



CITY OF COCOA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

DATA & ANALYSIS

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By adding the approved units (2,750 units) and the potential units (3,453 units), the City has a total development potential of 6,203 new residential units. By 2020, the City would have 14,735 dwelling units, which is calculated by adding the potential new units (6,203) to the existing units (8,532). Comparing the need (15,027) with the holding capacity (14,735), the City will have a deficit of 292 residential units.

Residential development will be accommodated based on the following ranges of density (see mixed-use category below for additional areas allowing residential uses):

- Very Low Density Residential – Up to 4 units per acre
- Low Density Residential – Up to 7 dwelling units per acre
- Medium Density Residential – Up to 15 dwelling units per acre
- High Density Residential – Up to 25 dwelling units per acre

c. Future Commercial Land Use

The commercial category will primarily consist of commercial and office uses. Projections of future commercial land were based on current ratio of land use to population. Based on the 2009 population of 16,825, the ratio is currently 30 commercial acres per 1,000 residents. This ratio includes the commercial development included within mixed-use areas. Applying the 2009 ratio to the 2020 population projection, the City would need a total of 906 commercial acres.

Economic development is one of the big focuses of the City. In order to encourage economic activities, the City needs to increase the current land use allocation percentage for the commercial activities. The FLUM designates 1,150 acres of commercial land use. The acreage is split between commercial acres (867 acres/77%) and neighborhood commercial acres (284 acres/23%).

d. Future Mixed-Use Land Use

In addition to the more traditional commercial land use category, the City is establishing a mixed-use land use category to support commercial development in a mixed-use setting with supporting residential uses. The intent of the category is to encourage the development of compact mixed-use centers and avoid a strip commercial development pattern. This category is not intended to require a mix of uses for each site, but rather to achieve an area-wide mix of uses.

The Mixed-Use land use is applicable to areas generally along SR 520 (King Street) and US 1. The FLUM shows 120 acres of Mixed-Use. The City anticipates that by 2020, the mix of uses in the Mixed-Use land use category will be about 50% non-residential and 50% residential.

e. Future Regional Activity Center

The Regional Activity Center (RAC) land use category allows compact, high intensity and mixed-use developments on parcels with land area of 50 acres or more. The amount of RAC acreage required to meet future growth is shown in **Table I-4**. Currently, there are approximately 270 acres of land designated RAC on the FLUM. The RAC areas are located at the intersection of I-95 and SR524, known as Brevard

Crossings Regional Activity Center. The RAC acreage is not expected to grow through the planning horizon.

f. Future Industrial Land Use

Industrial land use projections were calculated using the same basic methodology as described above for commercial lands. The amount of industrial acreage required to meet future growth is shown in **Table I-4**. Currently, there are approximately 675 acres of developed industrial lands within the City of Cocoa, or 40 acres for every 1,000 residents. Based on the projected population for 2020, there would be a need for 1,230 acres of industrial land use, using the 2009 ratio. The 2020 FLUM provides 1,245 acres for industrial uses, allowing a 15-acre surplus.

Industrial uses tend to benefit an economy more than other uses such as residential and institutional. To enable desirable future economic development outcomes, the City needs to increase the current land use allocation percentage for the industrial activities. Based upon the current work force and community needs, it is projected that the demand for industrial uses will increase. Therefore, the City may need additional industrial land acreage to meet the future demand.

g. Future Institutional Land Use

Currently, the City of Cocoa has a low percentage of institutional land use as a percentage of overall land use. The institutional uses owned by non-profit and public organizations do not contribute to ad-valorem taxes; therefore, a smaller percentage of these uses is not a negative indicator for the City. However, the City needs land in this category to accommodate those institutional uses that are generators of public activities (such as civic centers, museum and arena) to offset lost ad-valorem taxes from other institutional uses that do not pay ad-valorem taxes. Based upon an analysis of existing and future needs, the City anticipates the need to acquire additional land to accommodate its public facility and service functions as the population increases. **Table I-4** indicates an increase in demand for institutional acres (1,140 acres by 2020 over the 626 acres in 2009). The increase is based upon an average of 37 acres per 1,000 residents. The 2020 FLUM shows a total of 249 acres of institutional land use, which indicates a deficit of 891 acres. Therefore, the City needs additional institutional land acreage to meet the projected future demand.

