

Overview of Solid Waste Services & Horizon Issues

City Council Work Session

February 10, 2025

Agenda

- Service Goal
- Unit Overview
- Current Challenges
- Horizon Issues



Goal for services and programs

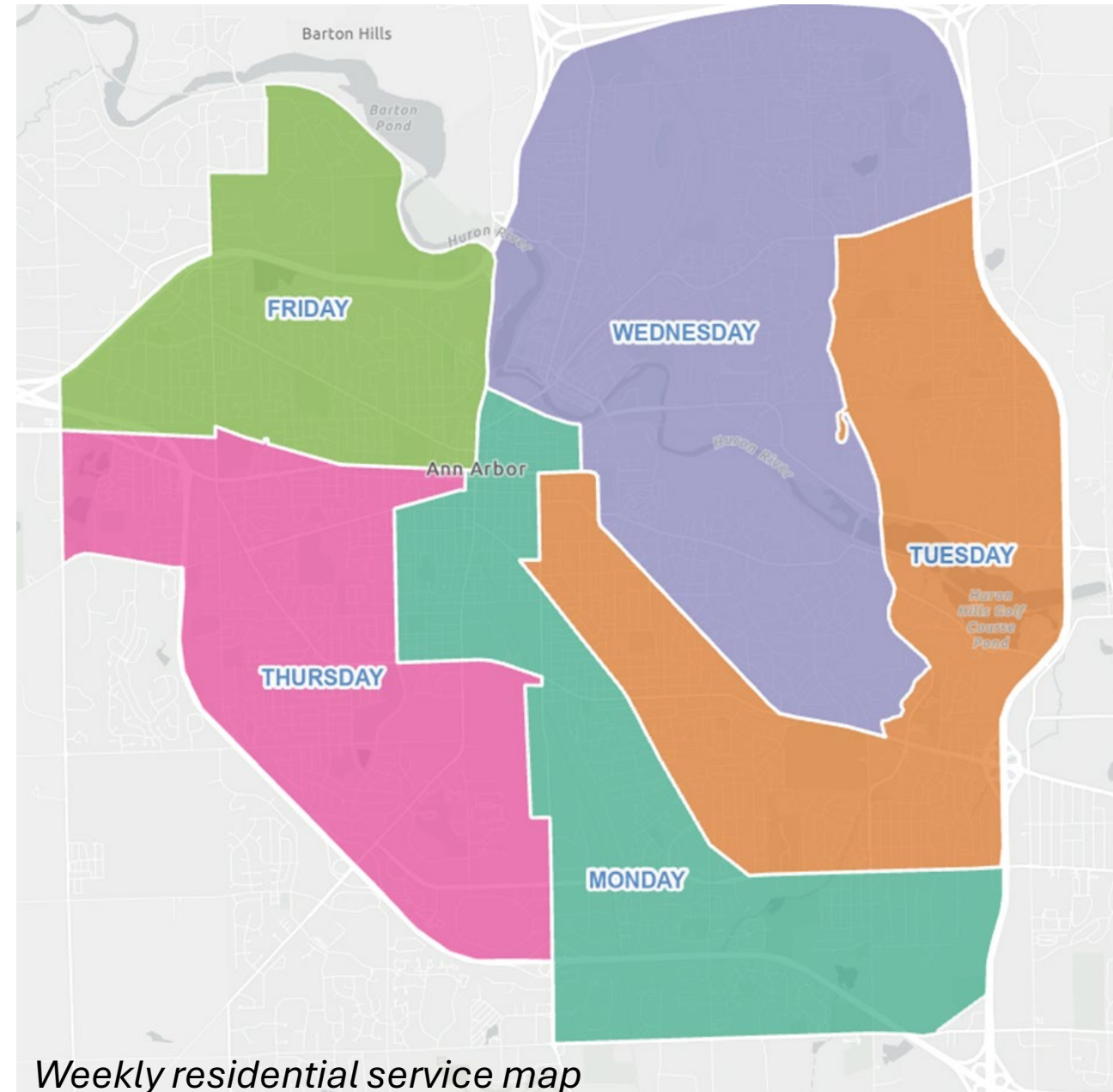
To provide safe and efficient solid waste services as well as provide opportunities for landfill diversion for residents and businesses in Ann Arbor to protect public health and the environment.

