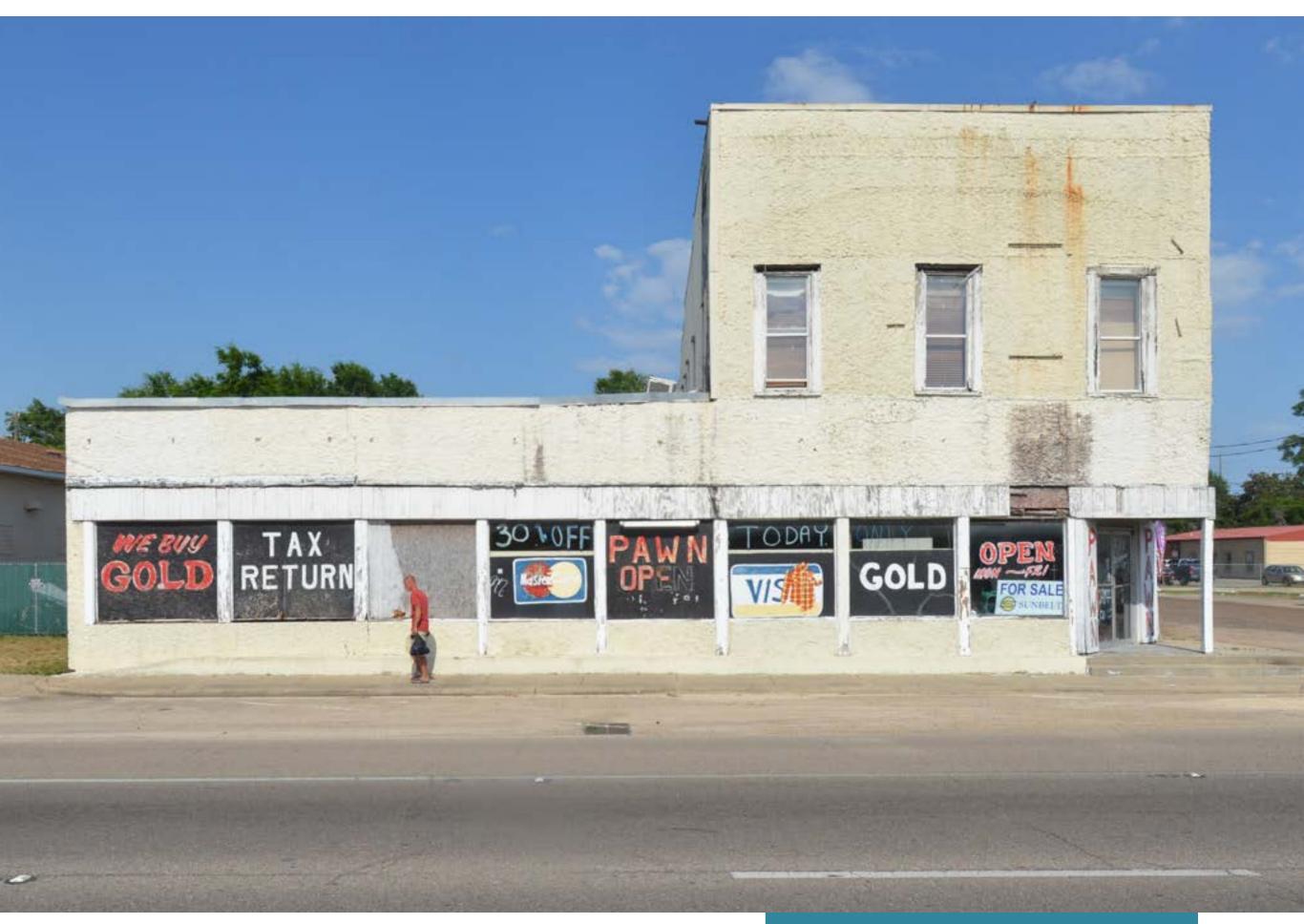




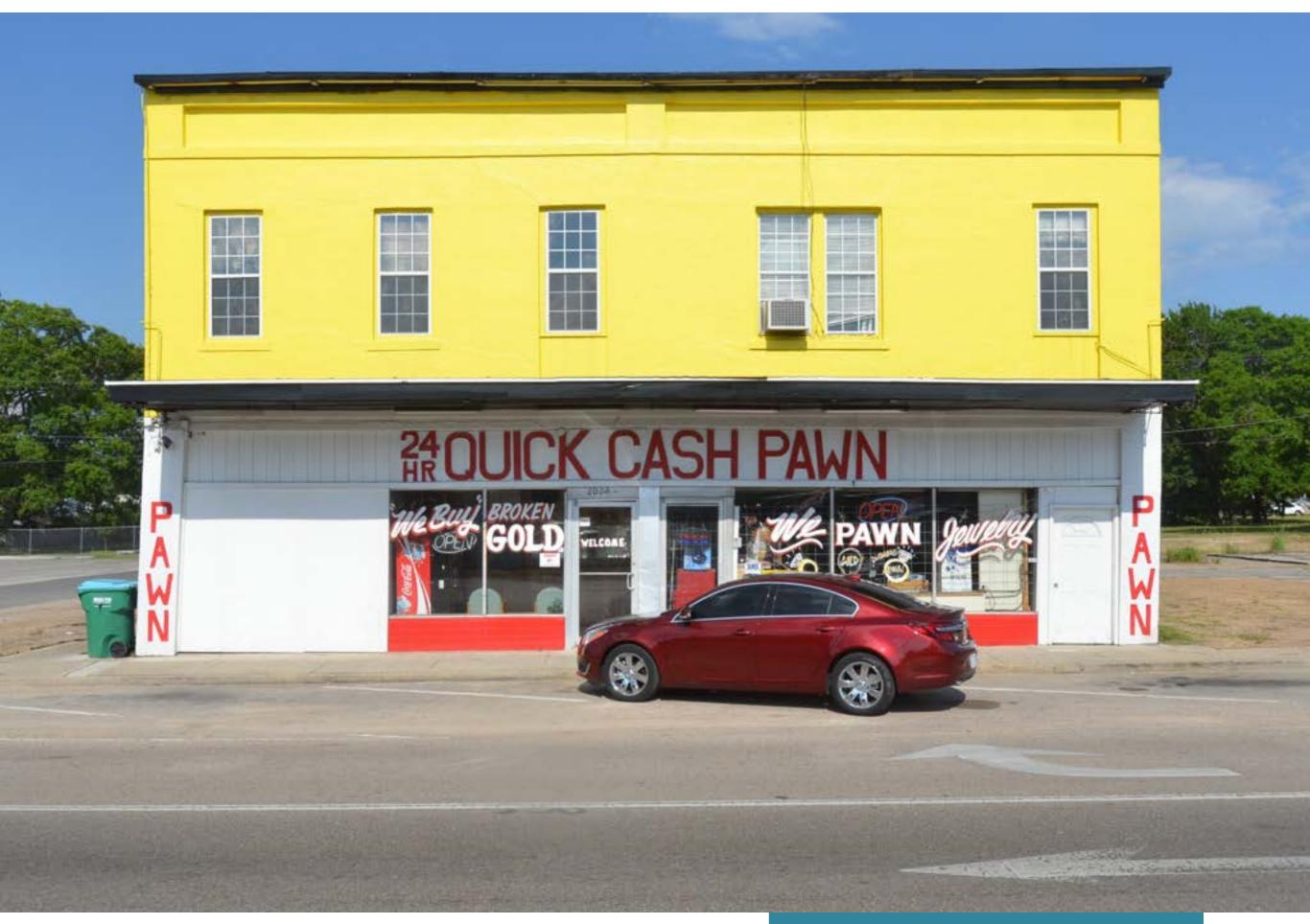


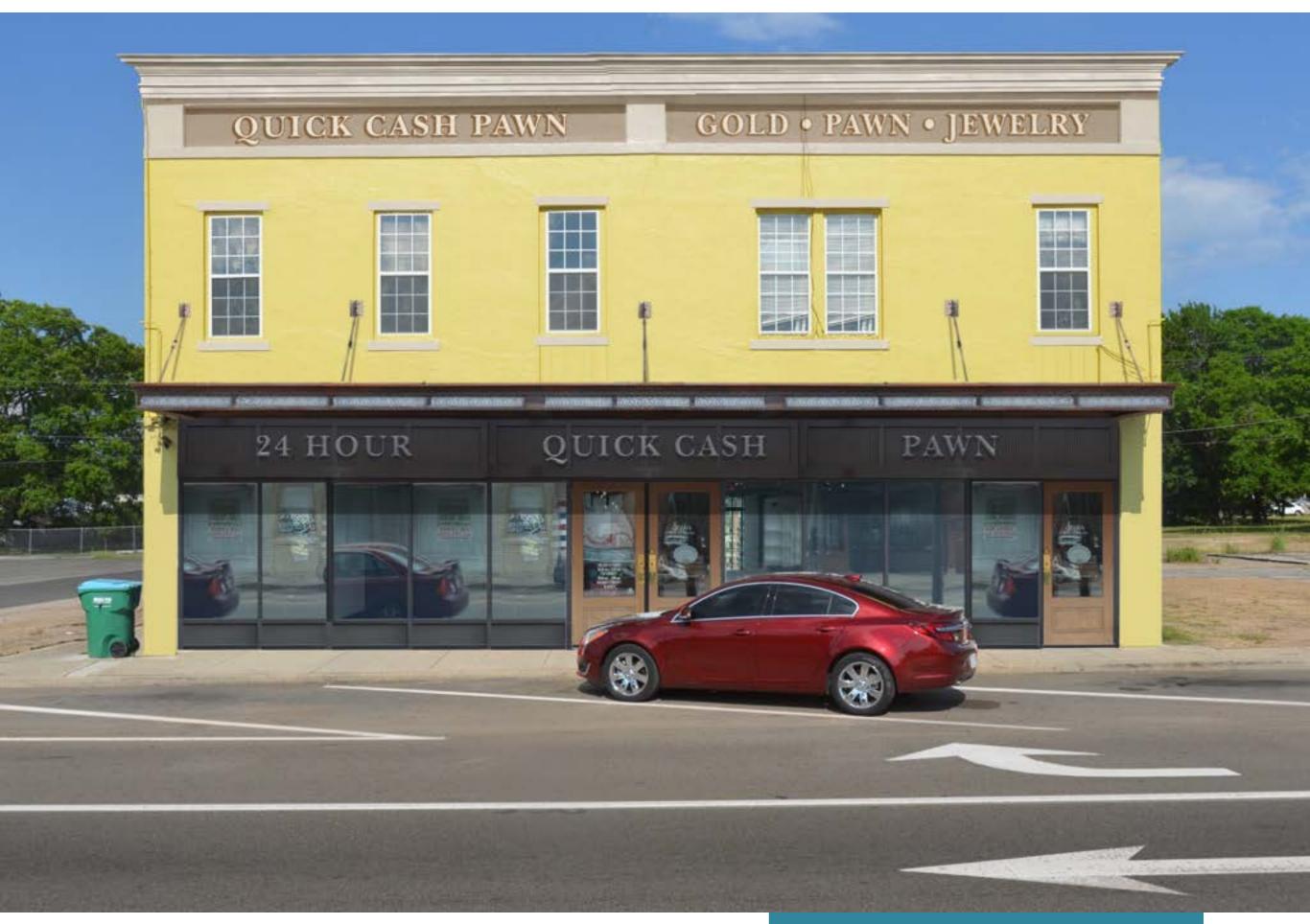








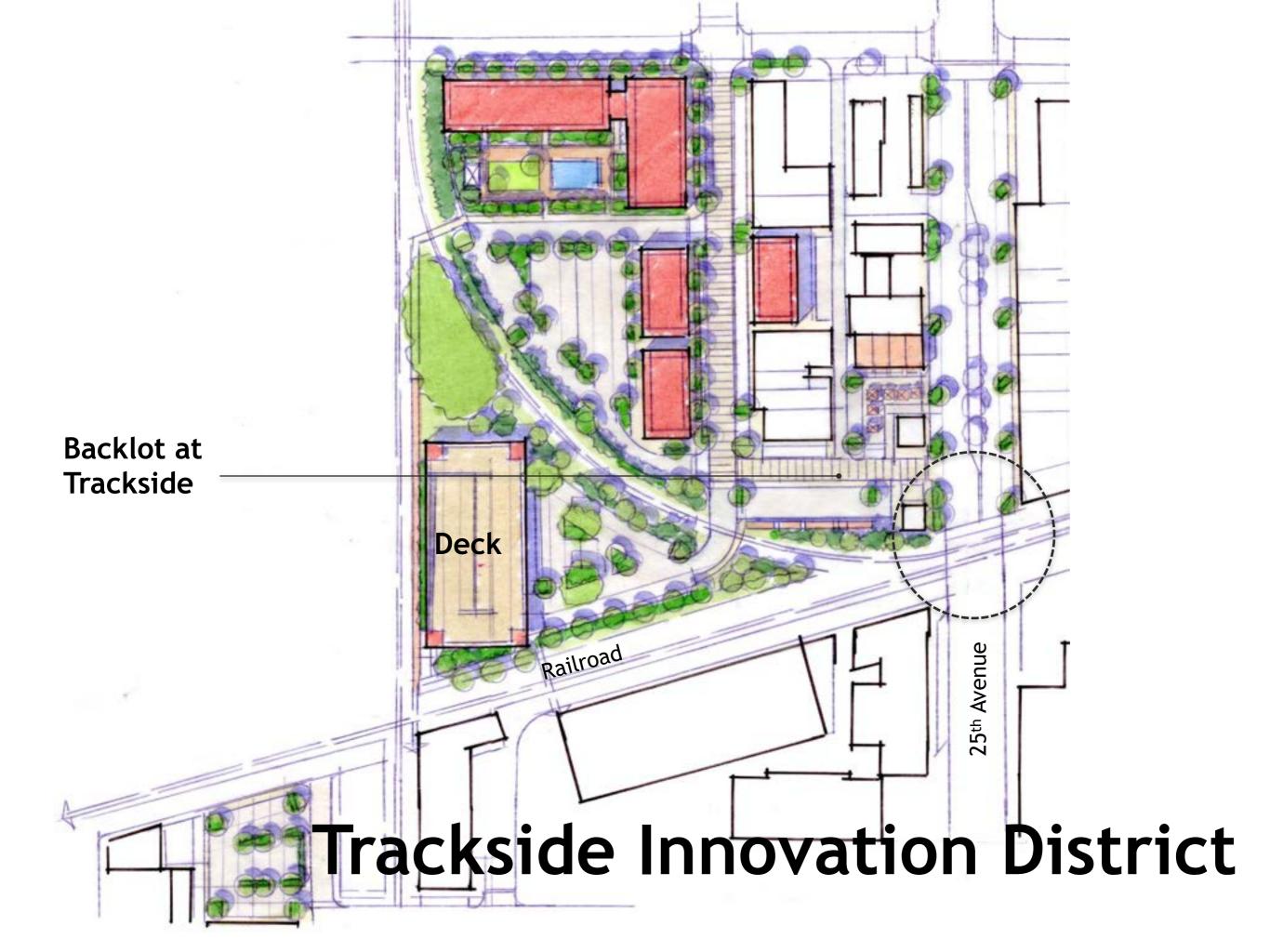






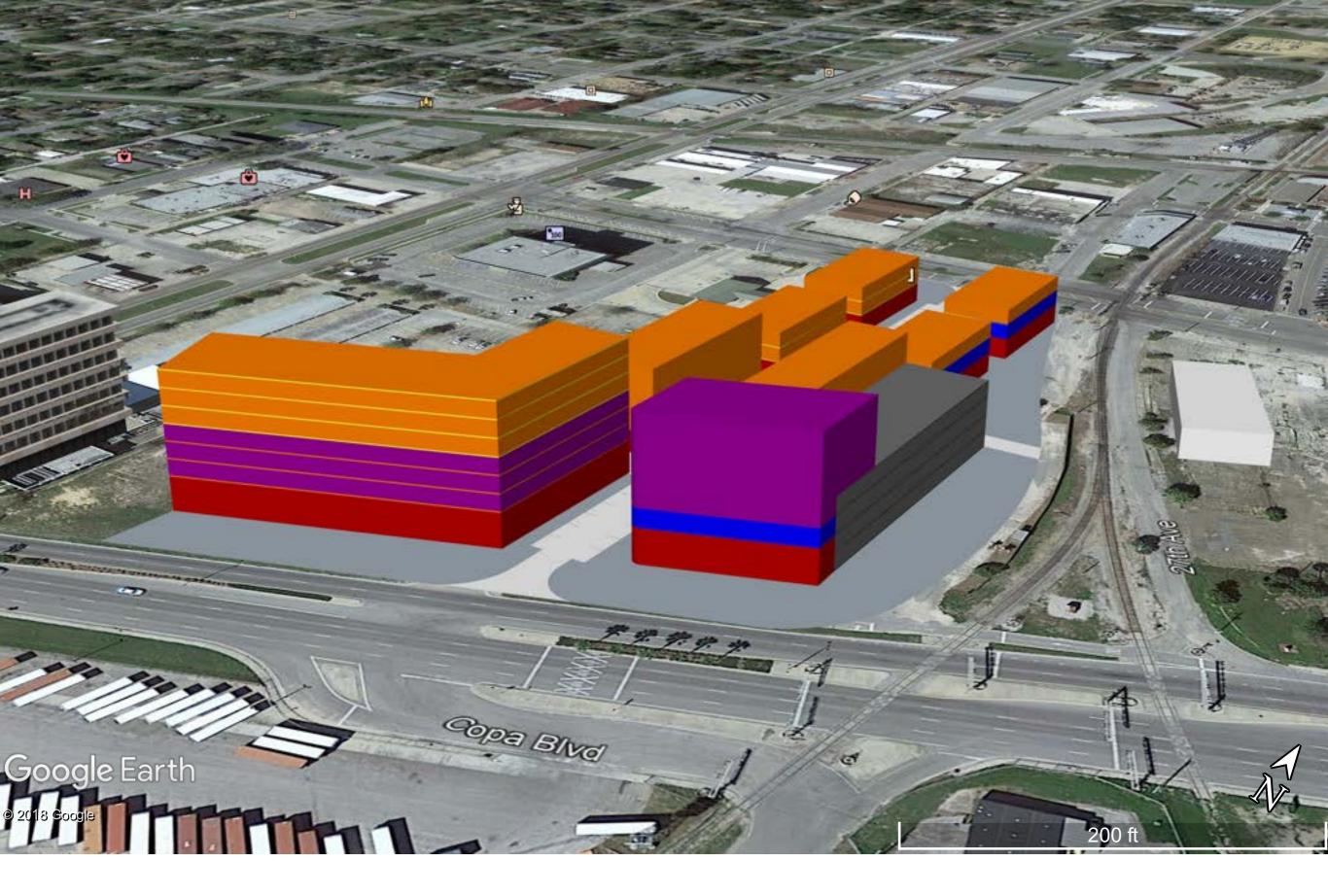


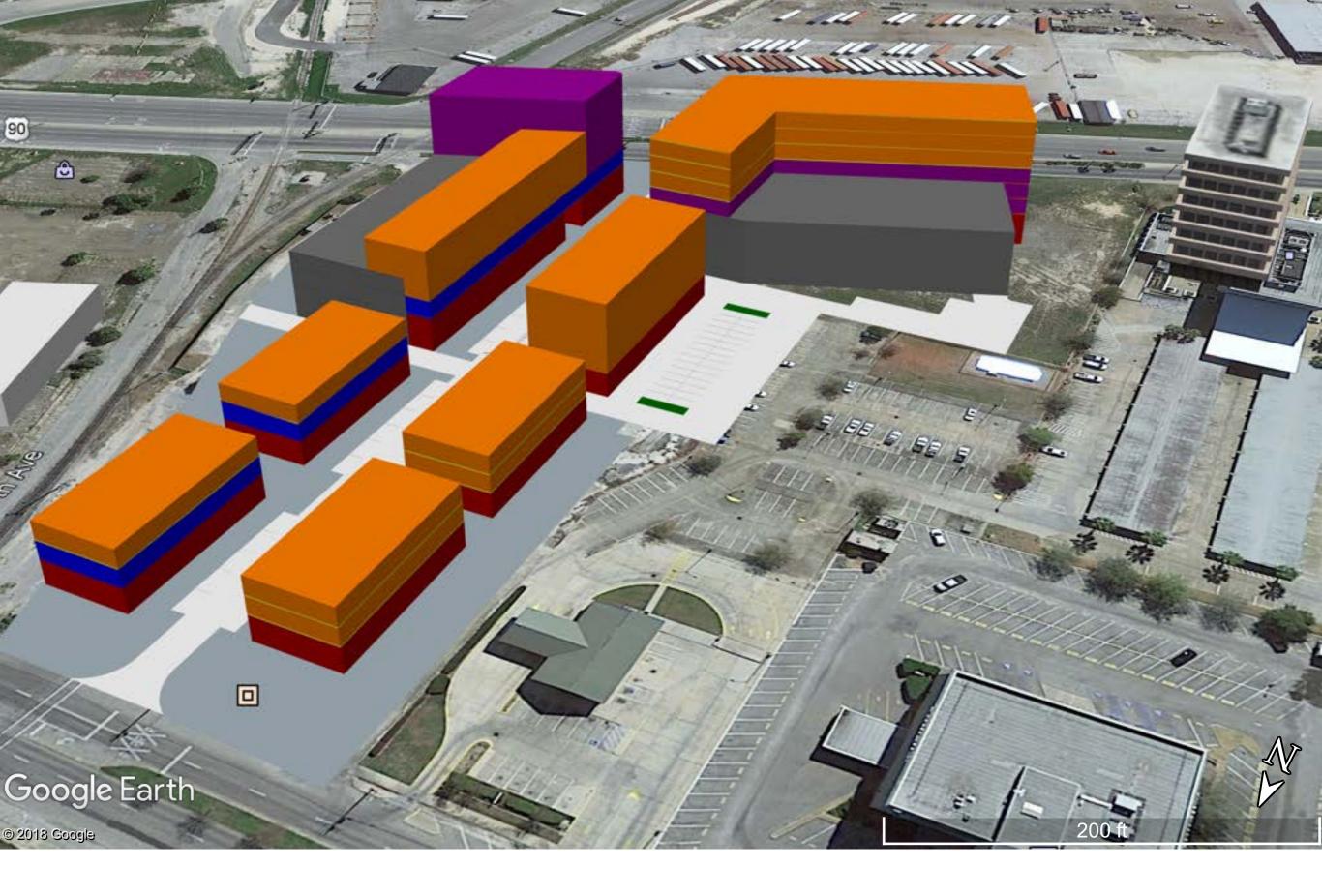










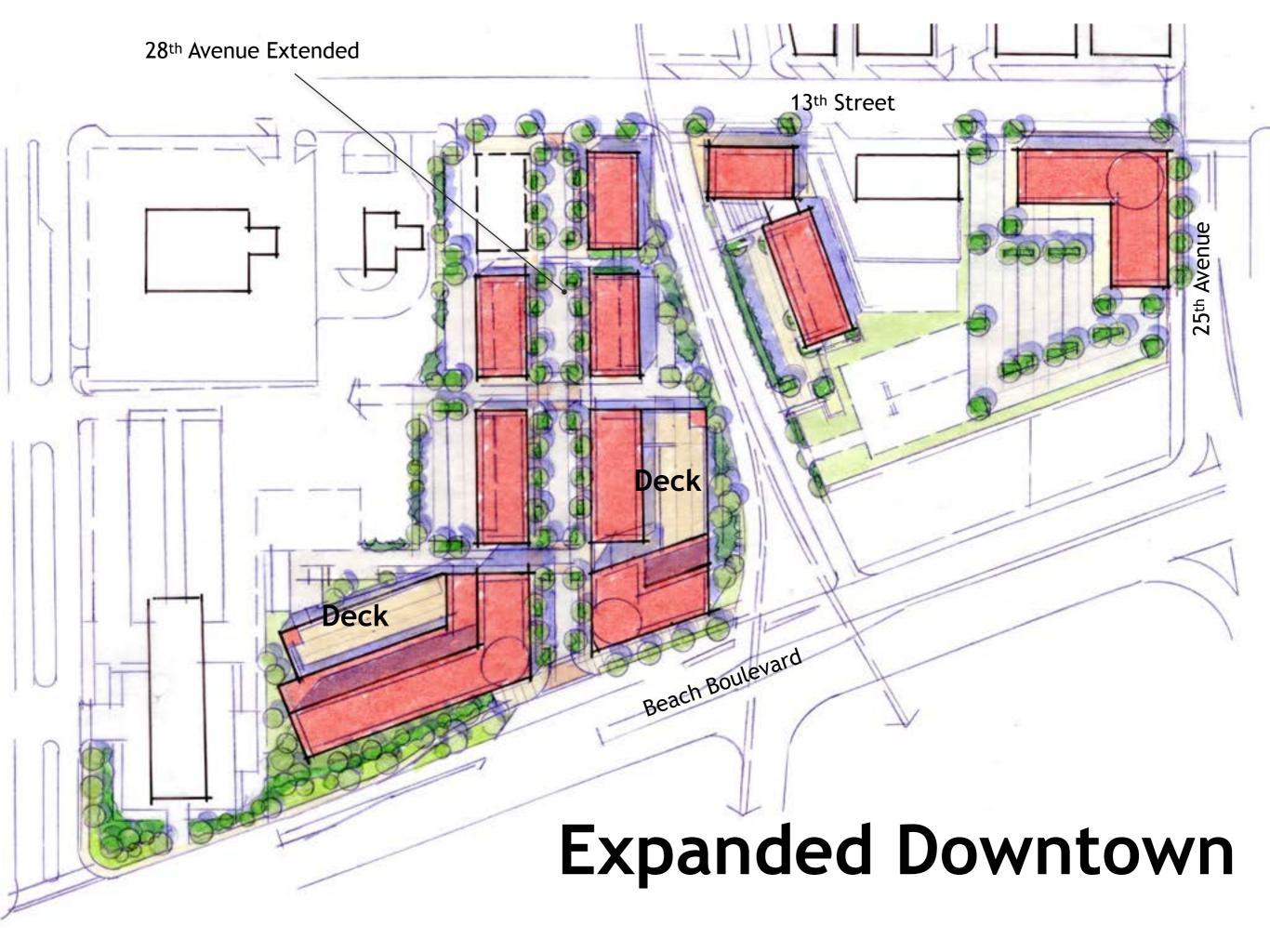




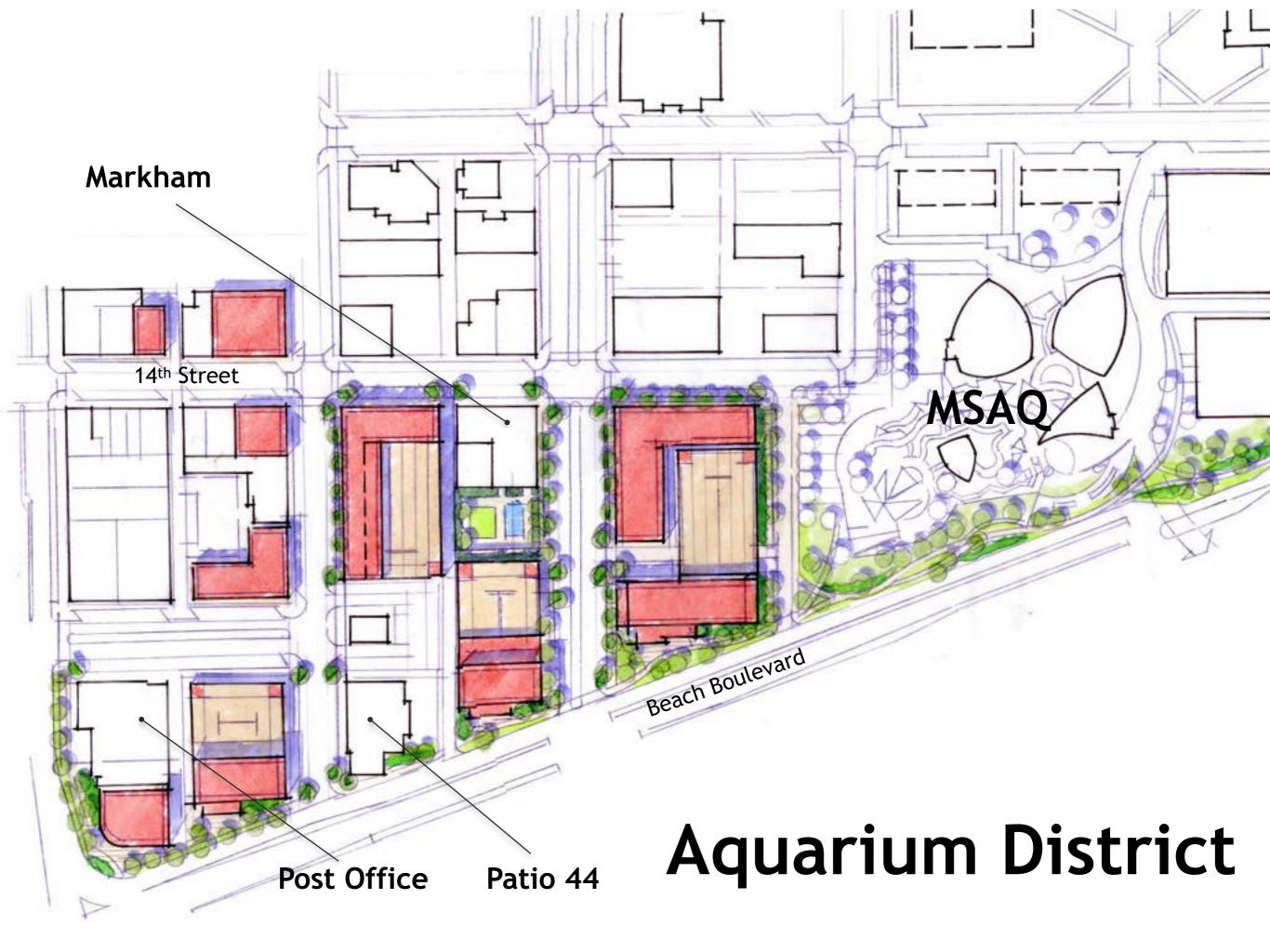
## **Future Activity**

- 1. Expanded Downtown
- 2. Aquarium District
- 3. Gulfside District













## Organizing for the Next 10 Years

- Goal is to have Main Street be an independent self sufficient stand alone organization.