h. Future Recreation/Open Space Land Use

Currently, the City of Cocoa has 156.66 acres of recreation and open space lands within the City, 71 acres of which are designated Recreation and Open Space on the Future Land Use Map. This translates into an actual level of service of 6.91 acres/1,000 population. With a projected total population of 30,656 persons by 2020, the City will have an excess of 118.34 acres of recreation and open space land to meet the future demand. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the City will require additional lands for the Recreation and Open Space future land use category over the 10 year planning horizon.

i. Future Conservation Land Use

This land use category includes those lands that contain valuable and threatened natural resources such as floodplains, estuarine properties and unique ecological communities. Several areas in the central portion of the City and along US 1 have already been designated as conservation, but there may be other noteworthy areas identified in the future which may be considered for conservation designation on the Future Land Use Map. Additional conservation lands can also be anticipated with annexations of natural resources.

4. Need for Redevelopment

The City of Cocoa contains limited areas of blight characterized by aging buildings, inadequate and obsolete infrastructure and lack of employment opportunities. Under Florida law (Chapter 163, Part III, F.S.), local governments are permitted to designate areas as Community Redevelopment Areas where deterioration is severe or widespread. The City of Cocoa has established three community redevelopment areas (CRAs), including the Cocoa (Downtown) CRA, the U.S. 1 Corridor CRA and the Diamond Square CRA, encompassing a total 1,403 acres. **Map I-8** shows the location of the City's redevelopment areas.

The Cocoa (Downtown) CRA was established in 1998 and encompasses approximately 280 acres, with its boundaries extending north to Mitchell Street, south to the City limits, west to the railroad tracks and east to the Indian River Lagoon. The Cocoa Community Redevelopment Agency sponsors a Commercial Façade Improvement Program to benefit property owners in the Cocoa (Downtown) CRA. Matching grants of up to \$10,000 are available per commercial parcel to qualified owners. Cocoa Village, located in the Cocoa downtown CRA, is the best example of the City's successful redevelopment efforts.

The U.S. 1 Corridor CRA was established in 1998 and encompasses approximately 805 acres, with its boundaries extending north to Clearlake Road, south to School Street, west to the Fiske Boulevard and east to U.S. 1. The U.S. 1 Corridor Redevelopment Agency also sponsors a Commercial Façade Improvement Program. Matching grants of up to \$10,000 are available per commercial parcel to qualified owners.

The Diamond Square CRA, created in 1998, is located on the southern border of the City and is approximately 318 acres in size. The Diamond Square CRA encompasses the area bordered by Oleander Road on the west, School Street on the north, railroad tracks on the east and Poinsetta Drive on the south. The Diamond Square Redevelopment agency sponsors façade improvement programs that offer a matching grant of up to \$2,500 per residential parcel and \$10,000 per commercial parcel to qualified owners. The agency provides funding at a maximum of \$2,000 per program to programs whose services are located within the Diamond Square CRA and whose program goals match one or more of the goals of the agency. The agency also offers a first time homebuyers program and a drainage improvement program.

In addition to the creation of the community redevelopment areas, the City has focused other targeted efforts on economic development in the City. Economic Development is discussed in **Section E** of this element.

5. Proposed Development and Redevelopment of Flood Prone Areas

Floodplain areas, as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, include the 100-year floodplain (Zone AE) and the velocity zone (Zone VE). Flood-prone areas in Cocoa are depicted in **Map XII-2** in the Conservation Element. Much of the development within flood-prone areas occurred before the adoption of state and local regulations in the early 1980's.

Implementation of the comprehensive plan goals, objectives and policies and enforcement of the land development regulations will direct new growth away from areas particularly susceptible to flooding from severe storms or hurricanes and will ensure that all redevelopment activities will be consistent with regulations that result in their safe construction.

6. Dredge Disposal

As noted in the inventory section, there are currently no dredge spoil sites within the City.

7. Hazard Mitigation

The Brevard Local Mitigation Strategy is the guiding plan for local governments in the County's coastal planning area. The City has not prepared a Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan, nor has Brevard County.

The City of Cocoa's coastal planning area includes the parts of the City that are adjacent to the littoral area along the Indian River Lagoon. The entire coastal planning area within the City of Cocoa is predominantly developed. There are a number of water-dependent uses, including recreation sites, boat ramps and marinas. None of the water-dependent land uses can be relocated. In addition to these water-dependent uses, there are a number of single family residential uses and water-related uses in the coastal high hazard area. Water-related uses include numerous commercial enterprises, such as boating and other marine related facilities. There are also several publicly owned parks along the Indian River Lagoon. The City does not currently anticipate the need to relocate, modify, or acquire any of these uses which it does not already own. However, in the wake of a storm event, City personnel will make inspections of all damaged structures. When the City has determined that a structure has suffered damage of greater than fifty percent (50%) of its value, the City will require that the owner rebuild landward of the existing structure or modify the structure in such a way that additional damage is unlikely. In some instances, the City may consider acquiring damaged structures and their lots in order to expand park areas or prevent build-back in areas of extensive erosion.