- **Safety** for operators, pedestrians, other road users
- **Efficient** and cost-effective service delivery
- **Waste reduction** through education and diversion

Overview – Collection Operations

Primary Services & Responsibilities

- Oversee collection of trash, compost, and recyclable materials in the city collected through a combination of city trucks and crews as well as contracted services.
- 16 trucks and 20 full-time drivers service 95 unique collection routes every week:
 - Residential trash
 - Multi-family trash (1st tip)
 - Residential compost
 - Recycle dumpsters
 - Downtown pedestrian cans
 - Parks trash



Overview – Equipment



Automated Side-Arm Loaders service curb carts



Rear Loaders service carts and certain small dumpsters, primarily used downtown



Front Loaders service large trash and recycling dumpsters



Operational flexibility is critical

- Fleet Coverage
 - Apr - Dec, every truck in fleet is in use.
 - Trucks are heavily utilized, particularly Front Loaders 10+ hrs/day, 5-6 days a week.
 - Expect a spare side-arm and new front loader in 2025 to better manage existing routes.
 - Utilize rental trucks for prolonged repairs
- Staffing Coverage
 - Experienced staff can be nimble to provide coverage when temporarily short-staffed or vehicles are out of service
 - Seasonal peaks (e.g. leaf season) result in injuries, long days, significant OT, temporary burnout
 - CDL requirement presents hiring challenges



Overview - Programs

- Develop and manage strategic initiatives to advance the City's sustainable materials management and circular economy goals in coordination with the Office of Sustainability & Innovation.
- Responsible for education, outreach and engagement of single family, multi-family, and commercial customers around solid waste services.

- Contract Administration for

Collection Services:

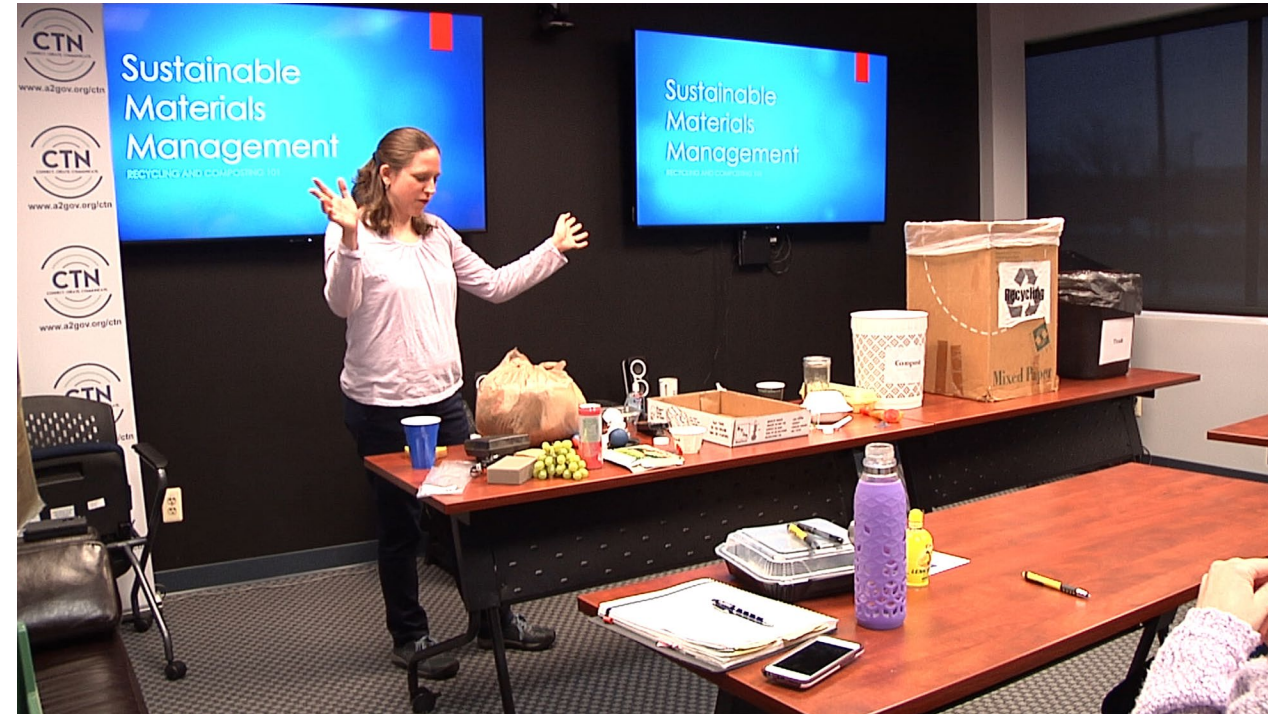
- Commercial trash franchise – WM
- Residential curbside recycling and commercial cart recycling - Recycle Ann Arbor (RAA)

