

From: Dan Motta
To: [PDR Land Use Admin](#)
Subject: Support for Bus Stop Platforms (UDC 2024-45)
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 4:40:49 PM

You don't often get email from danielcmotta@gmail.com. Learn why this is important
<<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>>

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Members of the Planning Commission,

I'm writing to voice strong support for bus stop platforms, which improve safety for bus riders and cyclists when paired with safe biking infrastructure. These platforms reduce conflicts by separating boarding areas from traffic, providing a safer experience for everyone.

Richmond has an opportunity to lead in adopting designs that foster sustainable and equitable transportation systems. Waiting on action or hesitating due to existing issues like aggressive driving only perpetuates an unsafe and unjust status quo. Let's be proactive in prioritizing safety and sustainability, showing that Richmond is ready to embrace smarter, forward-thinking street designs.

Thank you for considering this important step.

Best,

Dan Motta
1st District



Executive Director

Faith Walker
804-400-5853

Board Of Directors

Laura Schewel, **President**

Chaya Braxton, **Vice**

President

Nicolai Shuman, **Treasurer**

Thomas Ruff

Nelson Reveley

Sandra Serna

Brantley Tyndall

Dan Motta

Unwanna Dabney

Benjamin Campbell

2209 E. Grace Street,
Suite 20
Richmond, VA 23223
info@rvarapidtransit.org

February 4, 2025

City of Richmond Planning Commission
City Hall, 900 E Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Statement to the Richmond City Planning Commission

Delivered by Stephanie Power, Community Engagement & Programs Manager, RVA Rapid Transit

Good afternoon, members of the Planning Commission. My name is Stephanie Power, and I serve as Community Engagement & Programs Manager for RVA Rapid Transit. I am here today to voice strong support for installing a bus boarding platform at Brauers Lane & Mechanicsville Turnpike—a critical improvement for the safety and dignity of transit riders, pedestrians and the surrounding community.

For too long, bus riders (who are also pedestrians) at this location have been forced to wait in unsafe conditions, navigating unpredictable and high-speed traffic to cross the street. As someone who also commutes by bike, I know firsthand the dangers of navigating roads where infrastructure prioritizes cars over people. A bus boarding platform here would create a safe, level space for riders to board and exit the bus, comply with ADA requirements to ensure accessibility for those with mobility devices, reduce conflicts with traffic (for riders and also for bus drivers, who often get “boxed in” when pulling to the curb for pickup/drop-off, then merging back into a steady flow of traffic). We understand there is also the possibility to add, under the Richmond Connects’ plan, benches and shelter on the platform, which we absolutely support.

To maximize safety, we strongly recommend hardened centerlines to discourage vehicles from illegally passing stopped buses. Additionally, we support the city conducting community surveys post-installation to ensure this improvement effectively meets the needs of those who rely on it.

This is a long-overdue step in making Richmond’s streets safer and more equitable. We ask that the Planning Commission approve these plans that the Richmond Connects team has put much intention into, responding to the many voices of this very community who are concerned and have asked for such safety measures for this corridor. We encourage bus riders and advocates to speak up in favor of this necessary change.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued service to our City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steph Power'.

Stephanie Power
RVA Rapid Transit Community Engagement & Programs Manager





February 02, 2025

Chairman Rodney Poole
Richmond Planning Commission
900 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Chairman Poole,

We are writing in support of efforts to install platform bus stops at Mechanicsville Turnpike and Brauers Lane.

Investing in accessible, reliable alternatives to car-centric transportation plays a key role in increasing the supply of housing. Cars, and the infrastructure to support them, such as driveways and parking lots, take up lots of space and are expensive. When we have to build this infrastructure just to build a home for someone to live in, you reduce the amount of homes you can build and make them more expensive than they have to be. By making it easier for people to get around without needing to drive, you can increase the amount of homes that are possible to build in a neighborhood, and you build homes at a lower price.

Richmond took a big step in this direction by eliminating the requirement to build parking spots in developments, and we think this project compliments that change. Because of this, we view improvements to Richmond's public transportation system as vital to easing the city's housing crisis and providing homes for all Richmonders.

Thank you for pursuing this project, and we look forward to learning about its future developments.

Your neighbors,

RVA YIMBY