HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

July 06, 2016

Agenda Item No: 27

HDRC CASE NO:	**2016-242**
ADDRESS:	425 SOLEDAD ST
LEGAL DESCRIPTION:	NCB 140 BLK 1 LOT 8, 9, 10, A10, A11, A12 & A13 MASTER FILE & COMMON ELEMENTS (FALCON BANK CONDOMINIUM)
ZONING:	D RIO-3
CITY COUNCIL DIST.:	1
APPLICANT:	Mary Bartlett/Marmon Mok LLP
OWNER:	Brian Carney/425 Loneliness, Ltd
TYPE OF WORK:	Demolition of existing motor bank canopy and construction of a new canopy

REQUEST:

The applicant is a Certificate of Appropriateness to demolish an existing motor bank drive through canopy and construct a new motor bank drive through canopy with a 625 square foot teller operations building. The applicant has proposed to maintain the same amount of drive through teller lanes. The applicant has proposed for the new construction to feature approximately 100 square feet of signage.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

UDC Section 35-672. – Neighborhood Wide Design Standards

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This section focuses on the urban design concepts that connect individual properties and help knit them together into the fabric of the community. These concepts include the basic arrangement of streets and lots, view corridors and circulation patterns. The standards apply to all development in the six (6) river Improvement overlay districts.

(a) Pedestrian Circulation. Pedestrian access shall be provided among properties to integrate neighborhoods.

(1) Provide sidewalks that link with existing sidewalks on adjoining properties If no sidewalk currently exists on an adjoining property, the applicant will have discretion in the placement of the sidewalk provided the following criteria are met:

A. Provide a sidewalk connection from one (1) side of the applicant's property to the other, parallel to the public right-of way, on the street sides of the property in all river improvement overlay districts

B. Provide a connection from the street level sidewalk to the Riverwalk at cross streets and bridges and other designated access points. This requirement may be waived if there is already a public connection from the street level to the Riverwalk.

C. In order to preserve the rural character of "RIO-6," the HPO, in coordination with the development services department, may waive the requirement of sidewalks.

- In "RIO-3," the width of the pathway along the river shall match those widths established in the historic Hugman drawings. If there are no sidewalks in the Hugman drawings, the path will not exceed eight (8) feet in width.

(2) Link the various functions and spaces on a site with sidewalks in a coordinated system.

Provide pedestrian sidewalks between buildings, parking areas and built features such as outdoor plazas and courtyards.

(3) Paving materials. Paving materials for pedestrian pathways shall use visually and texturally different materials than those used for parking spaces and automobile traffic.

A. Paving materials for pedestrian pathways shall be either:

i. Broom-finished, scored, sandblasted or dyed concrete;

ii. Rough or honed finished stone;

iii. Brick or concrete pavers; or

iv. Other materials that meet the performance standards of the above materials.

B. Asphalt is permitted for pedestrian pathways that also are designated as multi-use paths by the City of San Antonio. The public works department will maintain the designated multi-use path locations.

(4) Street Connections to River. Retain the interesting and unique situations where streets dead-end at the river, creating both visual and physical access to the river for the public.

(5) Pedestrian Access Along the Riverwalk Pathway Shall Not Be Blocked.

A. Queuing is prohibited on the Riverwalk pathway.

B. Hostess stations shall be located away from the Riverwalk pathway so as to not inhibit pedestrian flow on the Riverwalk pathway. That is, the hostess station shall not be located in such a manner to cause a patron who has stopped at the hostess stand to be standing on the Riverwalk pathway. Pedestrian flow shall be considered "inhibited" if a pedestrian walking along the pathway has to swerve, dodge, change direction or come to a complete stop to avoid a patron engaged at the hostess stand.

C. Tables and chairs shall be located a sufficient distance from the Riverwalk pathway so that normal dining and service shall not inhibit the flow of pedestrian traffic. See inhibited definition in subsection B. above.

(b) Automobile Access and Parking. Automobile circulation should be efficient, and conflicts with pedestrians minimized. Entry points for automobiles should be clearly defined and connections to auto circulation on adjoining properties are encouraged to facilitate access and reduce traffic on abutting public streets.

(1) Curb Cuts.

A. Limit curb cuts to two (2) on parking areas or structures facing only one (1) street, and one (1) for each additional street face. The prohibition of additional curb cuts may be waived by the HDRC where the intent of the standards are clearly met and specific site circulation patterns require an additional curb cut, such as on long parcels or at nodes.

B. Curb cuts may be no larger than twenty-five (25) feet zero (0) inches. Continuous curb cuts are prohibited.

C. Sharing curb cuts between adjacent properties, such as providing cross property access easements, is permitted.

(2) Location of Parking Areas. Automobile parking in new developments must be balanced with the requirements of active environments. Large expanses of surface parking lots have a negative impact on street activity and the pedestrian experience. New commercial and residential structures can accommodate parking needs and contribute to a pedestrian-friendly streetscape.

A. Locate parking areas, that is any off-street, ground level surface used to park cars or any parking structure, toward the interior of the site or to the side or rear of a building.

B. The extent of parking area that may be located along the street edge or riverside shall be limited to a percentage of the lot line as per Table 672-1 as measured in a lineal direction parallel to the lot line. All parking within a thirty-foot setback from the above mentioned lot line shall comply with the requirements of the table. Where parking is located on corner sites only one (1) lot line has to meet the requirements of the table.

C. Parking lots should be avoided as a primary land use. Parking lots as a primary use are prohibited in RIO-3 and for all properties that fall within one hundred (100) feet of the river right-of-way in all RIO districts.

(3) Screen or Buffer Parking Areas From View of Public Streets, the River or Adjacent Residential Uses. (see Figure 672-2). Parking lots shall be screened with a landscape buffer as per the illustrations of bufferyards and Table 510-2 if the parking area meets one (1) of the following conditions:

A. Within a fifty-foot setback from the edge of the river ROW use, at a minimum, type E; or

B. Within a twenty-foot setback from a property line adjacent to a street use, at a minimum, type B; or

C. Within a twenty-foot setback of commercial or industrial property that abuts a residential property use, at a minimum, type C.

(4) Parking Structures Shall Be Compatible With Buildings in the Surrounding Area. Parking garages should have retail space on the ground floor of a parking structure provided the retail space has at least fifty (50) percent of its linear street frontage as display windows. Parking structures may be made visually appealing with a mural or public art component approved by the HDRC on the parking structure. A parking garage will be considered compatible if:

A. It does not vary in height by more than thirty (30) percent from another building on the same block face; and

B. It uses materials that can be found on other buildings within the block face, or in the block face across the street.

(5) Parking Structures Shall Provide Clearly Defined Pedestrian Access. Pedestrian entrances and exits shall be accentuated with directional signage, lighting or architectural features so that pedestrians can readily discern the appropriate path of travel to avoid pedestrian/auto conflicts.

(6) Parking lots, structures, and hardscape shall not drain directly into the river without installation of appropriate

water quality best management practices (WQ BMPs). Acequias shall not be used for any type of drainage.

(c) Views. The river's course (both natural and manmade), and San Antonio's street pattern, creates unique views of certain properties from the public ROW. These properties often occur at prominent curves in the river or where a street changes direction and a property appears to be a terminus at the end of a street.

(1) Architectural Focal Point. When a property is situated in such a manner as to appear to be the terminus at the end of the street or at a prominent curve in the river, the building shall incorporate into its design an architectural feature that will provide a focal point at the end of the view. (see Figure 672-3) An architectural feature will be considered to be a focal point through any of the following methods, but not limited to:

A. Additional height.

B. Creation of a tower.

C. Variation in roof shape.

D. Change of color or materials.

E. Addition of a design enhancement feature such as:

i. Embellished entrance areas.

ii. Articulated corners, especially when entrance is at corner, rounded or chamfered corners ease the transitions from one street facade to the adjoining facade.

iii. Recessed or projecting balconies and entrances.

Billboards, advertising and signage are expressly prohibited as appropriate focal points.

UDC Section 35-673. – Site Design Standards

(a) Solar Access. The intent of providing and maintaining solar access to the San Antonio River is to protect the river's specific ecoclimate. The river has a special microclimate of natural and planted vegetation that requires certain levels and balanced amounts of sunlight, space and water. Development must be designed to respect and protect those natural requirements, keeping them in balance and not crowding or altering them so that vegetation does not receive more or less space and water, but particularly sunlight, than is required for normal expected growth.

(1) Building Massing to Provide Solar Access to the River. Building massing shall be so designed as to provide direct sunlight to vegetation in the river channel as defined:

A. The area to be measured for solar access shall be a thirty-foot setback from the river's edge or from the river's edge to the building face, which ever is lesser, parallel to the river for the length of the property.

B. The solar calculations shall be measured exclusive to the applicant's property; that is, shades and shadows of other buildings shall not be included in the calculations. The solar calculations shall only measure the impact of new construction and additions. The shading impact of historic buildings on the site may be excluded from the calculations.

C. The defined area shall receive a minimum of 5.5 hours of direct sunlight, measured at the winter solstice, and 7.5 hours of direct sunlight, measured at the summer solstice.

D. Those properties located on the south side of the river (whose north face is adjacent to the river) shall only be required to measure the sunlight in the 30-foot setback on the opposite bank of the river.

E. Those properties within the river improvement overlay district not directly adjacent to the river are still subject to the provisions of this section. To determine the solar access effect of these buildings on the river the applicant must measure the nearest point to the river of an area defined by a thirty-foot setback from the river's edge, parallel to the river for the length of their property that would be affected by their building. For those buildings on the south side of the river, the 30-foot setback shall be measured only on the opposite bank.

