

Greetings Honorable Commissioners,

The City of Richmond, Office of Equitable Transit and Mobility is pleased to announce that a draft of the Richmond Connects multimodal transportation plan is available for public review. A draft of the action plan, which contains the *priorities* for equity-focused transportation investment over the next decade is located [here](#).

The full strategic plan document, which contains all equity-focused projects considered in the prioritization process, as well as the full documentation of technical processes and engagement, can be found [here](#).

Both of these documents are out for public review until December 5th. I am writing today as Kelli Rowan and Dironna Clarke (CCed here) will be presenting information to this body on December 4th regarding this plan.

OETM is asking this body to adopt the Action Plan and Strategic Plan as an amendment to the Richmond 300 Master Plan at the December 18th meetings. We are writing today to share the draft so that your comments and suggestions can be incorporated into the draft presented for adoption on the 18th. Please feel free to send comments directly to Kelli, or make them on the document portal linked above.

A little more on this effort - the [Richmond Connects Strategic Plan](#) is the multimodal transportation plan for the City of Richmond, Virginia. Like typical transportation plans, it identifies transportation needs, develops projects and strategies to address the needs, and prioritizes projects and strategies for implementation (the priorities are listed in the Action Plan). Unlike typical transportation plans, its purpose is to direct transportation investments to improve equity. The recommendations prioritize projects and strategies that will close gaps in access and remove barriers for Communities of Concern (aka Communities of Opportunity).

The planning process utilized the existing Master Plan Vision for Equitable Transportation, and other policy emphases from the Master Plan – such as a priority along Great Streets and in Nodes – were embedded in the needs assessment process. Richmond Connects elevates the idea of equitable transportation, folds in policy from RVAgreen2050 and the Equity Agenda, and narrows the focus on action steps to make the Richmond 300 Vision for transportation a reality.

Also noteworthy is the level with which equity was embedded in every facet of the outreach and engagement. Through community pop-ups, paid focus groups, neighborhood events, canvassing, social media, telephone town halls, online surveys, and email blasts, the team talked to over 20,000 Richmonders. In the last round of engagement alone, over 8,000 Richmonders completed a survey to indicate which projects were the most pressing for their neighborhood. Deliberate, intentional actions were undertaken to ensure representation from marginalized communities; this included providing compensation for participation, deliberate multimedia accessibility and language simplification, consistent community-based and community-located events, and a ‘titles-left-at-the-door’ mantra. Hundreds of hours were spent having conversations with Richmonders who have been left out of previous planning processes.

The OETM team looks forward to hearing your thoughts on this huge milestone for our City and hope you all had a wonderful holiday!