City-owned Solid Waste Facilities:

- Drop Off Station (DOS) operated by RAA
- Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) leased and operated by RAA
- Compost Facility operated by WeCare Denali
- Transfer Station operated by WM

Education, Outreach & Marketing:

- Ecology Center



Overview – Downtown Focus

- Increased trash collection
- Increased recycle collection
- Proactively scheduling extra collection for large events
- Transitioned recycle carts to small 2-yd dumpsters to reduce containers in alleys and improve collection efficiency.
- Instituted weekly alley inspections and follow up with customers and Community Standards.
- Verified commercial customers were paying for appropriate service to ensure accountability.
- Streamlined service providers in the downtown area.
- Facilitate in-person alley congress meetings with all customers, property managers and owners to address issues with containers, schedule and frequency of collection, as needed.
- Relocated containers as needed to improve access.
- Worked with WM to create a shared container calculator to provide more equitable cost distribution for shared containers.



Current Challenges

Meeting demand for new and expanded services

Changing road configurations requires modifications to collection depending on treatment used

Providing safe and efficient service as the city grows and densifies

Demands for new or expanded services



Demand for increased frequency in recycling service

- Exploring compacting dumpsters



Demand for commercial and multi-family organics

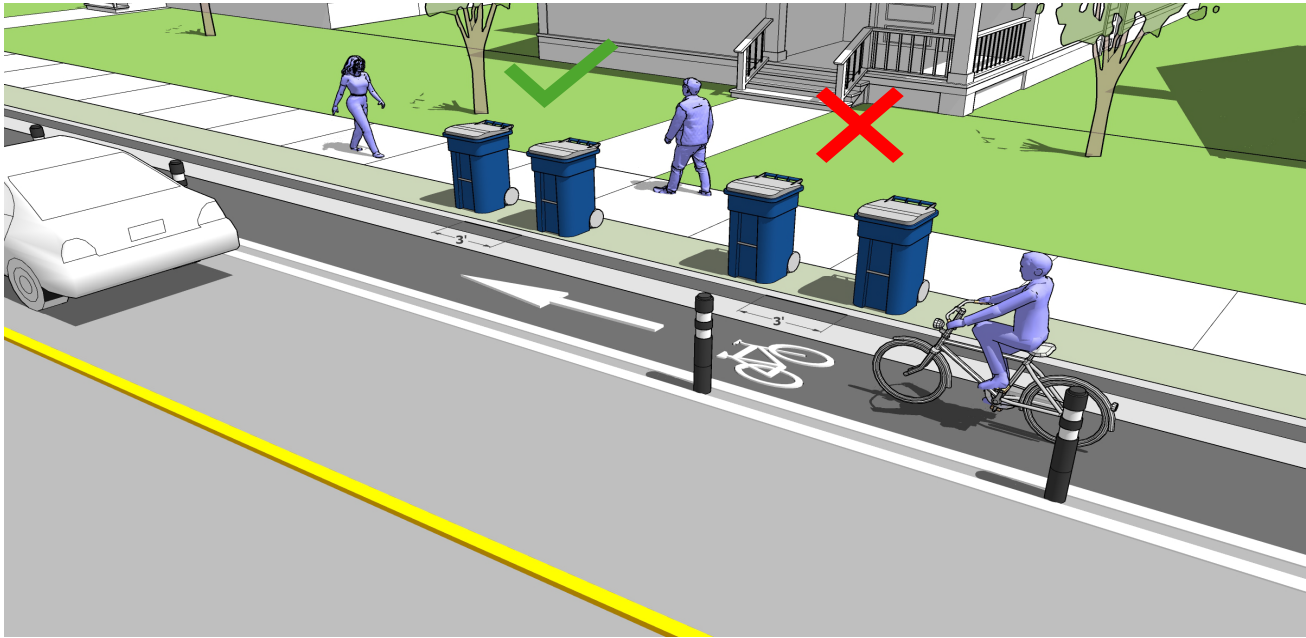
- Pilot funding through the Climate Action Millage