The City is mostly built out within the coastal planning area with the exceptions of one or two sites on the Indian River Lagoon. The vacant areas consist primarily of low density residential properties with some scattered commercial properties within the downtown. Commercial and residential land uses within this area are expected to continue as the predominant activities. The City of Cocoa land development code addresses lot coverage, setbacks from wetlands and water bodies, and protection of native vegetation by new development and redevelopment projects. Therefore, no special consideration for proposed land uses is necessary over and above those required to deal with the existing land uses addressed above. However, if older neighborhoods or communities are scheduled to be

revitalized or redeveloped, hazard mitigation should be an aspect considered and integrated into the project prior to the time of development approval.

D. GREEN HOUSE GAS REDUCTION AND ENERGY CONSERVATION

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are the gases in the atmosphere that trap heat. Carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone and fluorinated gases are some of the most abundant GHGs in the atmosphere. Some of the GHGs, such as carbon dioxide, occur naturally in the atmosphere through natural processes and human activities. Other greenhouse gases (e.g., fluorinated gases) are created and emitted solely through human activities. The greenhouse gases that enter the atmosphere because of the human activities are listed below.

- Carbon Dioxide - Burning of fossil fuels (oil, natural gas, and coal), solid waste, trees and wood products, and also as a result of other chemical reactions (e.g., manufacture of cement).
- Methane – Production and transport of coal, natural gas, and oil. Methane emissions also result from livestock and other agricultural practices and by the decay of organic waste in municipal solid waste landfills.
- Nitrous Oxide – Agricultural and industrial activities, as well as during combustion of fossil fuels and solid waste.
- Fluorinated Gases (also known as High Global Warming Potential Gases) – Variety of Industrial processes.

While greenhouse gases play a vital role in maintaining the necessary conditions for life on Earth, the rapidly increasing concentrations of these gases are causing a rise in global temperature – Global Warming. It is now apparent that the increasing atmospheric concentration of GHGs resulting from human activities is changing the climate in ways that pose serious risks to citizen's health, economy, and environment. The Florida Legislature enacted House Bill 697 in its 2008 session. HB 697 amended Chapter 163, F.S. to address green house gas reduction and energy conservation through comprehensive plans. Chapter 163.31776(a), F.S., requires that the Future Land Use Element include greenhouse gas reduction strategies and energy efficient land use patterns, accounting for existing and future energy electric power generation and transmission systems.

The land use pattern plays a significant role in reducing vehicle miles travelled (VMT) and thus in reducing energy consumption and its associated GHGs emission. VMT can be reduced by promoting strategies such as compact development, high density development arranged to encourage pedestrians, bicycle and transit use, transit oriented development and mixed-use development. The preservation of historic buildings and their adaptive reuse result in energy conservation. These buildings are typically closer to population centers and adaptive reuse generally involves lower impacts on natural resources than new construction. The use of “green” building standards, as opposed to conventional codes, results in energy conservation. In addition, protecting and enhancing green spaces provides natural carbon sinks in soils, vegetation and streambeds to mitigate carbon emissions.

Implementation of the City of Cocoa's comprehensive plan goals, objectives and policies and enforcement of the land development regulations will reduce urban sprawl and VMT, encourage more mixed-use development in specific areas in the City, preserve green space and promote education of citizens in energy conservation measure and practices.

E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development must be considered as part of the City's long term plans in concert with planning for land use, transportation facilities and other services in order to coordinate the targeted location and support for business and industry. For the City of Cocoa, economic development is defined as a strategic program to:

- Increase the standard of living and quality of life for City residents.
- Stimulate job growth and provide higher-income jobs for residents.
- Diversify the local economy to provide stability during economic downturns and to provide a steady and growing tax base.

1. Current Economic Development Programs

The City's Office of Economic Development (ED) is responsible for all the economic development activities in the City. The goal of the ED Office is to strengthen and diversify the City's economy and expand the tax base, while enhancing the quality of life enjoyed by current residents, businesses and visitors. The City has taken several steps since 2000 to foster the entrepreneurial environment by encouraging new business formation, retaining and improving success of existing business and attracting businesses.

