

## DESIGN COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, December 12, 2018 Mercer Island City Hall

DESIGN
COMMISSIONERS
Colin Brandt, Vice Chair
Richard Erwin, Chair
Anthony Perez
Hui Tian
Suzanne Zahr
Claire McPherson

**Tom Soeprono** 

PHONE: 206-275-7729 WEB: www.mercergov.org **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL** 

7:00 PM

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from November 14, 2018

#### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

#### Agenda Item #1: DSR18-017

Design review study session for a proposed exterior remodel of the McDonald's restaurant in Town Center.

Staff Contact: Nicole Gaudette, Senior Planner

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Planned Absences for Future Meetings Announcements & Communications Next Scheduled Meeting: Possibly January 9, 2019

#### **ADJOURN**



#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Colin Brandt called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM in the Council Chambers, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Vice Chair Colin Brandt, Commissioners Claire McPherson, Anthony Perez, Hui Tian and Suzanne Zahr were present. Chair Richard Erwin and Commissioner Tom Soeprono were absent.

#### STAFF PRESENT

Evan Maxim, Community Planning & Development (formerly Development Services Group) Director, Andrea Larson, Senior Administrative Assistant, Nicole Gaudette, Senior Planner, Robin Proebsting, Senior Planner, Hershel Rostov, Fire Marshal, Patrick Yamashita, City Engineer, and Bio Park, Assistant City Attorney were present.

#### **MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL**

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the September 29, 2018.

It was moved by McPherson; seconded by Perez to:

Approved the September 29, 2018 minutes as amended (clerical errors)

Passed 4-0-1, Commissioner Brandt abstained.

#### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

#### Agenda Item #1: Design Review DSR2018-004

Robin Proebsting, Senior Planner, provided a brief presentation for the second design review study session for a new office building (East Seattle Partners) in Town Center.

Scott Carr, the architect, gave a brief presentation on the proposed new office building and Ivonne Beckett, Landscape architect answered questions regarding the plans and landscaping.

The Commission review the proposal and answered the applicant's questions.

- Do the proposed exterior materials meet the intent of MICC 19.11.110- Materials and Color?
  The Commission stated that it should be considered to make sure there is enough of a tonal change
  from the brick to the concrete. Commissioner Perez cautioned against the powder coated garage door.
  Commissioner Brandt stated that to ensure that the concrete finish is a refined finish for the pedestrian
  experience.
- 2. Is the proposed extension of the second level over the sidewalk consistent with the code? The Commission stated that the material of the soffit should integrate more with the other materials of the building, that the overhang maintain at least 10' 9" overhang and that they would like to see some sort of articulation on the overhang.
- 3. Does the proposed streetscape design along SE 30<sup>th</sup> St meet the intent of MICC 19.11.120? The Commission agreed that the streetscape design does meet the intent of the code.
- 4. Do the proposed Minor Site Features meet the intent of MICC 19.11.120- Site Design? The Commission agreed that the Minor Site Features meet the intent of the code.

5. Does the proposed design of north wall meet the intent of MICC 19.11.100- Walls? The Commission agreed that the north wall meets the intent of the code.

Commissioner Zhar left at 8:30pm.

The Commission took a break until 8:35pm.

#### Agenda Item #2: Design Review DSR2018-018

Nicole Gaudette, Senior Planner, provided a brief presentation for the design review study session for a new mixed-use building at the "King" and Mud Bay properties in Town Center.

Sher Chan, Johnson Architects, gave a presentation on the proposed mixed-use building and answered questions regarding the proposal.

Clayton Roadwin, ???, gave a presentation on the landscaping and walking path on the through block connection.

- What is the Design Commission's vision for the Town Center?
   The Commission stated pedestrian scale and massing are very important to the character of the Town Center.
- 2. Is the height limit appropriately applied?

  Vice-Chair Brandt stated that the sloped roof height limit would not apply to this building design.
- 3. If the arborist recommends removal of the trees, and the trees are replanted according to the City's Streetscape Manual using City approved tree species, would the commission be ok with removal of existing street trees?
  The Commission stated that they are ok with the removal/ replacement of the trees and follow the Streetscape Manual.
- 4. Do the proposed setbacks meet the intent of the code?

  The Commission stated that they would need to see more diagrams to determine is the proposed setbacks meet the intent of the code.
- 5. Is the proposed approach to meeting the daylight plane standard acceptable? The Commission stated that they would need to see more diagrams to determine if the design meats the daylight plane. The Commission wants to be able to see that the mass is being brought down through use of the daylight plane or modulation. The Commission requests to see a shadow study in the next session.
- 6. What is an acceptable width for the walking path area per the Design Commissions understanding of a through block connection?
  The Commission would like to see if there is a way to add some sort of pocket in the pathway and agrees that it is a reasonable width for the walking path.
- 7. What type of decorative landmarks or kiosks or other site features should the applicant provide as minor or major site features?
  Seating areas in the south plaza. Consider opening the courtyard to the public. The Commission welcomes creative ideas and thinking outside of the box.