- Suggest a 12-24 month period to create a sustainable funding mechanism for the Main Street program.
- During that time, the organization should contemplate restructuring that would include:
  - Maintaining a strong board presence
  - Maintaining a close partnership with the City of Gulfport
  - Consider increasing the scope of the organization alongside sustained funding to include working on public/private partnerships, incent development in the downtown, work closely with individual businesses, and enhance marketing and promotions with new branding.
  - Increase the staffing of the organization appropriately.
- Ultimately Gulfport Main Street may migrate into a more robust development partner i.e. a Community Improvement District.

## Gulfport Downtown Implementation Strategy Board

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Strategies	First Steps- 2018/19	Next Steps- 2020/21	Long Term- 2022 Beyond	Funding
New Tide Connecting with Customers	Distribute Brand To Businesses Launch Visitor Readiness Program Adopt Consumer District Brands Trackside Banners Deployed Promote Merchandise	Employ Web-based Mobile visitors site Partner with Merchandising Vendor Aquarium Banners Delpoyed Downtown Banners Delpoyed	Explore and deploy kiosk system Update information and functions of mobile site Partner with Merchandising Vendor Aquarium and Downtown	Tidelands Grant MS Gulf Coast NHA Grant MS Power Foundation
Welcome Home Connecting with New Housing	Launch 222 by 2022 including robust Developer Package Form Creative Housing Task Force Acquire MDOT Land Seek Grant Funding for the Deck Identify Potential Developer	Break Ground on First Mixed Use Development