F. However, in those cases where the above conditions cannot be met due to the natural configuration of the river, existing street patterns, or existing buildings, the HDRC may approve a buildings mass and height as allowed by table 674-2.

G. If there is a conflict with this section and another section of this chapter this section shall prevail.

(2) Prohibition of Structures, Buildings, Roofs or Skywalks Over the River Channel. No structure, building, roof or skywalk may be constructed over the river channel, or by-pass channel with the exception of structures for flood control purposes, open air pedestrian bridges at ground or river level, and street bridges. The river channel is the natural course of the river as modified for flood control purposes and the Pershing-Catalpa ditch.

(b) Building Orientation. Buildings should be sited to help define active spaces for area users, provide pedestrian connections between sites, help animate the street scene and define street edges. Consideration to both the street and

riverside should be given. The placement of a building on a site should therefore be considered within the context of the block, as well as how the structure will support the broader design goals for the area.

(1) Two or More Buildings on a Site.

A. Cluster buildings to create active open spaces such as courtyards along the street and river edges. Site plazas and courtyards, if possible, so that they are shaded in the summer and are sunny in the winter.

(2) Primary and Secondary Entrances

A. Orient a building's primary entrance toward the street with subordinate entrances located on the riverside and/or the interior of the property. On a major thoroughfare street it is acceptable to provide the primary entrance through a common courtyard and then to a street.

B. The primary entrance shall be distinguished by architectural features such as, but not limited to: an entry portal; change in material or color; change in scale of other openings; addition of columns, lintels or canopies.

C. Secondary entrances shall have architectural features that are subordinate to the primary entrance in scale and detail. For purposes of this division subordinate means that the entrance is smaller in height and width, and has fewer or simpler architectural elements.

(c) Topography and Drainage. The natural contours of occasional hillsides and riverbanks contribute to the distinct character of the San Antonio River and shall be considered in site designs for new development. Site plans shall minimize the need for cut and fill. It should be considered as an opportunity for positive enhancements through the creative use of terraces and retaining walls.

(1) Visual Impacts of Cut and Fill. Divide a grade change of more than ten (10) vertical feet into a series of benches and terraces. Terrace steep slopes following site contours. When creating site benches, using sloped "transitional areas" as part of the required landscaping is appropriate.

(2) Minimize the Potential for Erosion at the Riverbank. Grade slopes at a stable angle not to exceed four to one (4:1) and provide plant material that will stabilize the soil such as vigorous ground covers, vines or turf planting that are native and noninvasive species as found on the permissible plant list maintained by the parks and recreation department. Use of stabilizing materials such as geo-web or geo-grid is permitted as long as plant material is used to conceal the grid.

Use of terraced walls is permitted when there is a slope of more than four to one (4:1).

(3) Retaining Walls. Limit the height of a retaining wall to less than six (6) feet. If the retaining wall must exceed six (6) feet, a series of six-foot terrace walls is acceptable. Walls at dams and locks are excluded from this requirement. If in the opinion of the historic preservation officer a higher wall is consistent with the adopted conceptual plan of the river, a higher wall (not to exceed twelve (12) feet) is allowed. Materials used for the walls may include limestone, stucco, brick, clay, tile, timber, or textured concrete. (see Figure 673-2)

(4) Enhance or Incorporate Acequias Into The Landscape Design and Drainage Scheme of the Site. Where archeological evidence indicates a site contains or has contained a Spanish colonial acequia, incorporate the original path of the acequia as a natural drainageway or a landscape feature of the site by including it as part of the open space plan, and a feature of the landscape design.

(5) Design of Stormwater Management Facilities to be a Landscape Amenity. Where above ground stormwater management facilities are required, such facilities shall be multi-purpose amenities. For example, water quality features can be included as part of the site landscaping and detention facilities can be included as part of a hardscape patio. Using an open concrete basin as a detention pond is prohibited.

(6) Walls and Fences at Detention Areas.

A. When the topography of the site exceeds a four to one (4:1) slope and it becomes necessary to use a masonry wall as part of the detention area, use a textured surface and incorporate plant materials, from the plant list maintained by the parks department, that will drape over the edge to soften the appearance of the structure.

B. The use of solid board or chain link fence with or without slats is prohibited. A welded wire, tubular steel, wrought iron or garden loop is permitted.

(7) Roof Drainage into the River.

A. All roof drainage and other run-off drainage shall conform to public works department standards so that they \ drain into sewer and storm drains rather than the river. Drainage of this type shall not be piped into the river unless the outlet is below the normal waterline of the river at normal flow rates.

B. All downspouts or gutters draining water from roofs or parapets shall be extended underground under walks and patios to the San Antonio River's edge or stormwater detention facility so that such drainage will not erode or otherwise damage the Riverwalk, landscaping or river retaining walls.

C. All piping and air-conditioning wastewater systems shall be kept in good repair. Water to be drained purposely

from these systems, after being tested and adjudged free from pollution, shall be drained in the same manner prescribed in subsection (7)A. above.

(d) Riverside Setbacks. Riverside setbacks for both buildings and accessory structures are established to reinforce the defined character of the specific river improvement overlay district and help to define an edge at the river pathway that is varied according to the relationship of the river and the street. In the more urban areas, buildings should align closer to the river edge, while in more rural areas the buildings should be set farther away.

(1)Minimum setback requirements are per the following Table 673-1.

Description	RIO-1	RIO-2	RIO-3	RIO-4	RIO-5	RIO-6
Riverside Setback	20 FT	15 FT	0 FT	20 FT	50 ft	100 FT

(2)Designation of a development node district provides for a minimum riverside setback of zero (0) feet.

(e)Landscape Design. Lush and varied landscapes are part of the tradition of the San Antonio River. These design standards apply to landscaping within an individual site. Additional standards follow that provide more specific standards for the public pathway along the river and street edges.

(1)Provide Variety in Landscape Design. Provide variety in the landscape experience along the river by varying landscape designs between properties. No more than seventy-five (75) percent of the landscape materials, including plants, shall be the same as those on adjacent properties. (see Figure 673-4).

(2) Planting Requirements in Open Space Abutting the River. On publicly-owned land leased by the adjoining property owner, if applicable, and/or within privately owned setbacks adjacent to the river, a minimum percentage of the open space, excluding building footprint, lease space under bridges and parking requirements, are required to be planted according to Table 673-2.

A. Planting requirements in RIO-4, RIO-5, and RIO-6 should continue the restoration landscape efforts along the river banks. Planting in these RIO districts is to be less formal so as to maintain the rural setting of the river.

B. In "RIO-3," if existing conditions don't meet the standards as set out in Table 673-2, the owner or lessee will not have to remove paving to add landscaping in order to meet the standards until there is a substantial remodeling of the outdoor area. Substantial remodeling will include replacement of seventy-five (75) percent of the paving materials, or replacement of balcony and stair structures.

(f) Plant Materials. A number of soil conditions converge in the San Antonio area to create unique vegetation ecosystems. Along the route of the San Antonio River, the soil conditions vary greatly from the northern boundary near Hildebrand to the city limits near Mission San Francisco de la Espada (Mission Espada) and therefore native and indigenous plants will vary accordingly. Landscaping should reflect the unique soil characteristics of the specific site.

(1) Incorporate Existing Vegetation. Extend the use of landscape materials, including plants, shrubs and trees that are used in the public areas of the river onto adjacent private areas to form a cohesive design.

(2) Use indigenous and noninvasive species characteristic of the specific site as found on the permissible plant list maintained by the parks and recreation department or the Unified Development Code Plant List found in Appendix E. In "RIO-3," plantings of tropical and semi-tropical plants with perennial background is permitted.

(3) Install Trees to Provide Shade and to Separate Pedestrians From Automobile Traffic. Install street trees along the property line or in the ROW abutting all streets according to minimum requirement standards established in subsection 35-512(b), except where this conflicts with existing downtown Tri-Party improvements in "RIO-3." In "RIO-3" the owner has the option of placing trees at the property line, or along the street edge.

(g) Paving Materials. An important San Antonio landscape tradition is the use of decorative surfaces for paving and other landscape structures. Paving materials and patterns should be carefully chosen to preserve and enhance the pedestrian experience.

(1) Vary Walkway, Patio and Courtyard Paving to Add Visual Interest on the Riverside of Properties Abutting the River. Pervious paving is encouraged where feasible and appropriate to the site.

A. A maximum of six hundred (600) square feet is allowed for a single paving material before the paving material must be divided or separated with a paving material that is different in texture, pattern, color or material. A separation using a different material must be a minimum of twenty-four (24) inches wide, the full width of the pathway.

B. A maximum of one hundred (100) lineal feet is allowed in a walkway before the pattern must change in districts "RIO-2," "RIO-3," and "RIO-4." A maximum of five hundred twenty-eight (528) lineal feet is allowed before the pattern must change in districts "RIO-1," "RIO-5" and "RIO-6." The change of material at five hundred twenty-eight (528) lineal feet will define and delineate one-tenth-mile markers.

C. In "RIO-3," the Riverwalk pathway shall be delineated by using a separate material that is clearly distinguished from the adjacent patio paving materials. If the historic Hugman drawings indicate a sidewalk width and pattern on the site, that paving pattern and material shall be replicated.

(h) Site Walls and Fences. Site walls and fences are used to help divide spaces, screen unsightly objects and provide privacy. However, the character of the San Antonio River is such that walls shall not be erected in such a way as to block views of the river from public spaces.

