



Development Services

"TOGETHER WE ARE BUILDING A SAFE AND UNITED DALLAS"

APPLICATION/APEAL TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

ED

Case No.: BDA

245-050

USE ONLY

FEB 25 2025

Date:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Data Relative to Subject Property:

Location address: 1500 Dragon Street Zoning District: PD 621 Subdistrict 1

Lot No.: _____ Block No.: 6851 Acreage: 5.1655 Census Tract: 100.03

Street Frontage (in Feet): 1) 700.9 2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____ 5) _____

To the Honorable Board of Adjustment:

Owner of Property (per Warranty Deed): DDD Portfolio Holdings LLC

Applicant: Jonathan Vinson, Jackson Walker LLP Telephone: 214-953-5941

Mailing Address: 2323 Ross Avenue, Ste. 600 Zip Code: 75201

E-mail Address: jvinson@jw.com

Represented by: Jonathan Vinson, Jackson Walker LLP Telephone: 214-953-5941

Mailing Address: 2323 Ross Avenue, Ste. 600 Zip Code: 75201

E-mail Address: jvinson@jw.com

Affirm that an appeal has been made for a Variance or Special Exception of parking regulations for various uses, in accordance with PD 621 Section 51P-621-110(b)(2)(D).

Application is made to the Board of Adjustment, in accordance with the provisions of the Dallas Development Code, to Grant the described appeal for the following reason:

This application requests a Special Exception for a 48% reduction in the off-street parking requirements for various uses on the property; that is, to provide 177 parking spaces of the required 341 parking spaces based on office/showroom, office, restaurant, and event space uses. In accordance with Planned Development District No. 621, Section 51P-621.110(b)(2)(D), and Section 51A-4.311(a)(1) of the Dallas Development Code, the parking demand generated by the various uses does not warrant the number of off-street parking spaces required, and the proposed special exception will not create a traffic hazard or increase traffic congestion on adjacent or nearby streets.

Note to Applicant: If the appeal requested in this application is granted by the Board of Adjustment, a permit must be applied for within 180 days of the date of the final action of the Board, unless the Board specifically grants a longer period.

Affidavit

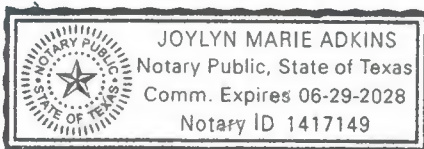
Before me the undersigned on this day personally appeared JONATHAN G. VINSON
(Affiant/Applicant's name printed)

who on (his/her) oath certifies that the above statements are true and correct to his/her best knowledge and that he/she is the owner/or principal/or authorized representative of the subject property

Respectfully submitted: Jonathan G. Vinson
(Affiant/Applicant's signature)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of February, 2025

Joylyn Marie Adkins
Notary Public in and for Dallas County, Texas





CITY OF DALLAS
AFFIDAVIT

Appeal number: BDA 245-050
Vipin Nambiar, General Partner of
DDD Portfolio Holdings LLC

I, _____, Owner of the subject property
(Owner or "Grantee" of property as it appears on the Warranty Deed)

at: 1500 Dragon Street
(Address of property as stated on application)

Authorize: Jonathan Vinson, Jackson Walker LLP
(Applicant's name as stated on application)

To pursue an appeal to the City of Dallas Zoning Board of Adjustment for the following request(s)

- Variance (specify below)
- Special Exception (specify below)

Other Appeal (specify below)
Specify: This application requests a Special Exception for a 48% reduction in the off-street parking requirements for various uses on the property; that is, to provide 177 of the required 341 parking spaces based on office/showroom, office, restaurant, and event space uses. In accordance with Planned Development District No. 621, Section 51P-621.110(b)(2)(D), and Section 51A-4.311(a)(1) of the Dallas Development Code, the parking demand generated by the various uses does not warrant the number of off-street parking spaces required, and the proposed special exception will not create a traffic hazard or increase traffic congestion on adjacent or nearby streets.

Vipin Nambiar
Print name of property owner or registered agent

[Signature]
Signature of property owner or registered agent

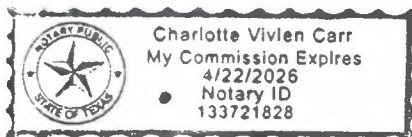
agent Date 9/24/24

Before me, the undersigned, on this day personally appeared Vipin Nambiar

Who on his/her oath certifies that the above statements are true and correct to his/her best

knowledge. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of

September, 2024



Charlotte V Carr
Notary Public for Dallas County,
Texas

Commission expires on 4/22/2026

MEMORANDUM

To: David Nevarez, P.E., PTOE, CFM
Transportation Development Services
City of Dallas

From: Lloyd Denman, P.E., CFM
Consult LD, LLC
Registered Firm F-23598

Date: February 24, 2025

Subject: **Parking Study and Analysis for 1500 Dragon**



Introduction

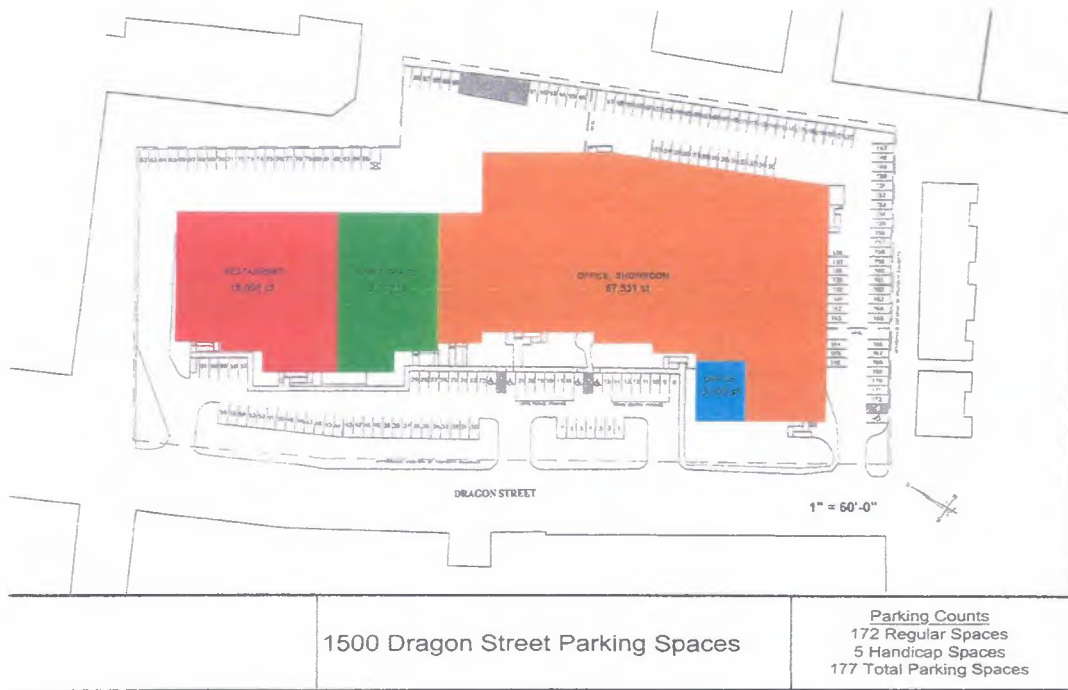
1500 Dragon is located on the easterly side of Dragon Street between Oak Lawn Avenue and Cole Street. The property is zoned PD 621, Subdistrict 1, and is in the area known as the Dallas Design District. HN Capital Partners owns 1500 Dragon along with fifteen other Design District properties. HN Capital intends to revitalize the 1500 Dragon site by re-purposing some of the existing building space to include Restaurant and Office use that will better utilize and balance the existing building and its existing parking. The introduction of some Restaurant and Office use is intended to be neighborhood friendly and hospitality centric for the Design District as a whole. The existing site consists of one large mostly rectangle shaped building with a total of approximately 100,000 square feet of single-story space and 177 available parking spaces. (See **EXHIBIT 1 – Site Plan**) The new owner would like to utilize the allowances provided within PD 621 to reduce the parking that would be required by Code to be more efficient and balanced with best uses for the site and current neighborhood transportation trends. Parking observations made at a similar site nearby on Market Center Blvd to the west in October of 2024 are presented below along with additional justifications for this parking reduction request as provided by the PD.

