

North Beach

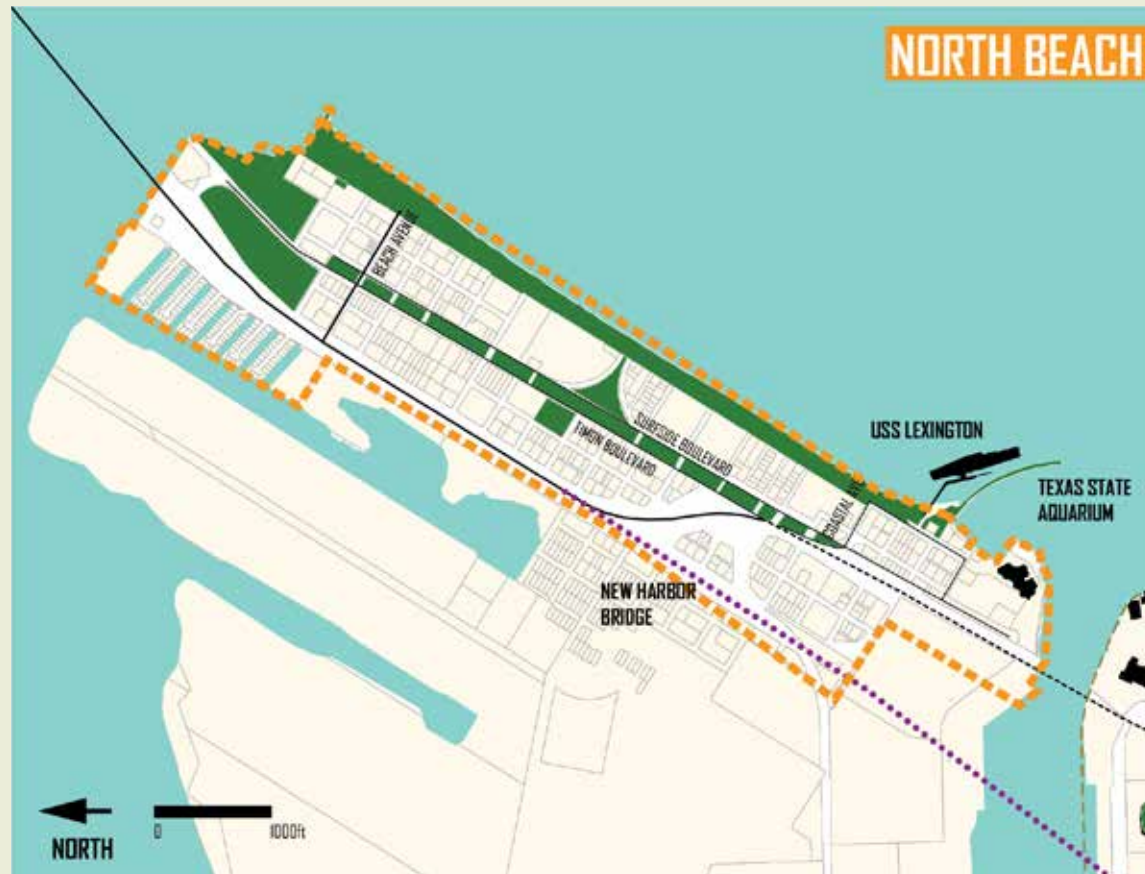
IDENTITY

“Beach and attractions”

KEY THEMES

- > Easy access to spectacular beachfront
- > Exciting opportunities to explore nature and history
- > A unique dining, shopping, and hotel destination
- > A connected neighborhood community