#### PLANNED ABSENCES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Evan Maxim, CPD Director, provided a Directors report on a few more Town Center projects that maybe coming.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

The next Design Commission meeting is on December 12, 2018 at 7:00PM.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 11:09pm





# CITY OF MERCER ISLAND DESIGN COMMISSION STUDY SESSION STAFF REPORT EXTERIOR REMODEL

Agenda Item: 1 December 12, 2018

Project: McDonald's Corporation Remodel (DSR18-017)

Description: A Design Commission study session to review an exterior remodel for an

existing McDonald's restaurant in the Town Center.

Applicant: Matt Grinnell (Freiheit Architecture)

Site Addresses: 2807 78<sup>th</sup> Ave SE; Identified by King County Tax Parcel # 531510-1305

Zoning District: Town Center -4 (TC-4)

Exhibits: 1. Color Elevations by Freiheit Architecture, dated received on November 8,

2018

2. Site Plan, Demo, and Elevation drawings, dated received on November

8, 2018

3. Examples of Post Construction, dated received on November 8, 2018

4. Applicant Questions, dated received on November 8, 2018

#### 1. SUMMARY

The applicant is participating in a Design Commission study session to review a proposed exterior remodel for an existing building located in the Town Center - 4 (TC-4) zone. The site currently contains one restaurant with a surface parking lot and a drive through. Pursuant to MICC 19.15.220(C)(1)(c)(i)((c)), any alterations to an existing building that will result in a change of 50 percent, or more, of the exterior surface area must be reviewed by the design commission. Pursuant to MICC 19.15.220(C)(2)(a) all projects reviewed by the design commission must undergo a study. The study session provides an opportunity to obtain feedback from the design commission early in the design review process.

As the project progresses through the application process, an open record public hearing will be scheduled in front of the Design Commission pursuant to Mercer Island City Code (MICC) 19.15.030 Table B. When the applicant formally comes before the Design Commission, the project must meet the criteria listed in MICC Section 19.11, Town Center Development and Design Standards.

#### 2. STAFF ANALYSIS AND CRITERIA FOR REVIEW

Pursuant to MICC 19.15.220(C)(1)((c)), any alterations to an existing building that will result in a change of 50 percent, or more, of the exterior surface area must be reviewed by the design commission. MICC 19.15.220(C)(2)(a) requires any project that requires design commission approval to go before the design commission with a study session prior to application "to discuss project concepts before the plans are fully developed." Using the preliminary information provided to the City by the applicant, planning staff conducted an initial cursory review of the project.

The applicant has submitted a list of questions. The questions have been provided as Exhibit 4. The applicant would also appreciate general feedback on the proposed design.

The questions are in bold type below. Staff has added to and expanded upon the applicant's questions to address the applicant's concerns.

1. Are the materials and colors proposed in compliance with Mercer Island's design guidelines? Is the accent painted corrugated metal parapet band okay?

#### Staff Analysis

MICC 19.11.110 states the following about materials and colors:

#### MICC 19.11.110(A)

Objectives. Textured high quality materials and colors should bring a visually interesting experience into the streetscape. Color should be carefully considered in relation to the overall design of the building and surrounding buildings. Color and materials should highlight architectural elements such as doors, windows, fascias, cornices, lintels, and sills. Variations in materials and colors should be generally limited to what is required for contrast or to accentuate architectural features. Piecemeal embellishment and frequent changes in materials should be avoided. The materials and colors selected should be consistent with the intent, purpose and vision set forth in MICC 19.11.010.

#### MICC 19.11.110(B)

- 1. Building Exteriors. Building exteriors should be constructed from high quality and durable materials. It is important that the materials and colors weather well and that building exteriors need minimal maintenance.
- 2. Regional Focus. Materials and colors should reflect the city's regional setting.
- 3. Attention to All Sides. Materials and colors should be used with cohesiveness and compatibility on all sides of a building.
- 4. Concrete Walls. Concrete walls should be architecturally treated. The treatment may include textured concrete such as exposed aggregate, sand blasting, stamping or color coating.
- 5. Harmonious Range of Colors. A harmonious range of colors should be used within the Town Center. Neon or very bright colors, which have the effect of unreasonably setting the building apart from other adjacent buildings on the street, should not be used.
- 6. Bright Colors. Bright colors should be used only for trim and accents if the use is consistent with the building design and other design requirements.
- 7. Undesired Materials. Beveled metal siding, mirrored glass, and vinyl siding should not be used. EIFS, stucco and similar materials should be limited to use as a minor building facade element.
- 8. Variation of Materials. A variation of building materials should be used to assist in the creation of a visually interesting experience.

As shown on Exhibit 1, the cement lap siding, tile, and brick meet appear to meet the standards. Clarification is needed in regards to the aluminum trellis, metal fascia, and corrugated metal parapet meet the standards. Standard #7 above does states that beveled metal siding is an undesired material and should be limited to use as a minor building element. Does this apply to all metal materials? If so, the trellis, fascia, and parapet are minor building façade elements and may be composed of metal materials. Does the design commission agree?