(1) Use of Site Walls to Define Outdoor Spaces.

A. Use of low scale walls (twenty-four (24) inches to forty-eight (48) inches) to divide space, create a variety in landscaping and define edges is permitted.

B. Solid walls (up to seventy-two (72) inches) are permitted to: screen mechanical equipment, garbage receptacles and other unsightly areas; and provide privacy at the back of lots up to the front building face.

(2) Site Wall and Fence Materials.

A. On properties abutting the river, site walls and fence materials may be constructed of: stone, block, tile, stucco, wrought iron, tubular steel, welded wire or a combination of masonry and metal, cedar posts and welded wire or garden loop or other materials having similar characteristics. All other properties, not abutting the river may use the above listed materials plus wood fencing.

B. All chain link fences are prohibited for properties abutting the river. For properties that do not abut the river chain link is only allowed in the rear yard if not readily visible from the right-of-way. Barbed wire, razor wire, and concertina are prohibited in all RIO districts.

(i) Street Furnishings. Street furnishings are exterior amenities, including but not limited to, tables, chairs, umbrellas, landscape pots, wait stations, valet stations, bicycle racks, planters, benches, bus shelters, kiosks, waste receptacles and similar items that help to define pedestrian use areas. Handcrafted street furnishings are particularly important in San Antonio, and therefore this tradition of craftsmanship and of providing street furniture is encouraged.

(1) Prohibited Street Furnishings in Riverwalk Area. The following street furnishings are prohibited within the publicly owned portion of the Riverwalk area, whether or not the property is leased, and on the exterior of the riverside of buildings directly adjacent to the publicly owned portion of the river:

A. Vending machines.

B. Automatic teller machines.

C. Pay phones.

D. Photo booths.

E. Automated machines such as, but not limited to, penny crunching machines, blood pressure machines, fortune-telling machines, video games, animated characters and other machines that are internally illuminated, or have moving parts, or make noise, or have flashing lights.

F. Inanimate figures such as horses, kangaroos, bears, gorillas, mannequins or any such animal, cartoon or human figure. This section does not affect public art as defined in Appendix "A" of this chapter.

G. Monitors (i.e., television screens, computer screens).

H. Speakers.

(2) Street Furnishing Materials.

A. Street furnishings shall be made of wood, metal, stone, terra cotta, cast stone, hand-sculpted concrete, or solid surfacing material, such as Corian or Surell.

B. Inexpensive plastic resin furnishings are prohibited.

(3) Advertising on Street Furnishings.

A. No commercial logos, trademarks, decals, product names whether specific or generic, or names of businesses and organizations shall be allowed on street furnishings.

B. Product or business advertising is prohibited on all street furnishings.

C. Notwithstanding the restrictions above, applications may be approved for purposes of donor or non-profit recognition.

(4) Street furnishings, such as tables and chairs may not be stored (other than overnight storage) in such a way as to be visible from the river pathway.

(j) Lighting. Site lighting should be considered an integral element of the landscape design of a property. It should help define activity areas and provide interest at night. At the same time, lighting should facilitate safe and convenient circulation for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. Overspill of light and light pollution should be avoided.

(1) Site Lighting. Site lighting shall be shielded by permanent attachments to light fixtures so that the light sources are not visible from a public way and any offsite glare is prevented.

A. Site lighting shall include illumination of parking areas, buildings, pedestrian routes, dining areas, design features and public ways.

B. Outdoor spaces adjoining and visible from the river right-of-way shall have average ambient light levels of between one (1) and three (3) foot-candles with a minimum of 0.5-foot candles and a maximum of six (6) foot-candles at any point measured on the ground plane. Interior spaces visible from the river right-of-way on the river level and ground floor level shall use light sources with no more than the equivalent lumens of a one hundred-watt incandescent bulb. Exterior balconies, porches and canopies adjoining and visible from the river right-of-way shall use light sources with the equivalent lumens of a sixty-watt incandescent bulb with average ambient light levels no greater than the lumen out put of a one hundred-watt incandescent light bulb as long as average foot candle standards are not exceeded. Accent lighting of landscape or building features including specimen plants, gates, entries, water features, art work, stairs, and ramps may exceed these standards by a multiple of 2.5. Recreational fields and activity areas that require higher light levels shall be screened from the river hike and bike pathways with a landscape buffer.

C. Exterior light fixtures that use the equivalent of more than one hundred-watt incandescent bulbs shall not emit a significant amount of the fixture's total output above a vertical cut-off angle of ninety (90) degrees. Any structural part of the fixture providing this cut-off angle must be permanently affixed.

D. Lighting spillover to the publicly owned areas of the river or across property lines shall not exceed one-half (½) of one (1) foot-candle measured at any point ten (10) feet beyond the property line.

(2) Provide Lighting for Pedestrian Ways That is Low Scaled for Walking. The position of a lamp in a pedestrian-way light shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet in height above the ground.

(3) Light Temperature and Color.

A. Light temperature and color shall be between 2500° K and 3500° K with a color rendition index (CRI) of eighty (80) or higher, respectively. This restriction is limited to all outdoor spaces adjoining and visible from the river right-of-way and from the interior spaces adjoining the river right-of-way on the river level and ground floor level. Levels shall be determined by product specifications.

(4) Minimize the Visual Impacts of Exterior Building Lighting.

A. All security lighting shall be shielded so that the light sources are not visible from a public way.

B. Lighting (uplighting and downlighting) that is positioned to highlight a building or outdoor artwork shall be aimed at the object to be illuminated, not pointed into the sky.

C. Fixtures shall not distract from, or obscure important architectural features of the building. Lighting fixtures shall be a subordinate feature on the building unless they are incorporated into the over-all design scheme of the building.

(5) Prohibited Lighting on the Riverside of Properties Abutting the River.

A. Flashing lights.

B. Rotating lights.

C. Chaser lights.

D. Exposed neon.

E. Seasonal decorating lights such as festoon, string or rope lights, except between November 20 and January 10.

F. Flood lamps.

(6) Minimize the visual impacts of lighting in parking areas in order to enhance the perception of the nighttime sky and to prevent glare onto adjacent properties. Parking lot light poles are limited to thirty (30) feet in height, shall have a 90° cutoff angle so as to not emit light above the horizontal plane.

(k) Curbs and Gutters.

(1) Construct Curb and Gutter Along the Street Edge of a Property.

A. Install curbs and gutter along the street edge at the time of improving a parcel.

B. In order to preserve the rural character of RIO-5 and RIO-6, the HPO in coordination with public works and the development services department may waive the requirement of curbs and gutters.

(l) Access to Public Pathway Along the River. These requirements are specifically for those properties adjacent to the river to provide a connection to the publicly owned pathway along the river. The connections are to stimulate and enhance urban activity, provide path connections in an urban context, enliven street activity, and protect the ambiance and character of the river area.

(1) A stair, ramp or elevator connecting the publicly owned pathway at the river to private property along the river is allowed by right at the following locations:

A. At all street and vehicular bridge crossings over the river.

B. Where publicly owned streets dead end into the river.

C. Where the pedestrian pathway in the Riverwalk area is located at the top of bank and there is a two-foot or less grade change between the private property and the pathway.

(2) If there is a grade change greater than two (2) feet between the private property and the publicly owned pathway at the river then the following conditions apply:

A. Access to the publicly owned pathway is limited to one (1) connection per property, with the exception that connections are always allowed at street and vehicular bridge crossings. For example if one (1) property extends the entire block face from street crossing to street crossing the owner would be allowed three (3) access points if the distance requirements were met.

B. The minimum distance between access points shall be ninety-five (95) feet. Only street and vehicular bridge connections are exempted. Mid-block access points must meet this requirement.

C. Reciprocal access agreements between property owners are permitted.

(3) Clearly define a key pedestrian gateway into the site from the publicly owned pathway at the river with distinctive architectural or landscape elements.

A. The primary gateway from a development to the publicly owned pathway at the river shall be defined by an architectural or landscape element made of stone, brick, tile, metal, rough hewn cedar or hand-formed concrete or through the use of distinctive plantings or planting beds.

(m) Buffering and Screening. The manner in which screening and buffering elements are designed on a site greatly affects the character of the river districts. In general, service areas shall be screened or buffered. "Buffers" are considered to be landscaped berms, planters or planting beds; whereas, more solid "screens" include fences and walls. When site development creates an unavoidable negative visual impact on abutting properties or to the public right-of-way, it shall be mitigated with a landscape design that will buffer or screen it.

(1) Landscape Buffers Shall be Used in the Following Circumstances: To buffer the edges of a parking lot from pedestrian ways and outdoor use areas, (such as patios, and courtyards), and as an option to screening in order to buffer service areas, garbage disposal areas, mechanical equipment, storage areas, maintenance yards, equipment storage areas and other similar activities that by their nature create unsightly views from pedestrian ways, streets, public ROWs and adjoining property.

(2) Screening Elements Shall be Used in the Following Circumstances: To screen service areas, storage areas, or garbage areas from pedestrian ways.

(3) Exceptions for Site Constraints. Due to site constraints, in all RIOs and specifically for "RIO-3" where there is less than ten (10) feet to provide for the minimum landscape berm, a screen may be used in conjunction with plantings to meet the intent of these standards. For example a low site wall may be combined with plant materials to create a buffer with a lesser cross sectional width.

(4) Applicable Bufferyard Types. Table 510-2 establishes minimum plant materials required for each bufferyard type. For purposes of this section, type C shall be the acceptable minimum type.

(5) Applicable Screening Fence and Wall Types. Screening fences and walls shall be subject to conditions of subsection 35-673(h), Walls and Fences.

