

#### CITY OF FRANKLIN

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT > DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING 70 E. MONROE STREET > FRANKLIN, INDIANA 46131 > 877.736.3631 > FAX 317.736.5310 > www.franklin-in.gov/planning

## **BZA Staff Report**

**To:** Board of Zoning Appeals Members

From: Kevin Tolloty, Associate Planner

**Date:** August 29, 2012

**Re:** Case **ZB** 2012-11 (V)

#### **REQUEST:**

Case ZB 2012-11 (V)...Southwest corner of North Main Street and West Madison Street. A request for a variance from the City of Franklin Zoning Ordinance Article 7, Chapter 10 to allow 9' x 20' parking stalls in the Mixed Use: Downtown Center (MXD) and Downtown Overlay (DT-OL) zoning districts. The property is located at the southwest corner of North Main Street and West Madison Street.

#### **PURPOSE OF STANDARD:**

The "MXD," Mixed-Use: Downtown Center zoning district is intended to provide for the continued viability of the historic central business district. This district is also intended to accommodate and support the use of existing structures within the downtown. It is further intended to permit the continued, contextually appropriate development of the area through re-use and infill development.

The intent of the Downtown Overlay (DT-OL) is to establish an overlay district to address the unique characteristics of the properties in Franklin's Historic Downtown.

#### **CONSIDERATIONS:**

- 1. The petitioner is requesting a variance to allow parking stalls that are nine (9) feet in width and twenty (20) feet in length.
- 2. According to Article 7.10 of the Zoning Ordinance, parking spaces are required to be ten (10) feet in width and twenty (20) feet in length.
- 3. The requested 9' x 20' parking stalls are consistent with some of the existing parking lots in the downtown area.
- 4. This request is one of four variances related to the proposed downtown parking improvements and will otherwise bring the parking lot closer to compliance with the Zoning Ordinance with the addition of landscaping.
- 5. The 2002 Comprehensive Plan, Future Land Use Map, identifies this area as Downtown. "Future land use in the downtown area should support the function of the area as a unique focal point and gathering place for the Franklin community. Downtown Franklin should serve the City as a dynamic activity center that includes retailers, professional offices, residences, civic groups, government facilities, restaurants and bars, and service providers. Future land uses in the downtown should contribute to the establishment of an activity center with a mix of land uses which enhance the current community character that the downtown provides."

- 6. The definition of a practical difficulty, according to the 2004 City of Franklin Zoning Ordinance is: A difficulty with regard to one's ability to improve land stemming from regulations of this Ordinance. A practical difficulty is not a "hardship," rather it is a situation where the owner could comply with the regulations within the Zoning Ordinance, but would like a variance from the Developmental Standards to improve his/her site in practical manner. For instance, a person may request a variance from a side yard setback due to a large tree that is blocking the only location that would meet the Development Standards for a new garage location.
- 7. According to Article 2.5: A special exception or variance ceases to be authorized and is expired if the obtaining of an Improvement Location Permit, or the execution of the approval has not been completed within 1 year of the date the variance or special exception is granted. The variance or special exception shall also expire if the approved construction has not been completed and approved by the Planning Director as being consistent with all written commitments or conditions, the requirements of this Ordinance, and all applicable permits within 2 years of the date the approval is granted.

**Surrounding Land Use:** 

The surrounding zoning and land uses are as follows:

#### **Surrounding Zoning:**

North: MXD, Mixed Use: Downtown Center/DT-OL
South: MXD, Mixed Use: Downtown Center/DT-OL
East: MXD, Mixed Use: Downtown Center/DT-OL
West: MXD, Mixed Use: Downtown Center/DT-OL
West: Former City Hall

#### **CRITERIA FOR DECISIONS:**

#### (\*\*The petitioner will need to address the Criteria for Decisions in their presentation\*\*)

In taking action on all special exception and variance requests, the Board of Zoning Appeals shall use the following decision criteria, consistent with the requirements of the Indiana Code. The Board may grant a special exception and a variance from development standards and limitations of this Ordinance if, after a public hearing, it makes findings of facts in writing (consistent with IC 36-7-4-918.5) that:

#### **DECISION CRITERIA**

1. General Welfare: The approval (will or <u>will not</u>) be injurious to the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community.