The colors appear to meet the standards (Exhibit 1).

Please see Exhibit 1 for material and color details. Examples of materials and colors are also found in Exhibit 3

#### 2. Is the proposed signage in compliance with Mercer Island's design guidelines?

#### Staff Analysis

#### Wall Signage

Pursuant to MICC 19.11.140(B)(2)(a), "A wall sign shall be granted to commercial uses occupying buildings facing the streets and are limited to one sign per business on each street frontage...."

A wall sign is allowed on the west elevation because it faces a street. The south elevation does not face a street, so a wall sign is not allowed on that elevation. (Exhibit 1)

#### Projecting Sign

Pursuant to MICC 19.11.140(B)(3), projecting signs are allowed if they meet the sidewalk clearance standard, the size standard, and the standard for maximum projection from the building. This code section also allows the design commission to reduce the size of awning signs on awnings to assure the awning is in scale with the structure. This insinuates that projecting signs come in forms other than blade or marquee signs.

Awnings that contain graphics used as signage are considered to be projecting signs pursuant to MICC 19.11.140(B)(3)(d). This code section insinuates that projecting signs come in forms other than blade or marquee signs. Are signs attached to canopies also projecting signs? If so, is the proposed "welcome" sign attached to the canopy above the main entrance to the building on the south elevation (Exhibit 1) a projecting sign?

#### Menu Boards

MICC 19.11.140(B)(5) states that "Signs within parking lots should be limited to those necessary for safety, identification and direction." The code does not provide any further guidance specifically for drive through menu boards. One could look to the objective section of the sign regulations, located in MICC 19.11.140(a) which states:

A. Objectives. Signs shall be distinctive, finely crafted and designed to enhance the aesthetics of the Town Center and to improve pedestrian and motorist safety. Signs shall be designed for the purpose of identifying the business in an attractive and functional manner and to help customers find the specific business locations; they should not serve as general

advertising. The size of signs shall be in proportion to the size of business store frontage. Signs shall be integrated into the building design, compatible with their surroundings and clearly inform pedestrians and motorists of business names, but should not detract from the architectural quality of individual buildings.

The applicant has provided the following information about the proposed menu boards:

- They are in the drive through and away from street view
- The gateway sign is a structure and sign that directs customers to the drive through. It is also a safety item that prevents cars that are too large from entering the drive through.
- The canopy is where the customer places their order. It also protects the driver as they roll down their window in case of heavy rain.

Please see Exhibit 1 for wall and projecting sign locations. Please see Exhibit 2 for locations of menu boards. Please see Exhibit 3 for examples of the canopy and menu boards that are proposed for the site.

#### 3. Are the proposed canopies in compliance with Mercer Island's design guidelines?

#### Staff Analysis

The applicant is providing two canopies; one above the entrance door on the south elevation, and one above the menu board in the drive through. MICC 19.11.100(B)(13) provides four standards that apply to the proposed canopies. The standards are:

- c. Architectural details should not be concealed by awnings or canopies.
- d. Awning shapes should relate to the shape of the façade's architectural elements. The use of traditionally shaped awnings is encouraged.
- e. Vinyl or plastic awnings or canopies are prohibited.
- f. All awnings or canopies shall function to protect pedestrians from rain and other weather conditions.

Architectural details would not be concealed by the canopies. Both canopies will relate to the shape of the facades' architectural elements. All the proposed canopies will be constructed of metal. The canopy at the main entrance will protect pedestrians from the rain. The canopy at the menu board will protect drivers from the rain. These standards appear to be met.

Please see Exhibit 3 for examples of the canopies that are proposed for the site.

### 4. Is the amount of fenestration proposed in compliance with Mercer Island's design guidelines?

#### Staff Analysis

MICC 19.11.100(B)(1) provides one code section that applies to the project in regards to fenestration. This code section, 19.11.100(B)(1)(a), states:

a. Transparent Facades. Articulated, transparent facades should be created along pedestrian rights-of-way. Highly tinted or mirrored glass windows shall not be allowed. Shades, blinds or

screens that prevent pedestrian view into building spaces shall not be allowed, except where required or desired for privacy in dwelling units, hotel rooms and similar residential uses.