(n) Service Areas and Mechanical Equipment. Service areas and mechanical equipment should be visually unobtrusive and should be integrated with the design of the site and building. Noise generated from mechanical equipment shall not exceed city noise regulations.

(1) Locate service entrances, waste disposal areas and other similar uses adjacent to service lanes and away from major streets and the river.

A. Position utility boxes so that they cannot be seen from the public Riverwalk path, or from major streets, by locating them on the sides of buildings and away from pedestrian and vehicular routes. Locating them within interior building corners, at building offsets or other similar locations where the building mass acts as a shield from public view is preferred.

B. Orient the door to a trash enclosure to face away from the street when feasible.

C. Air intake and exhaust systems, or other mechanical equipment that generates noise, smoke or odors, shall not be located at the pedestrian level.

(2) Screening of service entrance shall be compatible with the buildings on the block face.

A. When it would be visible from a public way, a service area shall be visually compatible with the buildings on the block face.

B. A wall will be considered compatible if it uses the same material as other buildings on the block, or is painted

a neutral color such as beige, gray or dark green or if it is in keeping with the color scheme of the adjacent building.

(o) Bicycle Parking. On-site bicycle parking helps promote a long term sustainable strategy for development in RIO districts. Bicycle parking shall be placed in a well lit and accessible area. UDC bicycle parking requirements in UDC 35-526 can be met through indoor bicycle storage facilities in lieu of outdoor bike rack fixtures.

Sec. 35-674. Building Design Principles

(a) Architectural Character. A basic objective for architectural design in the river improvement overlay districts is to encourage the reuse of existing buildings and construction of new, innovative designs that enhance the area, and help to establish distinct identities for each of the zone districts. At the same time, these new buildings should reinforce established building traditions and respect the contexts of neighborhoods.

When a new building is constructed, it shall be designed in a manner that reinforces the basic character-defining features of the area. Such features include the way in which a building is located on its site, the manner in which it faces the street and its orientation to the river. When these design variables are arranged in a new building to be similar to those seen traditionally, visual compatibility results.

(b) Mass and Scale. A building shall appear to have a "human scale." In general, this scale can be accomplished by using familiar forms and elements interpreted in human dimensions. Exterior wall designs shall help pedestrians establish a sense of scale with relation to each building. Articulating the number of floors in a building can help to establish a building's scale, for example, and prevent larger buildings from dwarfing the pedestrian.

(1) Express facade components in ways that will help to establish building scale.

A. Treatment of architectural facades shall contain a discernible pattern of mass to void, or windows and doors to solid mass. Openings shall appear in a regular pattern, or be clustered to form a cohesive design. Architectural elements such as columns, lintels, sills, canopies, windows and doors should align with other architectural features on the adjacent facades.

(2) Align horizontal building elements with others in the blockface to establish building scale.

A. Align at least one (1) horizontal building element with another horizontal building element on the same block face. It will be considered to be within alignment if it is within three (3) feet, measured vertically, of the existing architectural element.

(3) Express the distinction between upper and lower floors.

A. Develop the first floor as primarily transparent. The building facade facing a major street shall have at least fifty (50) percent of the street level facade area devoted to display windows and/or windows affording some view into the interior areas. Multi-family residential buildings with no retail or office space are exempt from this requirement.

(4) Where a building facade faces the street or river and exceeds the maximum facade length allowed in Table 674-1 divide the facade of building into modules that express traditional dimensions.

A. The maximum length of an individual wall plane that faces a street or the river shall be as shown in Table 674-1.

Table 674-1

Description	RIO-1	RIO-2	RIO-3	RIO-4	RIO-5	RIO-6
Maximum Facade Length	50 ft.	50 ft.	30 ft.	75 ft.	75 ft.	50 ft.

B. If a building wall plane facing the street or river and exceeds the length allowed in Table 674-1, employ at least two (2) of the following techniques to reduce the perceived mass:

- Change materials with each building module to reduce its perceived mass; or
- Change the height with each building module of a wall plane. The change in height shall be at least ten (10) percent of the vertical height; or
- Change the roof form of each building module to help express the different modules of the building mass; or
- Change the arrangement of windows and other facade articulation features, such as, columns, pilasters or strap work, which divides large planes into smaller components.

(5) Organize the Mass of a Building to Provide Solar Access to the River.

A. One (1) method of doing so is to step the building down toward the river to meet the solar access

requirements of subsection 35-673(a).

B. Another method is to set the building back from the river a distance sufficient to meet the solar access requirements of subsection 35-673(a).

(c) Height. Building heights vary along the river corridor, from one-story houses to high-rise hotels and apartments. This diversity of building heights is expected to continue. However, within each zone, a general similarity in building heights should be encouraged in order to help establish a sense of visual continuity. In addition, building heights shall be configured such that a comfortable human scale is established along the edges of properties and views to the river and other significant landmarks are provided while allowing the appropriate density for an area.

(1) The maximum building height shall be as defined in Table 674-2.

A. Solar access standards subsection 35-673(a), and massing standards subsection 35-674(b) also will affect building heights.

Table 674-2

Description	RIO-1	RIO-2	RIO-3	RIO-4	RIO-5	RIO-6
Maximum # of Stories	5	10	None	7	5	4
Maximum Height in Feet	60 ft.	120 ft.	None	84 ft.	60 ft.	50 ft.

(3)On the street-side, the building facade shall appear similar in height to those of other buildings found traditionally in the area.

If fifty (50) percent of the building facades within a block face are predominantly lower than the maximum height allowed, the new building facade on the street-side shall align with the average height of those lower buildings within the block face, or with a particular building that falls within the fifty (50) percent range. However, the remainder of the building may obtain its maximum height by stepping back fifteen (15) feet from the building face.

(4) Designation of a development node provides for the ability to increase the building height by fifty (50) percent from the requirements set out in article VI.

(d) Materials and Finishes. Masonry materials are well established as primary features along the river corridor and their use should be continued. Stucco that is detailed to provide a texture and pattern, which conveys a human scale, is also part of the tradition. In general, materials and finishes that provide a sense of human scale, reduce the perceived mass of a building and appear to blend with the natural setting of the river shall be used, especially on major structures.

(1) Use indigenous materials and traditional building materials for primary wall surfaces. A minimum of seventy-five (75) percent of walls (excluding window fenestrations) shall be composed of the following:

A. Modular masonry materials including brick, stone, and rusticated masonry block, tile, terra-cotta, structural clay tile and cast stone. Concrete masonry units (CMU) are not allowed.

B. Other new materials that convey the texture, scale, and finish similar to traditional building materials.

C. Stucco and painted concrete when detailed to express visual interest and convey a sense of scale.

D. Painted or stained wood in a lap or shingle pattern.

(2) The following materials are not permitted as primary building materials and may be used as a secondary material only:

A. Large expanses of high gloss or shiny metal panels.

B. Mirror glass panels. Glass curtain wall buildings are allowed in RIO-3 as long as the river and street levels comply with 35-674(d)(1) above.

(3) Paint or Finish Colors.

A. Use natural colors of indigenous building materials for properties that abut the Riverwalk area.

B. Use matte finishes instead of high glossy finishes on wall surfaces. Wood trim and metal trim may be painted with gloss enamel.

C. Bright colors may highlight entrances or architectural features.

(e) Facade Composition. Traditionally, many commercial and multi-family buildings in the core of San Antonio have had facade designs that are organized into three (3) distinct segments: First, a "base" exists, which establishes a scale at the street level; second a "mid-section," or shaft is used, which may include several floors. Finally a "cap" finishes the composition. The cap may take the form of an ornamental roof form or decorative molding and may also include the top floors of the building. This organization helps to give a sense of scale to a building and its use should be encouraged.

In order to maintain the sense of scale, buildings should have the same setback as surrounding buildings so as to maintain the street-wall pattern, if clearly established.

In contrast, the traditional treatment of facades along the riverside has been more modest. This treatment is largely a result

of the fact that the riverside was a utilitarian edge and was not oriented to the public. Today, even though orienting buildings to the river is a high priority objective, it is appropriate that these river-oriented facades be simpler in character than those facing the street.

(1) Street Facade. Buildings that are taller than the street-wall (sixty (60) feet) shall be articulated at the stop of the street wall or stepped back in order to maintain the rhythm of the street wall. Buildings should be composed to include a base, a middle and a cap.

A. High rise buildings, more than one hundred (100) feet tall, shall terminate with a distinctive top or cap. This can be accomplished by:

i. Reducing the bulk of the top twenty (20) percent of the building by ten (10) percent.

ii. By stepping back the top twenty (20) percent of the building.

iii. Changing the material of the cap.

B. Roof forms shall be used to conceal all mechanical equipment and to add architectural interest to the structure.

C. Roof surfaces should include strategies to reduce heat island effects such as use of green roofs, photo voltaic panels, and/or the use of roof materials with high solar reflectivity.

(2) Fenestration. Windows help provide a human scale and so shall be proportioned accordingly.

D. Curtain wall systems shall be designed with modulating features such as projecting horizontal and/or vertical mullions.

(3) Entrances. Entrances shall be easy to find, be a special feature of the building, and be appropriately scaled.

A. Entrances shall be the most prominent on the street side and less prominent on the river side.

B. Entrances shall be placed so as to be highly visible.

C. The scale of the entrance is determined by the prominence of the function and or the amount of use.

D. Entrances shall have a change in material and/or wall plane.

E. Entrances should not use excessive storefront systems.

(4) Riverside facade. The riverside facade of a building shall have simpler detailing and composition than the street facade.

