



RICHMOND CONNECTS

Briefing on Richmond Connects
Office of Equitable Transit and Mobility
LUHT 11.21.23



DEPARTMENT OF
**PUBLIC
WORKS**

Complete

Adopted by Council May 2022



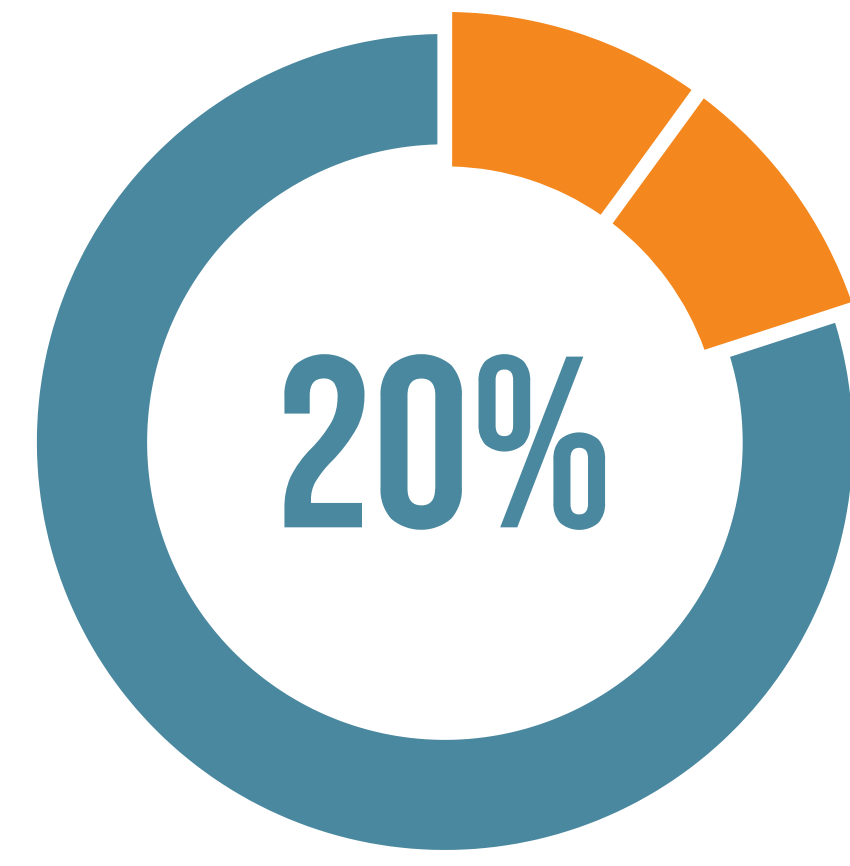
Near Completion

March 2022 - January 2024



Early Stages

February 2023 - Spring 2024



Multimodal Transportation Plan

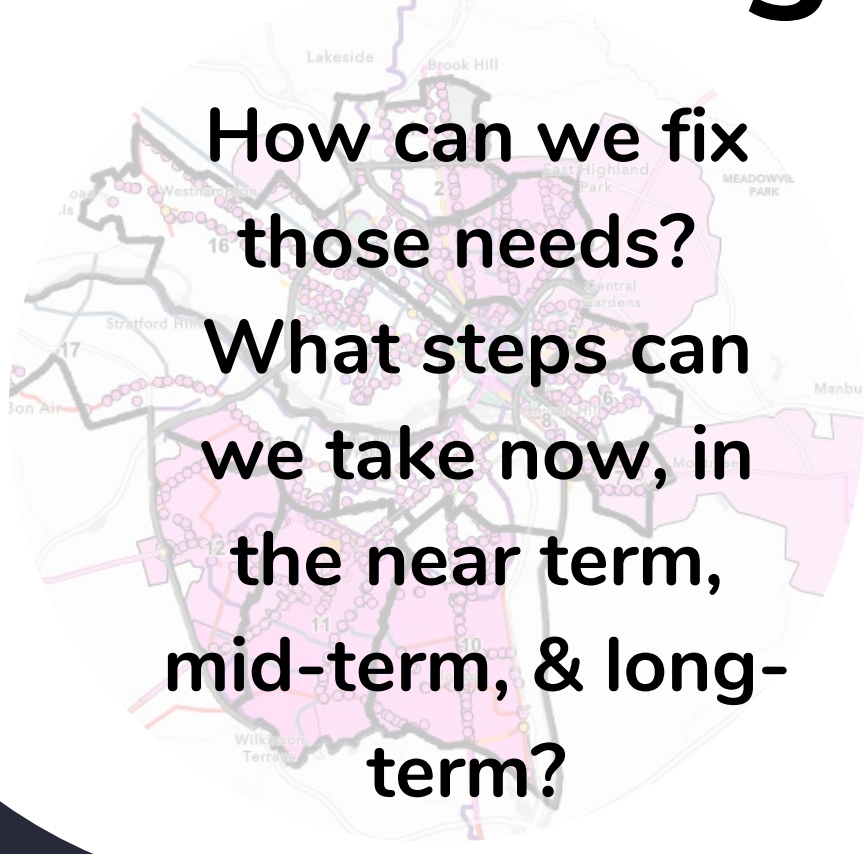


Action Plan Process: How did we get here?

What do we want transportation to do?



Needs



Implementation

How can we pay for these improvements and who will be responsible?

Policy

What is wrong or missing? What needs to be fixed to achieve stated policy?



Recommendations



Policy Emphasis from Prior Planning

Richmond 300 & RVAgreen2050

- Utilized existing **Vision** from Master Plan
- **Nodes, Great Streets, and High-Injury Street Network** emphasized in needs
- **R300** and **RVAgreen** Objectives used to create needs metrics
 - examples: completes street index in land-use metrics, 15 minute walk to green space in sustainability metrics.

Path to Equity & Equity Agenda

- Areas that experienced **past land use and transportation injustices** are prioritized
