

INTRODUCED: January 13, 2025

A RESOLUTION No. 2025-R007

To direct the City Planning Commission, as a part of its required review of the Master Plan in 2025, to prepare, submit to public hearing, and consider an amendment to the Master Plan that identifies the area generally bounded by Riverside Drive, Cowardin Avenue, Hull Street, and West 24th Street as a Neighborhood Node and to request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the Department of Planning and Development Review, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Economic Development, and the Department of Housing and Community Development to collectively work with the City Planning Commission to prepare such amendment to the Master Plan. (5th District)

Patron – Ms. Lynch

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: JAN 27 2025 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 17.06 of the Charter of the City of Richmond (2020), as amended, the City Planning Commission by resolution dated October 5, 2020, adopted a new master plan for the City of Richmond, and the City Council by Ordinance No. 2020-236, adopted December 14, 2020, approved the master plan adopted by the City Planning Commission (hereinafter the “Master Plan”); and

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: JAN 27 2025 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

WHEREAS, the Master Plan describes “nodes” as current and potential activity centers in the city of Richmond capable of accommodating growth in jobs and population that are deserving of aligned land use planning, transportation planning, and public policy to ensure that each node becomes a thriving crossroads for its respective community; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan defines a “Neighborhood Node” as a local crossroads typically within or next to larger residential areas that offers goods and services to nearby residents, employees, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Council that the area generally bounded by Riverside Drive, Cowardin Avenue, Hull Street, and West 24th Street, hereinafter referred to as the “Study Area,” has become a Neighborhood Node and the gateway to South Richmond due to considerable growth; and

WHEREAS, though the Master Plan suggests a vision of the Study Area as a highly-walkable urban neighborhood that is predominately residential, with a small, but critical percentage of parcels providing retail, office, personal service, and institutional uses, and though the Master Plan further envisions Cowardin Avenue as a major commercial corridor with transit-oriented development, the Master Plan does not provide a specific, place-based plan for achieving this vision and does not identify the Study Area as a Neighborhood Node; and

WHEREAS, Semmes Avenue, Cowardin Avenue, Bainbridge Street, and Hull Street, hereinafter referred to as the “Major Corridors,” are prominent roadways within the Study Area and are all on the high injury street network described in the City’s Vision Zero Action Plan, which prioritizes implementation of safety treatments for the high injury street network; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Council that the evolution of the Study Area as an activity center, community crossroads, and area of concentrated vehicular traffic, warrants greater

attention in the Master Plan to ensure additional land use, transportation, and economic development planning work are performed so the Study Area can reach its full potential as a Neighborhood Node and gateway to South Richmond; and

WHEREAS, the City Planning Commission will review the Master Plan to determine whether it is advisable to amend the plan in 2025 as required by section 15.2-2230 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended; and

WHEREAS, it is the consensus of the Council that it should direct the City Planning Commission, as a part of its required review of the Master Plan for 2025, to prepare, hold a public hearing on, and consider an amendment to the Master Plan that establishes the Study Area as a Neighborhood Node and, in accordance therewith, sets forth a detailed vision for land use, transportation, and economic development in the Study Area that prioritizes placemaking, streetscapes, roadway safety improvements, and additional commercial uses;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

That, in accordance with section 17.06 of the Charter of the City of Richmond (2020), as amended, and section 15.2-2229 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, the City Planning Commission, as a part of its required review of the Master Plan for 2025 as provided in section 15.2-2230 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, is hereby directed to:

1. Prepare an amendment to the Master Plan that identifies the Study Area as a Neighborhood Node in the maps and lists of nodes on pages 25, 113, and C-2 of the Master Plan; identifies the Study Area as a Neighborhood Node among the descriptions of “South Richmond – Eastern Nodes” that begins on page C-11 of Appendix C of the Master Plan; and, in addition to such identification in Appendix C, describes in detail a vision, the growth potential, and primary

next steps for the Study Area, which description shall prioritize placemaking, streetscapes, roadway safety improvements, and support for the development of additional commercial uses;