Proposed Uses and City of Dallas Code Requirements for Parking

The City of Dallas Development Code requires minimum parking associated with different land use types. PD 621 specifically allows “shared parking” to be considered as a percentage reduction of the required minimum parking for certain mixed uses. Note that the proposed use mix for this 1500 Dragon site would be the maximum planned space for utilization of Restaurant that may not actually all be transitioned or leased in the proposed manner but is meant to represent what would be the densest parking use mix. **The calculated maximum parking for the proposed mix of uses is 341 spaces per City Code** without the “Shared Parking Reduction”. (See **EXHIBIT 2 – Proposed Use Parking Chart**) Note that the **existing parking layout of 177 spaces** is adequate for the morning and afternoon times of day per Code to accommodate the maximum proposed mix of uses when applying the “Shared Parking Reduction” table within PD 621.

BDA24S-050

EXHIBIT 1 – Site Plan



This site plan shows the existing 177 parking spaces and the ultimate proposed uses for the existing building. The restaurant use will be primarily evening and valet parked and may incrementally expand up to the requested maximum of 18,000 square feet.

EXHIBIT 2 – Proposed Use Parking Chart

1500 DRAGON STREET						
Street No.	Street Name	Land Use	SQ FT	Parking Ratio	Required Parking	Total Parking Provided
1500	Dragon	Office/Showroom	72,700	1sp/1110 SF	66	
1500	Dragon	Office	3,000	1sp/358 SF	8	
1500	Dragon	Restaurant	18,000	1sp/105 SF	171	
1500	Dragon	Event Space	10,000	1sp/105 SF	95	
			103,700		341	177

Note that the bulk of the parking demand is for the Restaurant use which typically peaks during weekend evenings. The Restaurant use will be valet parked. The Office/Showroom use has plenty of daytime parking and is typically closed during the evenings.

PD 621 Allowance for Parking Reductions and the Owner's Request

The creators of PD 621 utilized good foresight for the zoning regulations back in 2002 realizing that the old parking minimums required for certain defined uses are not "one-size fits all". (See **APPENDIX** Articles on Parking) PD 621 allows for the accommodation of denser urban living that is less "car-centric" and the consideration of alternative modes of transportation that help reduce the need for parking. Specifically, the PD allows for "a special exception of up to 50 percent of the required off-street parking" to help "right-size" parking for dense urban projects. **HN Capital would like to follow the PD 621 allowance language and request a reduction of 48% in parking requirements from the calculated requirement of 341 spaces to utilize the currently provided 177 spaces.** Local observed parking data and recent mobility trends support the request as detailed below. Also, HN Capital may seek out nearby properties to determine if remote valet agreements may be reached to provide overflow parking should it be needed. HN Capital also owns other nearby properties that could provide evening overflow parking should it be needed.

1212 Oak Lawn and 1617 Market Center Blvd (Pie Tap and Town Hearth) Observed Parking Data (Oak Lawn/Market Center/Irving Blvd Triangle)

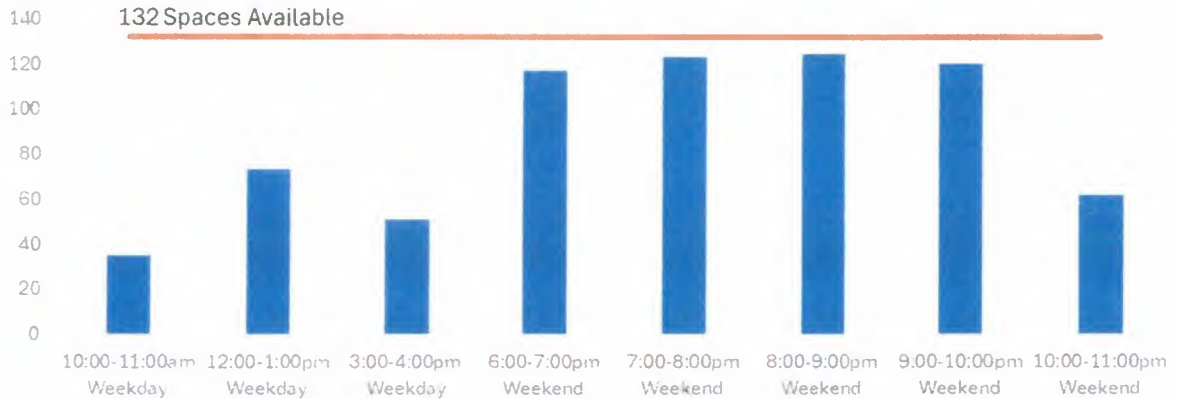
Exhibit 3, on the next page, illustrates observed parking during peak use times in October of 2024 for 1212 Oak Lawn and 1617 Market Center, a triangular shaped property, which has the Pie Tap and Town Hearth restaurants. The exhibit is annotated with comments about the observed parking data and what is proposed.

It is evident from the observed data that the adjacent Oak Lawn Triangle property is able to support two restaurants with its available parking and with the use of valet. It was observed while counting, and confirmed by the restaurant valet manager, that employee parking occupied a significant number of the available interior parking spaces (15% or more). It is recommended to consider more efficiently managing employee parking to provide more patron parking when needed. The Design District encourages a comprehensive neighborhood approach for all the property owners to work and cooperate together for mutual benefit. Note that adjacent properties with different owners have supported one another in parking reduction requests. (See **APPENDIX** mutual letters of support) This illustrates the synergistic goal of mutual benefit throughout the greater Design District. Granting this request would not adversely affect neighboring property since parking is already prohibited along the east side of Dragon St. There is also potential for "relief valve" parking available should the internal parking be exceeded by utilizing the surface parking lots on nearby properties. The proposed mix of uses for this existing site will be able to successfully accommodate parking demand for the higher percentage restaurant use without adversely impacting neighboring properties or the public streets. Utilizing valet service for the restaurant use helps ensure that parking needs are sufficiently and efficiently met.

