

From: [John Newell](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Public Comment on GRTC Pulse: Bus Rapid Transit Project
Date: Friday, August 14, 2015 5:39:14 PM

I am pleased that this project is finally moving forward...I fully support it and plan to use it between Willow Lawn and areas to the east.

John Newell
(former mayor)
Ashland

From: [Max Hepp-Buchanan](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Bike Walk RVA comments on BRT
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 12:48:12 PM

Jeff,

I am on vacation this week, so I am not able to testify at the upcoming UDC meeting on the BRT project. However, I do want to submit some comments for the UDC members to consider:

- The Bike Walk RVA staff at Sports Backers have been engaging in an ongoing conversation with GRTC and City of Richmond staff to ensure that the design of Broad Street as part of the Pulse GRTC project is as safe and comfortable as possible for people who need to walk and bike along and across Broad Street.
- The current design, which features a 4-foot median (increase from 2 feet) and six dedicated pedestrian crossings at otherwise unsignalized intersections, is a tremendous improvement from earlier versions of the project design.
- We would still like assurance that HAWK signals or some other high-intensity pedestrian crossing signal at the six pedestrian crossings will be installed to help people cross the street safely. Currently, installation of those signals seem to be contingent on if there is money available in the project budget and if it meets VDOT "warrants".
- Overall, we have been pleased with the increased transparency and willingness to collaborate on the design of Broad Street on the part of the City of Richmond and GRTC, and our previous concerns over pedestrian safety have been addressed.
- The incorporation of bike parking in the station area plans and bike racks mounted on the front of the buses will make the Pulse BRT a compliment to the bicycle network that is being built out in the Bicycle Master Plan and will help people get around Richmond in a more multi-modal manner.

Thank you,

Max Hepp-Buchanan
Director of Bike Walk RVA
Sports Backers

From: [Larry Hedgepeth](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: GRTC's BRT System Conceptual Review by UDC and Planning Commission
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 10:26:33 PM

Dear Mr. Eastman,

I hope you will provide this e-mail to the Urban Design Committee and to the Planning Commission before their meetings regarding GRTC's proposed BRT project.

One aspect of the development of the proposed BRT project disturbs me. In the conceptual plans presented to the Urban Design Committee, there is now a 1.4 mile gap between stations, roughly centered at Malvern Avenue. Considering the importance of established and future development within this segment of the BRT route, this seems to be a serious design flaw that the UDC and the Planning Commission should not overlook. This gap is centered on my neighborhood. I regularly ride GRTC buses, and I am very disappointed.

In GRTC's early project development documents, the station location criteria led to establishing a station at Hamilton Street. This station was removed with no notification to neighborhoods west of Hamilton. In the "Application for UDC Review," you can see that the Hamilton Street station was moved to Cleveland Street. The "Final Station Location Report V3," states that this decision was not based on a field review or any professional analysis of the criteria for station locations. This decision was dictated by the City of Richmond, was not documented, and was not analyzed by GRTC's consultant team.

I have been unable to find anyone willing to take responsibility for deciding to remove service for my neighborhood on the proposed BRT project. I have not seen any documentation of this decision. It seems to have been an arbitrary decision. I hope you will require GRTC to revisit the decision to eliminate the Hamilton Street station considering their original station location criteria. I believe that a rational analysis and design would lead to reestablishing this station.

Please let me add some history on this issue. In May 2014, I attended a public meeting concerning the Bus Rapid Transit project proposed by GRTC. I learned that the proposed route would serve my area with a station at Hamilton Street, approximately halfway between stations at Staples Mill Road and Robinson Street. I read the GRTC Station Area Screening Study report, which emphasized criteria such as distance between stations, community facilities, and current ridership on GRTC routes. Although there would be a limited number of BRT stations, they would be spaced no more than one mile apart. As a regular bus rider, I was elated to see that GRTC's BRT system would serve my neighborhood and the longtime residents and employers in the Malvern Avenue area.

Imagine my surprise and anger when I attended the public meeting on January 27. I learned that GRTC eliminated the proposed station at Hamilton Street that served my area and added a station at Cleveland Street. I am appalled that anyone would suggest removing service from someone else's area to improve service in his own area. I do not oppose the addition of service in any area, but eliminating the Hamilton Street station leaves a 1.4 mile gap between stations, centered at Malvern Avenue.

Riders who would board/depart for the following places will be underserved by the lack of a station between Hamilton and Westmoreland:

- Thomas Jefferson High School
- Guardian Place (senior citizen community)
- Estes Express Lines (corporate HQ)
- United Methodist Family Services (UMFS)
- International Mission Board (Southern Baptist Convention on Monument Avenue)
- Richmond Technical Center (on Westwood Avenue)
- Multiple small businesses on Broad Street, Westwood Avenue and Dabney Road
- Multiple apartment and condominium complexes along Hamilton Street
- Westbound Broad Street connection to GRTC's Route 91 (Laburnum Connector)

Longtime residents in the following neighborhoods will be underserved by the lack of a station between Hamilton and Westmoreland:

- Sauer's Garden
- Jefferson Terrace
- Malvern Gardens
- Westhampton (eastern portion)

Last year, the Planning Commission approved the development of a former office building in my neighborhood into an apartment building. Soon, UMFS will be developing the open space on their property. The former offices of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries are likely to be redeveloped soon. New businesses are moving into vacant spaces along this part of Broad. And no one wants to see Estes leave the city. A BRT station would be a catalyst to maintaining the momentum of further development.

It seems obvious to me that a BRT station is needed somewhere between Hamilton and Westmoreland. I hope that the members of the UDC and the Planning Commission will agree. Thank you for providing them with my input.

