

From: [Tom Jakob](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Res.2024-R011 - Support
Date: Friday, March 8, 2024 2:04:25 PM

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Good afternoon,

I am a resident of downtown Richmond and fully support Res.2024-R011 for the city to adopt the proposed equity-centered multimodal transportation plan Richmond Connects. Richmond Connects is the best plan I have seen yet that will utilize this city's foundation of transit infrastructure to its full potential, as well as leave additional room for welcomed growth and sustainable development. It is the only plan I have seen that systematically and equitably addresses Richmond's severe lack of bus shelters, green spaces, and well-protected bike lanes while still maintaining the absolutely necessary zero-fare policy. I believe this plan holds the potential to greatly improve the lives of all Richmonders by providing greater safety and by increasing the volume of opportunities in other civic initiatives such as public art, events, economic development, and more. If the city council were to reject the plan, it would be a seriously devastating loss to the economic future of this city and, most importantly, the well-being of its inhabitants. I urge the committee to approve the Resolution to adopt Richmond Connects and help bring Richmond into greater prosperity through a safer, more efficient, and equitable transit system.

Tom Jakob (*he/him*)

Photographer

P: (757) 291-9254

E: tomjakobphotos@gmail.com

W: <https://www.tomjakobphoto.com/home>

From: [Victoria Parrish](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: "Res.2024-R011 - Support"
Date: Monday, March 18, 2024 7:22:17 PM

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I wish to support this bill for better shelters and benches. This would be a huge improvement in my life and ridership for my family and friends. The entire community would be so much better off with the no fare extended for the next several years.

Thank you,

Land Use Committee and City Council

Vickie Parrish

From: [Kelsy Boyle](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Res.2024-R011 - Support
Date: Monday, March 18, 2024 8:16:25 PM

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Hi, my name is Kelsy and I live in the 5th district. I'm here to express my support of the Richmond Connects Plan. I ride my bike to work every day from the Randolph neighborhood to the Arts District. I feel much safer when I'm on Franklin St. in a protected bike lane than when I'm riding in an unprotected bike lane in Colorado Ave. Installing quick and temporary barriers between bicyclists and cars makes a huge difference and is very needed. Thank you for your time and I hope you will adopt the Richmond Connects Plan.

From: [Abby Knuff](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Res.2024-R011 - Support
Date: Monday, March 18, 2024 8:19:57 PM

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Hi, my name is Abby and I live in the 5th district. I'm writing in support of the Richmond Connects Plan. I ride my bike to work every day from Randolph to Chamberlayne & Westwood. I feel much safer when I'm on Brook Road in a protected bike lane than when I'm riding in the unprotected bike lanes on Lombardy. Installing quick and temporary barriers between bicyclists and cars makes a huge difference in safety and is very needed. Thank you for your time and I hope you will adopt the Richmond Connects Plan.

From: [Wayde Fleming](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Connect Strategic Plan
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 8:20:15 AM

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Good morning City Council Members my name is Wayde Fleming a Resident of Richmond east end for over 60 years and I am also a daily transit rider for 40 years and I am here today to speak on the Connect Strategic Plan I am asking for your support and to pass the bill to move forward with this great opportunity for the Residents of RVA and making Transportation Better in RVA and it will add better Bus service shelters zero fare and affordable housing. Thank you. Wayde Fleming

From: [Kelley Banks](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Res.2024-R011 - Support
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 2:43:10 PM

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Hello City Council members,
As a small business owner and board member for the Carytown Merchants Association, I'd like to express support for adopting the Richmond Connects Plan. The CMA particularly supports actions that improve pedestrian safety like enhanced crosswalks, improved corner clearances, and dedicated bike lanes, and believe this plan could bring a focus on transportation improvements to areas that need it most.