EXHIBIT 3 – 1201 Oak Lawn: OBSERVED PARKING NEXT DOOR AND PROPOSED PARKING

Observed Parking Oak Lawn/Market Center/Irving Triangle

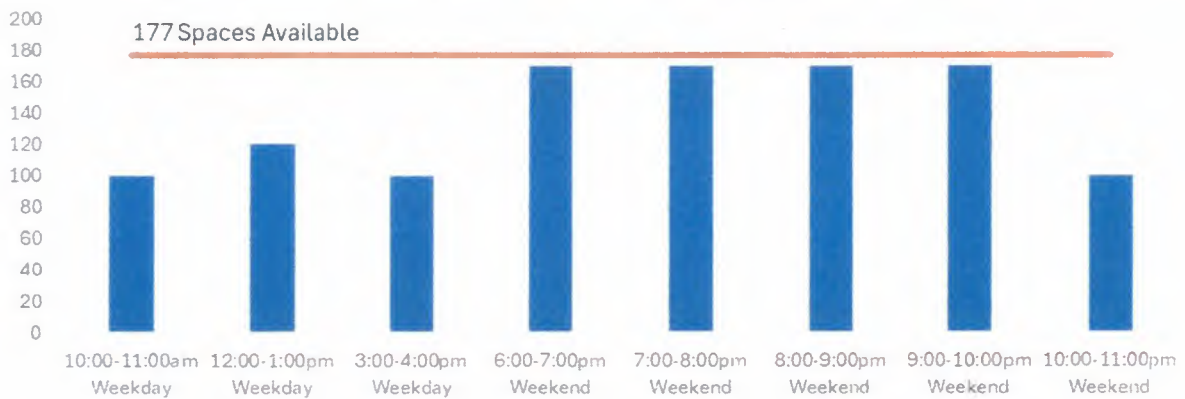
(10,248 sqft Merchandise&Service for 56%; 8,158 sqft restaurant for 44%)



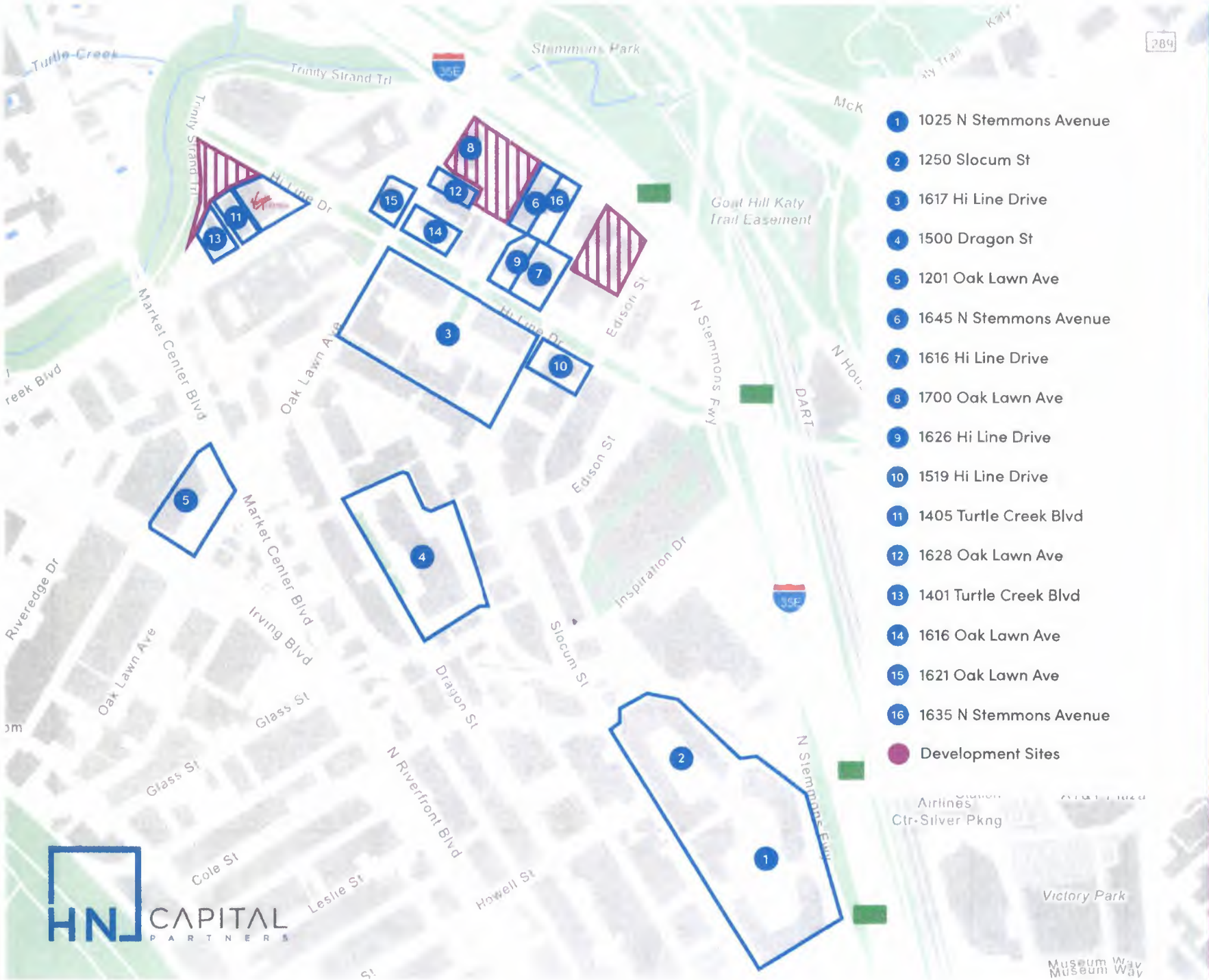
Note that the Oak Lawn Triangle property with two restaurants, Pie Tap and Town Hearth, makes it work with the 132 parking spaces available. The valet manager said if the parking spaces ever happen to temporarily fill up the restaurant has a “relief agreement” with the property to the south which helps keep the valet parking operation smooth and consistent.

Proposed Parking 1500 Dragon St

(73,000 sqft showroom for 70%; 18,000 sqft restaurant for 17%)



The proposed mix of uses intends to fill the available parking during the weekend evening peaks for Restaurant use. There is adequate parking available to satisfy the City Code during mornings and afternoons for the Office and Showroom uses. The use of valet and alternative transportation modes can offset the evening restaurant peaks. Note that HN Capital will seek or provide on its own properties “relief valve” parking agreements that could be utilized for any overflow parking should it occur. As the owner of sixteen properties in the Design District, HN Capital is incentivized to balance and “right size” parking so that everyone benefits.