A. Architectural details such as cornices, sills, lintels, door surrounds, water tables and other similar details should use simple curves and handcrafted detailing.

B. Stone detailing shall be rough hewn, and chiseled faced. Smooth faced stone is not permitted as the primary building material, but can be used as accent pieces.

C. Facades on the riverside shall be asymmetrical, pedestrian scale, and give the appearance of the back of a building. That is, in traditional building along the river, the backs of building were designed with simpler details, and appear less formal than the street facades.

(g) Awnings, Canopies and Arcades. (See Figure 674-2) The tradition of sheltering sidewalks with awnings, canopies and arcades on commercial and multi-family buildings is well established in San Antonio and is a practice that should be continued. They offer shade from the hot summer sun and shelter from rainstorms, thereby facilitating pedestrian activity. They also establish a sense of scale for a building, especially at the ground level. Awnings and canopies are appropriate locations for signage. Awnings with signage shall comply with any master signage plan on file with the historic preservation officer for the property. Awnings and canopies installed at street level within the public right-of-way require licensing with the city's capital improvements management services (CIMS) department. Canopies, balconies and awnings installed at river level within the public right-of-way require licensing with the city's downtown operations department.

(1) If awnings, arcades and canopies are to be used they should accentuate the character-defining features of a building.

A. The awning, arcade or canopy shall be located in relationship to the openings of a building. That is, if there are a series of awnings or canopies, they shall be located at the window or door openings. However awnings, canopies and arcades may extend the length of building to provide shade at the first floor for the pedestrian.

B. Awnings, arcades and canopies shall be mounted to highlight architectural features such as moldings that may be found above the storefront.

C. They should match the shape of the opening.

D. Simple shed shapes are appropriate for rectangular openings.

E. Odd shapes and bubble awnings are prohibited except where the shape of an opening requires a bubble awning, or historic precedent shows they have been previously used on the building.

F. Canopies, awnings and arcades shall not conflict with the building's proportions or with the shape of the openings that the awning or canopy covers.

G. Historic canopies shall be repaired or replaced with in-kind materials.

(2) Materials and Color.

A. Awnings and canopies may be constructed of metal, wood or fabric. Certain vinyl is allowed if it has the appearance of natural fiber as approved by the HDRC.

B. Awning color shall coordinate with the building. Natural and earth tone colors are encouraged. Fluorescent colors are not allowed. When used for signage it is appropriate to choose a dark color for the canopy and use light lettering for signage.

(3) Incorporating lighting into the design of a canopy is appropriate.

A. Lights that illuminate the pedestrian way beneath the awning are appropriate.

B. Lights that illuminate the storefront are appropriate.

C. Internally illuminated awnings that glow are prohibited.

FINDINGS:

a. This case was reviewed by the Design Review Committee where comments generally focused on signage and its overall size. Staff performed a site visit on June 22, 2016, and found that the proposed new construction is appropriately sized and placed on the lot in relationship to existing structures.

b. The lot at 425 Soledad is zoned D and RIO-3, is bounded by N Main to the west, E Martin to the north, Soledad to the west and W Pecan to the south and currently features a motor bank drive through canopy and a commercial structure of approximately one hundred (100) feet in height. The applicant has proposed to demolish an existing motor bank drive through canopy and construct a new motor bank drive through canopy with a 625 square foot teller operations building. The proposed teller operations building will be thirty (30) feet in height while the proposed canopy will be thirteen (13) feet in height. The applicant has proposed to maintain the same amount of drive through teller lanes. The existing motor bank drive through canopy was constructed circa 1990.

c. In regards to the demolition of the existing motor bank drive through canopy, staff finds that this structure holds neither historic nor architectural significance, that it is not eligible for designation and that its demolition is appropriate. The applicant is responsible for obtaining all necessary permits prior to the commencement of its demolition.

d. SITE DESIGN – The applicant has noted that the existing drive through lanes will remain intact, that all existing paving and landscaping elements are to remain intact except for one live oak tree and that the existing underground tunnel and skylight will remain. Staff finds the retention of the existing site, landscaping and paving elements as they are to be appropriate. Any future proposals for site modifications would be subject to review for a Certificate of Appropriateness. Staff finds that the tree that the applicant has proposed to remove is appropriate given its proximity to existing structures and the proposed new structures.

e. ORIENTATION – The applicant has proposed a 625 square foot teller operations building to be constructed between the location of the motor bank canopy and the existing commercial structure. The applicant has proposed to orient the structure with its primary entrance oriented toward N Main. Additionally, the applicant has proposed an orientation and setbacks that are consistent with the design of the site. This is consistent with the UDC Section 35-673(b)(1)(A).

f. MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT – Per the UDC Section 35-673(m) and (n), Buffering and Screening should be used to screen mechanical and service equipment from the public right of way. The applicant has noted the location and screening of mechanical equipment to not be visible from the public right of way. This is consistent with the Guidelines.

g. BICYCLE PARKING – Bicycle parking helps promote a long term sustainable strategy for development in RIO Districts. The applicant has provided a site plan noting the location of bicycle parking consistent with UDC Sections 35-673(o) and 35-526.

h. FAÇADE ARRANGMEENT – According to the UDC Section 35-674 (b), a building shall appear to have a “human scale” which can be achieved by the expression of façade components, the aligning of horizontal building elements with others in the block face, the distinction between upper and lower floors and the division of the façade into modules that express traditional dimensions. The applicant has proposed a drive through teller window proportioned on a human scale as well as used human scaled materials. This not only provides a human scale, but also façade separation. This is consistent with the UDC.

i. MATERIALS – The applicant has proposed materials which include dimensional limestone veneer, aluminum panels, a metal canopy and glass panels. The applicant’s proposed materials are consistent with the UDC.

j. WINDOWS – According to the UDC Section 35-674(e)(2), windows help provide a human scale and should be recessed at least two (2) inches within solid walls; windows should relate in design and scale to the spaces behind them; windows shall be used in hierarchy to articulate important places on the facade and grouped to establish rhythms. The applicant is responsible for providing information to staff in regards to insetting each window at least two (2) inches within the façade.
k. CANOPY – The applicant has proposed a drive through teller canopy which generally maintains the massing and footprint of the existing canopy. Staff finds the applicant's proposal as well as materials appropriate.
l. LIGHTING – The applicant has noted that lighting will include state banking security requirements; however, no additional pole lighting will be introduced.
m. SIGNAGE – The applicant has proposed for the teller building to feature signage that faces east toward Soledad, west toward N Main and north toward E Martin. This signage totals approximately fifty-six (56) square feet. The applicant has also noted that a monument size is to be installed to total approximately fifty (50) square feet. According to the UDC Section 35-678(e)(1), total signage shall not exceed fifty square feet unless additional signage does not interfere with the pedestrian experience on the Riverwalk. Additional signage shall be based on the size of the site and the type and speed of the traffic they are meant to attract. Staff finds the building mounted signage appropriate given the structure's location toward the interior of the site and its partial screening by the proposed motor bank canopy and the existing multi story commercial structure.
n. SIGNAGE – The applicant has proposed to install a new monument sign along Soledad Street placed similarly to the existing monument sign. The applicant has not indicated that the proposed signage is to be six feet in height and nine feet in length for approximately 54 square feet of signage per side. Staff finds that a monument sign at this location may be appropriate due to the size of the lot and the need to address three streets with one monument sign, however, staff finds that additional information regarding lighting and materials should be provided to staff that are consistent with the UDC Section 35-678.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval based on findings a through n with the following stipulations prior to returning to the HDRC for final approval:

i. That the applicant provide additional information regarding lighting and materials to staff that are consistent with the UDC Section 35-678 in regards to the proposed monument sign.

CASE MANAGER:

Edward Hall

N

Flex Viewer

Powered by ArcGIS Server

Printed:Jun 17, 2016

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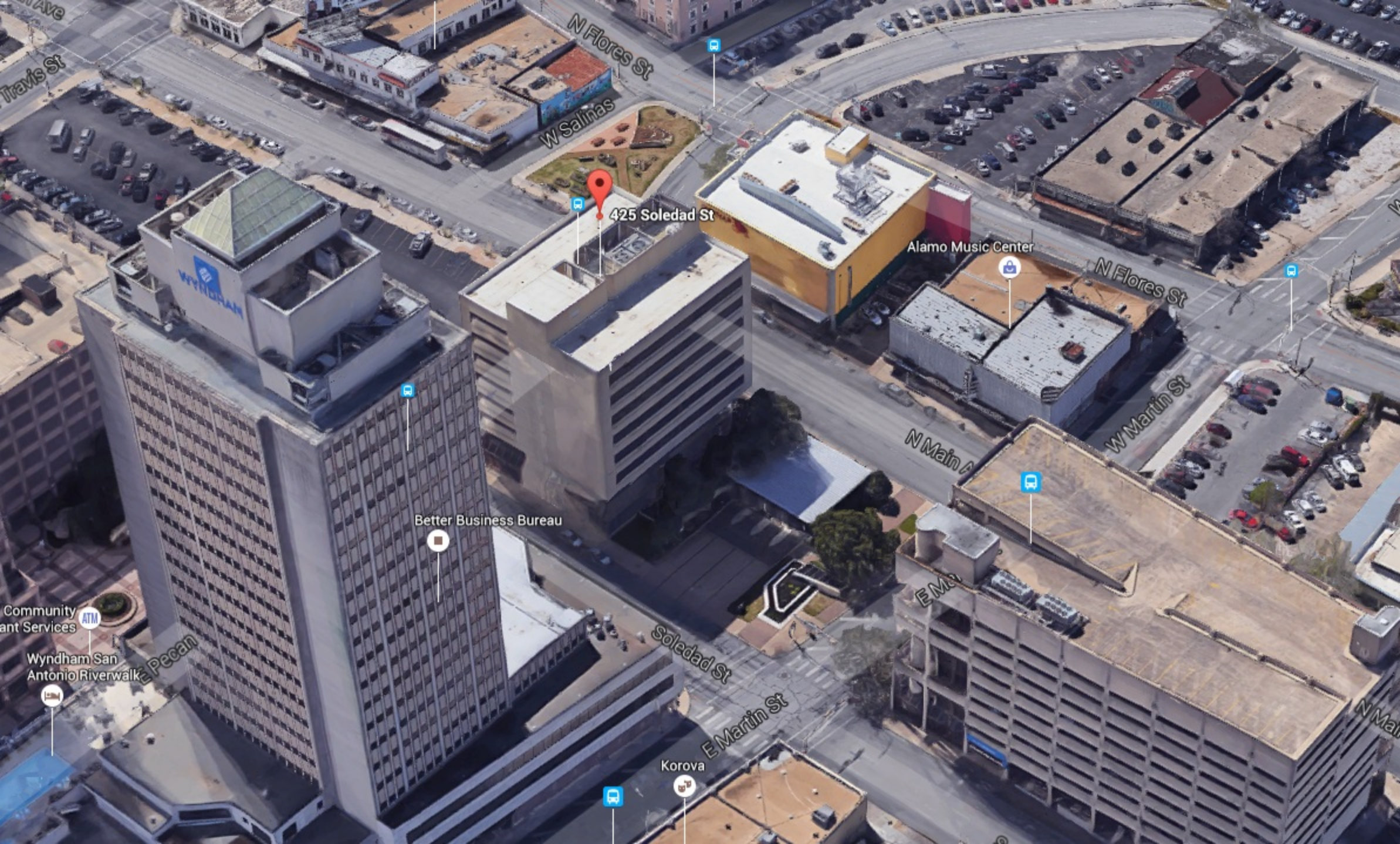
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Antonio Riverwalk
E Pecan
Soledad St
E Martin St
Korova

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River Walk
E Martin St
Korova
Bond's 007 Rock Bar
W Pecan St
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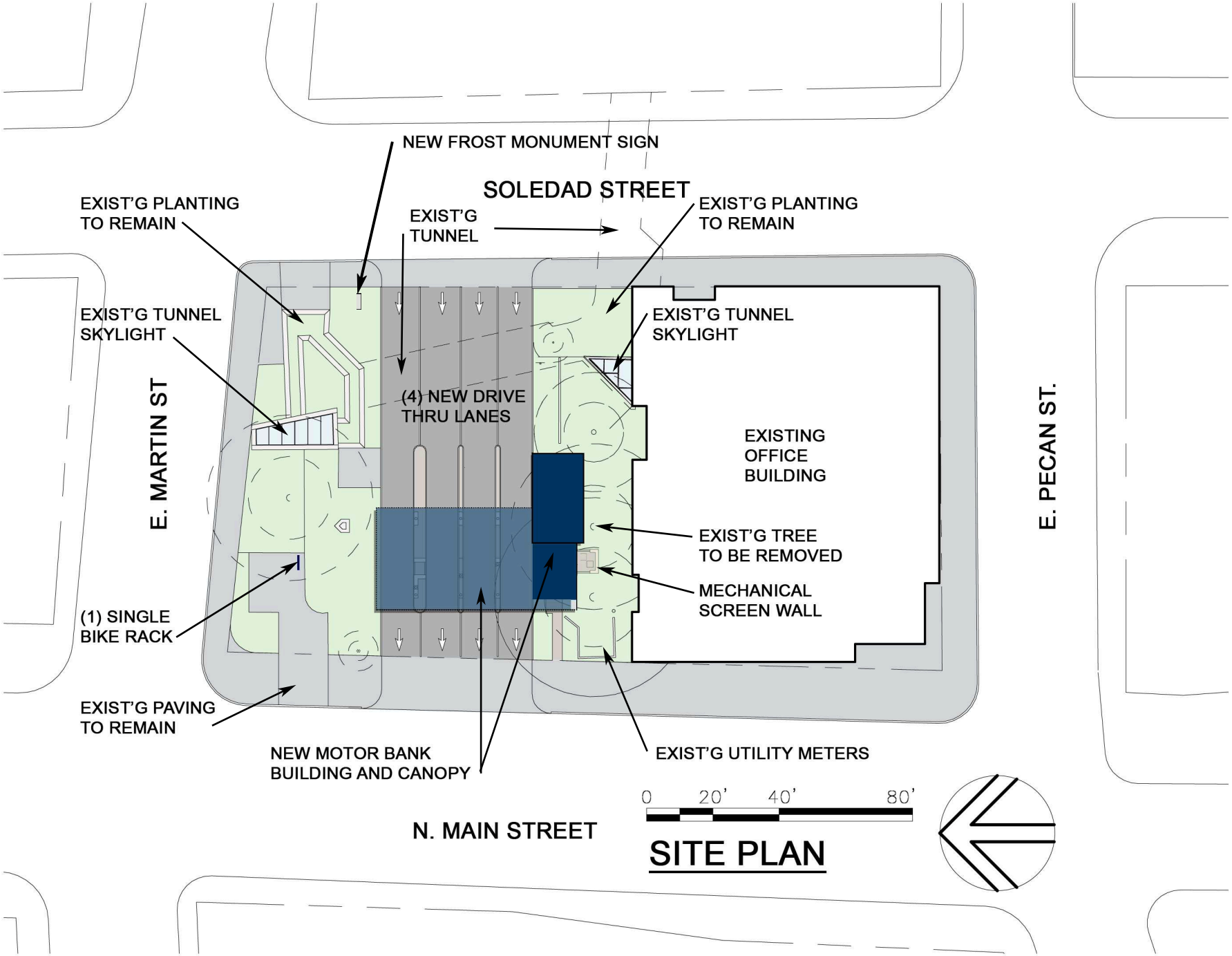
MUSIC CENTER