- Areas that experience **barriers to access** are prioritized
- Areas that have **high densities of communities of concern** are prioritized
 - *BIPOC, Low-income, Old age, Renters, Non-English primary language, At-risk youth, BIPOC renter, Limited mobility*

Community-Centered Outreach

Implementation

- Advisory Committee Recommendations Workshop
- August-September outreach to 'vote' on top recommendations
- Telephone town halls, pop up events, focus groups

Future:

- Project level outreach
- Program development outreach
- Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper design workshops
- City Council and CIP outreach

Needs

- Advisory Committee
- Neighborhood pop-ups & canvassing
- Focus groups
- Que Pasa, National Night Out, Jubilation in June
- Telephone Town Hall
- Online video & survey

Recommendations

YOU ARE HERE

- Tacos for Transportation
- Back to School Night
- Intercept Surveys
- Paid Community Liaisons
- Advisory Committee

Policy



8,591
Surveys

626 paper surveys



4% of Richmonders
took the survey

Phase 4 Engagement



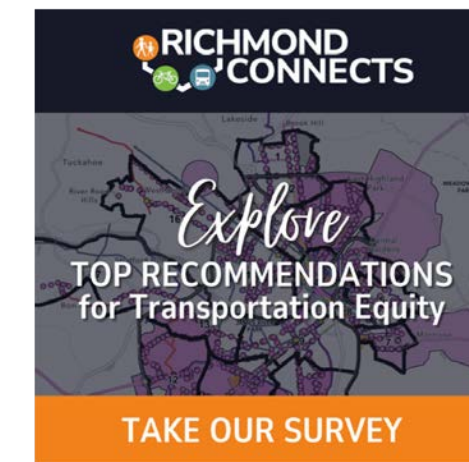
17 of 17
Areas Met 1%
Population Target
or More!!