- 1 1025 N Stemmons Avenue
- 2 1250 Slocum St
- 3 1617 Hi Line Drive
- 4 1500 Dragon St
- 5 1201 Oak Lawn Ave
- 6 1645 N Stemmons Avenue
- 7 1616 Hi Line Drive
- 8 1700 Oak Lawn Ave
- 9 1626 Hi Line Drive
- 10 1519 Hi Line Drive
- 11 1405 Turtle Creek Blvd
- 12 1628 Oak Lawn Ave
- 13 1401 Turtle Creek Blvd
- 14 1616 Oak Lawn Ave
- 15 1621 Oak Lawn Ave
- 16 1635 N Stemmons Avenue
- Development Sites



February 5, 2025

Dr. Kameka Miller-Hoskins, Chief Planner
Zoning Board of Adjustment
City of Dallas
1500 Marilla Room 5CN
Dallas, TX 75201

Via email

RE: Pending applications at 1616 and 1626 Hi Line; 1617 Hi Line; and 1201 Oak Lawn Avenue

Dear Dr. Miller-Hoskins,

Please accept this support letter for the parking reduction requests at 1616 and 1626 Hi Line, 1617 Hi Line, and 1201 Oak Lawn Avenue. We understand they are separate requests intended for consideration in April 2025; our support applies to each request. The applicant, HN Capital, and their representatives have shared with us their request and plans for improving their property. As adjacent commercial property owners, we believe that their parking reduction request will benefit this area of the Design District.

We support the parking reductions requested for several reasons. HN Capital has successfully managed their properties in this area to bring valuable tenants and businesses to the Design District. As this area of the Design District has benefitted from the recent city investments in infrastructure, these improvements for sidewalks, streetscapes, and a hike/bike trail that connects to Victory Park/Downtown increase and enhance mobility options for visitors and residents. New developments and remodels have included a mix of land uses that are creating a dynamic neighborhood, as intended by the PD 621 Old Trinity Design District Special Purpose District zoning. We also understand the City of Dallas is considering Development Code revisions to the off-street parking requirements to align with current parking demand trends and promote use of other transportation options.

The proposed parking reductions are supported by a professional engineering analysis of the parking demand for these properties and the ability of HN Capital to manage the parking needs on their properties for the success of their tenants. We believe the requested reductions are reasonable and support the shared goal of continued improvement, adaptive reuse, and quality development of the Design District.

Sincerely,

Shyam Patel – Asana Partners
1444 Oak Lawn, LP



Jonathan G. Vinson
(214) 953-5941 (Direct Dial)
(214) 661-6809 (Direct Fax)
jvinson@jw.com

August 16, 2024

Via Email

Ms. Cambria Jordan, CFM, MBA, PMP, Senior Planner
Zoning Board of Adjustment
City of Dallas
1500 Marilla Street, Room 5BN
Dallas, Texas 75201

Re: BDA234-091; 1444 Oak Lawn Avenue.

Dear Ms. Jordan:

Our firm represents HN Capital, which is the largest property owner in the Design District. HN Capital is pleased to be part of the ongoing success of the District, and we look forward to even more success for the entire District in the future. This letter is to express our *support* for the off-street parking special exception request being made under BDA234-091 at 1444 Oak Lawn Avenue, for the following reasons.

When the City first approved P.D. 621 in 2002, it was not completely certain that the P.D. would work for its intended purposes. The City deserves credit for getting the P.D. right for the most part and achieving its purpose of fostering in-context adaptive reuse in the Design District with, of course, some appropriate new development.

Part of the success of P.D. 621, we believe, is due to the P.D. having loosened somewhat the strict requirements for off-street parking found in other parts of the City. This is very appropriate and necessary for the adaptive reuse of existing buildings, and actually helps preserve those buildings and the larger context of the District. This is good place-making and supports the District's overall success.

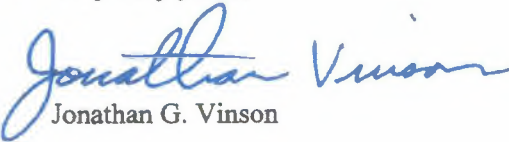
However, since the adoption of P.D. 621, the world has changed even more with regard to parking demand. The reduction in office usage, the advent of ride-sharing, and the greater walkability of the District have all contributed to this. Continuing to adhere to off-street parking ratios which date back in some cases to 1965, or even before, fails to recognize the change in parking demand in 2024.

In fact, the City itself is in the middle of processing Development Code amendments to reduce off-street parking requirements to align more with current demand. For many reasons, the current off-street parking requirements in P.D. 621, and elsewhere in the City, are obsolete and should be reduced.

41476708v.1

We support reasonable and evidence-based, data-driven reductions in parking requirements where appropriate, in particular in P.D. 621, where such reductions will support continued adaptive reuse and quality development and placemaking, and we believe that to be the case with this request. We respectfully ask that you approve the applicant's request in this case. Thank you.

Very truly yours,


Jonathan G. Vinson

cc: Dr. Kameka Miller-Hoskins
Jennifer Hiromoto
Vipin Nambiar
Adam Hammack
Suzan Kedron

WALKABILITY STUDY

According to statistics listed on the Dallas Design District Property Brochure, by "DunhillProperties.com", there are approximately 20,000 residents that live within one mile, or a 10 to 20 minute walk, of the Dallas Design District. Even closer to the heart of the Design District and to 1500 Dragon St, within a 5 to 10-minute walk or less, are eight large multi-family communities that total nearly 3000 units. Also, the Virgin Hotel with 268 rooms and a 75 space pay parking lot are within a 10-minute walk to 1500 Dragon. (See annotated map attached) According to the Federal Highway Administration, "Most people are willing to walk for five to ten minutes, or approximately ¼ to ½ mile" to reach a destination. (See FHA Pedestrian Safety Guide attached)

The close proximity within a five to ten-minute walk of so many residential units and hotel rooms certainly helps decrease the parking demand for patrons that would frequent 1500 Dragon for Restaurant uses. (Walk times were physically verified by Lloyd Denman, P.E. during the parking observations made in May 2024.) There is also a free hotel shuttle at the Virgin Hotel that ferries guests within a 3-mile radius of the hotel to and from restaurants and other attractions. In May of 2024, the shuttle attendant said the shuttle stays busy and a second vehicle should be added to the service.



1500 Dragon St. Residential Proximity Map

Safety

Pedestrian Safety Guide for Transit Agencies

< [Previous](#) [Table of Content](#) [Next](#) >

Chapter 4: Actions to Increase the Safety of Pedestrians Accessing Transit

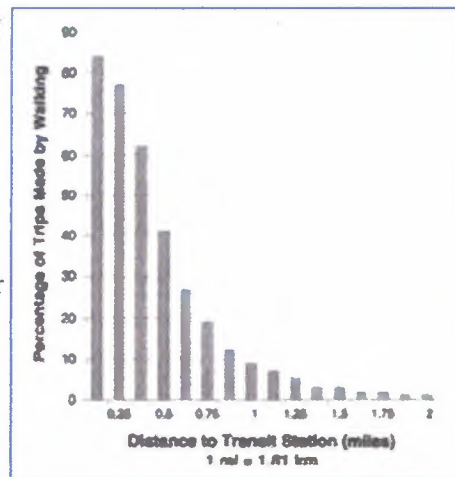
Understanding pedestrian characteristics and facilities (e.g., sidewalks, crosswalks, pedestrian signals, etc.) is an important step in providing safe access to transit systems. This section introduces basic pedestrian safety concepts to help readers understand issues, solutions, and resources that are presented in other parts of this guide. Concepts addressed in this chapter include:

- Typical walking distance to transit.
- Motor vehicle speed and pedestrian safety.
- Pedestrian characteristics and behavior.