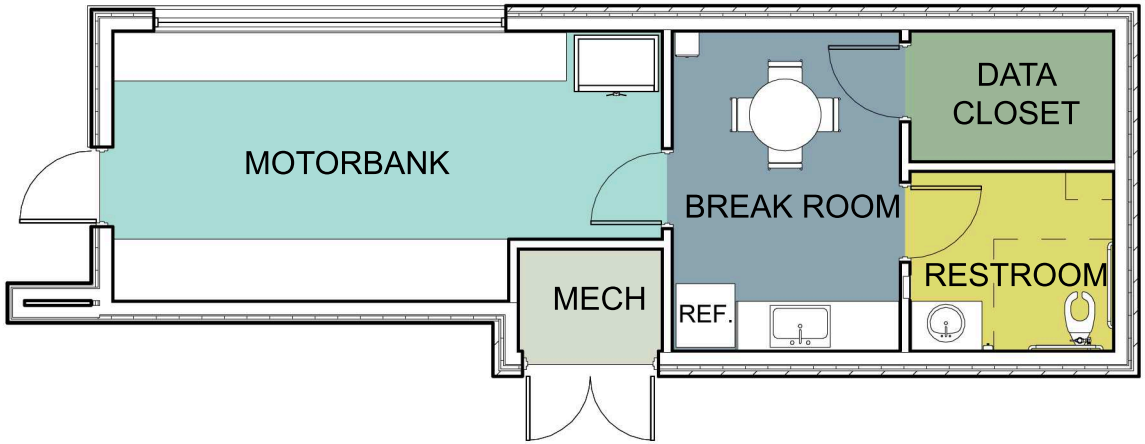


FROST MOTOR BANK

425 SOLEDAD

06/10/2016

MarmonMok ARCHITECTURE



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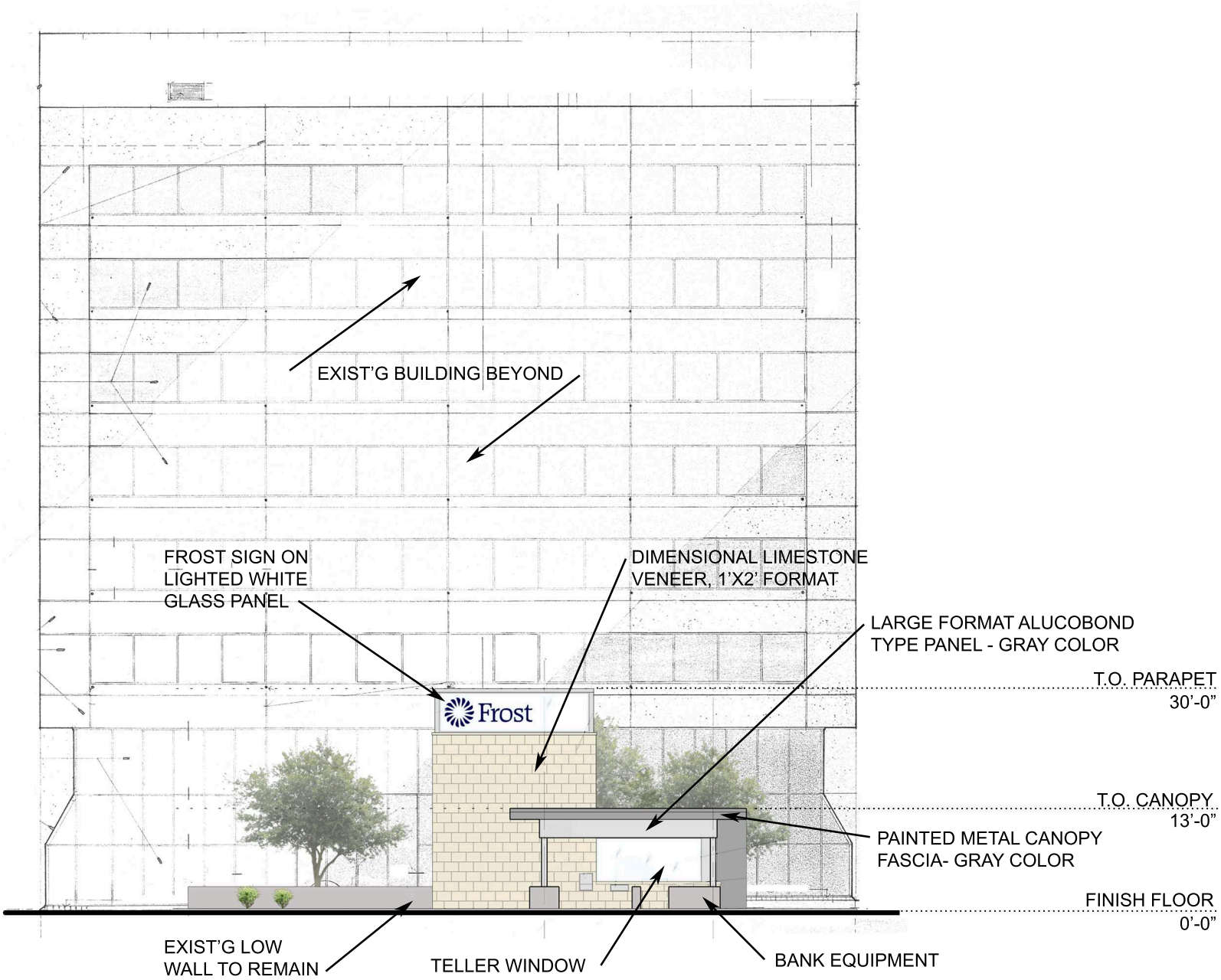
FLOOR PLAN

FROST MOTOR BANK

425 SOLEDAD

06/10/2016

MarmonMok
ARCHITECTURE

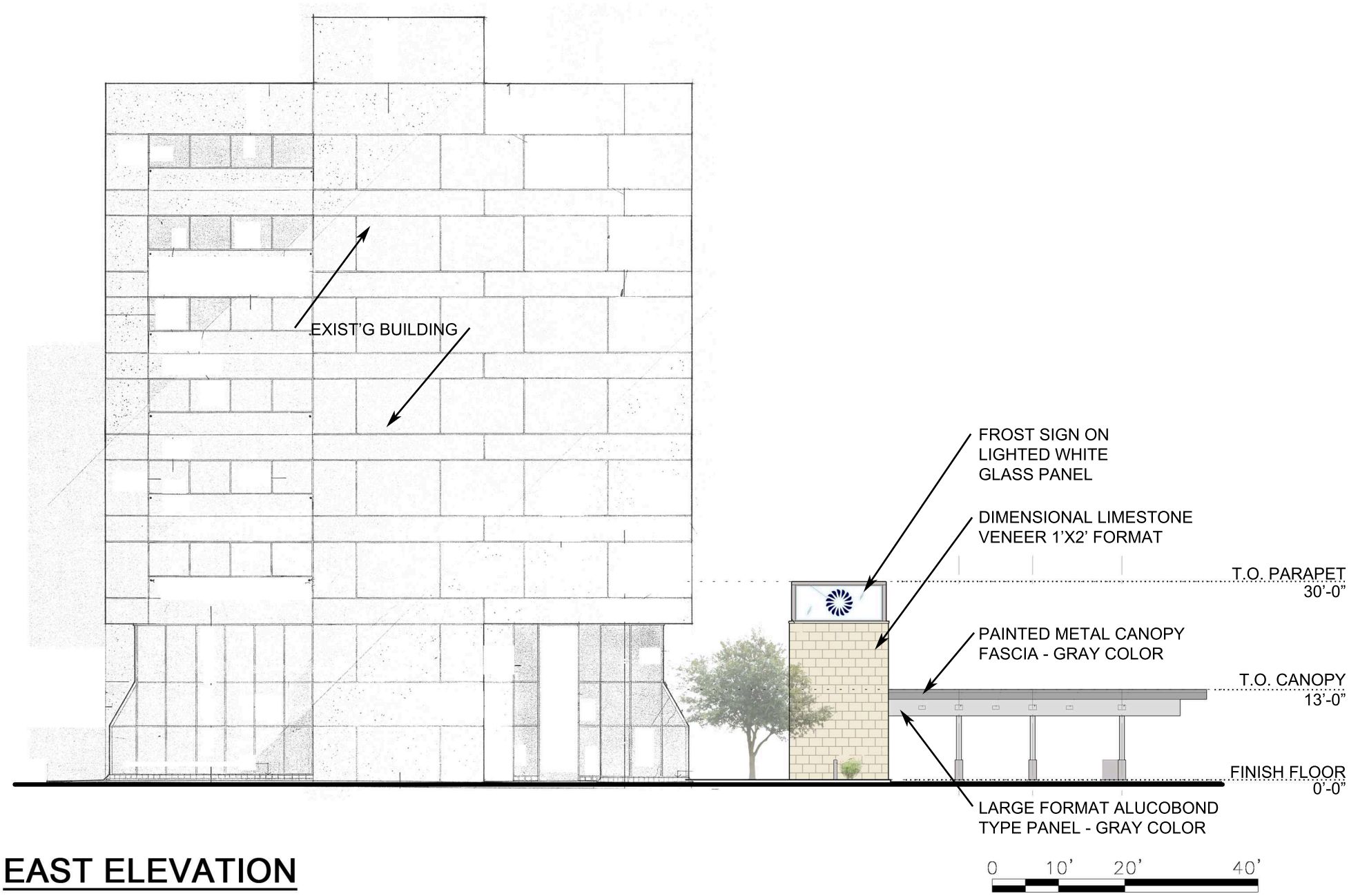


NORTH ELEVATION

0 10' 20' 40'