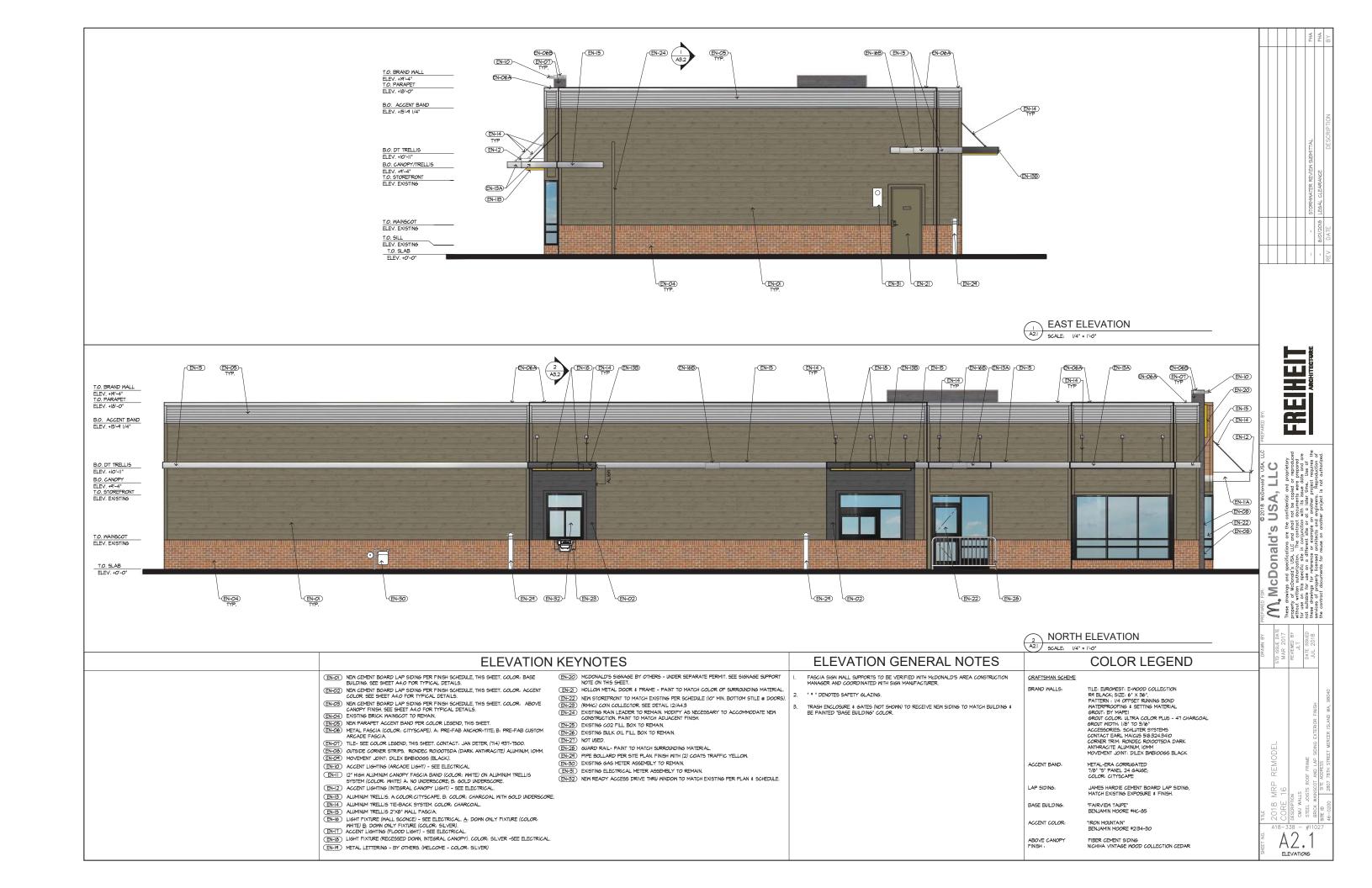
The property spans between two rights of way; 77<sup>th</sup> Ave SE and 78th Ave SE. However, due to the setback from the 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and an enclosed service area between 78<sup>th</sup> Ave and the building, the east elevation is barely visible from 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Also, additional fenestration is not required for remodels of existing buildings. Fenestration is provided on the west elevation of the building facing 77<sup>th</sup> Avenue. If the new windows are not highly tinted or mirrored, and shades, blinds or screens that would prevent pedestrian view into the buildings are not used, the fenestration requirements appear to be met.

