



Urban Design Committee (UDC)  
Pole-mounted seats or solar lights at GRTC bus stops  
City of Richmond  
Urban Design Committee  
c/o Raymond Roakes  
900 East Broad Street, Room 510  
Richmond, VA 23219

## **Project Narrative**

### **1. Purpose**

GRTC is introducing new pole-mounted seating options with optional solar lights at select bus stops as part of a larger effort outlined in the Essential Transit Infrastructure improvement program approved by GRTC's Board of Directors in August of 2022. That plan established goals that include increasing safety and comfort at bus stops increasing the percentage of local stops with a bench or shelter to 50% by 2027, and the pole-mounted seat mounts fill a gap in the existing plan to install 627 benches by providing infrastructure for riders in stops with constrained physical space or Right of Way (ROW).

### **2. Background & Context**

While GRTC already installs UDC-approved standalone 6' steel benches at some local bus stops, the existing approved design is too large for consideration at many stops with the constrained Right-of-Way (ROW) or physical space require seating options or those that require a smaller footprint to maintain traversable path and PROWAG compatibility.

These pole-mounted seats are designed to accommodate those restrictions and include additional passenger safety components, such as the option for a solar light attachment. GRTC anticipates installing those solar lights at bus stops without sufficient existing lighting infrastructure to increase safety and comfort for waiting riders.

### **3. Public accountability and previous engagement**

GRTC conducts regular rider feedback sessions and has identified improved amenities as a top priority of riders through both in-person engagement and based on the high volume of digital communications (emails, social media, public comments) about the need for additional transit infrastructure. To ensure the potential design meets the expectations of the public, GRTC also intends to install shadowboxes at some pole-mounted seat stop locations with information about customer feedback opportunities and will report on customer satisfaction with the new seats.

### **4. Budget & Funding**

GRTC's ETI plan is currently funded through a combination of formula (5307, 5339) and discretionary (Congressional Earmark/CPF and RSTP) grants.

### **5. Description of Construction Program**

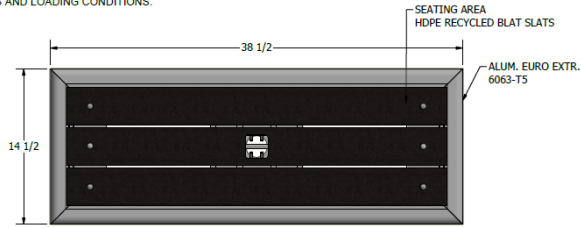
The selected pole-mounted seat mounts are compatible with the 2" galvanized fully punched steel poles that GRTC already utilizes at bus stops. The seats may be retrofitted onto existing bus stops or (when bus stops are located too close to traffic for comfortable seating), may be installed independently in the vicinity of the signage pole.

### **6. Estimated Start Date**

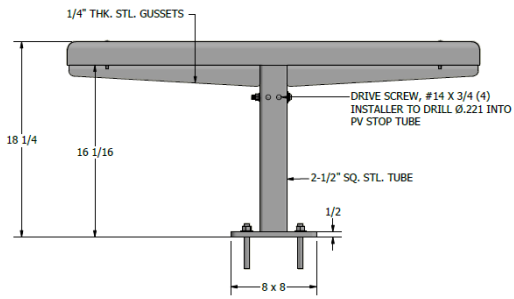
Seat and solar light installations will kickoff Spring 2024 and will continue on a rolling basis as GRTC works towards ETI Plan installation goals.



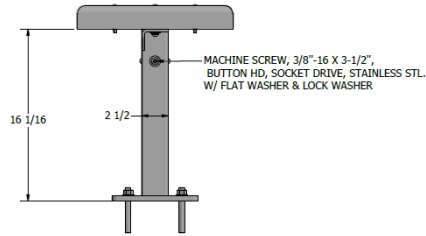
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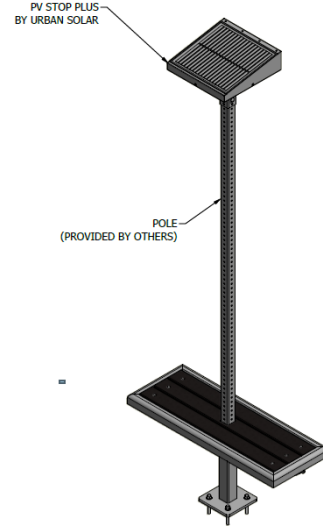
**TOP VIEW**  
SCALE 2"=1'-0"



**FRONT VIEW**  
SCALE 2"=1'-0"



**SIDE VIEW**  
SCALE 2"=1'-0"



**ISOMETRIC VIEW**  
SHOWN WITH POLE  
(POLE SUPPLIED BY OTHERS)  
SCALE 1"=1'-0"

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