OVER 20
Community events
and pop-ups in
targeted locations

ALL IN
Multimedia,
multi-prong
approach for
promotion

FaceBook Posts



Flyer



Utility Bill Insert



Community Events

- July 14th **Southwood Community Day**
- July 15th **Gilpin Resource Day**
- August 1st **National Night Out Southside and Highland Park**
- August 19th **Hillside Community Backpack Event**
- September 7th **Main Street Station Concert Series Event**
- September 8th **Peter Paul Block Party**
- September 9th **Mosby Community Day**

Spanish-speaking engagement:

- Southwood Community Day
- 3 Southside Laundromats
- Southside Goodwill

Pop-Ups in the Community

East-End:

- Market at 25th Street
- Corner store at Fairmount and Mechanicsville
- Community Market
- Door-to-door in Fairfield and Whitcomb

Southside:

- 7-Eleven at Walmsley and Broad Rock
- James Food Store
- Southside Plaza
- Rite-Aid at Hull and Richmond Hwy

George Wythe High School

Armstrong High School

In-Person Engagement



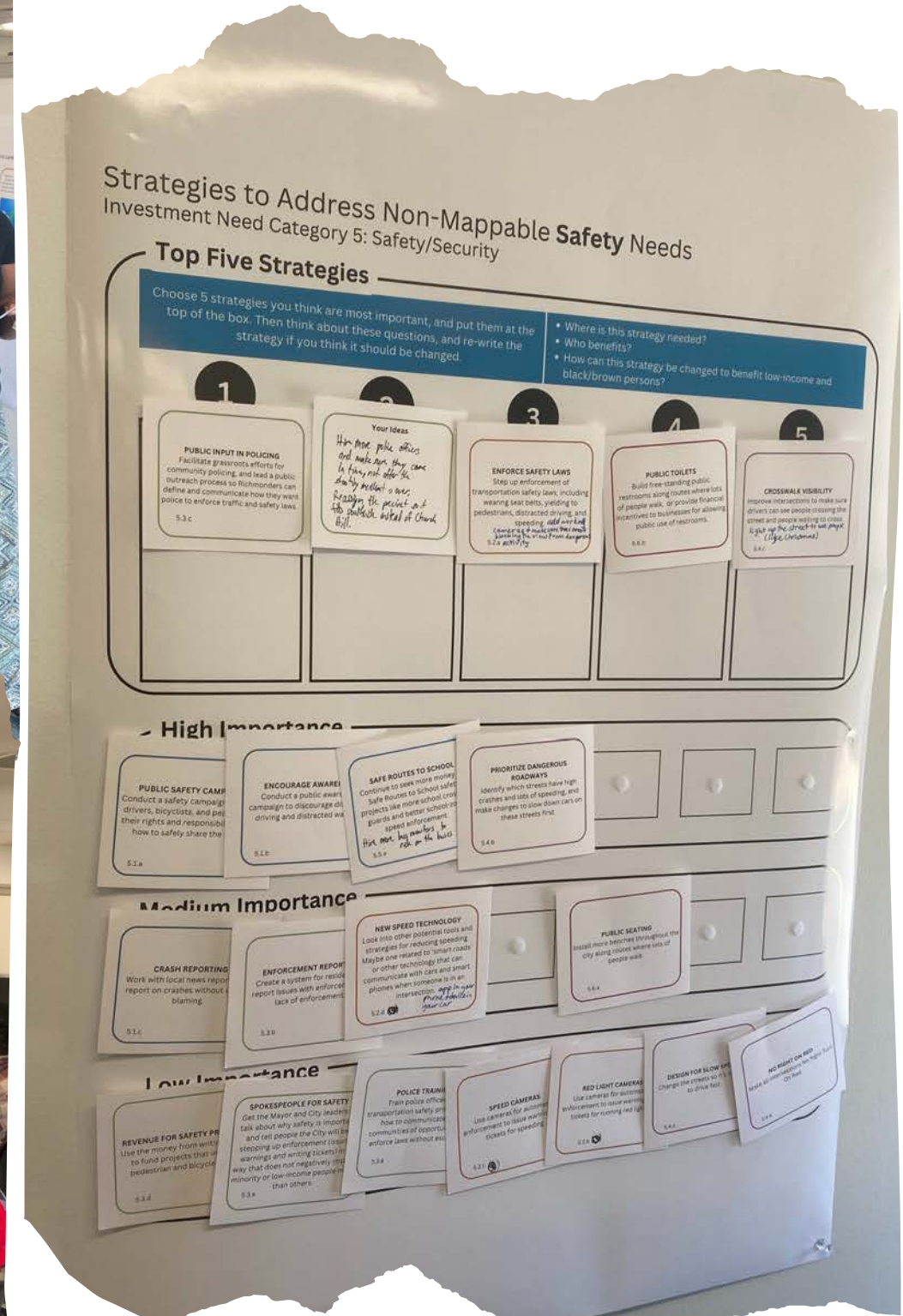
Action Plan Process: Picking the Priorities for Non-Mappable Recommendations