Thanks,
--
Kelley Banks

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From: [Boz Boschen](#)
To: [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Brown, Whitney H. - City Council Office](#); [Jordan, Katherine - City Council](#); [Philipson, Sven J. - City Council](#); [Lambert, Ann-Frances - City Council](#); [Stokes, Kiya A. - City Council](#); [Nye, Kristen M. - City Council](#); [Siverd, Jr, Timmy M. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Floyd, Tavares M. - City Council](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#); [Patterson, Samuel - City Council Office](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Bishop, Richard K. - City Council Office](#); [Jones, Nicole - City Council Office](#); [McKenzie, Dominique J. - CNL](#); [Saunders, Lincoln - CAO](#); [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Rowan, Kelli N. - DPW](#)
Subject: Please approve Richmond Connects Strategic Plan RES. 2024-R011
Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 12:37:32 PM

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Dear Honorable Members of City Council,

I'm writing in support of RES. 2024-R011 which is currently on the consent agenda for this coming Monday's meeting, following the recommendation from the Land Use, Housing, and Transportation Committee this week.

I'm a resident of the 1st District and joined the Path to Equity transit committee as a citizen ambassador three years ago, transitioning into an ambassador for Richmond Connects' planning. It has overwhelmingly been a positive experience and stands out to me as an example of good local government.

The City's team did an excellent job, along with its outside consulting partners, of building an engagement plan that allowed resident input on everything from the principles of the Path to Equity to the practical nature of the strategic framework that is Richmond Connects and specific transit issues in every district that need to be addressed. Participating in the workshops, I witnessed the issues our city faces with basic daily transit needs and a plethora of recommended solutions. I think the average resident is used to a slow-moving government where change never quite meets current needs, so it was especially encouraging to witness "tactical urbanism" as quick-fix, low-budget solutions to be tested, and not put every need in long-term budget plans. As the city builds its engagement for Participatory Budgeting I think this work by Richmond Connects will prove especially helpful.

The strategic plan successfully provides a framework for the priorities to create a safe, equitable, and sustainable transportation system for all residents. We have much work to do but I believe your approval of this plan will help ensure we create a better Richmond. We have three young children in my family so attending City Council meetings in person can be a challenge, and I ask you to accept my written endorsement in place of attendance. I am hopeful you will see a strong crowd of transit advocates speaking positively of their experiences on this planning cycle as well.

Thanks for your support.

--

Boz Boschen

Founder | Opsis Marketing & Advertising Advisory

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Citizen Ambassador | Richmond Connects, Transit Advisory Committee | [Learn more](#)

From: [Rachael Perisho](#)
To: [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Floyd, Tavares M. - City Council](#)
Cc: [City Clerk's Office](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Lambert, Ann-Frances - City Council](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#); [Jordan, Katherine - City Council](#); [Nye, Kristen M. - City Council](#); [Jones, Nicole - City Council Office](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: Richmond Connects Strategic Plan
Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 5:27:12 PM

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Dear Councilperson Robertson,

I live in your district (Highland Park neighborhood) and I want to write in support of Richmond Connects strategic plan RES. 2024-R011.

I don't drive, and rely on walking, biking and bus for a lot of my travel. I wish the sidewalks in Highland Park were more connected and in better condition and that the bus stops had some kind of shelter. I hope you support this plan as well!

Thank you!

--

Rachael Perisho

www.rachaelperisho.com

From: [Josh Stover](#)
To: [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Floyd, Tavares M. - City Council](#)
Cc: [City Clerk's Office](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Lambert, Ann-Frances - City Council](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#); [Jordan, Katherine - City Council](#); [Nye, Kristen M. - City Council](#); [Jones, Nicole - City Council Office](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: Richmond Connects Strategic Plan
Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 5:36:21 PM

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Dear Councilperson Robertson,

I live in your district (Highland Park neighborhood) and I want to write in support of Richmond Connects strategic plan RES. 2024-R011.

We need better sidewalks, bike infrastructure and bus stop shelters. I'm especially interested in pedestrian infrastructure on Dove St, as I walk that route often and have to walk in the road on some portions. All of the items in the Richmond Connects are important to me because I am part of a single car household and rely on walking, biking & public transit as a supplement. I hope you approve this plan!

Thank you!