2. Submit such amendment to public hearing as described in section 15.2-2229 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, and conduct all other proceedings as may be required by law by no later than November 1, 2025; and

3. Adopt and certify to the City Council the requisite resolution to adopt such amendment in accordance with section 17.06 of the Charter of the City of Richmond (2020), as amended, as soon as possible after the conclusion of the required public hearing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Council requests that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the Department of Planning and Development Review, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Economic Development, and the Department of Housing and Community Development to collectively work with the City Planning Commission to prepare such amendment to the Master Plan by, at a minimum:

1. Making use of robust community engagement to develop a community-led vision and primary next steps for the Study Area;

2. Analyzing vehicular traffic and pedestrian safety along the Major Corridors to develop tailored recommendations and suggested improvements for transportation and pedestrian traffic that prioritize pedestrian safety and improve walkability and connectivity within the Study Area;

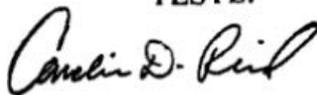
3. Developing a streetscape plan for the Major Corridors;

4. Considering zoning districts and available incentives that could best encourage a mix of uses in the Study Area, to include, in particular, additional commercial uses such as grocery and retail stores and other similar uses that would be of interest to and benefit the community; and

5. Considering how best to encourage the creation of mixed affordable housing in the Study Area.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

A TRUE COPY:
TESTE:

City Clerk



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Council Ordinance/Resolution Request

TO Laura Drewry, Richmond City Attorney

THROUGH Council Chief of Staff Office

FROM Tamiya Lunsford, Council Budget Analyst
Office of the Council Chief of Staff

COPY Stephanie Lynch, 5th District Councilmember
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney
Amy Robins, 5th District Liaison

DATE December 10, 2024

PAGE/s 1 of 2

TITLE: Resolution to amend the Master Plan to include the area generally bounded by Riverside Drive, Cowardin Avenue, Hull Street, and West 24th Street.

This is a request for the drafting of an **Ordinance** **Resolution**

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Council Member Stephanie Lynch

Land Use, Housing, and Transportation

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

To direct City Planning Commission as a part of its' required review of the Master Plan in 2025 to prepare, submit to public hearing, and adopt an amendment to the Master Plan making certain changes to the Master Plan for inclusion of the area generally bounded by Riverside Drive, Cowardin Avenue, Hull Street, and West 24th Street as a Neighborhood Node to include the development of a vision for the area and detailed implementation matrix to achieve the vision prioritizing placemaking, streetscapes, roadway safety improvements, and the supporting the development of neighborhood serving commercial.

BACKGROUND

This O&R is requesting a Resolution for the Administration to develop a small area master plan for the area generally bounded by Riverside Drive, Cowardin Avenue, Hull Street, and West 24th Street as a Neighborhood Node.

The Master Plan defines a Neighborhood Node as a local crossroads typically within or next to larger residential areas that offers goods and services to nearby residents, employees, and visitors and the study area.

This request aligns with the Small Area Master Plan and is in line with the goals of the Richmond 300 comprehensive plan and creates future mixed use benefiting residents in this area.

Council is asking that the City Planning Commission as a part of their required review of the Master Plan in 2025 to prepare, submit to public hearing, and adopt an amendment to the Master Plan making certain changes to the Master Plan for inclusion of the area generally bounded by Riverside Drive, Cowardin Avenue, Hull Street, and West 24th Street as a Neighborhood Node to include the development of a vision for the area and detailed implementation matrix to achieve the vision prioritizing placemaking, streetscapes, roadway safety improvements, and the supporting the development of neighborhood serving commercial.

The anticipated introduction date for these amendments is January 13, 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes No

Budget Amendment Required Yes No

Note:

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact:

Attachment/s Yes No

Map of Swansboro Belle Heights