Focus Groups

- All - day in-person event
- Paid participation, targeting Communities of Opportunity
- 21 Participants, worked in two groups

Outcomes:

- Prioritized Non-Mappable Projects, Programs, and Strategies for all 11 Investment Need Categories
- Wealth of understanding on the pros and cons of each from the perspective of community members



Action Plan Process: Picking the Priorities



Needs

How can we fix those needs?
What steps can we take now?

Implementation

Policy

Recommendations

YOU ARE HERE

Action Plan Process: Picking the Priorities

1

**PRIORITIZE WHAT
THE PEOPLE NEED**

Identify first next steps for the recommendations that have the highest support from Communities of Concern and the general public.

2

**FINISH WHAT WE
STARTED**

Complete projects that have already been fully or partially funded.

3

**MOVE FORWARD WITH
WHAT WE CAN**

Identify projects that are ready and/or low-cost, and have at least a moderate level of public support.

Action Plan Process: Picking the Priorities

1

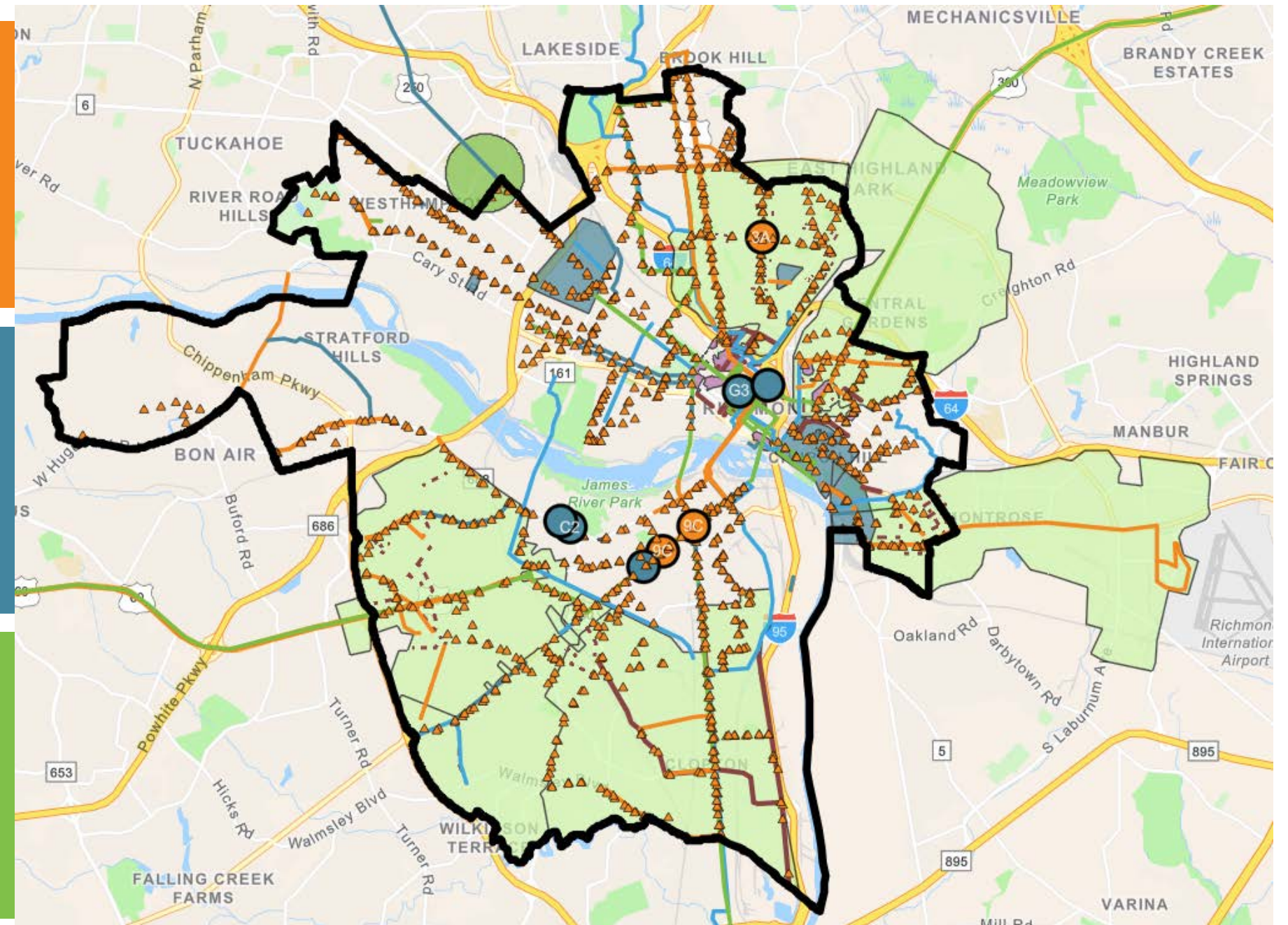
PRIORITIZE WHAT
THE PEOPLE NEED

2

FINISH WHAT WE
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3

MOVE FORWARD WITH
WHAT WE CAN



Action Plan: Whats in the Plan?



Rank	Project ID	Project Name	Cost	Support Score	Page Reference
1	4C	Richmond Connects Equity-Driven Sidewalks Projects	Very High (\$\$\$\$)	5.0	62
2	5B	Mosby Street/ Mechanicsville Turnpike Pedestrian Safety Improvements	Moderate (\$\$)	5.0	63