### **Staff Finding:**

The approval of the variance will not be injurious to the public health, safety, morals, or general welfare of the community. The overall effect will be an improvement over the existing parking lot.

2. Adjacent Property: The use and value of the area adjacent to the property included in the variance (will or will not) be affected in a substantially adverse manner.

#### **Staff Finding:**

The use and value of adjacent properties will not be affected in an adverse manner as the property should improve the parking situation for surrounding businesses.

3. Practical Difficulty: The strict application of the terms of the ordinance (will or will not) result in a practical difficulty in the use of the property. This situation shall not be self-imposed, nor be based on a perceived reduction of, or restriction on, economic gain.

#### **Staff Finding:**

The strict application of the ordinance will result in a practical difficulty as the size of the required parking stall would reduce the total number of parking spaces made available. The smaller stalls would in effect allow for increased landscaping in the parking lots, while not reducing the amount of parking available. In addition, the nine (9) foot wide parking stalls, while one (1) foot narrower than is permitted by the City of Franklin, is consistent with a number of other communities and should leave ample room for maneuverability.

Please Note: The City of Franklin Board of Zoning Appeals may impose reasonable conditions as part of its approval.

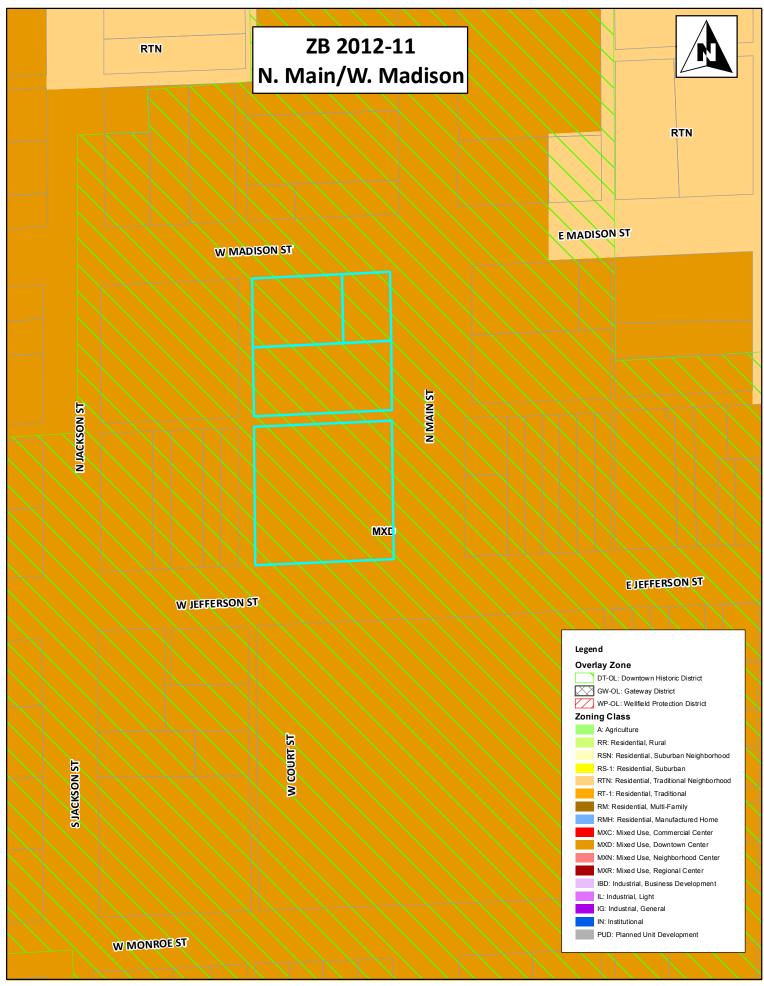
#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the written findings above, staff recommends **approval** of this petition.

