

HD-002-2025

Here is the evaluation of City Council Agenda Item **HD-002-2025** for alignment with the *Viva Laredo City of Laredo Comprehensive Plan*:

1. Level of Alignment

☒ **Weak/None** – Lacks identifiable alignment or conflicts with existing verbatim goals or policies.

2. Supporting Goal(s)/Policy(ies)

Policy 2.2.1 (Page 2.48)

“Maintain and enforce high standards for historic preservation.”

Source: *Viva Laredo City of Laredo Comprehensive Plan*.

Relevance:

The installation of roll up security metal doors on the front façade of a building within the **Old Mercado Historic District** directly contradicts preservation standards that emphasize retaining and preserving original storefront features.

Goal 2.3 (Page 2.48)

“Preserve the architectural and cultural character of Laredo’s Historic Districts.”

Source: *Viva Laredo City of Laredo Comprehensive Plan*.

Relevance:

The proposed exterior alterations obscure and potentially damage historic architectural features. As noted in staff analysis, the storefront defines the historic character and should not be altered or obscured. The addition of roll up security metal doors conflicts with this goal.

Policy 2.3.3 (Page 2.48)

“Require context-sensitive design that reinforces historic character in revitalization efforts.”

Source: *Viva Laredo City of Laredo Comprehensive Plan*.

Relevance:

Roll up security metal doors, as proposed, do not represent a context-sensitive design. The Historic Urban Design Guidelines and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation explicitly discourage such alterations, suggesting interior alternatives or less visually disruptive security features.

3. Summary of Alignment

The agenda item proposes alterations to the front façade of a contributing historic structure by adding three roll up metal security doors. Staff and design guidelines cite this action as inappropriate, emphasizing it conceals or potentially damages original architectural elements and detracts from the building's historic integrity.

Given that the proposal:

- Conflicts with the goals of preserving architectural character,
- Fails to align with established preservation and rehabilitation standards,
- Undermines historic district revitalization efforts,

...the item **does not support** relevant goals or policies of the *Viva Laredo Comprehensive Plan* and may be considered contrary to them.

Thus, the level of alignment is assessed as **Weak/None**.

4. Additional Requirements

- All quotes are taken verbatim from the *Viva Laredo City of Laredo Comprehensive Plan*.
 - The proposed project contradicts the city's preservation vision and formal policy direction as established in adopted design standards and guidelines.
 - No elements of the proposed change demonstrate support for the plan's broader themes such as sustainability, heritage preservation, or equitable revitalization.
-

Please let me know if you'd like a formatted version for memo, presentation, or council briefing.