Bulk waste pickup option for residential customers

- Pricing from WM to provide this service

Road reconfigurations require ongoing public education

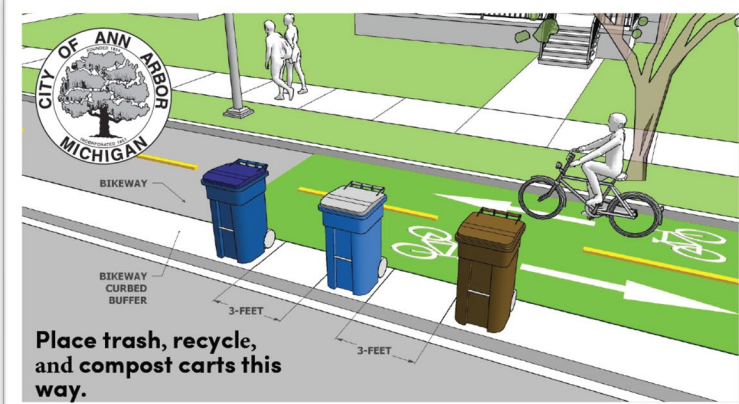


URL.A2GOV.ORG/CARTPLACEMENT

Your home/
business is
along a street
with a bike
lane.



Place carts in the striped buffer
between the bollards. **Thank you.**



URL.A2GOV.ORG/CARTPLACEMENT

Your home/
business is
along a street
with a bike
lane.



Place carts on the raised
buffer. **Thank you.**



URL.A2GOV.ORG/CARTPLACEMENT

Your home/
business is
along a street
with a bike
lane.



