



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk

Meeting Minutes Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

3:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members and other Council Members in Attendance

The Honorable Andreas Addison – Chair (early departure)
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Vice Chair
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Committee Member (late arrival)
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch - Councilor (late arrival)

Others in Attendance

Andrew Gore, Assistant City Attorney
LaTanja Davenport, Council Budget Analyst
Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst
Rebecca Sullivan, Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Andreas Addison called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Assistant City Clerk Rebecca Sullivan provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency along with citizen speaker guidelines.

Public Comment Period

Barbara Starkey-Goode, President of the Oak Grove Civic Association, stated her concerns regarding proposed development projects in the Oak Grove neighborhood. Ms. Starkey-Goode requested the committee and Council consider the impact of development on current residents when determining which projects were allowed in the area.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson arrived at 3:04 p.m. and was seated.

Frank Wilson, member of the Oak Grove Civic Association, stated his concerns regarding proposed development in the Oak Grove neighborhood, and the negative impacts it may have on current residents.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson asked for clarification on what the community would like to do with the proposed development space.

Mr. Wilson shared the community's ideal request for the development space, and emphasized his concern regarding the impact of the development on the current neighborhood residents.

Stephanie Robinson, Virginia Organizing chapter member, expressed her concern regarding affordable housing, and the condition of public housing in the city. Ms. Robinson requested the committee act on finding ways to provide access to affordable housing for city residents, and stated her support for rental inspection districts.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of June 20, 2023, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2023.235](#) June 20, 2023 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Minutes

Paper(s) for Consideration

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2023-210](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Grant Agreement Under the Fiscal Year 2022 Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program between the City of Richmond and the United States Department of Transportation for the purpose of implementation of Vision Zero safety program activities.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney and Ms. Lambert

M Khara, Department of Public Works Deputy Director and City Engineer, introduced the proposed ordinance, and explained the sources of funding for the projects.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

There were no further comments or discussions and Member Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward ORD. 2023-210 to Council with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following resolution was considered:

2. [RES. 2023-R032](#) To support the application for an allocation of \$10,000,000 through the Virginia Department of Transportation Revenue Sharing Program to provide maintenance and construction assistance to certain transportation projects.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

M Khara, Department of Public Works Deputy Director and City Engineer, introduced the proposed resolution, and provided details regarding the funds requested in the resolution.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

There were no further comments or discussions and Member Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward RES. 2023-R032 to Council with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following resolutions were considered:

3. [RES. 2023-R034](#) To request the Commonwealth Transportation Board to establish the Cary Street Sidewalk Improvement project to fund the installation of pedestrian safety improvements along Cary Street Road at its intersection with Three Chopt Road, including a sidewalk on St. Catherine's Lane and new sidewalks and traffic islands between St. Catherine's School and the adjacent neighborhoods.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

4. [RES. 2023-R035](#) To request the Commonwealth Transportation Board to establish the Downtown Core Protected Bike Lanes project to fund the installation of permanent physical barriers as buffers between the bicycle lanes and motor vehicle traffic on 1st Street, 3rd Street and Franklin Street.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney and Ms. Lambert

5. [RES. 2023-R036](#) To request the Commonwealth Transportation Board to establish the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon - U. S. Route 1 project to fund the installation of a pedestrian hybrid beacon, high-visibility sidewalk, and Americans with Disabilities-accessible curb ramps on U. S. Route 1 at its intersection with Dinwiddie Avenue and at its intersection with Westminster Avenue.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney and Ms. Lambert

6. [RES. 2023-R037](#) To request the Commonwealth Transportation Board to establish the Patterson Avenue - Libbie Avenue Streetscape Improvement project to fund the installation of pedestrian safety improvements, including new sidewalks, Americans with Disabilities-accessible curb ramps, and modifications to private entrances, and streetscape improvements, including drainage improvements, site furniture, and buffering landscaping along Patterson Avenue at its intersection with Libbie Avenue to its intersection with Maple Avenue.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

7. [RES. 2023-R038](#) To request the Commonwealth Transportation Board to establish the Gillies Creek Greenway Phase IV project to fund the extension of the shared-use path from the intersection of Stony Run Road and Jennie Scher Road to the intersection of Jennie Scher Road and East Richmond Road.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

8. [RES. 2023-R039](#) To request the Commonwealth Transportation Board to establish the Patterson Avenue Bike Lanes project to fund the extension of parking-protected bike lanes on Patterson Avenue from its intersection with Commonwealth Avenue to its intersection with Willow Lawn Drive.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

9. [RES. 2023-R040](#) To request the Commonwealth Transportation Board to establish the Scott's Addition Greenway project to fund the construction of sidewalks and a shared-use path in the city's Scott's Addition neighborhood.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

10. [RES. 2023-R041](#) To request the Commonwealth Transportation Board to establish the Forest Hill Avenue Crossing Improvement project to fund the construction of rectangular rapid flashing beacons, high-visibility crosswalks, Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible curb ramps, and channelizing islands on Forest Hill Avenue at its intersection with Taylor Avenue and the installation of curb extensions and rectangular rapid flashing beacons on Forest Hill Avenue between Westover Hills Boulevard and West 48th Street.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

11. [RES. 2023-R042](#) To request the Commonwealth Transportation Board to establish the Carnation Street Sidewalk Improvement project to fund new sidewalks on Carnation Street from its intersection with Warwick Road to its intersection with Hioaks Road.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

12. [RES. 2023-R043](#) To request the Commonwealth Transportation Board to establish the Maymont Neighborhood Sidewalks - Phase III project to fund new sidewalks in the city's Maymont neighborhood.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney and Ms. Lynch

M Khara, Department of Public Works Deputy Director and City Engineer, introduced the proposed resolutions, and provided details regarding the transportation related construction projects outlined in the resolutions.