A. Typical Walking Distance to Transit

Most people are willing to walk for five to ten minutes, or approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ - to $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile to a transit stop (see figure below). However, recent research has shown that people may be willing to walk considerably longer distances when accessing heavy rail services. Therefore, in order to encourage transit usage, safe and convenient pedestrian facilities should be provided within $\frac{1}{4}$ - to $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile of transit stops and stations, and greater distances near heavy rail stations. Note that bicyclists are often willing to ride significantly further than $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile to access rail transit stations, so safe facilities should be provided for bicycling within a larger catchment area around transit hubs.

Transit route spacing and location are important considerations for pedestrian access to transit. For example, in a city with a regular street grid pattern of streets, appropriate stop spacing can be achieved when transit routes are spaced between $\frac{1}{2}$ - to 1-mile apart. If the stops on these routes are spaced $\frac{1}{8}$ - to $\frac{1}{4}$ - mile apart, then a majority of the people in the neighborhoods served by the transit system will be within $\frac{1}{4}$ - to $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile of a transit stop.⁷⁰



B. The Effect of Motor Vehicle Speed on Pedestrian Safety

Pedestrians accessing transit stops and stations must often walk along or cross roadways that carry motor vehicle traffic. Pedestrians may feel less comfortable and safe as nearby motor vehicle speeds increase. The faster a driver is traveling, the more difficult it is to stop (see figure below).⁷¹ Larger vehicles, such as buses and trucks require even longer stopping distances.

The Parking Problem: Why Cities Overbuilt Parking Spaces

by [Lauren Palmer](#) | Sep 20, 2023 | [Land Use](#), [Transportation](#), [Urban Planning](#) | [0 comments](#)

The [Institute of Transportation Engineers](#) (ITE) was founded in 1930 with the goal “to improve mobility and safety for all transportation system users and help build smart and livable communities.” The idea behind the ITE was to help developers with roadway design, traffic management, and parking requirements. However, the ITE has created more problems, particularly when it comes to parking. For decades, the ITE recommended parking minimum requirements ill-suited for the municipalities implementing them.

The primary issue with parking recommendations from the ITE is that the studies they relied on were based on [selective data](#). For instance, in the 1987, second edition of the ITE’s *Parking Generation*, the [ITE created half of their parking generation rates based on just four or fewer studies](#) that were conducted in suburban areas. Researchers conducted these studies during times of peak parking demand and in areas where there was plenty of free parking and [little to no use of public transit](#).

This led urban planners in cities to use suburban rates to set parking requirements that were incompatible with urban environments, resulting in excessive amount of parking in some areas. This created a circular planning process that has only exacerbated issues. It goes something like this:

1. The ITE published their findings in *Parking Generation* using the selective suburban data,
2. City urban planners set parking requirements based on those findings,
3. Developers implemented those parking plans,
4. The resulting ample supply of parking drove the price of parking in specifically designated lots down to zero,
5. Because of the massive amount of land used to create these parking specifications, cities saw decreased walkability and density of facilities,
6. The sprawl, combined with the plethora of free parking options, led to increased vehicle usage,
7. The increased parking demand again validated the ITE’s findings.

And the cycle repeats. [This process has, unsurprisingly, resulted in an overabundance of parking](#). In the United States, surface parking lots alone cover more than five percent of all urban land, representing an area greater than the states of Rhode Island and Delaware combined.

To be clear, the ITE is not solely to blame. As mentioned in *Rethinking A Lot*, urban planners and policymakers frequently rely on the recommendations provided by the ITE for parking requirements without ensuring their accuracy for their respective municipalities. The ITE has an inherent authority that makes planners regard its findings as valid, precluding in planners’ minds the need for further inquiry. The use of ITE’s manuals also allow public officials to avoid responsibility for excessive parking lots.

Due to a lack of planning and engaging the proper parties involved in parking use and development, inaccurate parking demands arise. While [urban planners](#) readily observe this problem, they often fail to take the necessary steps to actually address it. Even municipalities directly contribute to the overabundance of parking by offering free spaces, which inevitably fill up quickly, and then opting to add more parking, which creates an overabundance without addressing the root problem.

Municipalities also look to other authorities, such as the Urban Land Institute (ULI) for parking guidance. However, the ULI has many of the same problems as the ITE. ULI reports have recommended an excessive amount of parking, with some ULI reports calculating a "need" for more spaces than ITE reports. Municipalities cannot blindly rely on these institutions to supply perfectly accurate data. Municipalities need to measure parking demands with the "ongoing data analysis, community assessment, and demand analysis" that is most relevant to them.

The ITE, recognizing that municipalities still rely on its findings, is also attempting to fix the situation by adapting and changing the new *Parking Generation* manuals. The most recent, the 2019 *Parking Generation Manual*, features land use descriptions and data plots of a variety of available land uses, time periods, and independent variables in the ITE database. The parking database is now broken up into settings that include "Multi-Use Urban" and "Center City Core," which work to pinpoint the most relevant studies for specific cities' needs. The goal of this manual is to help describe the relationship between parking demand and the characteristics of the individual development site.

Donald Shoup, Professor in the Department of Urban Planning at UCLA, recommends that the ITE follow in the footsteps of the British counterpart to *Trip Generation*, the "Trip Rate Information Computer System." This system gives information about the characteristics of every surveyed site and its surroundings, which would allow municipalities to use comparable sites before making land use decisions.

Despite the empirical evidence surrounding the overabundance of parking, as well as its deleterious environmental effects, few municipalities are changing parking requirements and financiers still pass on projects that "don't have enough parking," even with the new ITE recommendations.

One successful technique is shared parking, a parking management tool that communities can employ when setting parking requirements. Different types of land uses attract customers, workers, and visitors during different times of the day, which results in differing peak parking demand hours for the related land uses. Shared parking takes advantage of these varying demand patterns and allows adjacent land uses with complementary peak demands to share a parking lot space. This not only encourages centralized parking rather than scattered lots, but also reduces overall construction costs which could greatly benefit both municipalities and developers.

Several municipalities have implemented shared parking, including **Ventura, CA** which has a zoning ordinance that permits different land uses to have shared parking because of opposite peak parking demand periods. The shared parking is allowed to satisfy one hundred percent of the minimum parking requirements for each land use. Similarly, **North Kansas City, MO**, by permit, allows a reduction of the number of parking spaces multi-use developments need to have if they have different peak parking demand periods.

Finally, in **West Hartford, CT**, the zoning code provides an alternative method of meeting parking requirements. So long as the applicant seeking to enter into a shared parking agreement can prove the lot would be convenient for all parties and would not cause traffic congestion, it can get approved. The municipality has since consolidated many parking lots down for shared use.