Josh Stover
(727) 235-3033

From: [Sharon Shaw](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Res.2024-R011 - Support
Date: Sunday, March 24, 2024 8:53:16 PM

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I'm writing to ask you to please pass the Richmond Connects plan, so that more people can safely and comfortably get where they need to go around the city and region without having to be in a car. More reliable and frequent bus service as well as safe places to walk and ride a bike make all the difference in being able to manage without a car. We have pieces of good transit but things need to interconnect much more than they do now. This is so important for health, climate, finances, justice, and as a citizen and a pediatrician I ask you please to pass it.

Thanks so much for your time and attention,
Sharon Shaw, MD
Richmond, VA

From: [Nancy O'Reilly](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Res.2024-R011 - Support
Date: Saturday, March 23, 2024 8:45:57 AM

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Dear City Council,

I am writing in support of the Richmond Connects multimodal plan.

I ride the Pulse Bus daily to and from work, Monday through Friday. I sometimes use it on the weekends as well. I highly value this service so that we can get cars off the road, decrease congestion and improve our air quality for the greater community good.

Also, I work for VCU Health System and I know that the Medical Center and Clinics in the City need workers at all levels and positions, and the Pulse Bus extension into the Counties will benefit VCU Health and our community by allowing workers access to well-paying jobs with strong benefits at a high quality medical center that serves our community.

When weather permits, I often bike to work and on the weekends I bike to run errands. I strongly support extension and improvement of bike lanes.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nancy O'Reilly
4211 Floyd Avenue Apt D
Richmond VA 23220

From: [moi free](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Res. 2024- R011 support
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:11:13 AM

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Dear Councilpeople,

I am in support of the Richmond Connects Multimodal Plan. As a senior citizen, City of Richmond bus rider, I am happy to see more transit benches about town. I think bus stops should be dignified places to wait out of the elements. I wish there could be more benches and shelters. I would also like to see more sidewalks, especially on Jahnke Road between Forest Hill and Blakemore Rd., so that I wouldn't have to walk in the mud when it rains to get to my bus stop.

And lastly, as a retiree with a fixed income, the extension of the zero bus fare for the next ten years would be a wonderful thing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Monica Freeman

medialacer@gmail.com

From: [Victoria Lambert](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Res.2024-R011 - Support
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 9:37:42 AM

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Dear Richmond City Council,

As a resident of Richmond's 6th District, I am writing to express my strong support for the Richmond Connects plan and to urge the council to prioritize its implementation. I regularly utilize public transportation, biking, and walking as my primary means of getting around, and I believe that the Richmond Connects plan is essential for creating a more accessible, equitable, and sustainable urban environment for all residents.

Having lived in Richmond for nearly a year, I have come to appreciate the diverse and vibrant communities that make our city unique. However, I have also experienced firsthand the challenges associated with transportation and mobility, particularly for those of us who rely on alternative modes of transportation such as buses, bikes, and walking. A recent incident I witnessed in the city underscores the urgent need for infrastructure improvements, especially for individuals who do not rely on cars for transportation. I recently saw a person in a wheelchair being forced to navigate a busy street because the sidewalks along their route were poorly maintained. This highlights the critical importance of ensuring accessible pathways for all pedestrians.

Specifically, I am pleased to see initiatives within the Richmond Connects plan such as the proposed expansion of the GRTC bus network to better serve underserved neighborhoods, the implementation of protected bike lanes to improve cyclist safety, and the enhancement of pedestrian infrastructure to create more walkable communities. I also strongly endorse maintaining the zero-fare policy for buses, as it has received overwhelming support from bus riders who have emphasized its importance in enabling their use of public transportation.

The Richmond Connects measures will not only make it easier and safer for residents like myself to get around but also promote healthier, more sustainable modes of transportation. The plan also has the potential to foster greater equity within our city. By improving access to transportation options for all residents, regardless of their income or ability, the plan will help bridge the gap between different neighborhoods and communities, thereby promoting social cohesion and economic opportunity for all.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse the Richmond Connects plan and urge the council to support its implementation. By investing in a more accessible, equitable, and sustainable transportation system, we can create a brighter future for Richmond and ensure that all residents have the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Victoria Lambert
Resident of Richmond's 6th District