The City of Cocoa is a member of a non-profit organization known as the Economic Development Commission (EDC) of Florida's Space Coast. The EDC provides education, training and financial incentives to the businesses that are trying to expand and relocate in the Space Coast area. The City works closely with the EDC on projects planned in Cocoa.

The City offers a variety of local, state and federal programs and incentives to businesses that locate, expand and do business in Cocoa, including:

- *Florida Enterprise Zone:* Enterprise Zones encourage economic growth and investment in distressed areas by offering tax advantages and incentives to businesses locating within the zone boundaries. In 2002, the City adopted an enterprise zone boundary (see **Map I-9**) and the corresponding Enterprise Zone Strategic Plan. The City was awarded Enterprise Zone 501 (EZ 501) in 2003.
- *Small Business Assistance Program:* The City offers financial assistance to new and expanding businesses with costs associated with small-scale infrastructure project and development fees.
- *Tax Abatement Program:* This program offers a City ad valorem tax exemption for new and expanding businesses within the City. The scope of exemption is generally determined by the number of new jobs created, as well as the wages associated with the newly created jobs.
- *Foreign Trade Zone:* A Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) is land deemed to be outside the United States customs territory for purposes of duty assessment. Companies located in a foreign trade zone are able to defer, reduce and/or eliminate import duties. When goods are withdrawn from the FTZ and entered into the commerce of the United States the appropriate duty is levied upon the goods, if applicable. The City of Cocoa Foreign Trade Zone offers significant benefits for many types of businesses that import goods. Almost 24 acres of Foreign Trade Zone # 136 lie

within the City of Cocoa, located at the TATE Industrial Park. **Map I-9** shows the boundary of Foreign Trade Zone in the City.

- *Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZones)*: The program provides federal contracting and sub-contracting opportunities for qualified small businesses located in designated areas. The City has two census tracts that are designated non-metropolitan HubZones by the U.S. Small Business Administration.
- *Brownfield Redevelopment Program*: In 2003, the City of Cocoa established a Brownfield Redevelopment Program, which is funded through a Brownfields Assessment Grant by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The redevelopment plan offers environmental Site Assessments to determine the nature and extent of contamination, facilitates applicants' participation in the State's Program, assists with redevelopment planning, provides coordination between intergovernmental agencies and participates in promotions for brownfield sites/projects.

2. Analysis of the Economic Development Environment in Cocoa

In 2005, the City and the University of Florida conducted a comprehensive assessment of the economic development environment in the City of Cocoa. The strengths identified in the report included:

- Strategic location that provides excellent access to the regional market, yet offers the advantage of more accessibility and lower costs.
- Good primary transportation infrastructure including excellent road network that provides a location incentive to businesses seeking sites in close proximity to interstate highways for major freight transport. The City is also in close proximity to Port Canaveral, which is the second busiest cruise port in the world.
- Rich valuable history that can be seen in its Victorian homes, historic hotels and the historic Cocoa Village. The Village has year-round special events and a variety of restaurants and shops, many locally-owned and arts-based.
- Positive City government willing to annex surrounding properties and to create and implement economic development plans to rebound from problems that have plagued the City.

The weaknesses identified in the report included:

- Too many greyfield, brownfield areas and distressed commercial corridors in the City. The U.S. 1 corridor has many vacant strip malls, which are considered unsightly and a deterrent for businesses.
- Need for continued and stricter aesthetics and design standards for the corridors. The buildings on the commercial corridors lack quality architecture design and landscaping and streetscape features.
- Lack of high tech employers, high-skilled jobs, professional offices, variety of restaurants and accommodation services in the City.
- Lack of quality affordable housing and diversity of housing choices for middle and upper income home buyers.

- Negative self-image and lack of an articulated and shared community vision of the City.

The report proposed a series of implementation strategies to build on strengths, mitigate weaknesses and capitalize assets for economic development. The report also identified the following goals and objectives representing key issues that should be addressed in this comprehensive plan.