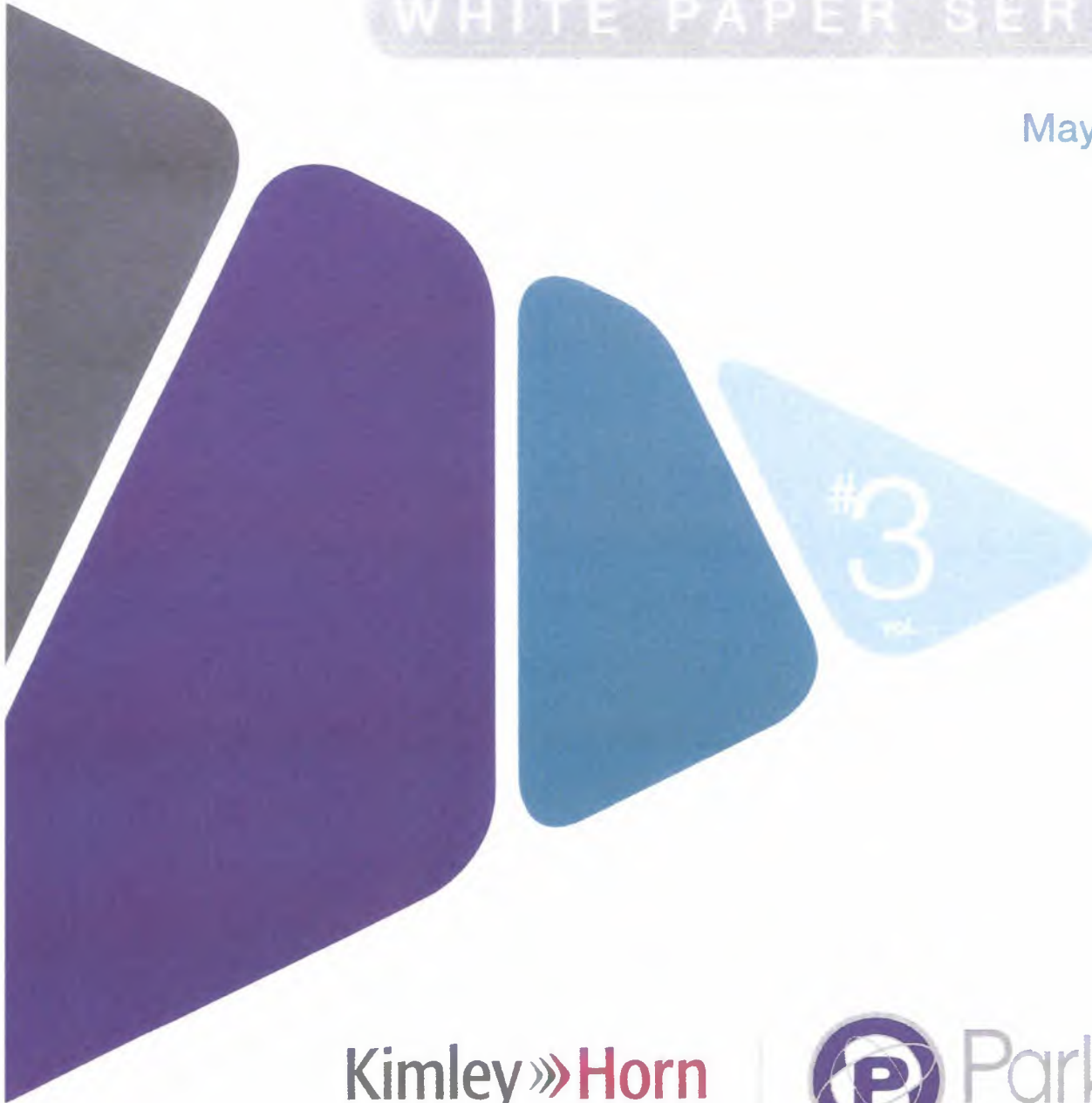
To truly reverse the detrimental impacts of the old ITE reports on the development of cities, urban planners and lawmakers will need to implement a multi-faceted approach. In addition to conducting their own parking studies based on the proposed uses and characteristics of the community, urban planners and lawmakers should focus on enhancing multi-modal transit and implementing shared parking. Parking minimums need to be eliminated and more parking maximums need to be developed. Focusing on the parking demands of individual development sites will help stop the cycle of creating unnecessary parking and meet parking demands in a smarter and more efficient manner.

Parking Generation—

Replacing Flawed Standards
with the Custom Realities of **Park+**

WHITE PAPER SERIES

May 2016



Kimley»»Horn
Expect More. Experience Better.

 **Park+**
Unlimited Parking Solutions

Introduction

For the longest time, our industry's approach to defining "How much parking?" has been relegated to the use of national parking requirement standards, either from the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), Urban Land Institute (ULI), or local code requirements. Anyone who has read the workings of Donald Shoup, or more recently Richard Willson, knows the fallacy in using these sources when designing downtown or campus parking systems.

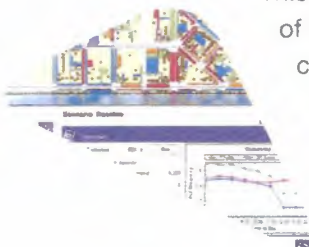
National parking requirement standards are based on outdated and under-represented data, which tend to skew wildly from the actual parking needs of a community. In my years as a parking consultant, I've very rarely completed a single downtown parking study where the peak observed parking demands consumed the majority of the total parking spaces. A study completed in Dallas a few years ago yielded some 30,000 empty parking spaces at peak. Similar results were found in Atlanta, Houston, St. Petersburg, Seattle, and the list goes on.

When communities plan downtowns based on outdated suburban design standards, we achieve the same inevitable results—empty, restricted parking areas that deaden the density, walkability, and vitality of urban areas.

The parking quantity question is always a challenging exercise, especially when we try to solve it using inaccurate data. Most times, we rely on outdated data that doesn't truly represent the real context of our downtowns. As more and more people migrate to urban areas, the dynamics of how they get around and their relationships with cars change. As such, we've seen a drastic downshift in the need to provide parking. But our planning tools have not evolved to better align with this shift.

Equally challenging is deciding how the parking characteristics in one community compares to another community. In reality, it's hard to define how one neighborhood acts compared to another. Here in Phoenix, the Roosevelt neighborhood, home to the area's up-and-coming artists and requisite "hipsters," enjoys a higher amount of transit, walking, and cycling than most other parts of the city. In turn, the overall demand for parking is lessened as area residents and patrons find other ways to access the uses within the area. In my neighborhood, you almost can't survive without the use of a car to work, shop, and play. This variability exists in every city and is the reason it's absurd to continue leaning on archaic, cookie-cutter methods to plan for parking.

This question is the central reason we created Park+ — to find a way to localize the analysis of parking demand and challenge the conventional notion that all parking demand is created the same. Within this white paper we summarize the findings of the first five years of Park+ modeling and define the dynamic nature of each community served. In our time developing, testing, and applying this model, we have encountered an incredible diversity of data and outcomes in each community. In the following sections, we'll walk through those results, as well as the more global movement afoot in our industry.



Unfortunately, those data points are routinely applied in areas they should not be. I've seen exercises where entire swaths of a downtown are planned with these metrics, resulting in over-built facilities. In some cases, it's a lack of understanding of the context the development is occurring in. In other cases, it's a requirement of financial institutions that are backing a development. Whatever the cause, a better understanding of the true dynamics of a development and the area it serves produces better results.