Pursue Secondary Large or Small Development Create awareness of the impact of downtown residents	Complete First Development Evaluate market for additional mixed use or housing develop- ments	CDGB Block Grant for Deck MDOT Land Deal MDA Hotel Tax Rebate Program MS Affordbale Hosuing Development Fund CRA Investment New Market Tax Credit
Cast Your Net Connecting with Winning Tactics	Placemaking with specific connector projects Deploy Demise Wall Grants for Microretail spaces Explore Policy Changes -exp Food Trucks	Empower Microretailers to expand Create Events that connect all aspects of downtown Host events that maximize retention of day commuters Partner with CTA to feature downtown business	Implement formal retail and restaurant recruitment strategy Evaluate impact and patterns of Aquarium visitors	National Realtors Association Placemaking Grant Artplace Placemaking Fund Kresge Foundation Placemaking Grant
Reconnecting the Market Connecting with Future Retail	Development of Backlot at Trackside Revise use of parking lot behind Pop Brothers Seek donations of containers Recruit Entreprenuers	Continue to evaluate market needs and leakage Redevelopment of the Depot Capture and report sales tax impact	Monitor changing needs of the market with the onboarding of the aquarium visitor Begin Parking Deck Project	Knight Foundation Rennaissance Corporation Port of Gulfport MDA DOT/FTA
Next Step for Infrastructure Connecting with Investments	Railroad Crossing to Trackside Trackside Link Connection Pass Road Gateway on 25th Avenue	Beach Boulevard Streetscape/Trail 25th Avenue Streetscape north of Railroad (Sidewalk Areas)	Parking Deck at 28th Avenue Extension 28th Avenue Extension Streetscapes near Depot Additional Parking Decks	2¢ Food & Beverage Tax CDBG Recovery Residual
Organizing & Funding the Future Connecting with	Education and advocacy on the BID District Property owner vote of the BID District	Draft city ordinance for the BID District Gulfport City Council approves ordinance Hire Executive Director of the BID	BID District to Manage City properties Finalize scope of the BID District with a focus on engagement, security and safety	BID District Creates a Sustainable Funding Model for Downtown

District

Sustainability

BID District to support Economic