

INTRODUCED: March 13, 2017

AN ORDINANCE No. 2017-024

As Amended

To amend and reordain City Code §§ 2-871—2-872, concerning the Highway Safety Commission, for the purpose of renaming the Highway Safety Commission as the Safe and Healthy Streets Commission ~~[and]~~ providing that a quorum of the Commission consists of a majority of the members instead of seven members~~;~~ and ~~[to amend and reordain ch. 2, art. V, div. 5 of the City Code by adding therein a new § 2-873, concerning the review of transportation-related projects]~~, to require the ~~[review by]~~ Department of Public Works to provide the Commission ~~[of]~~ with information concerning transportation-related projects upon request therefor by the Commission.

Patrons – Mr. Agelasto, Ms. Trammell, and Mr. Addison

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: FEB 27 2017 AT 6 P.M.

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. That sections 2-871 and 2-872 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2015) be and are hereby amended and reordained as follows:

Sec. 2-871. Created.

There is hereby created an advisory commission of the City of Richmond with indefinite duration to be known as the ~~[Highway Safety]~~ Safe and Healthy Streets Commission.

Sec. 2-872. Composition; terms of office; duties and functions; reporting.

AYES: 8 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: APR 10 2017 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

(a) *Composition.* The Commission shall be composed of 12 members as follows:

- (1) A member of the Council.
- (2) Four qualified voters of the City who hold no office of profit with the City.
- (3) Three members with expertise in transportation safety.
- (4) The Superintendent of the School Division of the City of Richmond.
- (5) The commanding officer of the Traffic Division of the Department of Police.
- (6) The Traffic Engineer of the City.
- (7) The Director of Public Works.

(b) *Terms of office.* The Superintendent of the School Division of the City of Richmond, the commanding officer of the Traffic Division of the Department of Police, the Traffic Engineer of the City and the Director of Public Works shall serve as ex officio members of the Commission, and their designees may attend and vote in their stead. All other members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Council by resolution, shall serve for terms of three years, and may serve up to three successive full terms; provided that the member of the Council shall serve for a term coincident with such member's term as a member of the Council. Upon the expiration of a member's term of office, that member shall continue to hold office until the successor thereof is appointed and qualified. Any vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as provided in this subsection. All other aspects of the Commission and its membership not addressed in this division shall be governed by Article V, Division 1 of this chapter.

(c) *Duties and functions.*

(1) The Commission shall provide advice and recommendations to the Council concerning plans for the formulation of a highway safety program for the City and conduct periodic reviews of the operation and effect of such program. For purposes of Section 2-761, the Commission is classified as “advisory.”

(2) The Office of the Chief Administrative Officer shall provide the necessary support for the Commission. The Commission shall meet no fewer than four times annually and shall keep minutes of its meetings in accordance with the requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. [~~Seven~~] A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum. The Commission may adopt rules of procedure or bylaws not inconsistent with this division or other applicable law to govern the conduct of its meetings and affairs. The Commission may elect from its membership a Chairman and other officers it deems necessary in accordance with its rules of procedure or bylaws.

(d) *Reporting.* On an annual basis, the Commission shall provide the Council with recommendations concerning plans for the formulation of a highway safety program for the City and with the results of the periodic reviews of the operation and effect of such program it conducts in accordance with Subsection (c) of this section.

(e) *Information on projects.* The Department of Public Works shall provide the Commission with information on transportation-related projects upon request therefor by the Commission.

§ 2. ~~[That Chapter 2, Article V, Division 5 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2015)~~
~~be and is hereby amended and reordained by adding therein a new section numbered 2-873, as~~
~~follows:~~

~~**Sec. 2-873. Review of transportation-related projects.**~~

~~For purposes of this section, the term “department” means a City agency responsible for~~
~~the construction of a transportation-related project and the term “transportation-related project”~~
~~means a project for the construction of infrastructure in the public right-of-way that affects~~
~~pedestrian travel, vehicular travel, or both. No contract shall be solicited for the construction of a~~
~~transportation-related project in the city until the requirements of this section have been met. The~~
~~department shall submit all plans for the transportation-related project to the Commission for~~
~~review when such plans are 30 percent complete, 60 percent complete, and 100 percent complete.~~
~~Plans will be deemed submitted to the Commission as of the date on which an employee of the~~
~~department either provides copies of the plans to each member of the Commission or notifies each~~
~~member of the Commission in writing of the means by which a member of the Commission can~~
~~access the plans electronically. The Commission shall review the plans and, by majority vote,~~
~~provide recommendations to the department concerning the safety-related aspects of the~~
~~transportation-related project. If the Commission has not voted to provide any recommendations~~
~~to the department within 30 calendar days after the date on which the plans for a transportation-~~
~~related project that are 100 percent complete are submitted to the Commission, the Commission~~
~~will be deemed to have decided not to provide any such recommendations. Departments are~~
~~encouraged to consider and, where practicable, incorporate the Commission’s recommendations~~

~~into the plans for the transportation-related project prior to the solicitation of a contract for the construction of the transportation-related project. The Commission shall hold meetings with such frequency as may be necessary to avoid delaying the progress of the design of a transportation-related project.~~

~~§ 3.]~~ This ordinance shall be in force and effect upon adoption.

bylaws not inconsistent with this division or other applicable law to govern the conduct of its meetings and affairs.