In recent years, urban planners have begun to lean more and more on these decisions as a primary reason that downtowns and communities don't work. One of my favorite terms in the industry is the "parking crater," which was coined by the website Streetsblog and its editor Angie Schmitt. In fact, that website holds an annual March Madness tournament, with a full-on bracket to determine the worst parking crater of that year. The parking crater is a portion of a downtown that has been hollowed out by the presence of large surface parking lots. Whether these are highly or poorly utilized, they deaden a downtown, its walkability, and most importantly its viability.

If asked, many people would say the provision of ample parking makes our cities more desirable. But in fact, ample parking promotes single occupancy vehicle trips and impedes the ability for our communities to develop and grow. Pedestrian walkability, dense design, and connectedness are extremely important for the success of a community. Large areas of parking tend to counter these tenets and disrupt the ability for a community to work properly. This is only exacerbated by the over-provision of parking.

Clearly, something must be done...

Right-Sized Parking

Recently in the planning arm of the parking industry, we've seen a very distinct shift toward finding the right amount of parking for a downtown, campus, study area, development, etc. This movement is aptly dubbed the Right-Sized Parking movement. The name speaks for itself, as the intent is to determine the correct amount of parking to serve an area without over- or under-burdening area patrons.

Too much parking tends to be an expensive endeavor. In today's world where more and more parking is found in consolidated structures, the cost to build a single space can range from \$8,000 to \$40,000, or more. This price is astronomical and is a primary contributing reason that rents are increasing and the cost of living in urban areas is skyrocketing. In King County¹, WA, a recent study searched to find the answer to the right-size for multi-family housing parking. The result of that large-scale effort was...it depends.

¹ Visit rightsizeparking.org to learn more and to play with their awesome right-size parking calculator



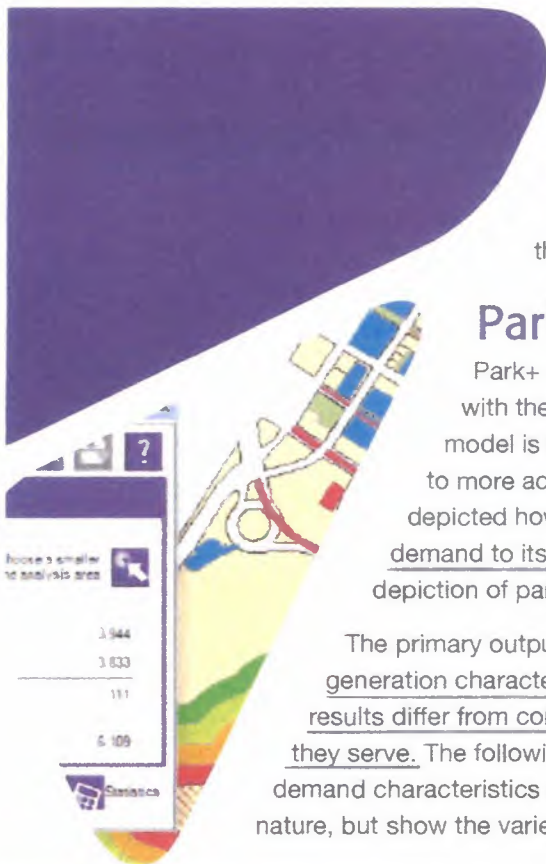
That result may seem nebulous, but in reality it's the most accurate response that could have emerged from such a study. The data indicated that a number of factors—location, access to transit, employment density, walkability, population demographics—were responsible for the parking demand characteristics of a multi-family development. In short, people tended to adapt to their environment, and their driving (and car ownership patterns) adapted right along with them.

Unfortunately, in a lot of those instances, the provision of parking did not adapt. Instead, developers continued to provide parking as if every location was the same, and the result was a high amount of underutilized parking. The data showed that in the heart of Seattle (the most urbanized area in the county), the parking demand was at or below 0.5 spaces per unit. In the far reaches of the county, the ratio was closer to 1.5 spaces per unit.

This analysis has borne some incredible outcomes. First, many developers in the King County area have begun to lessen their parking capacity as a result of this analysis, basically “right-sizing” their supply. That in and of itself is a win and would deem the effort a success. However, the study also pushed communities in the King County area to reassess their parking requirements, helping to define right-sized parking at the review level. Even more incredibly, King County transit has now begun to pursue empty parking spaces in multi-family housing complexes to serve as park-and-ride spaces for transit riders.

It's very exciting to see the results coming out of King County.

They spent a tremendous amount of time and effort to collect viable data and determine how their community works. The project was well funded by the Federal Highway Administration and led by a brilliant young planner² whose mission is to prove the fallacy of poor parking planning. But how about the communities not funded by FHWA...how do they learn more about the true nature of their parking systems?