3	1C.3	Laburnum Avenue Safety Improvements	High (\$\$\$)	5.0	64
4	1C.1	Chamberlayne Avenue Pedestrian Safety Improvements	High (\$\$\$)	4.9	65
5	1C.2	Brook Road Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety Improvements	High (\$\$\$)	4.9	66
6	12C	Midlothian Turnpike Safety Improvements - German School Road to Carnation Street	Very High (\$\$\$\$)	4.9	67
7	10A.1	Bells Road Sidewalks	High (\$\$\$)	4.9	68
8	10A.2	Walmsley Boulevard Shared Use Path	Very High (\$\$\$\$)	4.9	69
9	10A.3	Terminal Boulevard Shared Use Path	High (\$\$\$)	4.9	70
10	3A	North Avenue Pedestrian Safety Improvements	Moderate (\$\$)	4.8	71

Rank	Project ID	Project Name	Cost	Support Score	Page Reference
10	15B	Clay Street Streetscape Improvements	n/a	3.4	110
11	14H.1	Franklin Street Cycle Track - Lombardy Street to Belvidere Street	n/a	3.2	111
12	14G	Allen Avenue Bike-Walk Street	n/a	3.0	113
13	14J	State Route 161 Bicycle Infrastructure	n/a	2.9	114
14	1I	Fall Line Trail	n/a	2.6	115
15	11H	Hull Street Shared Use Path - Arizona Drive to James River Branch Trail	n/a	2.6	116
16	3L	Rowen Avenue/ N 5th Street/ N 3rd Street Bike Lanes	n/a	2.5	117
17	11I	James River Branch Trail	n/a	2.5	118

Rank	Project ID	Project Name	Cost	Support Score	Page Reference
8	16E	Willow Lawn Park-and-Ride	Moderate (\$\$)	3.1	162
9	2E	Link: On-Demand Microtransit	Moderate (\$\$)	3.1	163
10	5E	Mechanicsville Turnpike Bus Route	Moderate (\$\$)	2.7	164
11	16B	York Road Sidewalks	Low (\$)	2.7	112

Project Tables and Maps!!