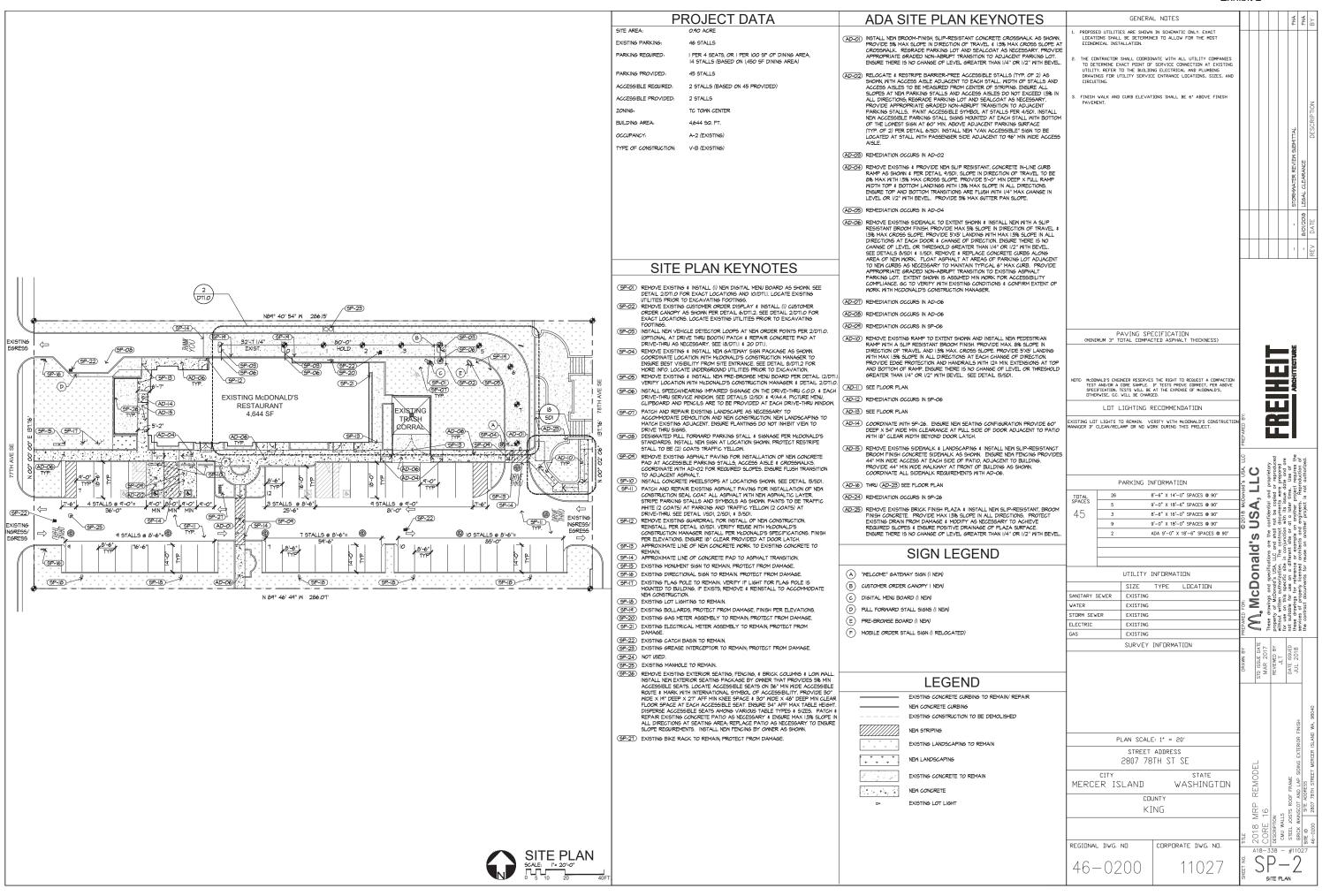
The applicant appreciates any input the Design Commission is willing to share in addition to the specific topics above.

