



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, March 22, 2022

3:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members

The Honorable Andreas Addison – Chair
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Vice Chair
The Honorable Michael Jones – Committee Member (early departure)
The Honorable Katherine Jordan - Alternate Committee Member

Others in Attendance

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst
Bonnie Ashley, Deputy City Attorney
Jamie Isley, Boards and Commissions Administrator
Pamela Nichols, Senior 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 3:03 p.m., and presided.

Electronic Participation

Pursuant to Rule III(D)(4)(b) of Council's Rules of Procedure, Committee Member Jones made a request to participate in the meeting via Microsoft Teams from Lusaka, Zambia, due to his participation in a work related mission trip. The Committee Members present were required to adopt a motion to approve Councilor Jones's participation in the meeting by electronic communication means if it appeared to the body that his request complied with Rule III(D) of Council's Rules of Procedure. A motion was solicited from those members physically assembled to approve Councilor Jones's participation in this meeting by electronic communication means.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to allow Member Jones to participate in the meeting by electronic communication means. The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Robertson, Addison. Noes, None.

Member Jones joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams at 3:05 p.m.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Senior Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols 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

There were no public comment speakers.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of Tuesday, February 22, 2022, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2022.113](#) February 22, 2022 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20220222 LUHT Minutes - Draft](#)

Presentation(s)

Diamond District Redevelopment Process Request for Interest (RFI) and Request for Offers (RFO)

Maritza Pechin, Office of Equitable Development manager and Planning and Development Review deputy director, provided an overview of the process for the Diamond District which included the request for interest (RFI), request for additional information (RFAI), the evaluation panel, project goals and development components, the evaluation criteria, and upcoming key dates. Ms. Pechin reported that six of the fifteen respondents of the RFI were selected to submit a RFAI.

Member Michael Jones inquired about the advancement of such development opportunities being awarded to a small, women-owned, and minority-owned (SWaM) business, or a member of the minority business enterprise (MBE), and the incorporation of Richmond residents throughout all phases of the project.

Chair Andreas Addison requested that community benefits relative to housing and job creation be included in the project goals and development components. He stated he would like to see commitments from the city in terms of advancing the needs of city residents, such as affordable housing and workforce development.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson expressed concern about the lack of minority participation in economic development projects, and requested that Council staff provide an update on the city's preparation of a Disparity Study. Vice Chair Robertson further requested information on the assessed value of the properties included in the project.

Member Jones inquired about the percentages of available housing units for individuals from the neighboring public housing community.

A copy of the material provided has been filed and can be accessed below.

[CD.2022.131](#) 20220322 LUHT - Diamond District

Attachments: [20220322 LUHT - Diamond District](#)

BridgePark RVA

Ted Elmore, Richmond BridgePark Foundation, provided an overview of the BridgePark and Fall Line Trail projects, designed to serve as an interconnected system of complete streets and parks along a critical north south spine of the city. Mr. Elmore highlighted components of the project which included awards the project had received, the design and leadership team, community engagement, hands on learning for students and educators, storytelling, and cultural and economic wealth.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson expressed appreciation to Mr. Elmore and his team.

Chair Andreas Addison expressed his appreciation for the information provided, and he commented on the positive impacts of a bridge park.

A copy of the material provided has been filed and can be accessed below.

[CD.2022.130](#) 20220322 LUHT - BridgePark

Attachments: [20220322 LUHT - BridgePark](#)

North-South Pulse Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Plan and The Fall Line Trail

Dironna Moore Clarke, Department of Public Works Office of Equitable Transit and Mobility Administrator, provided an overview of the Office of Equitable Transit and Mobility, the North South Pulse Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route options, and the Fall Line Trail route.

Alternate Member Katherine Jordan inquired about the community engagement component for the potential routes for the Fall Line Trail.

Chair Andreas Addison expressed support for some of the potential routes for the Fall Line Trail, and he expressed his support of pedestrian and bicycle access on bridges while maximizing the city's natural assets.

Ms. Moore Clarke reviewed the proposed BridgePark and Fall Line Trail, and reported that the city determined that the Manchester Bridge would be an acceptable location for the Bridgepark.