Info for each project in the appendix:

- Project ID
- Project Name
- Equity Need Description
- Immediate Next Steps
- Support Score
- Map where applicable

Action Plan: Whats in the Plan?




Programmatic & Policy Recommendations Tables

Info for each project in the appendix:

- Strategy Description
- Need Addressed & Inclusion Justification
- Who's Responsible - Primary
- Who's Responsible - Support
- First Next Steps
- LQC Options

HIGH PRIORITY STRATEGIES

Strategy Description	Need Addressed & Inclusion Justification	Who's Responsible - Primary	Who's Responsible - Support	First Next Steps	LQC
<p>Pedestrian Programmatic Recommendations</p>  <p>These strategies address the injustices created by car-centric planning (EF5) that historically overlooked the safety and security of pedestrians and favored higher speeds for cars. These strategies also address barriers to opportunity faced by communities with low pedestrian accessibility and poor safety outcomes today (EF6). Additionally, these programs promote walking and address climate equity (EF8) and resiliency (EF10) by reducing the dependency on pollution-creating fossil fuels and creating alternative routes during climate events. Many of these strategies combined with the mapped improvements will begin to redress the connectivity and accessibility issues created by urban renewal projects (EF3), by redlining (EF1), and by the dissection of neighborhoods by the interstate system (EF2)</p>					
<p>BETTER STREET LIGHTING: Install more night lighting on streets with lots of crashes so drivers can see people walking better, and replace street lights with LED bulbs and run them off solar power so they still work when the power goes out. Develop an equity-based process to figure out which areas have the most crashes, crimes, or beautification needs, and install more lighting with solar-powered LED bulbs in these areas first.</p>	<p>This was in the top 5 strategies identified by the community of opportunity focus groups. This addresses the publicly identified need for better lighting.</p>	<p>DPU, DPW</p>	<p>OETM, Mayor's Office & Council, Community Partners, Richmond Police Department</p>	<p>Convene a community meeting to discuss street lighting prioritization process and seek feedback on ways to make it more equitable. Seek additional dedicated CIP funding to implement street lighting projects using an equity-based, community-led prioritization process. Revise internal processes to include equity, climate justice, and crime risks in street lighting priorities. Support PDR in developing public realm standards to include requirements for pedestrian-level lighting per the Master Plan objective 4.4.</p>	<p>Yes; demo with movable construction lights, solar powered lights.</p>
<p>FIX BUS STOPS AND SIDEWALKS NEAR DISABLED COMMUNITIES: Identify disability 'hotspots' where lots of neighbors have physical disabilities, like near assisted living group homes or senior living, and fix the streets and sidewalks in these areas first, and make upgrades to make bus stops in these areas 100% ADA compliant.</p>	<p>This was in the top 5 strategies identified by the community of opportunity focus groups. This addresses the publicly identified problem that a lack of access is exasperated for disabled Richmonders.</p>	<p>DPW</p>	<p>Richmond's Office of Aging & Disabilities Services, Community Partners such as Senior Connections, Disability advocacy groups, OTHERS</p>	<p>Review and revise prioritization rubric used to determine maintenance and ADA upgrade priority, to include disability hotspots as a priority. Complete ADA audit for the entire city, or complete ADA audit for disability hotspots first (currently only complete for the downtown core and adjacent neighborhoods). Hire an ADA compliance position and allocate annual CIP funds dedicated to ADA compliance.</p>	<p>Yes, demo temporary/movable ADA ramps made of rubber.</p>
<p>NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR PEDESTRIANS WITH DISABILITIES: Research and install new technology for traffic signals and crosswalks to make it safer and easier for people who are blind or visually impaired to cross the street.</p>	<p>This was in the top 5 strategies identified by the community of opportunity focus groups. This addresses the publicly identified problem that a lack of access is exasperated for disabled Richmonders.</p>	<p>DPW, OETM</p>	<p>OIPI, VDOT</p>	<p>Hire an emerging technology coordinator. Research emerging technologies and test improvements via demonstration projects before large investments are made.</p>	<p>Yes, demo technologies in hotspots.</p>

Action Plan: Whats in the Plan?