Place carts on the lawn
extension and out of the bike
lane. **Thank you.**

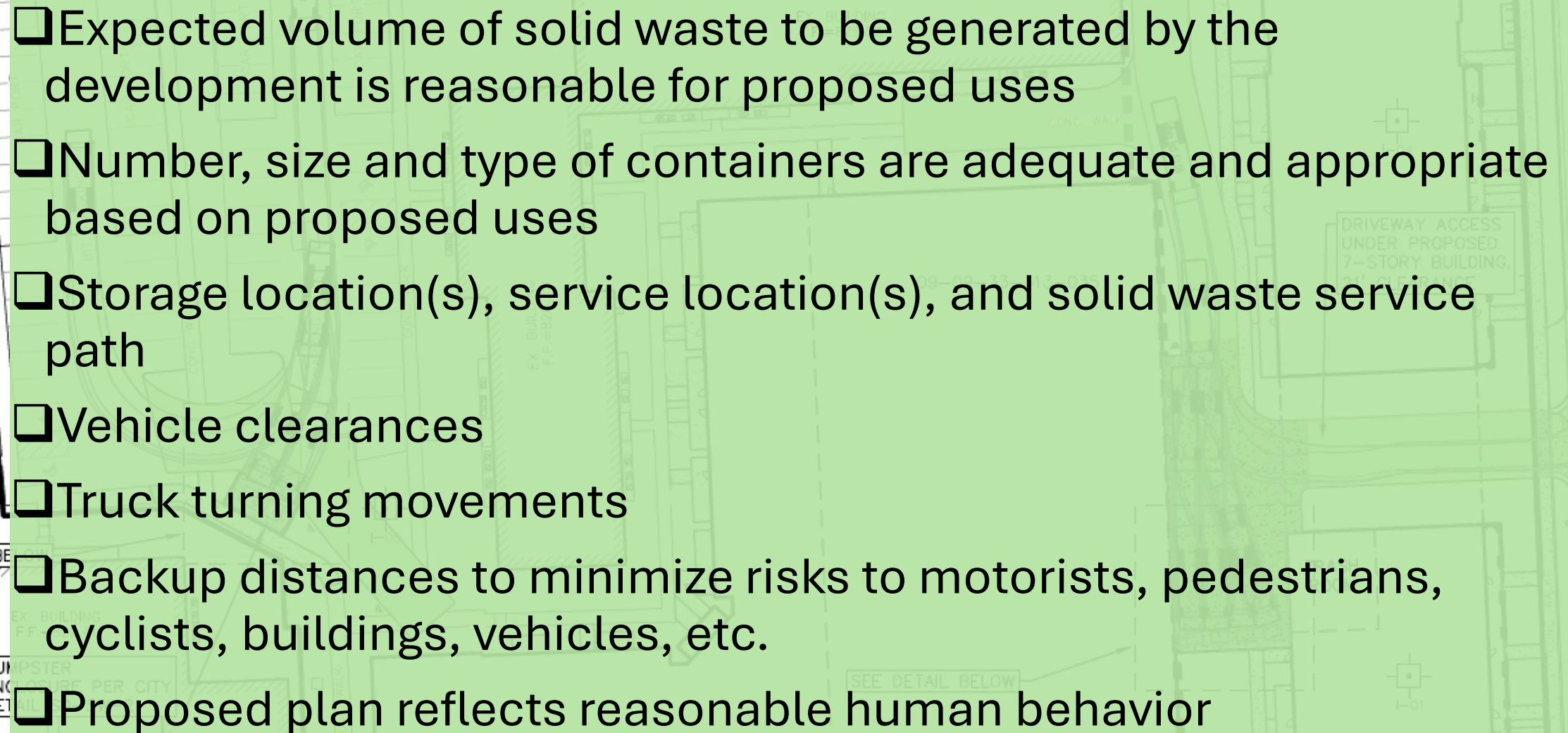


Preparing for the future