FROST MOTOR BANK
425 SOLEDAD
06/10/2016

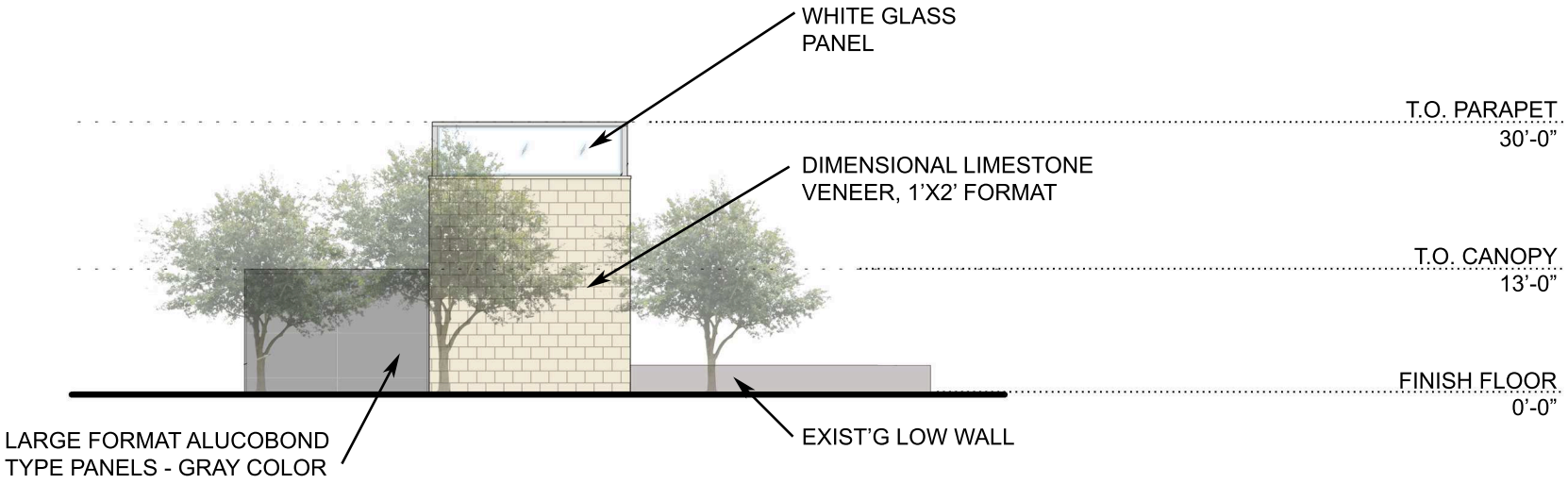
MarmonMok
ARCHITECTURE



EAST ELEVATION

FROST MOTOR BANK
425 SOLEDAD
06/10/2016

MarmonMok
ARCHITECTURE



SOUTH ELEVATION

FROST MOTOR BANK

425 SOLEDAD

06/10/2016

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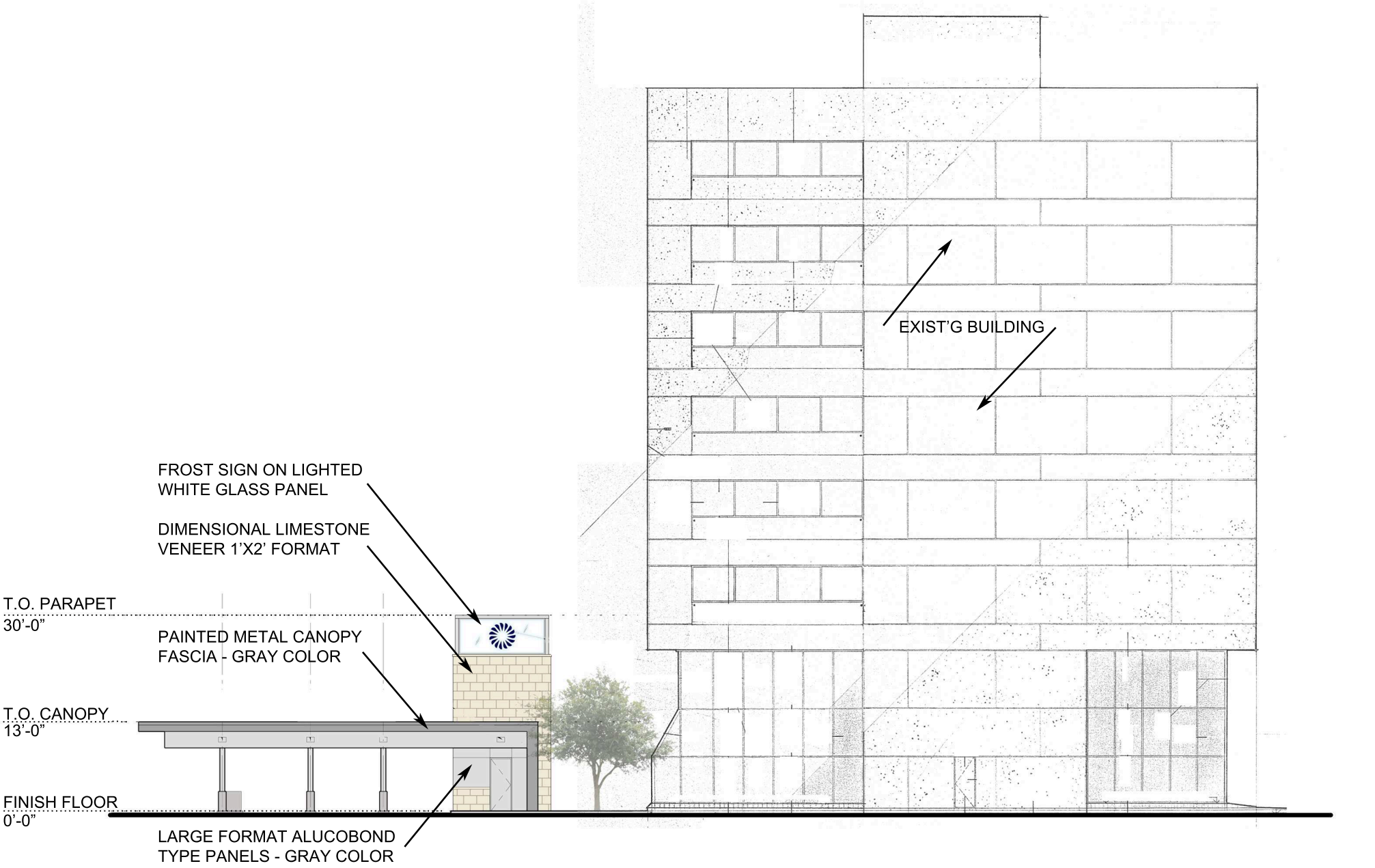
ARCHITECTURE



WEST ELEVATION

0 10' 20' 40'

FROST MOTOR BANK
425 SOLEDAD
06/10/2016

MarmonMok
ARCHITECTURE

PROJECT SITE FROM NORTHEAST ON SOLEDAD ST.

FROST MOTOR BANK

425 SOLEDAD

06/10/2016

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ARCHITECTURE

PROJECT SITE FROM EAST ON SOLEDAD ST.

FROST MOTOR BANK

425 SOLEDAD

06/10/2016

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425 SOLEDAD

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ARCHITECTURE

FROST MOTOR BANK

425 SOLEDAD

06/10/2016

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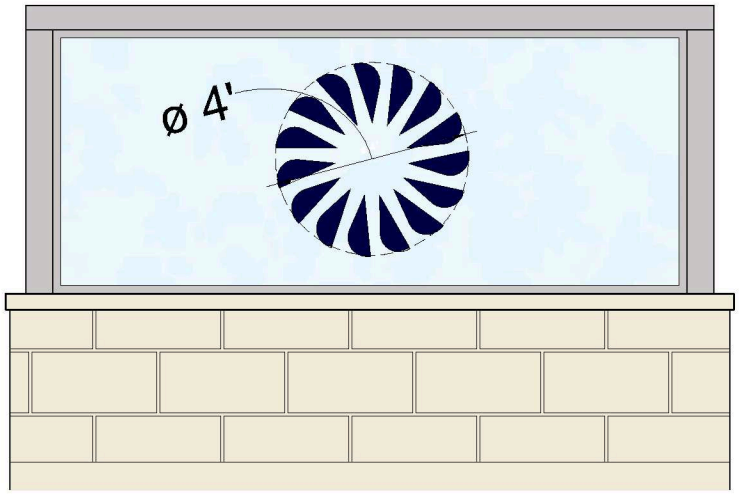
NORTH TOWER SIGNAGE

0 1' 2' 4'



EAST / WEST TOWER SIGNAGE

0 1' 2' 4'

FROST MOTOR BANK
425 SOLEDAD
06/10/2016

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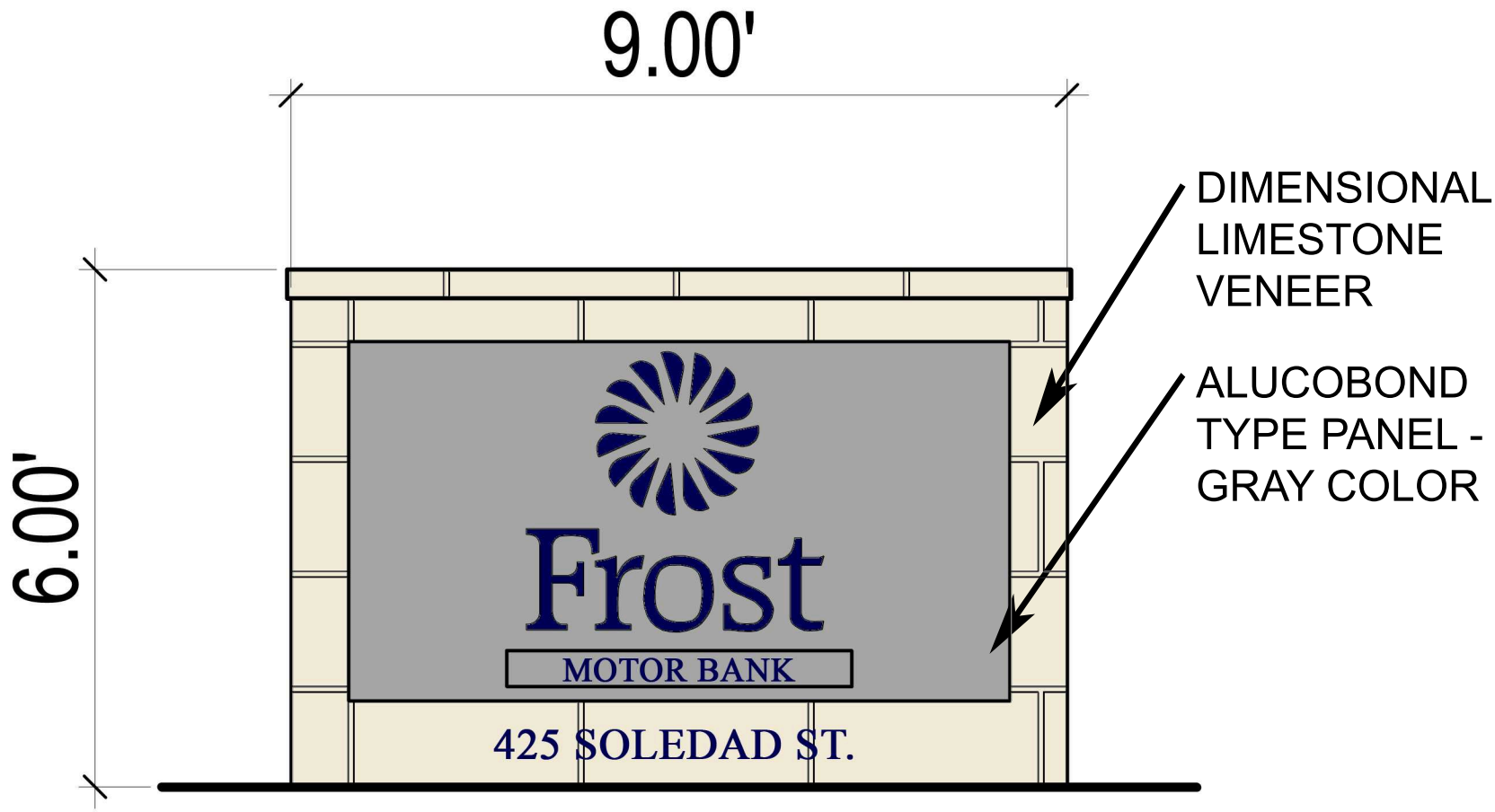

MONUMENT SIGN

0 1' 2' 4'

FROST MOTOR BANK
425 SOLEDAD
06/10/2016

MarmonMok
ARCHITECTURE