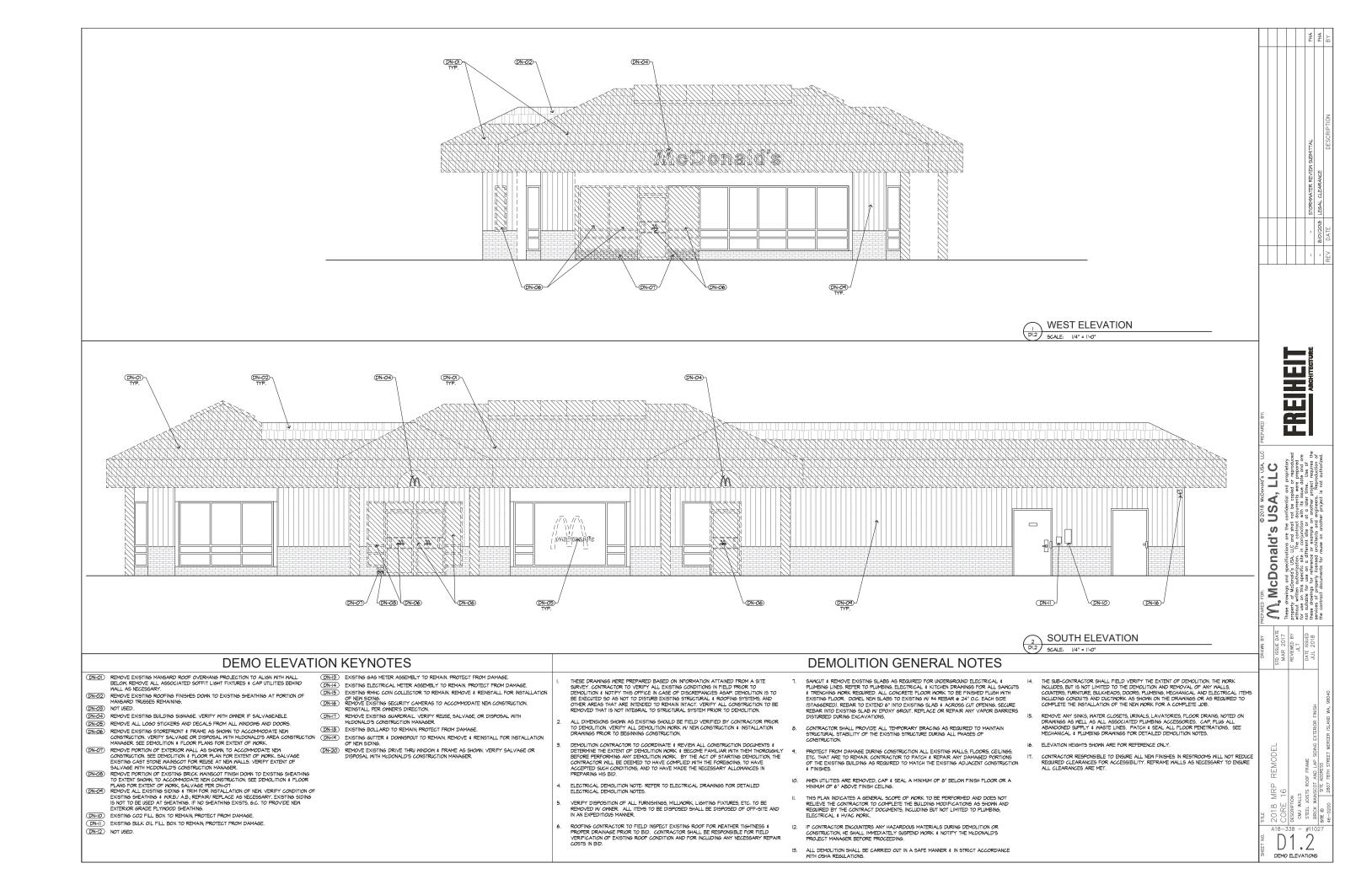
#### III. RECOMMENDATION

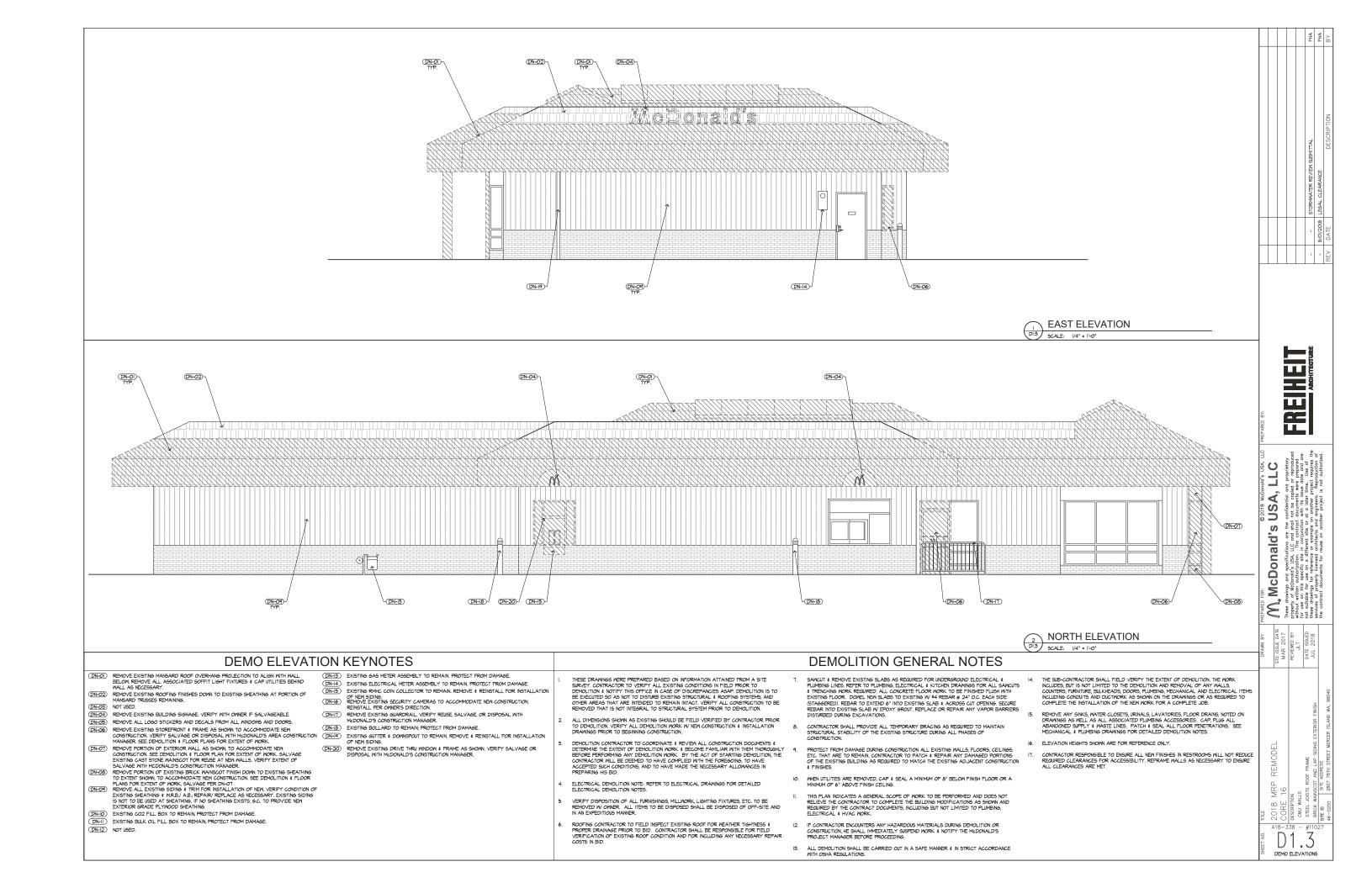
There is no recommended motion at this time, as this is a Design Commission study session.

