



Application for Urban Design Committee Review

Department of Planning and Development Review

900 E. Broad Street, Room 510

Richmond, Virginia 23219 | (804) 646-6335

<https://www.rva.gov/planning-development-review/urban-design-committee>



Application Type (select one)

Location, Character, & Extent

Section 17.05

Other:

Encroachment

Design Overlay District

Review Type (select one)

Conceptual

Final

Project Information

Submission Date: 3/14/2024

Project Name: James River Branch Trail

Project Address: From Westover Hills Boulevard to Hopkins Road

Brief Project Description (this is not a replacement for the required detailed narrative):

The James River Branch Trail project will construct an approx. 2-mile long, 10-ft wide paved multi-use trail, which will connect local neighborhoods, schools, and businesses. The trail is proposed in an old CSX railway bed spanning from Westover Hills Boulevard to Hopkins Road.

Applicant Information (a City representative must be the applicant, with an exception for encroachments)

Name: Adel Edward

Email: Adel.Edward@rva.gov

City Agency: Department of Public Works

Phone: 804-332-4117

Main Contact (if different from Applicant): Alix Warren

Company: Whitman, Requardt, and Associates

Phone: 804-327-5213

Email: awarren@wrallp.com

Submittal Deadlines

All applications and support materials must be filed no later than 21 days prior to the scheduled meeting of the Urban Design Committee (UDC). Please see the schedule on page 3 as actual deadlines are adjusted due to City holidays. **Late or incomplete submissions will be deferred to the next meeting.**

Application

It is important that the applicant discuss the proposal with appropriate City agencies, Zoning Administration staff, and area civic associations and residents prior to filing the application with the UDC. Applications should be emailed to the Urban Design Committee Secretary, Ray Roakes, at Raymond.roakes@rva.gov.

Background

The UDC is an 11 member committee created by City Council in 1968 whose purpose is to advise the City Planning Commission (CPC) on the design of projects on City property or right-of-way. The UDC provides advice of an aesthetic nature in connection with the performance of the duties of the Commission under Sections 17.05, 17.06, and 17.07 of the City Charter. The UDC also advises the Department of Public Works in regards to private encroachments in the public right-of-way.

last revised 01/04/2024



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Submission Requirements

- An electronic copy (PDF) of all application materials, which can be emailed, or delivered by FTP or USB.
- Plan sheets should be electronically scaled to be 11" x 17" if printed.
- All applications must include the attached application form and the support materials listed below, as applicable to the project, based on Review Type.

It is strongly recommended to request the Zoning Administration to review a project's compliance with the City Zoning Code prior to application to the UDC.

Conceptual Review:

- A detailed project narrative which includes the following: project purpose, background, and context, details of community outreach and copies of distributed materials if applicable, project budget and funding sources, description of construction program and estimated construction start date.
- A site plan for the project indicating site characteristics which include: building footprints, parking areas, pedestrian routes, recreation areas, open areas, and areas of future expansion.
- A set of floor plans and elevations, as detailed as possible. Precedent images if applicable.
- A landscaping plan which shows the general location and character of plant materials and notes any existing tree to be removed.

Final Review:

- A detailed project narrative which includes the following: project purpose, background, and context, details of community outreach and copies of distributed materials if applicable, project budget and funding sources, description of construction program, and estimated construction start date.
- A site plan for the project indicating site characteristics which include: building footprints, parking areas, pedestrian routes, recreation areas, open areas, and areas of future expansion.
- A set of floor plans and elevations, as detailed as possible. Elevations should show directly adjacent development.
- A landscaping plan that includes a complete plant schedule, the precise location of all plant materials, and a landscape maintenance analysis. The plant schedule must show number, size and type of each planting proposed. If existing trees are to be removed, their size, type, and location must be noted on the landscape plan.
- The location of all lighting units should be noted on a site plan, including wall-mounted, site, and parking lot lighting. Other site details such as benches, trash containers, and special paving materials should also be located. Include specification sheets for each item.
- Samples of all proposed exterior building materials, including but not limited to brick, mortar, shingles, siding, glass, paint, and stain colors. When an actual sample cannot be provided, a product information sheet that shows the item or a photo of an existing item may be substituted.

Review and Processing

- Once an application is received, it is reviewed by Staff, who compiles a report that is sent to the UDC.
- A copy of the report and the meeting agenda will be sent to the applicant prior to the meeting.
- At the UDC meeting, the applicant or a representative should be present or the application may be deferred to the next regularly scheduled meeting. It is also strongly suggested that a representative of the City Agency which will have final responsibility for the item be present.
- Once the UDC recommends action on the application, it is automatically placed on the agenda for the next City Planning Commission (CPC) meeting. Exceptions to this are encroachment applications, recommendations for which are forwarded to the Department of Public Works.
- At the Planning Commission meeting, the applicant or a representative should be present, or the application may be deferred to the next regularly scheduled meeting.



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Regular meetings are scheduled on the Thursday after the first Monday of each month at **10:00 a.m. in the 5th floor conference room of City Hall, 900 E. Broad Street**. Special meetings are scheduled as needed.

Meeting Schedule 2024

UDC Meetings	UDC Submission Deadlines	Anticipated Date of Planning Commission Following the UDC Meeting
January 4, 2024	December 14, 2023	January 16, 2024
February 8, 2024	January 18, 2024	February 20, 2024
March 7, 2024	February 15, 2024	March 19, 2024
April 4, 2024	March 14, 2024	April 16, 2024
May 9, 2024	April 18, 2024	May 21, 2024
June 6, 2024	May 16, 2024	June 18, 2024
July 11, 2024 ¹	June 13, 2024	July 16, 2024
August 8, 2024	July 18, 2024	August 20, 2024 ²
September 5, 2024	August 15, 2024	September 17, 2024
October 10, 2024	September 19, 2024	October 15, 2024 ²
November 7, 2024	October 17, 2024	November 19, 2024 ²
December 5, 2024	November 14, 2024	December 17, 2024 ²

¹Thursday July 4, 2024 is a City of Richmond Holiday, the regularly scheduled UDC meeting was rescheduled for July 11, 2024.

²Dates may be canceled

The Richmond Urban Design Committee is an 11 member advisory committee created by City Council in 1968. Its purpose is to advise the City Planning Commission on the design of City projects. The Urban Design Committee reviews projects for appropriateness in "location, character, and extent" and for consistency with the City's Master Plan and forwards recommendations to the City Planning Commission. The Urban Design Committee also advises the Department of Public Works in regards to private encroachments in the public right-of-way.

For more information, please contact the Urban Design Committee Secretary, Ray Roakes, at (804) 646-6335 and raymond.roakes@rva.gov.