

Applicant's Submission

This form is to be filled out by the applicant and provided to The City of Calgary at the time of submission. These comments are included in a report which is presented to the Calgary Planning Commission and a Public Hearing of City Council. Your comments **must** be limited to the area designated on this form to ensure it will fit the space requirements of the report. Supplementary information can be provided separately in your application if required.

Applicant's LOC Submission Planning Analysis

The purpose of this analysis is to provide the reasons for making this application, and reasons for approval.

Design Intent and Context

The subject parcel is located in the community of West Hillhurst and consists of 0.048 ha. We are proposing a three unit rowhouse development with front doors facing 6 AV NW and 19 ST NW, and with vehicular access from the adjacent lane. Parking would be provided at grade in an enclosed garage.

The current land use designation is (R-C2) Residential – Contextual One / Two Dwelling District which allows for duplex, single and semi-detached dwellings. To support the proposed development, we are applying to change the designation from R-C2 to R-CG Residential – Grade-Oriented Infill District.

Like R-C2, the R-CG District is a Low Density Residential District intended for grade-oriented development and does not support multi-residential uses. The Land Use Bylaw explains that the R-CG District:

accommodates grade-oriented development in the form of Rowhouse Buildings, Duplex Dwellings, Semi-detached Dwellings and Cottage Housing Clusters, accommodates Secondary Suites and Backyard Suites with new and existing residential development, provides flexible parcel dimensions and building setbacks that facilitate integration of a diversity of grade-oriented housing over time, and accommodates site and building design that is adaptable to the functional requirements of evolving household needs.

Location Criteria

The site meets a number of criteria that make it an appropriate location for R-CG:

It is on a corner parcel. This reduces the impact of the higher density use on neighboring lower density properties. Housing that faces both streets adds to the residential appearance of the side streets and tends to slow traffic and enhance pedestrian safety and experience on adjacent sidewalks. (MDP 2.3.2 a.–c.)

It is within 200 meters of a transit stop. This supports the choice to use public transit for a greater number of people. It helps maximize the use of public transit infrastructure, and may result in lower car ownership and fewer trips by car. (MDP 2.2.5 c.)

It is on a collector roadway. This provides convenient access to roads that are designed to handle higher traffic levels and reduces the potential for increased traffic on local residential streets. The impact of a larger building is reduced where the mass of the building is focused on a wider street. As well, increasing the number of houses that face onto a street will add to the residential appearance of the street, which tends to slow traffic and enhance pedestrian safety and experience on adjacent sidewalks. (MDP 2.2.5 c. & MDP 2.4.2 b.)

It has direct lane access. Encouraging direct lane access for multi-residential in buildings accommodates a site layout that minimizes the impact of vehicles on adjacent streets and sidewalks, allows increased parking options with limited impact on the existing neighborhood, provides a more pedestrian-oriented streetscape; and creates a safer pedestrian environment due to fewer driveways crossing sidewalks. (MDP 3.5.1 d.)

In addition, the site has specific attributes which make it ideal for rowhouse development:

- The site is across the street from West Hillhurst community Association and West Hillhurst park,
- The site is less than two minutes' walk from transit route on 19th Street NW,

ISC: Protected

Applicant's Submission

- The site is less than 5 minutes' walk from Queen Elizabeth High School,
- The site is less than 5 minutes' drive from local shopping and other commercial uses on 16th Avenue NW.

Policies (and Variations)

Municipal Development Plan (MDP)

The proposed project fundamentally meets the goals of the Municipal Development Plan.

This City policy encourages more housing options in established communities, more efficient use of infrastructure, and more compact built forms in locations with direct easy access to transit, shopping, schools and other community services.

The MDP encourages modest redevelopment of the Established Area. (MDP 3.5.3 (a.)) The proposed development modestly intensifies the use of the land to a density more appropriate for a the inner city community.

The MDP requires that "ground and lower levels of developments should demonstrate a strong relationship to the human scale and contribute positively to the public realm and street." (MDP 2.4.2 (b.)). By having all vehicular access from the adjacent lane, and unit entries facing 19 ST & 6 AV NW, the pedestrian realm along 19 St & 6 AV NW is protected.

Bylaw (and Relaxations)

The proposed development is at a preliminary stage of design. At this point, relaxations are not anticipated. Should any be proposed in the future, these will be within the intent of City policy.

Engagement

Given the small increment in density proposed, no pre-application meeting was scheduled prior to this land use redesignation application. The immediate neighbours and the West Hillhurst Community Association will be consulted as this application and the Development Permit application progress.

To conclude, the proposed land use amendment will allow development in the form of a Rowhouse Building which is consistent with City policies, sustainability principles, and the best use of this parcel. For these reasons, we respectfully request the support of Calgary Planning Commission and Council for our application.