Alternate Member Jordan and Chair Addison questioned the city's proposal to install the BridgePark and Fall Line Trail in the median on the Manchester Bridge.

A copy of the material provided has been filed and can be accessed below.

[CD.2022.134](#) 20220322 LUHT - North-South BRT and the Fall Line Trail

Attachments: [20220322 LUHT - OETM North-South BRT and the Fall Line Trail](#)

Path to Equity: Policy Guide for Richmond Connects

Kelli Rowan, Department of Public Works Office of Equitable Transit and Mobility Transit, Planning and Mobility Program Management Consultant, discussed the process regarding the development of the Path to Equity: Policy Guide for Richmond Connects, and she highlighted the Path to Equity website. Ms. Rowan reported that city administration anticipates review of the final plan at the April 19, 2022, Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting.

A copy of the material provided has been filed and can be accessed below.

[CD.2022.123](#) 20220322 Path to Equity: Policy Guide for Richmond Connects

Attachments: [20220322 LUHT - OETM Path to Equity](#)

Staff Report

Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst, and Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst, provided the committee with the March staff report.

A copy of the material provided has been filed and can be accessed below.

[CD.2022.125](#) Land Use, Housing and Transportation Staff Report

Attachments: [20220322 Land Use - Staff Report](#)

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2022-020](#) To reduce the speed limits on Huguenot Road from its intersection with Riverside Drive to its intersection with the Chesterfield County line; on Richmond Highway from its intersection with Hopkins Road to its intersection with the Chesterfield County line; on Warwick Road from its intersection with Belt Boulevard to its intersection with German School Road; on Commerce Road from its intersection with Commerce Road Access to its intersection with Bells Road Access Road; on Forest Hill Avenue from its intersection with Sheila Lane to its intersection with the Chesterfield County line; on Broad Rock Boulevard from its intersection with Belt Boulevard to its intersection with Patsy Anne Drive; on Ironbridge Road from its intersection with Patsy Anne Drive to its intersection with the Chesterfield County line; on Belt Boulevard from its intersection with Warwick Road to its intersection with Broad Rock Boulevard; on the Manchester Bridge from its intersection with Byrd Street to its intersection with Semmes Avenue; and on U.S. Route 1

from its intersection with Rowe Street to its intersection with Riverside Drive, to 35 miles per hour.

Patrons: Mr. Jones

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-020](#)

Member Michael Jones provided an overview of ORD. 2022-020, and explained that fundamentally, speed limits within the city should not exceed 35 miles per hour (mph).

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

M. Khara, Department of Public Works Deputy Director/City Engineer, explained that current speed limits were set in accordance with national engineering practices included in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Mr. Khara informed the committee that the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation allowing localities to reduce speed limits to 15 mph and that city administration was collecting data for a more comprehensive neighborhood traffic management plan.

Bobby Vincent, Department of Public Works (DPW) Director, stated that lower speed limits would put a greater demand on enforcement and create more traffic hazards. Mr. Vincent reported that DPW utilizes data from its speed management program to determine placements of new traffic calming measures.

Member Jones expressed concern about areas of the city, mainly located in the city's Southside, where pedestrian access was lacking.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson stated she was interested in a comprehensive citywide plan to increase pedestrian safety and reduce traffic hazards; however, she was concerned about unintended consequences associated with reduced speed limits.

Member Jones asked the committee to forward ORD. 2022-020 to Council with no recommendation, to allow for further discussions regarding the proposed speed reductions.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2022-020 to Council with no recommendation, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Member Michael Jones left the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

Pursuant to Council's Rules of Procedure, Alternate Member Katherine Jordan assumed full voting rights.

The following resolution was considered:

2. [RES. 2021-R086](#) To request that the Mayor propose, as part of his annual budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, the necessary amendments to the City Code and appropriations to establish a Department of Mobility and Multimodal Transportation.

Patrons: Mr. Addison

Attachments: [Res. No. 2021-R086](#)

Chair Andreas Addison informed the committee of his request to continue RES. 2021-R086 to allow time for additional discussions with city administration relative to becoming a participating member of the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO), and the Path to Equity: Policy Guide for Richmond Connects.