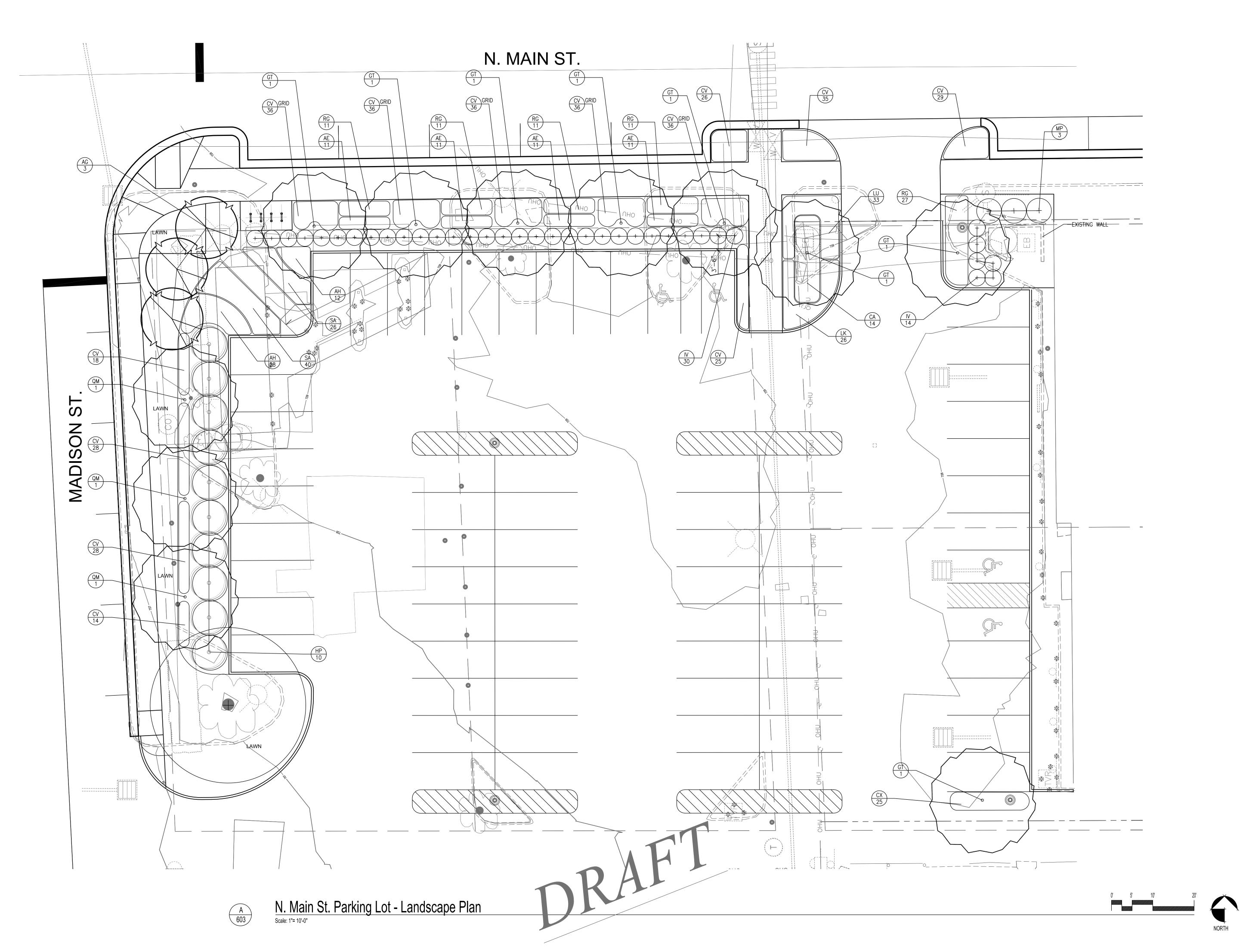
#### Site Photograph

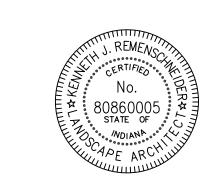






Created: Franklin Planning Dept. - 8/12 1 inch = 100 feet





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