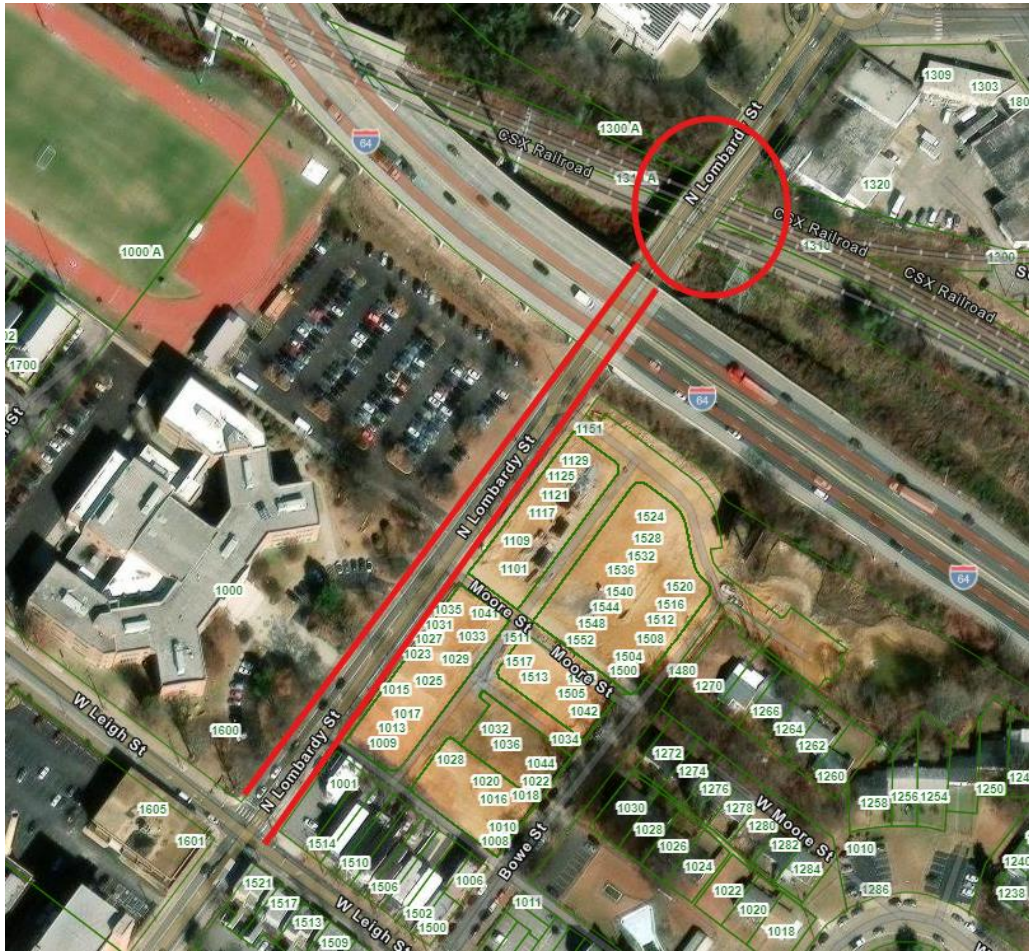




Staff Report
City of Richmond, Virginia
Planning Commission



UDC 2025-24	FINAL Review	Meeting Date: 7/15/2025
Applicant/Petitioner	Applicant: Thomas Westbrook, P.E., Public Works	
Project Description	UDC 2025-24 FINAL Location, Character, Extent review of a proposed bridge replacement and pedestrian and bike improvements; located along Lombardy Street between Admiral Street and West Leigh Street.	
Project Location		
Address: Lombardy Street, between Admiral Street and West Leigh Street		
Property Owner: City of Richmond ROW		
High-Level Details: The purpose for this project is to replace the existing structurally deficient bridge carrying Lombardy St over CSX train tracks with a new structure. The new bridge will be added to the City's inventory. Additionally, walking and biking infrastructure from W. Leigh St to Admiral St will be evaluated and upgraded as necessary.		
UDC RECOMMENDATION	Approval	
Staff Contact	Ray Roakes – Raymond.Roakes@rva.gov	
Previous Reviews	UDC 2025-16 was approved for CONCEPT in June 2025. The UDC recommended, and the Planning Commission approved, that the Applicant explore alternative treatments for the transition between the bike lane and the shared use path.	
Conditions for Approval	NA	

Findings of Fact

Site Description	The project site is located Lombardy Street, between Admiral Street and West Leigh Street. VSU is located directly to the north, Maggie L. Walker directly to the south, and Lombardy Street goes under I-95 within the project site.
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Scope of Review	The project is subject to location, character, and extent review under section 17.05 and 17.07 of the Richmond City Charter.
Project Description	<p><u>Staff Review:</u></p> <p>The project proposes significant pedestrian and bike infrastructure improvements along Lombardy Street. This corridor is an important connection between VUU to points south of I-95. Maggie Walker Governors School will also benefit from the improved pedestrian access, enhancing safe routes to school for students.</p> <p>The Master Plan shows “Bicycle Facilities” as being located on North Lombardy Street – which this project is fulfilling.</p> <p>The UDC recommended during CONCEPT review, and the Planning Commission approved, that the Applicant explore alternative treatments for the transition between the bike lane and the shared use path.</p> <p>The Applicant has not made changes to the proposed plans and offers the following statement to help the Commission understand the reasoning behind the design.</p> <p><i>“The shared/split use path is a part of the scope of the SMARTSCALE funding for the project. The SMARTSCALE funding application [“the application”] says to improve pedestrian and bicycle accommodations and connectivity along Lombardy and to provide critical safety improvements to the deficient bridge over CSX. The shared/split use path is specifically proposed in “the application” as a protected bicycle and pedestrian path for multi-modal connectivity. Also from “the application”, “the proposed improvements include a protected shared use path along a load path redundant structure which will allow pedestrians and cyclists to travel between Northside Richmond to BRT facilities, separated from vehicular traffic. The existing bike lanes along Lombardy Street will be connected to the path over the bridge by constructing ramps.”</i></p> <p><u>Staff Recommendation:</u></p> <p><u>Approval</u></p>

Urban Design Guidelines and Master Plan

	Text	Staff Analysis
Master Plan		
Objective 8.1 – P.141	Improve pedestrian experience by increasing and improving sidewalks and improving pedestrian crossings and streetscapes, prioritizing low income areas.	Sidewalks are being enhanced.
Objective 8.3 – P.142	<i>Expand and improve on-street networks and amenities serving bicyclists and other nonvehicle users, as shown in Figure 30.</i>	Bike facilities are being provided.

Greenways and On-Street Bike Facilities Map - P.143	<i>Figure 30</i>	The Master Plan shows “Bicycle Facilities” as being located on North Lombardy Street – which this project is fulfilling.
Urban Design Guidelines		
Transportation – Pedestrian Facilities P.6	<i>Pedestrian Facilities All transportation projects should have adequate provisions to address the needs of the pedestrian in a safe and efficient manner. Streetscape elements, such as street trees, street lighting, and seating should be used to encourage pedestrian activity.</i>	Pedestrian facilities are proposed to be enhanced.