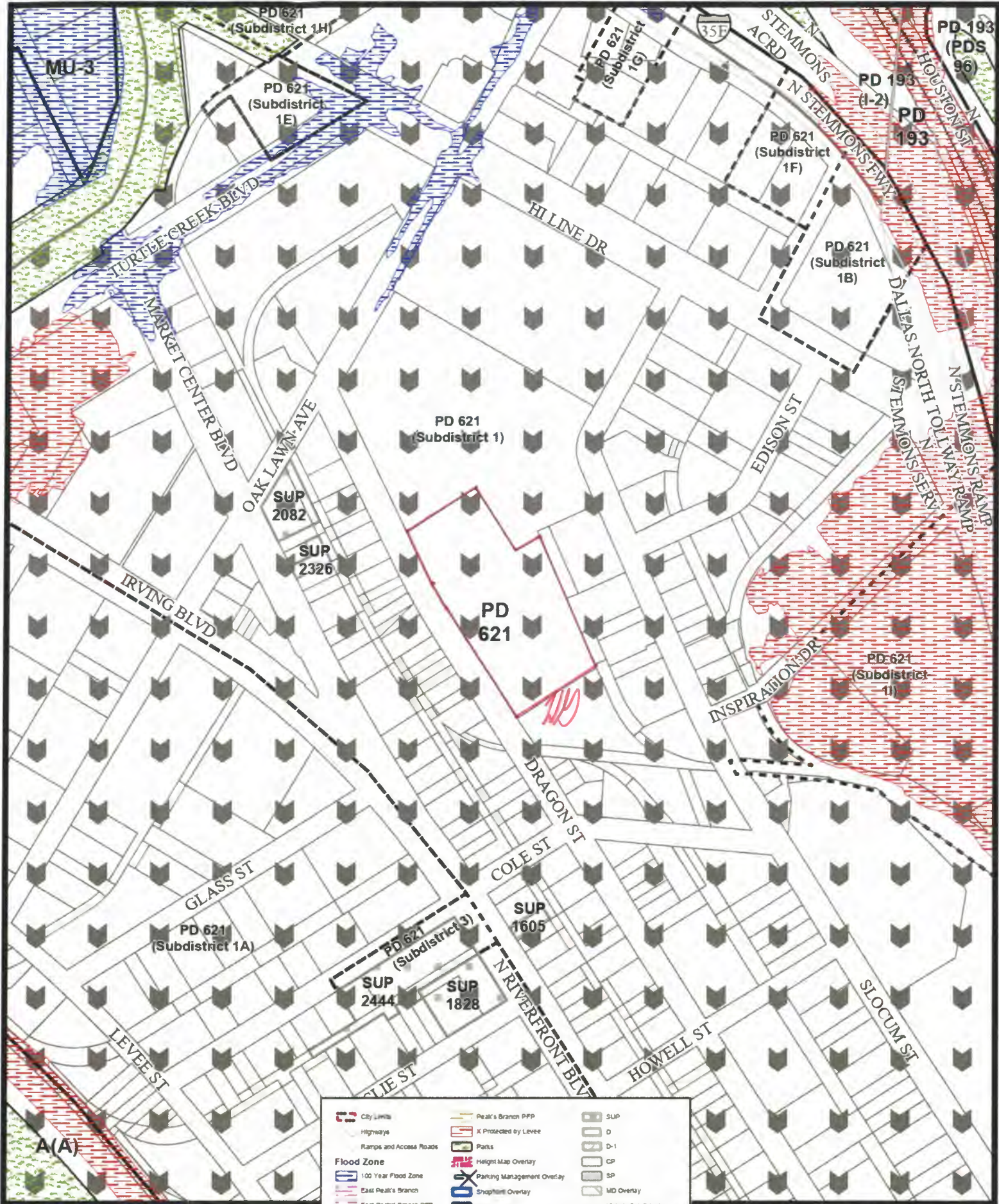


Park+ and Right-Sized Parking

Park+ —the Kimley-Horn parking scenario planning tool — was created with the intention of right-sizing parking in the communities we serve. The model is built on an algorithm that matches parking demand with land uses to more accurately depict parking behavior. Previous white papers (xxx) have depicted how this relationship works, but in simplistic terms, we match parking demand to its origin using localized data. The result is a much more accurate depiction of parking demand in the environments our models serve.

The primary output of a calibrated Park+ dataset is a unique set of parking generation characteristics that represent the dynamic nature of a community. These results differ from community to community and are a direct reflection of the areas they serve. The following tables and figures provide a representative sample of parking demand characteristics and geographic demand metrics. These are only representative in nature, but show the varied results that come from Park+ modeling exercises.

² Dan Rowe of King County Metro. If you ever meet him at a conference, engage him about parking...you won't be sorry.



1:4,800

Flood Zone		

Case ID: **BDA245-OSO**
 Printed: 8/9/2024

SHIPPED DATE 2/5/90 RECEIVED DATE 4/7/90

CITY OF DALLAS PLAT BOOKS

ANNEXED SURVEY **MC KINNEY & WILLIAMS** ORD. NO. _____ ABST. 1052

ADDITION

SCALE 100 FT. EQUALS 1 INCH

PHA 6-3-87

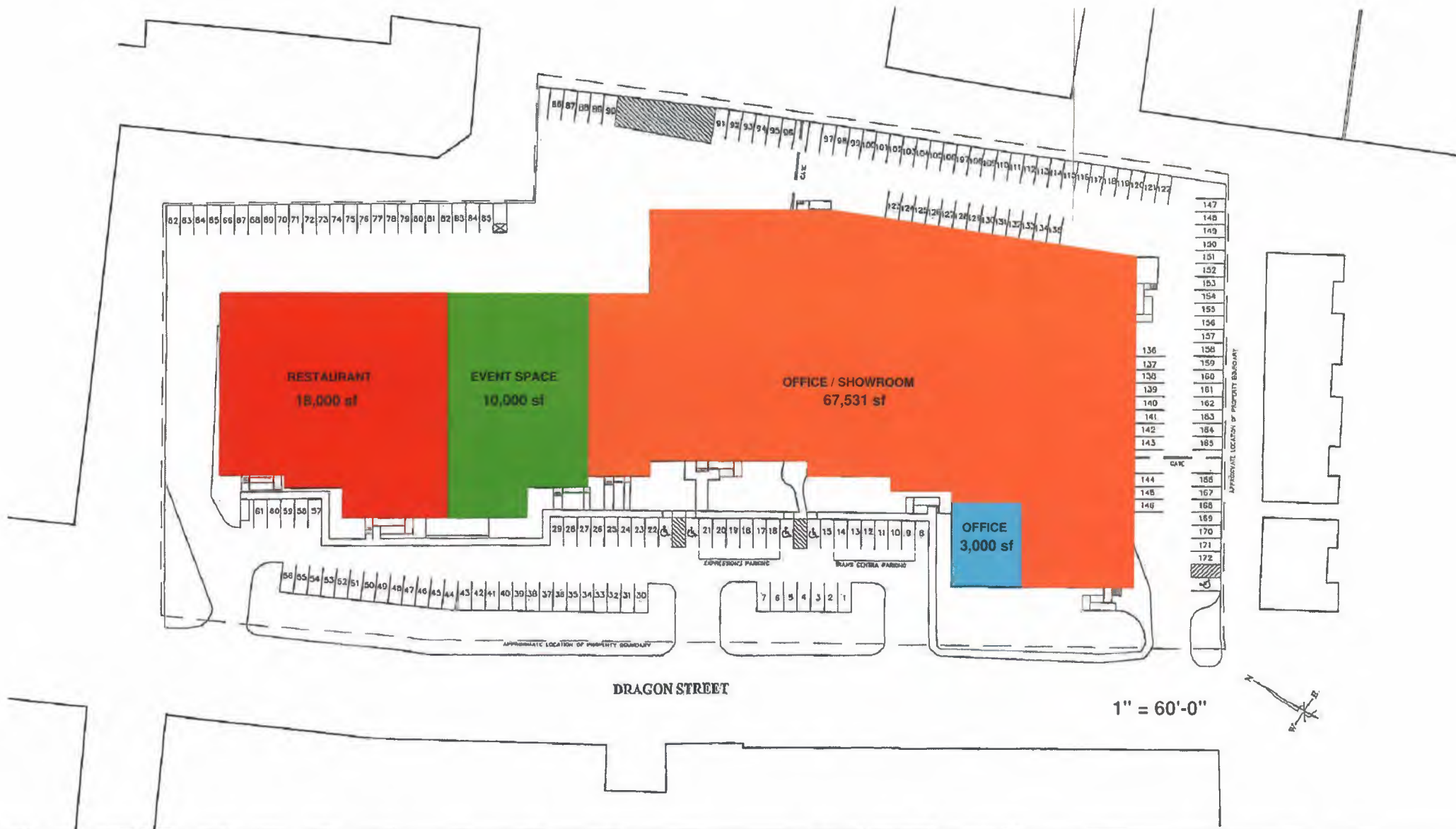
BLOCKS **6851 - 6851**

SCHOOL DISTRICT **DALLAS**

ANNEXED DEC. 27, 1951 ORD. NO. 6346
ANNEXED JULY 30, 1965 ORD. NO. 7001 (150' STRIP E. OF OAK LAWN)
TRINITY IND. DIST. 22 NO. INST. BLK. 1/6851 FILED: 9-21-70 Lot 1



BDA245-050



1500 Dragon Street Parking Spaces

Parking Counts
 172 Regular Spaces
 5 Handicap Spaces
 177 Total Parking Spaces

BDA245-050