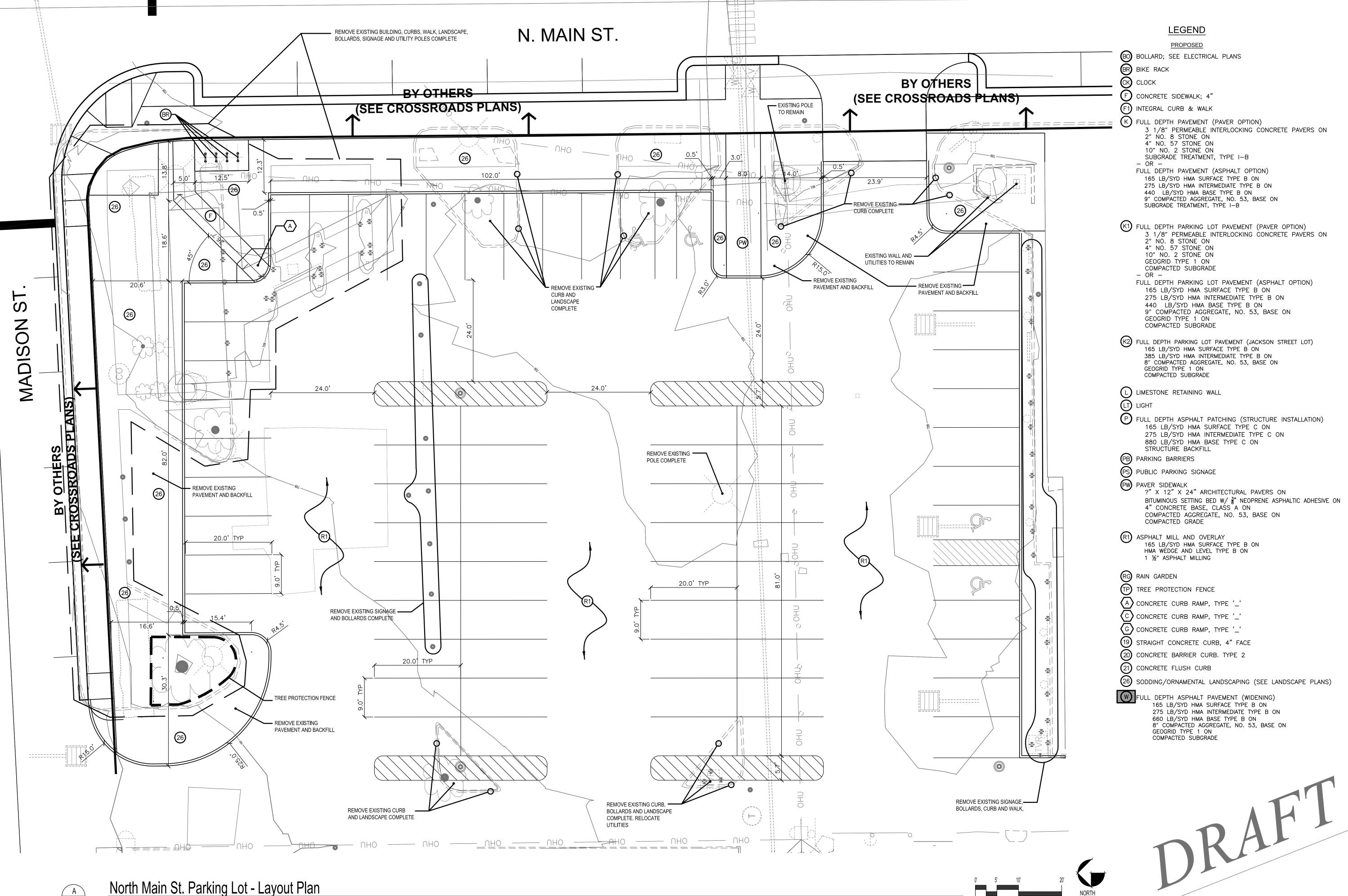
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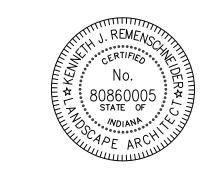
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Project # Date 050612 08.21.12