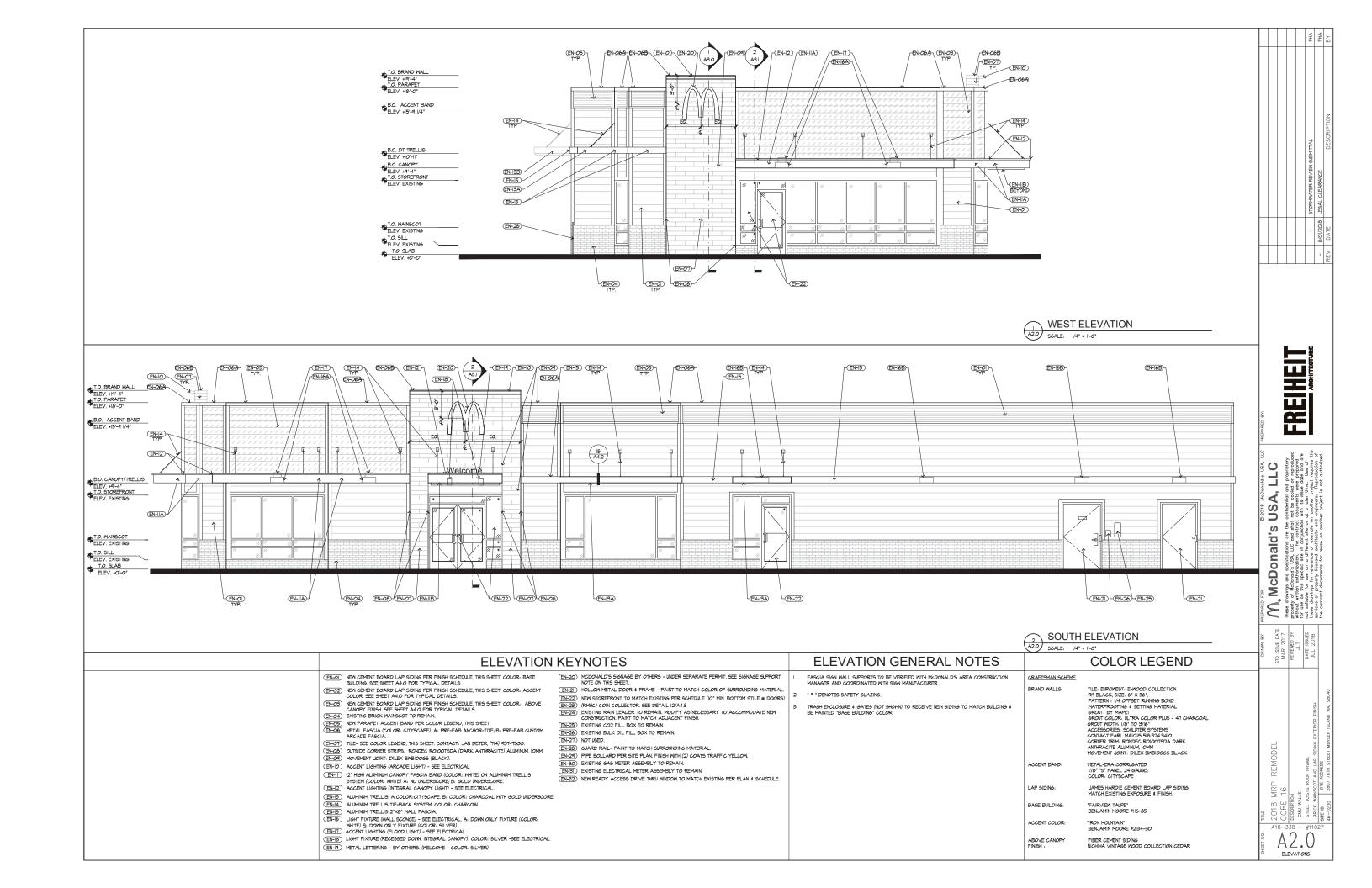


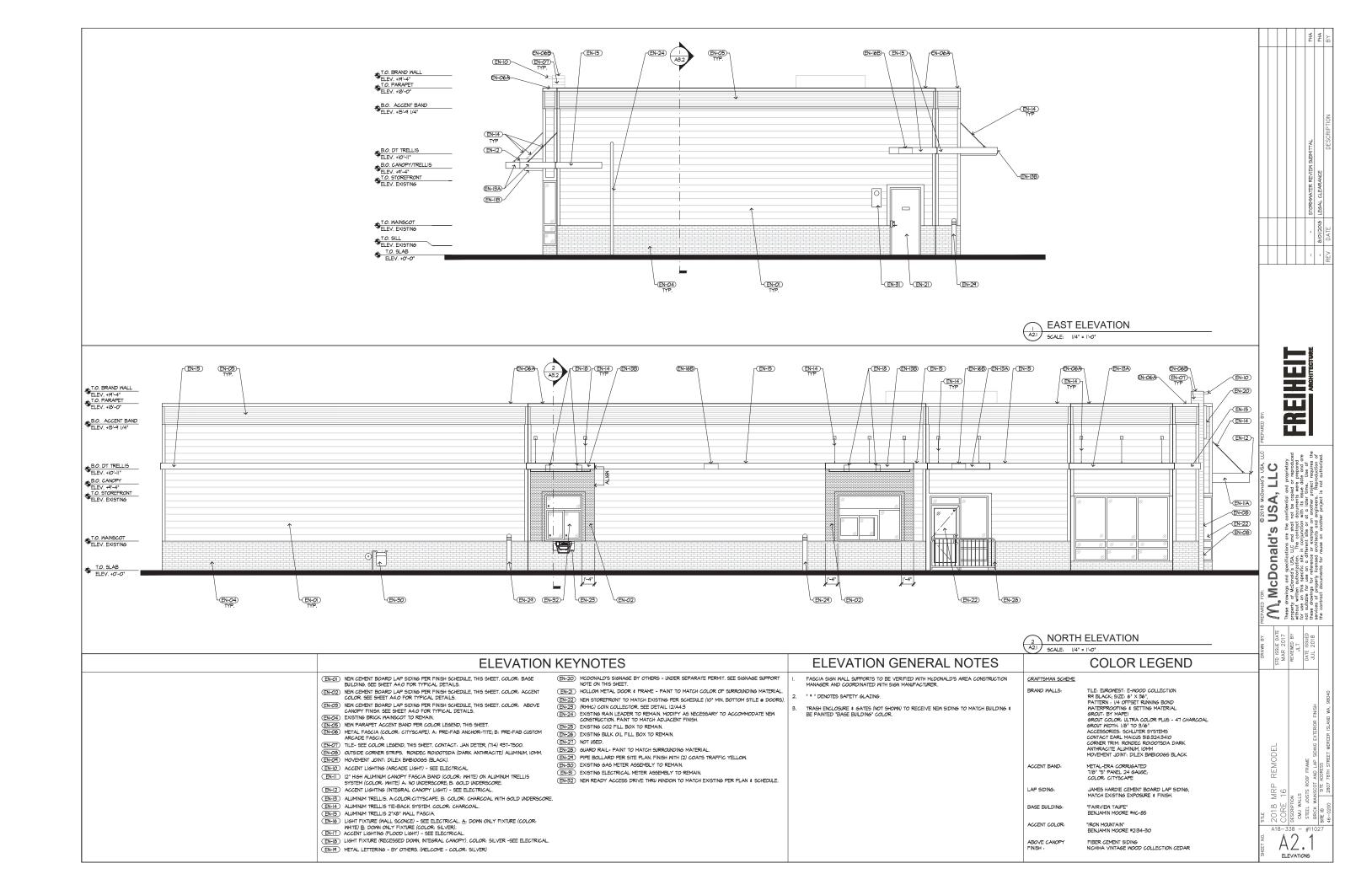






























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#### **Questions for Design Review**

- Are any of the materials we are using on the building against Mercer Island's design guidelines?
  - o Is the accent painted corrugated metal parapet band okay?
- Is the color scheme preferable?
- We revised the amount of wall signage per the pre-application's meeting's direction. Does the amount we are currently showing acceptable?
- Is the amount of glazing on the building preferable?
- We are showing a gateway, pre-browse digital menu board, order canopy and digital menu board in the drive thru. Are there any restrictions regarding these structures and menu boards? Are these to be included on the sign permit or would they be a separate sign or building permits.
  - It appears that the sign code does not directly address the menu boards.
     They occasionally change menu information at a sedate rate. They are in the drive thru and away from street view.
  - The gateway sign is a structure and sign that directs customers to the drive thru. It is also a safety item that prevents cars that are too large from entering the drive thru. (See parking lot signs safety, identification & direction)
  - The canopy is where the customer places their order. It also protects the driver as they roll down their window in case of heavy rain.