On July 15, 2015, the Highway Safety Commission voted on and passed a Resolution Enhancing the Effectiveness and Responsibilities of the Richmond Highway Safety Commission.

The Commission recommends amendments to Richmond City Code, Section 2-872 regarding the duties and functions of the Commission. The Resolution passed by the Commission includes the following recommended changes:

- (a) Changing the name of the commission to Richmond Safe and Healthy Streets Commission
- (b) Adjusting the number of members required for a quorum to less than seven, and
- (c) Creating a process to review the design of projects.

With regard to these recommended changes, the Resolution highlights the following:

- The name Highway Safety Commission does not relay the fact that the Commission is interested in the safety of all the surface streets in Richmond.
- The name Highway Safety Commission is sometimes misunderstood as only focusing on Interstate Highways and Freeways.
- The Commission wishes to recognize that transportation safety is a public health issue.
- The Commission recommends to Richmond City Council to change the name to the Richmond Safe and Healthy Streets Commission.
- The Commission recommends that the required number of members present for a quorum can be less than seven provided there are vacancies on the commission and over half the members are present.

The requested introduction date is February 13, 2017.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Budget Amendment Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact	\$	

Attachment/s Yes No

Richmond City Council Ordinance/Resolution Request Form/Updated 12.22.08/srs

A resolution enhancing the effectiveness and responsibilities of the Richmond Highway Safety Commission

WHEREAS, Highway Safety Commission members have expressed interest in changing the name of the commission, adjusting the number of members required for a quorum, and creating a process to review the design of projects

WHEREAS, the name Highway Safety Commission does not relay the fact that the Commission is interested in the safety of all the surface streets in Richmond

WHEREAS, the name Highway Safety Commission sometimes misunderstood as only focusing only on Interstate Highways and Freeways

WHEREAS, the Commission is focused on safety issues for motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcycles, and transit riders on all public thoroughfares in the city

WHEREAS, the Commission wishes to recognize that transportation safety is a public health issue

RESOLVED by the Richmond Highway Safety Commission, that the Richmond City Council should change the name to the Richmond Safe and Healthy Streets Commission

WHEREAS, the number of members present required for a quorum make the business of the Commission difficult to conduct and has required the delay of action during several meetings in the past year

RESOLVED, that the required number of members present for a quorum can be less than seven provided there are vacancies on the commission and over half the members are present

WHEREAS, the Highway Safety Commission is required to have three transportation safety experts and the Traffic Engineer of the City and the Director of Public Works

WHEREAS, there is no requirement that transportation experts sit on the Urban Design Committee

WHEREAS, the Commission will improve the quality of safety aspects and considerations in the transportation project design

WHEREAS, the Commission has provided valuable feedback on the Forest Hill Ave and the Jahnke Road projects that will improve safety and compliance with the Americans with Disability Act

RESOLVED, that all transportation projects be sent to the Commission for review at both 30% and 60% and final designs provided for the record

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Clerk of City Council will prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Transportation and Land Use committee and any other appropriate body, as an expression of the Commission's interest in changing these operational aspects of the Commission

Richmond Highway Safety Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2015

A meeting of the Richmond Highway Safety Commission was held on July 15, 2015 at the Richmond Police Academy. Chairman John Bolecek opened the meeting with introductions of all individuals present.

The meeting business began with approval of the April 2015 meeting minutes, with an amendment to strike the note about the Complete Streets update.

Old business: the Jahnke Road and Forest Hill Ave widening project was discussed.

Mike Sawyer, City Transportation Engineer, discussed Complete Streets activities in the City and the Healthy Corridors Initiative, which is fairly limited to low-cost safety improvements such as signal timing, striping, and curb ramps.

The Highway Safety Commission voted on and passed a Healthy Corridors Resolution (attached).

Travis Bridewell, Traffic Engineering Operations Manager, provided an update on bicycle and pedestrian initiatives. Projects included: Leigh Street, Lee Bridge, Manchester Bridge, Hermitage Road, Dock Street and the Virginia Capital Trail, bike share, and Transportation Alternatives Program grants.

The Highway Safety Commission voted on and passed A Resolution Enhancing the Effectiveness and Responsibilities of the Richmond Highway Safety Commission (attached).

The Highway Safety Commission voted on and passed A Resolution Commending Bud Vye for Improving Safety in Richmond (attached).

The Highway Safety Commission voted on and passed A Resolution Commending the Virginia Commonwealth University Police Department (attached).

Discussion was had about actions regarding unlicensed drivers , Complete Streets, and Transportation Alternatives Program grant applications that are due November 1, 2015.

John Bolecek adjourned the meeting.

Those in attendance:

- Max Hepp-Buchanan, Highway Safety Commission
- Michael Todd, Highway Safety Commission
- Mike Sawyer, City of Richmond
- Travis Bridewell, City of Richmond
- Rich Jacobs, Drive Smart Virginia
- Emily Thomason, Highway Safety Commission

- David Aldridge, VCU Police
- Mack Frost, Federal Highway Administration
- Nancy Lo, Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
- Shane Cusick, Highway Safety Commission
- Emanuel Adediran, City of Richmond
- John Bolecek, Highway Safety Commission
- Tammy Arnette, AAA
- Jon Baliles, Richmond City Council
- Janice Smith, RMTA
- James Hatcher Johnson, Highway Safety Commission
- Tom Nolan, Richmond Police Department

Upcoming meetings for 2016 have not yet been scheduled.