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# PLANT PLUGS: MIX A:

| WIA A.   |                                  |                         |      |                      |  |  |
|----------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------|----------------------|--|--|
| % of Mix | Botanical Name                   | Common Name             | Qty. | Size @ Install       |  |  |
| 6        | Asclepias incarnata              | Marsh Milkweed          | 39   | Plug; 2 3/8" x 3 3/4 |  |  |
| 5        | Aster novae-angliae              | New England Aster       | 32   | Plug; 2 3/8" x 3 3/4 |  |  |
| 5        | Baptisia australis               | Blue False Indigo       | 32   | Plug; 2 3/8" x 3 3/4 |  |  |
| 12       | Carex annectens var. xanthocarpa | Yellow Fox Sedge        | 77   | Plug; 2 3/8" x 3 3/4 |  |  |
| 12       | Carex cristatella                | Crested Sedge           | 77   | Plug; 2 3/8" x 3 3/4 |  |  |
| 12       | Carex emoryi                     | Riverbank Tussock Sedge | 77   | Plug; 2 3/8" x 3 3/4 |  |  |
| 12       | Carex granularis                 | Meadow Sedge            | 77   | Plug; 2 3/8" x 3 3/4 |  |  |
| 12       | Carex vulpinoidea                | Fox Sedge               | 77   | Plug; 2 3/8" x 3 3/4 |  |  |
| 6        | Chelone obliqua                  | Pink Turtlehead         | 39   | Plug; 2 3/8" x 3 3/4 |  |  |
| 6        | Helenium autumnale               | Autumn Sneezeweed       | 39   | Plug; 2 3/8" x 3 3/4 |  |  |
| 6        | Lobelia cardinalis               | Cardinal Flower         | 39   | Plug; 2 3/8" x 3 3/4 |  |  |
| 6        | Penstemon digitalis              | Foxglove Penstemon      | 39   | Plug; 2 3/8" x 3 3/4 |  |  |

TOTALS: 644 PLUGS; SPACED 1'-6" ON CENTER

|         | TREE & SHRUB SCHEDULE                         |  |              |              |              |             |  |
|---------|---|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--|
| KEYNOTE | BOTANICAL NAME                                | COMMON NAME                            | APPROX. QTY. | SIZE         | SPACING      | NOTES       |  |
| AC      | Acer campestre 'Queen Elizabeth'              | Queen Elizabeth ('Evelyn') Hedge Maple | XX           | 2.5" Caliper | 50' O.C.     | Multi-Stem  |  |
| AG      | Amalanchier x grandifolia 'Autumn Brilliance' | Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry         | XX           | 8' Height    | 50' O.C.     | Multi-Stem  |  |
| AR      | Acer rubrum                                   | Red Maple                              | XX           | 2.5" Caliper | 50' O.C.     |             |  |
| AS      | Acer sacchrum                                 | Sugar Maple                            | XX           | 2.5" Caliper | 50' O.C.     |             |  |
| ВК      | Buxus x koreana 'Green Velvet'                | 'Green Velvet' Boxwood                 | XX           | 24" Height   | 3' O.C.      | ·           |  |
| СС      | Cercis canadensis                             | Eastern Redbud                         | XX           | 8' Height    | 50' O.C.     | Single-Stem |  |
| СО      | Celtis occidentalis                           | Common Hackberry                       | XX           | 2.5" Caliper | 50' O.C.     | ·           |  |
| CY      | Caryopteris x clandonensis                    | Blue Mist Spirea                       | XX           | 24" Height   | 3' O.C.      | ·           |  |
| FO      | Fothergilla gardenii                          | Dwarf Fothergilla                      | XX           | 24" Height   | 3' O.C.      |             |  |
| GT      | Gleditsia triacanthos inermis                 | Thornless Honeylocust                  | XX           | 2.5" Caliper | 50' O.C.     | Inermis     |  |
| HP      | Hydrangea paniculata 'Limelight'              | Limelight Hydrangea                    | XX           | 24" Height   | 6' - 8' O.C. |             |  |
| HQ      | Hydrangea quercifolia 'Alice'                 | 'Alice' Oakleaf Hydrangea              | XX           | 24" Height   | 6' - 8' O.C. |             |  |
| IV      | Itea virginica                                | Virginia Sweetspire                    | XX           | 24" height   | 4' O.C.      |             |  |
| MP      | Myrica pennsylvanica                          | Northern Bayberry                      | XX           | 24"Height    | 6' O.C.      |             |  |
| NS      | Nyssa sylvatica                               | Black Gum                              | xx           | 2.5" Caliper | 50' O.C.     |             |  |
| QM      | Quercus muehlenbergii                         | Chinkapin Oak                          | xx           | 2.5" Caliper | 50' O.C.     |             |  |
| TD      | Taxodium distichum                            | Bald Cypress                           | xx           | 8' Height    | 50' O.C.     |             |  |