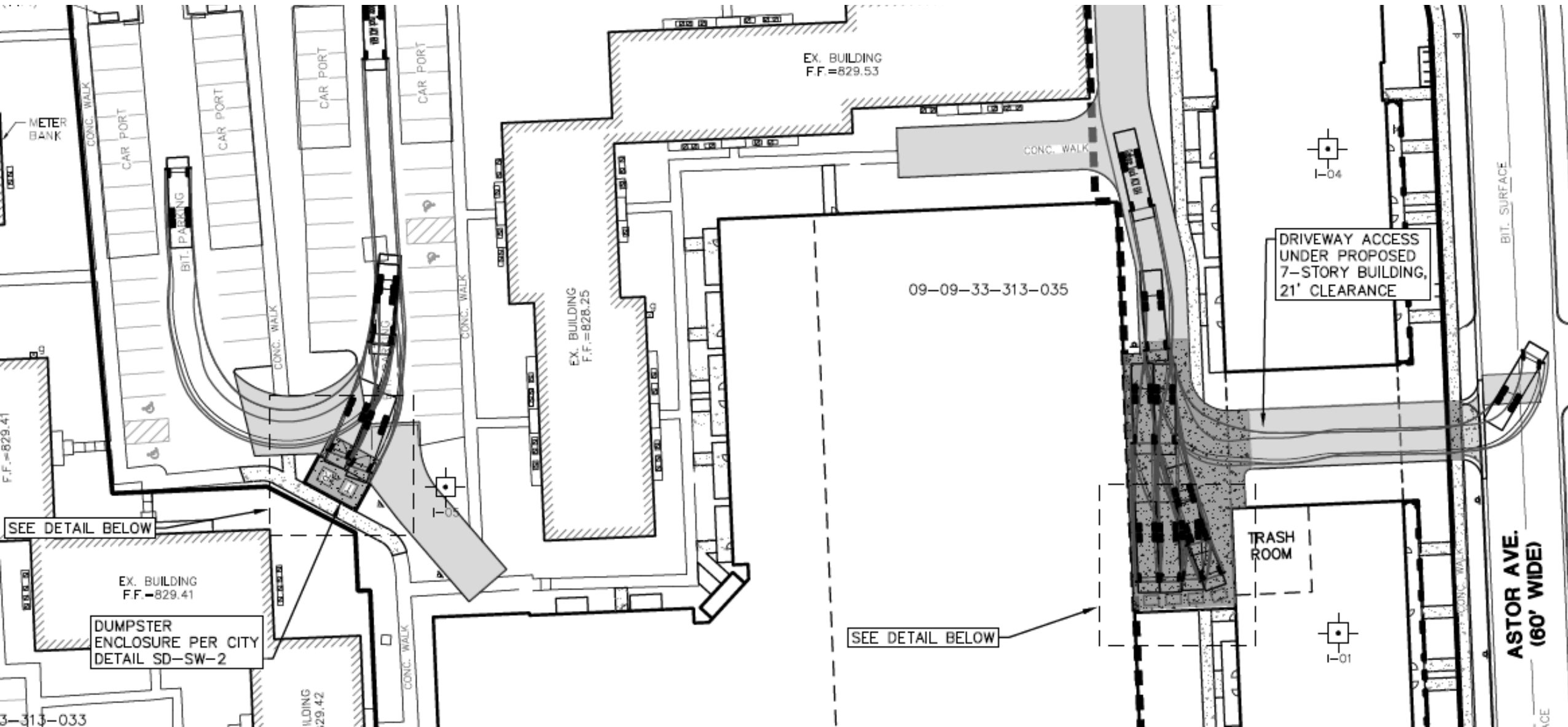
Public Services reviews site plans to ensure solid waste can be serviced safely and efficiently once buildings are occupied.