There were no further comments or discussions and Chair Andreas Addison moved to continue RES. 2021-R086 to the April 19, 2022, Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following resolution was considered:

3. [RES. 2022-R020](#) To express the City Council's support for the City's participation in the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity funding program for an Arthur Ashe Boulevard over CSX bridge replacement project.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Res. No. 2022-R020](#)

M. Khara, Department of Public Works Deputy Director/City Engineer, introduced RES. 2022-R020 and explained the project would require twenty percent matching funds from the city, and the deadline for the grant application was April 14, 2022. Mr. Khara further explained that appropriation for the matching funds would be allocated from the FY 2024 through FY 2026 budget years.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward RES. 2022-R020 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Chair Andreas Addison, Alternate Member Katherine Jordan and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson asked to be added as co-patrons of RES. 2022-R020.

The following ordinance was considered:

4. [ORD. 2022-088](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a First Amendment to Deed of Lease between Richmond VA II SGF, LLC, as lessor, and the City of Richmond, as lessee, for the purpose of providing office and storage space for the Office of the General Registrar at 2134 West Laburnum Avenue. (3rd District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney and Ms. Lambert

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-088](#)

Sharon Ebert, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Planning, Economic and Community Development, introduced ORD. 2022-088.

The committee expressed concerns regarding a lack of accessibility to the Office of Elections.

Alternate Member Katherine Jordan expressed concern regarding the increased rental rate for the additional space to be utilized by the Office of Elections.

Chair Andreas Addison inquired whether the city was obligated to adhere to the terms of the lease due to the tenant's failure to make the additional area available for usage.

Ms. Ebert explained the proposed legislation seeks to amend the city's negotiated 10 year lease agreement to expand to an additional area of the building.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2022-088 to Council with no recommendation, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following ordinance was considered:

5. [ORD. 2022-089](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Fifth Amendment to Lease between the City of Richmond, as lessee, and Saul Subsidiary I Limited Partnership, as lessor, for the purpose of enabling the City to continue using 52,411± square feet of the property located at 4100 Hull Street Road for the Department of Social Services and other City functions. (8th District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-089](#)

Sharon Ebert, DCAO for Planning for Planning, Economic and Community Development, introduced ORD. 2022-089.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2022-089 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following ordinance was considered:

6. [ORD. 2022-090](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Lease of Property between the City of Richmond, as lessor, and People Cycle, Inc., as lessee, for the purpose of leasing to People Cycle, Inc., a certain portion of the City-owned property located at 3011 Water Street. (7th District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-090](#)

Sharon Ebert, DCAO for Planning, Economic and Community Development, introduced ORD. 2022-090.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2022-090 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following ordinance was considered:

7. [ORD. 2022-053](#) To amend City Code §§ 5-34, concerning appointments and divisions of the Board of Building Code Appeals, 5-35, concerning membership of the Board, 5-36, concerning meetings, officers, minutes, and records of the Board, and 5-37, concerning terms of office for members of the Board, to consolidate the divisions of Board into one board.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-053](#)

Jamie Isley, Boards and Commissions Administrator, introduced ORD. 2022-053.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2022-053 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following resolution was considered:

8. [RES. 2022-R015](#) To direct the City Planning Commission to prepare, submit to public hearing, and adopt an amendment to the Master Plan making certain changes to the Master Plan for the inclusion of Creighton Court, Fairfield Court, Gilpin Court, Hillside Court, Mosby Court North, Mosby Court South, and Whitcomb Court as priority growth nodes.

Patrons: Vice President Robertson, Ms. Lambert and President Newbille

Attachments: [Res. No. 2022-R015](#)

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson introduced RES. 2022-R015 and explained the proposed request is to elevate the significance of the priorities of the city's six public housing communities to ensure economic growth. Vice Chair Robertson remarked that the city's future economic growth has to include those neighborhoods that have been long neglected.

Chair Andreas Addison announced he was meeting with members of the City Planning Commission to discuss a process for amendments to the Master Plan.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

There were no further comments or discussions and Chair Andreas Addison moved to forward RES. 2022-R015 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items.

Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies for review.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.