Richmond Connects “Big Moves”

Rethink Essential Transit Infrastructure: Bus Stops Dignified as a PlaceMaking Opportunity

Act Quick: Responsive Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper projects to address safety NOW

Achieve Spatial Justice Through Transit: Transportation access is a Civil Right and all Richmonders deserve access

Close the Gaps: Address accessibility and affordability through recommended equity-centered programming and actions

Sidewalks, Sidewalks, Sidewalks: Restore and close gaps in the sidewalk network as a means of mending the fabric of social connectivity



RICHMOND CONNECTS

Action Plan Includes:

- TOP Recommendations for projects
- TOP Recommendations for strategies, policies, and programs
- A Vision Story

Strategic Plan Includes:

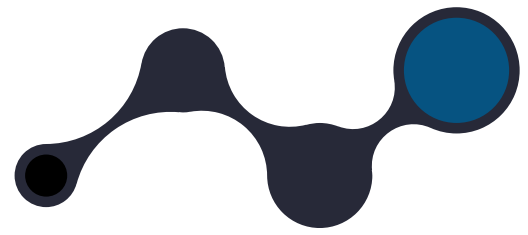
- ALL projects considered in the final survey
- One pagers on each project
- Full documentation of technical process and outreach

Next Steps:

Draft Action Plan Available Today at www.RVAconnects.com

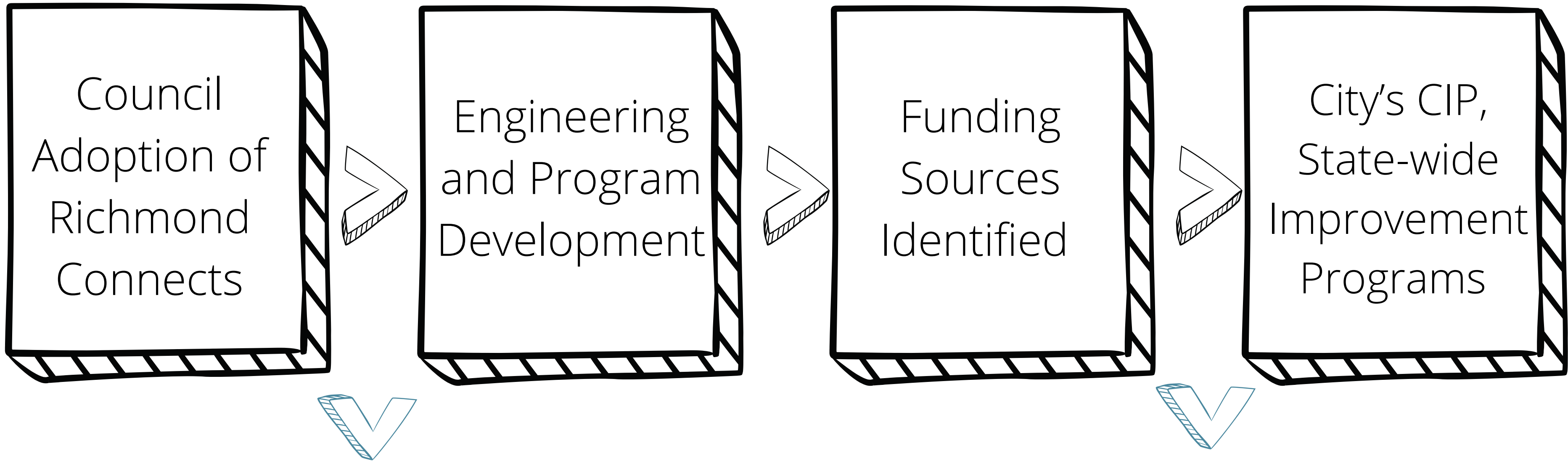
- **Public Review until December 5th**
- **Likely Requesting Adoption in January, amendment to the master plan**
 - **December - Present and Adopt, Planning Commission**
 - **January 8, 2024 – Introduce**
 - **January 16, 2023 – Land Use, Housing, and Transportation**
 - **January 22, 2024 - Adoption**