Public Hearing

There were no public comment speakers.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward RES. 2023-R034, RES. 2023-R035, RES. 2023-R036, RES. 2023-R037, RES. 2023-R038, RES. 2023-R039, RES. 2023-R040, RES. 2023-041, RES. 2023-042, and RES. 2023-R043 to Council with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

The following ordinance was considered:

13. [ORD. 2023-211](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of General Services for the purpose of setting forth the responsibilities of the parties for the replacement and relocation of utilities in Capitol Square in the city of Richmond.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

April Bingham, Department of Public Utilities Director, and Mike Nolan, Commonwealth of Virginia Division of Real Estate Services Director, introduced the proposed ordinance and provided details on the area outlined in the utility plan.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

There were no further comments or discussions and Member Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward ORD. 2023-211 to Council with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

MISCELLANEOUS

The following resolution was considered:

14. [RES. 2023-R033](#) To provide for the nomination of Andreas D. Addison, Ellen F. Robertson, and J. E. Lincoln Saunders as the City of Richmond's three Directors and the election of the Board of Directors of the Greater Richmond Transit Company for the period commencing upon election and qualification of these nominees as Directors and terminating on the date of the 2024 annual meeting of shareholders upon the election and qualification of the successors to these Directors.

Patrons: President Jones

Chair Andreas Addison introduced the proposed resolution, and elaborated on the work conducted by the board.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson stated her support for the resolution, and discussed the purpose of the board.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

There were no further comments or discussions and Member Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward RES. 2023-R033 to Council with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Public Comment Period Continued

It was the committee's consensus to allow for continuance of the public comment period.

Lori Orpiano expressed her concern regarding street conditions in her neighborhood. Specifically, Ms. Orpiano requested the city repave streets in her neighborhood.

José Ruiz requested the city repave a public street due to damages caused by potholes on the street.

Board Vacancies

Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst, reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward the following board appointment and reappointment applications to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Clean City Commission
Alvin Misa
Darlene Mallory-Jenkins
Jeannette Seagraves

Commission of Architectural Review:
Coleen Butler-Rodriguez
Larry Nutt

Community Transportation Advisory Committee (MPO):
Sera Erickson

Green City Commission:
Robert Jones

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.245](#) July 18, 2023 Board Vacancy Report

Presentation(s)

Maggie Walker Community Land Trust (MWCLT) Richmond Land Bank and Surplus Properties

Eric Mai, Director of Acquisitions, provided the committee with a presentation regarding the operations of the Maggie Walker Community Land Trust (MWCLT) Richmond Land Bank and Surplus Properties. Director Mai requested City Council invest resources into maintaining accurate land surveys in order to increase land use possibilities.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson suggested discussing Council's needs in detail with the MWCLT in order to set future goals.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.239](#) Maggie Walker Community Land Trust (MWCLT) Richmond Land Bank and Surplus Properties Presentation

Jackson Ward Community Draft Plan

Maritza Pechin, Department of Planning and Development Review Deputy Director, Office of Equitable Development, provided the committee with a presentation regarding the details of the ongoing Jackson Ward Community Draft Plan. Specifically, Ms. Pechin provided a timeline of the projects involved in the development of the Jackson Ward neighborhood.

Member Ann-Frances Lambert stated her belief in the need to maintain the view of 6th Mt. Zion Baptist Church as development occurs in the Jackson Ward neighborhood.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson stated her belief in the importance of investing in affordable housing within the Jackson Ward neighborhood as it is developed. Vice Chair Robertson also requested an African American historic cemetery in the area remain protected.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.240](#) Jackson Ward Community Draft Plan Presentation

Richmond Connects Update

Dironna Moore-Clarke, Office of Equitable Transit and Mobility Administrator, and Kelli Rowan, Department of Public Works Transit, Planning & Mobility Program Management Consultant, provided the committee with a presentation regarding the ongoing work of Richmond Connects. Specifically, Ms. Rowan outlined ways in which the city could further promote affordable and equitable transit opportunities for its residents.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.241](#) Richmond Connects Update Presentation

RES. 2023-R006 Response Presentation

Kevin Vonck, Department of Planning and Development Review Director, provided the committee with a presentation regarding the requested Residential Rental Inspection Program (RRIP) created by RES. No. 2023-R006. Specifically, Director Vonck hoped to elaborate on the specific districts that would need to be created in order to begin implementation of the RRIP.

Chair Andreas Addison left the meeting at 4:59 p.m.

Member Ann-Frances Lambert inquired as to when the Council would create the districts necessary for the RRIP. Member Lambert also requested careful consideration in the language used in inspection policies in order to protect tenants and property owners.

Director Vonck stated it would take 30 to 60 days to provide the information needed to develop the districts.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson requested the ability to review the RRIP inspection policies in detail in order to ensure protection for tenants and property owners. Vice Chair Robertson also inquired in to the funding and staff needed to implement the RRIP.

Director Vonck provided information regarding the necessary staff and funds for the RRIP.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch expressed her support for the RRIP, and also requested for more information regarding the RRIP be available for public review.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.247](#) RES. 2023-R006 Response Presentation

Discussion Item(s)

August Committee Meeting

The committee discussed the scheduling of the proposed August 2023 meeting and determined that it would be canceled.

Staff Report

Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst, provided the committee with the July staff report.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.236](#) July 2023 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Staff Report

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.