- *Employment Opportunities:* The City should support and work with County and community leaders to meet the economic diversification needs of the community with emphasis on local job creation, business expansion and attraction of high-value-added commercial activity. The employment growth in the City will benefit other existing market sectors and will generate wealth within the community.
- *Business Expansion, Attraction and Retention:* The City, County and private leadership should work together to develop and implement economic development strategies that will establish a business environment that supports the operation, retention and expansion of existing Cocoa businesses, as well as the attraction and development of new commercial enterprises.
- *Coordination of Economic Diversification Efforts:* The City and County should coordinate the collaborative efforts between the public and community leadership. The efforts should be concentrated on developing industry clusters which will make the greatest contribution to job growth and wealth creation.
- *Streamlining Permitting and Regulatory Process:* The City should provide incentives such as expedited permitting to assist higher education institutions to expand when they are ready.
- *Economic Development Advisory Board:* To involve community stakeholders, the City should create an advisory board consisting of local community and business leaders.
- *Maintain Infrastructure for Supporting Economic Development:* The City should maintain adequate infrastructure for encouraging economic activities in the industrial and commercial sectors. The City should maintain or increase the current land use allocation percentages for industrial and commercial activities for the purposes of strengthening the revenue tax base of the City.
- *Increase Tourism:* The City should develop strategies to attract tourists by expanding recreational, entertainment, environmental, and cultural activities that are clean, family friendly, diverse, and unique.
- *Encourage Growth in Regional Industries with Supporting Activities:* The City should collaborate with the greater region to identify opportunities in the related service industries present in the region. The City should also encourage employment growth in high growth industries and small businesses through various programs and public/private partnerships.

In the last few years, economic development efforts by the City have accelerated, yielding very positive results for Cocoa. The Historic Cocoa Village is an example of successful downtown redevelopment and has become a destination for tourists and residents.

F. URBAN FORM

Urban form refers to the physical layout and design of a city. Characteristics such as urban density and intensity, block layout, street layout, streetscape, building placement/orientation and location define the urban form of a city. As the development standards change in terms of the above mentioned characteristics, the urban form also changes.

Incorporated in 1895, the City of Cocoa was a fairly compact city in the early 20th century. The compact form is visible in the older areas of Cocoa including the Cocoa downtown, the Historic Cocoa Village and downtown neighborhoods, which have narrow lots, are pedestrian oriented and include a mix of uses at higher densities. In the mid-20th century, the automobile began to dominate the development market. The development moved from the inner-city to the outskirts, and was characterized by low density and auto-dependent uses. Moreover, the development of railroad and major transportation improvements disrupted older commercial and residential neighborhoods. The result of this trend was the less efficient use of the infrastructure with no pressure for infill development. The urban form of the City changed from a dense compact form to a suburban sprawl form.

The City residents and past studies have identified the negative visual character of the major transportation corridors, the lack of overall identity of the City and the negative impact of the enclaves that detract from the City's aesthetics. The widening of US 1 in the 1950's by FDOT was one of the major reasons for the poor quality development along US 1, the loss of inner-city connectivity and the loss of businesses along the US 1 corridor in the City.

SR 524, US 1, SR 501, and SR 520 are the major commercial corridors of the City. They consist primarily of auto-oriented strip shopping centers that lack adequate pedestrian and bicycle access. The developments along these corridors also lack quality architectural design and adequate landscaping and are generally poorly maintained.

The City has two large enclaves along SR 501. These enclaves contribute to loss of inner city connectivity, land use conflicts and inefficient use of existing facilities and services. Additionally, the layout of some of the urbanized areas of the City is not very well organized or interconnected. These factors contribute to an image of disorder.

The City's goal is to create a physical planning framework to improve the quality of life and to ensure that new development shapes the City into a unique community that residents can identify with. A comprehensive urban design approach, citywide and on specific areas and corridors in the City, will be required to correct the disjointed nature of the past piecemeal development.

1. Vision Plan

A Vision Plan describes the kind of community that people who live and work in it want it to become over the next 10 to 20 years. It identifies what people value and want to preserve, what improvements are needed and how change should occur. A vision plan helps in creating a positive image and community identity, which is lacking in the City of Cocoa. A positive image helps to improve public relations. The awareness of the existing and desired image of an area can be the basis for a capital improvement plan and public policy formation. A positive image is important to a City government because it reflects on the excellence of service the government provides, attracts high quality business and well educated people.

The City adopted a Vision Plan in June 1996 to guide the future development of the City. The plan included the analysis of the physical, social and economic conditions of the City. The plan identified two primary challenges facing the City – improving the general image of the City and diversification and strengthening of the City’s economic base. The Vision Plan included economic, land use, urban design, infrastructure and governmental and administrative strategies for future development, including a conceptual long range master land use plan and an action plan to implement the vision. The plan identified five redevelopment goals for the City:

- **Economic Function:** Strengthen downtown and core areas of Cocoa as a mixed-use center that will attract and serve the people of the region. Create a strong new industrial employment base.
- **Regional Context:** Strengthen the Cocoa area as a unique place within the County.
- **Community Role:** Strengthen Cocoa’s contribution to the general well-being of the community.
- **General Environment Character:** Improve the physical image within the City.
- **Implementation:** Enable revitalization of the City to be a successful and on-going reality.