|         | GRASS & PERENNIAL SCHEDULE                    |                                     |              |            |               |  |  |
|---------|---|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|--|--|
| KEYNOTE | BOTANICAL NAME                                | COMMON NAME                         | APPROX. QTY. | SIZE       | SPACING NOTES |  |  |
| AE      | Agestache x 'Blue Fortune'                    | 'Blue Fortune' Anise Hyssop         | XX           | 1 gallon   | 2' O.C.       |  |  |
| АН      | Amsonia hubrichtii                            | Narrow Leaf Blue Star               | xx           | 1 gallon   | 2' O.C.       |  |  |
| CA      | Calamagrostis acutiflora                      | Karl Forester Feather Reed Grass    | XX           | 1 gallon   | 3' O.C.       |  |  |
| СР      | Ceratostigma plumbaginoides                   | Dwarf Plumbago                      | XX           | 1 cell     | 1.5' O.C.     |  |  |
| CV      | Carex vulpinoidia                             | Fox Sedge                           | XX           | 1 plug     | 1.5" O.C.     |  |  |
| CZ      | Coreposis verticillata 'Zagreb'               | 'Zagreb' Coreopsis                  | XX           | 1 gallon   | 2' O.C.       |  |  |
| ED      | Eupatorium dubium 'Little Joe'                | 'Little Joe' Joe Pye Weed           | XX           | 1 gallon   | 2' O.C.       |  |  |
| EP      | Echinacea purpurea 'Kim's Knee High'          | 'Kim's Knee High' Purple Coneflower | XX           | 1 gallon   | 2' O.C.       |  |  |
| LB      | Leucanthemum x superbum 'Becky'               | 'Becky' Shasta Daisy                | XX           | 1 gallon   | 2' O.C.       |  |  |
| LK      | Liatris spicata 'Kobold'                      | 'Kobold' Grayfeather                | XX           | 1 gallon   | 2' O.C.       |  |  |
| LU      | Leucanthemum x superbum 'Gold Rush'           | 'Gold Rush' Shasta Daisy            | XX           | 1 gallon   | 2' O.C.       |  |  |
| NF      | Nepeta x faassenii 'Walker's Low'             | 'Walker's Low' Nepeta               | XX           | 1 gallon   | 2' O.C.       |  |  |
| PV      | Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah'                 | 'Shenandoah' Switchgrass            | xx           | 1-3 gallon | 2' O.C.       |  |  |
| RG      | Rudbeckia fulgida var. sulivantii 'Goldstrum' | 'Goldstrum' Orange Coneflower       | xx           | 1 gallon   | 2' O.C.       |  |  |
| SA      | Sedum 'Autumn Fire'                           | 'Autumn Fire' Sedum                 | xx           | 1 gallon   | 2' O.C.       |  |  |
| SS      | Schizachayrium scoparium                      | Little Bluestem                     | xx           | 1 plug     | 2' O.C.       |  |  |



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- Downtown Parking City of Franklin, Indiana -70 East Monroe Street Franklin, Indiana

Landscape Plan

Designed By
Drawn By
Revisions

Project # Date 08.21.12