Consolidated service points are usually the best option for multifamily and mixed-use developments.

How do we evaluate the serviceability of proposed site plan developments?

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- ☐ Expected volume of solid waste to be generated by the development is reasonable for proposed uses
 - ☐ Number, size and type of containers are adequate and appropriate based on proposed uses
 - ☐ Storage location(s), service location(s), and solid waste service path
 - ☐ Vehicle clearances
 - ☐ Truck turning movements
 - ☐ Backup distances to minimize risks to motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, buildings, vehicles, etc.
 - ☐ Proposed plan reflects reasonable human behavior

How do we evaluate the serviceability of proposed site plan developments?



Multi-family development A



Multi-family development B



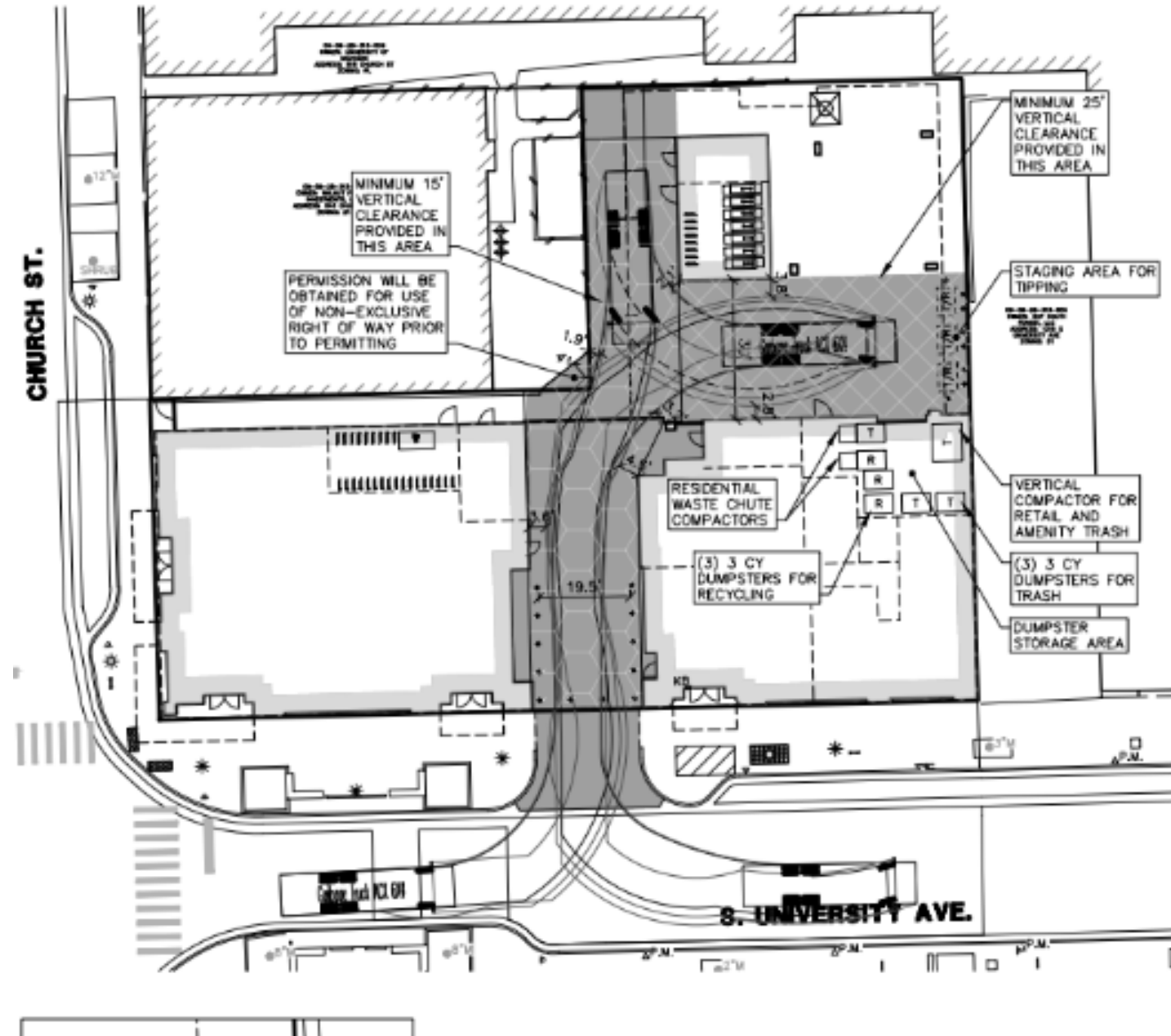
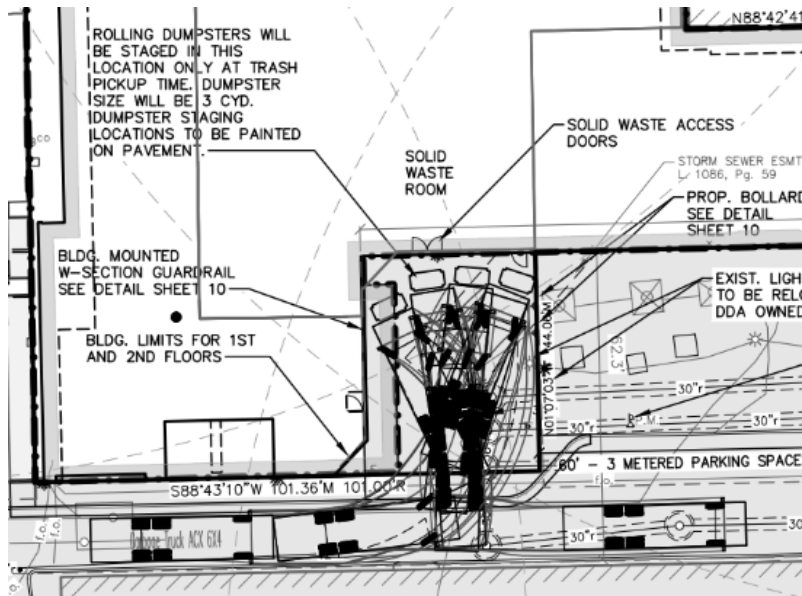
Nielsen Square Condos



Downtown Developments

Unique challenges that must be solved for in the downtown and other dense areas.

- Lack of alleys or other space for access and storage
- Bike facilities
- Minimizing conflicts with pedestrians, bicyclists, vehicles



Horizon Issues & Upcoming Council Requests

- Expanding hours for collection in the downtown and industrial areas (Ordinance revision)
 - Goal to service and get out of downtown/dense areas as early as possible to reduce conflicts with delivery trucks, motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians and maximize collection efficiency
- Solid Waste Regulations update (Notice via Clerk's Report)
- Route optimization software (Service Contract)
- Multi-family food scrap pilot (Equipment/Service Contract)
- Fleet replacement requests (Equipment Purchase)

QUESTIONS?

Standing Invitation to
Council Members:

Come ride along to
see what we do!

Rollout time: 5:30am