North Beach is a tourist destination and beachfront residential community with a mixture of single family homes, condominiums, and hotels extending north from the Texas State Aquarium and USS Lexington along Corpus Christi Bay. Distinct from the SEA District and Marina Arts District, yet still connected to them by the Harbor Bridge, North Beach is a unique place in the City to experience long, uninterrupted expanses of sand, the distant horizon line of the Bay, the open sky, and the water’s edge. Recent renovations to waterfront hotels and restaurants, new single family residential construction to the north—with raised first floors and other flood prevention design elements—and projects such as the Aquarium expansion and improvements to North Shoreline Boulevard in front of the Lexington are changing the face of North Beach. **The biggest change will come through the relocation of the Harbor Bridge** which will transform the circulation patterns between North Beach and the Downtown area. Relocation of on/off ramps will free up land previously occupied by highway infrastructure that can be re-purposed or possibly redeveloped. Recognizing the previous planning efforts and extensive community input embedded in the North Beach Development Plan (2011) and the North Beach





Redevelopment Initiative (2017), strategic initiatives are recommended to promote continued connectivity and to **reinforce the identity of North Beach as a livable, inviting, “can’t-miss” local and regional destination.** Both North Beach Plans, available separately, should be used to help guide these initiatives.

LAND USE AND URBAN DESIGN

North Beach development along and off the waterfront is a reflection of the land’s proximity to the bay and vulnerability to flooding and storm events. Raised first floors, parking underneath, and other flood mitigation approaches are a common sight, and future development should carefully-follow City zoning, standards, and guidelines. Development opportunities exist in the northern area of North Beach near Beach Avenue, where recent single-family cottage development can expand further. Additional sites in the central and southern portions of the district will become available for potential development when the current Harbor Bridge infrastructure is removed. Opportunities here could include hotels, other tourism-related uses, and surface parking serving the beach and other visitor destinations. The DADP does not recom-



| DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM NORTH BEACH | |
|--|--|
| Building Type/Density | Multifamily residential units and hotels with surface parking (some below buildings) |
| Typical Height Range | 2-5 stories |
| Range of Development Quantity (in SF) | 1,860,000 sf |
| Unit Counts | 1,000-1,500 residential units |



Native coastal plantings in the median of Timon and Surfside Boulevard can help to create a new “North Beach Boulevard” with other pedestrian and bike improvements.

mend future development in sensitive lands west of the Harbor Bridge along the interior canal in order to encourage natural landscape and water retention areas, and to focus any development in areas with existing structures and infrastructure. Portions of that infrastructure have been upgraded, and additional improvements will be needed to accommodate growth.

TRANSPORTATION, STREETS, AND PUBLIC REALM

First among these will be the creation of a welcoming **Beach Avenue gateway** at the new point of entry to North Beach off the Harbor Bridge. Beach Avenue should be improved with new pathways, destination signage, plantings,

and lighting to ensure a bold and recognizable entrance point. Sculptural elements that reflect the Texas State Aquarium and Lexington could also be located here within the median of Timon and Surfside Boulevard for wayfinding. **A new “North Beach Boulevard”** should also be created, through the redesign of existing Timon and Surfside Boulevards with street upgrades, a new wide multi-purpose path for pedestrians and bicyclists (as part of the larger city-wide pedestrian and bicycle trail network), and planting the center median with a rich palette of native, coastal plant species. The Harbor Bridge recreational trail can tie into this greenway at Gulf-spray Avenue. A ferry or similar service should be established to connect North Beach to the SEA District and downtown marina. Pedestrian

improvements are planned along North Shoreline Boulevard to link the existing North Beach Beachwalk to the ferry dock, USS Lexington, Texas State Aquarium and other visitor destinations. This in turn will link to the Beach Avenue improvements, extending to new wetlands, bird watching park, and beach access in the northern portion of North Beach and to the recreation trail along the new Harbor Bridge. As funding allows, public transit bus service from North Beach to Downtown and other employment centers should be maintained and upgraded as part of the Harbor Bridge construction.



EXISTING
 A new “Beach Avenue Gateway” would welcome visitors from the proposed Harbor Bridge on/off ramp and provide an exciting orientation point as well as a recreational link to the beach.



POTENTIAL
 Additional North Beach gateway sign
 Multi-use path to beach and bridge
 Signage and landscaping introducing visitor destinations