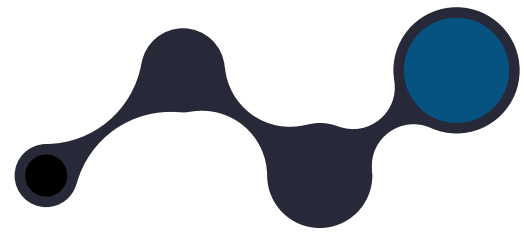
Future: Implementation

2024 +



Richmond Connects Action Plan feeds projects into CIP, SMARTSCALE and other funding programs.

Also provides guidelines for new programs and equity centered updates to existing programs.



Interim Solutions

Spring 2024 +

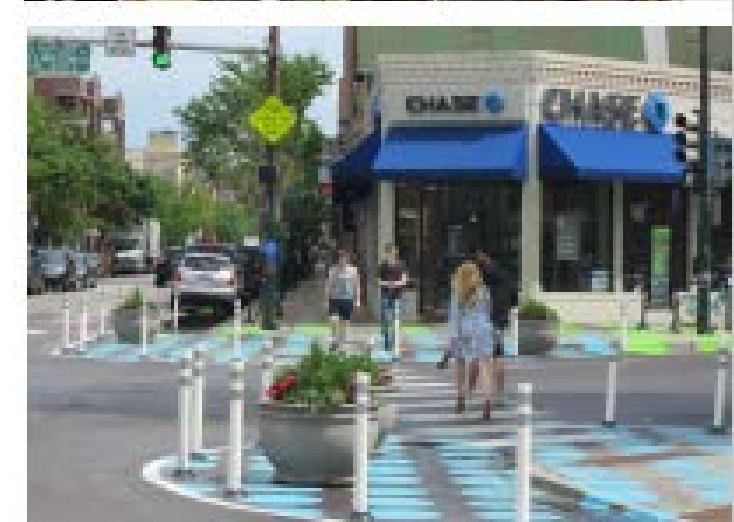
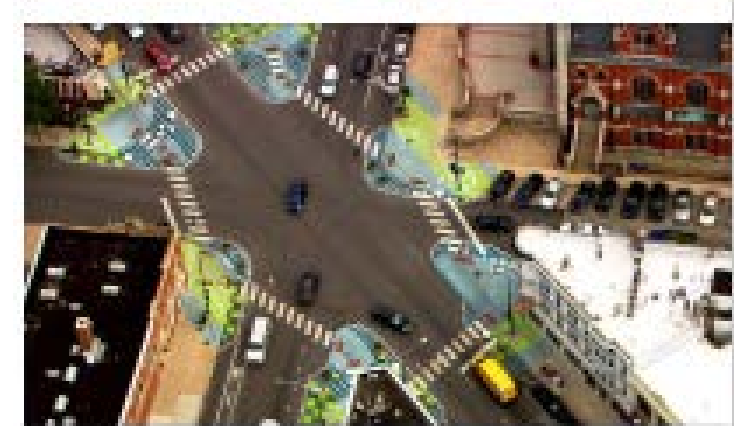
Temporary Traffic and Routing Solutions



Bus stops, Parking Lots, and Street Amenities



Public Art and Safety Culture Art



Lighter
Quicker
Cheaper



Thank you!

Kelli Nash Rowan, AICP

Office of Equitable Transit and Mobility

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**CITY OF
RICHMOND**