In addition to the Visions Plan, the City held a visioning public workshop in September 2007 to obtain public input on the issues facing the community. During the workshop, the citizens and city staff identified the following two major issues within the community:

- **Housing:** An abundance of affordable housing is located within the City. The balance of incomes has shifted to a very low income base compared to the County average.
- **Revitalization:** A serious concern was acknowledged about the visual appearance of the City and the overall identity. Economic and redevelopment efforts have been arduous because of the City’s appearance and unfair perception.

Both the 1996 vision plan and the 2006 workshop identified similar issues including lack of identity, economic development and affordable housing. The City has consistently taken efforts to address and overcome these issues by implementing the goals and objectives of the vision plan and will continue these efforts.

The City will also plan to invite additional community input and to update the vision plan. While updating the master plan contained in the vision plan, the City will identify the character districts in the City and their interconnectivity. The several character districts within the City of Cocoa may include:

- **City Center:** Cocoa’s downtown, the City center, is located on the east side of US 1. It can be characterized as a small village business area with one-story shops and restaurants. The downtown has an excellent collection of historic buildings, many of which have been renovated for adaptive reuse. The Historic Cocoa Village is the major attraction of the area.

- **Commercial Nodes:** Other than the downtown area, there are no well defined commercial nodes within the City. The Brevard Crossing RAC, located at the intersection of I-95 and SR 524, is intended to include a mixed-use activity center; however, development has not occurred to date.
- **Corridors:** SR 520, U.S. 1, SR 524, Dixon Boulevard and Fiske Boulevard (SR 519) are the major commercial corridors in Cocoa. These major corridors should be developed as mix-used corridors.
- **Waterfront:** The City is located along the Indian River Lagoon. Existing land use along the Indian River is primarily medium-density residential with some commercial uses in the downtown area, most of which provide limited access to the waterfront.

2. Form-based Design Guidelines for Corridors

Design standards can be used to guide development toward creating a cohesive urban pattern of buildings and streetscapes. When the aesthetic appearance of a community is maintained or improved, a sense of pride develops for the residents, owners and merchants. The quality appearance of its commercial corridors can help the City competitively in the regional market.

The City has established form-based design standards for the Downtown Cocoa Redevelopment Area. The City is also partnering with the FDOT to widen U.S. 1 from four lanes to six lanes and to upgrade the aesthetics and design of the widening project by adding landscaping and gateway features. The City is coordinating with the Space Coast TPO and FDOT to improve the existing sidewalks and bike trails in the City.

The City should continue its efforts in the creation of a quality, safe and functional urban environment by establishing form-based design standards for the commercial corridors along SR 520, U.S. 1, SR 524, Dixon Boulevard and Fiske Boulevard (SR 519), the CRAs and the waterfront. These standards should implement the desired vision of each area.

3. Safe Community

A sense of security is one of the important characteristics of a great community. Research has shown the relationship between the environment and criminal behavior. There is a relationship between declining areas, areas of low property ownership and higher crime rates. The perception of a higher crime rate in an area results in disinvestment, a lack of maintenance and decline due to a fear of crime. In turn, the economic loss and fear escalate the opportunities for crime.

The opportunity and fear of crime can be deterred through good maintenance practices and the proper design and use of the environment. This concept is known as “Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design” or CPTED. The major premise of CPTED is that an environment can be designed to reduce the opportunities for crime and the fear of crime, without resorting to building fortresses. The primary principles of CPTED include the proper design and defined use of buildings and sites, reinforcement of territoriality and responsibility by residents, and the use of access control as well as natural surveillance.

Proactive deterrence of crime depends on a thoughtful understanding of how site and building design guide human behavior. At a neighborhood scale, defining the boundaries of the neighborhood and giving it a themed identity help to establish a known “territory” that

can be defended. Defining the appropriate behavior in public areas and designing the sites to support those behaviors will deter unwanted behaviors. Controlling access to a public space so that the area can be effectively monitored and help deter vandals. Providing visual access to public areas and pedestrian routes of travel are techniques that can be applied to deter crime. The City will consider incorporating CPTED principles in its land development code.