Sincerely,

Larry Hedgepeth
4024 Cutshaw Avenue
Richmond, VA 23230-3930
804-358-1879

From: [Rich Conti](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Cc: ["Rose Pace, Carrie"](#)
Subject: Public Comment on GRTC Pulse: Bus Rapid Transit Project
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 12:39:10 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Mr. Eastman,

On behalf of the Science Museum of Virginia, I wanted to express our support for the GRTC Pulse project. As a major public attraction with more than 300,000 annual visitors, we believe that the Pulse will be a tremendous addition to the region's transportation infrastructure. GRTC has involved the Science Museum in its planning process and has responded very favorably to the concerns we had with regard to the Robinson Street station. We are exploring whether we might be able to set aside some spaces in our parking lots to potentially be used for Park & Ride.

As a former hub of transportation, the Science Museum realizes that effective public transportation is a major quality of life factor for residents and workers. Our new site master plan will be complementing the future addition of the Pulse. Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this exciting project!

Richard Conti
Director/CWO
804.864.1499 www.smv.org



From: [Charles Warren](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Public Comment on GRTC Pulse: Bus Rapid Transit Project
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2015 8:10:32 AM

Mr. Eastman,

I am writing to you to ask the Urban Design Committee to support GRTC's Bus Rapid Transit Project, Pulse. I feel that developing rapid transit is critical to the regions future and that the proposed project will be a great improvement to the Broad Street corridor.

Thanks,
Charles Warren
Richmond, VA

From: [PDR Planning and Preservation](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#); [Markham, Lory P. - PDR](#)
Cc: ["Rose Pace, Carrie"](#)
Subject: FW: Comments in Support of BRT Phone:N/A
Date: Friday, August 21, 2015 12:46:51 PM

*James Hill, Principal Planner
Planning and Preservation Division
Department of Planning and Development Review
City Hall, Room 510
900 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-1907*

804-646-7552

james.hill@richmondgov.com

From: Richmond Association of REALTORS [mailto:egreenfield@rarealtors.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 9:15 AM
To: PDR Planning and Preservation
Cc: CityWebManager
Subject: Comments in Support of BRT Phone:N/A

From: Richmond Association of REALTORS

Email Address: egreenfield@rarealtors.com

Mail Address: 8975 Three Chopt Road
Richmond, VA 23229

Message:

On behalf of the Richmond Association of REALTORS®, I would like to offer comments on GRTC's Pulse line because REALTORS have a vested interest in their communities, not only today, but also 20 years from now. This is because their clients aren't simply buying a house. They're buying into a community. That said, we are in support of the proposed bus rapid transit line for several reasons. First, study after study has shown that all types of property values increase when a BRT line is created. Residential, commercial, and industrial values all have statistically significant increase in value, based on their proximity to the line. The closer the property, the more significant the increase. In addition, businesses report increased patronage when adjacent to BRT. Second, when done correctly, a BRT system can reap an enormous economic benefit for the region and there are numerous success stories. Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Las Vegas, Ottawa, and Eugene have all received returns on their investments into BRT. However, it's important to note that government support for transit oriented development is the strongest predictor of success. And lastly, it's important to view the Pulse as a transportation option for everyone, not just those who rely on public transportation as their primary mode of getting around. The two largest age demographics, the millennials and the baby boomers, have made their preference for accessibility and public transport clear. In fact, the ridership of people who don't depend on public transportation has proven to be critical to the success of BRT systems. In conclusion, when done correctly and with the

effected localities' full commitment to transit oriented development, the Pulse will put the Richmond region on par with its competitor regions. It has the full support of the Richmond Association of REALTORS. Thank you for your work on the BRT system and for the opportunity to offer comments.

For DIT Use Only:

Client IP Address: 192.168.99.129

Client Operating System: WinNT

Client Browser Name: InternetExplorer

Client Browser Version: 11.0

From: [Mason, Ashley](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: BRT Letter of Support
Date: Monday, August 24, 2015 1:24:59 PM
Importance: High

Good afternoon Jeff,

Below is a letter of support from Alexander Sally, President of Ann's Soul Food. Please note that Ann's Soul Food is located at 216 E. Broad Street, right behind the future 3rd Street westbound station. Although Mr. Sally refers to this station as the GRTC Express Depot, he is well aware of Bus Rapid Transit and of the station that will be located right outside of his business.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Ashley A. Mason

Marketing & Public Relations Specialist BRT Project
P 804 358 3871 ext. 364 | F 804 342 1933 | ridegrtc.com
301 E. Belt Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23224



From: Alexander Sally [<mailto:alexsally@mhcprevents.org>]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 11:03 AM
To: Mason, Ashley
Subject: Placement of a GRTC Express depot near Anns Soul restaurant
Importance: High

Dear

Ms. Mason,

I am sending this email to unequivocally support the placement of a GRTC Express Depot in proximity of my establishment Ann's Soul Food located at 216 E Broad Street Richmond, Virginia 23219.

I feel that the positioning of the BUS Stand will help to increase visibility and potentially

increase the number of transit riders who will have access to patronize my restaurant whether they are waiting for the bus arrival or in between transfer waiting on a connection.

During the previous change of relocating the bus to the hub station on 9th Street, my business suffered significant loss in customers. Many of my senior customers shared with me that it was a challenge for them to have to walk such a long distance to reach our establishment.

I am excited and hopeful that GRTC will strongly consider placing a Bus Stand near my establishment. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Sal

Alexander Sally

President

A&D Soul Food

DBA

"Ann's Soul Food"

216 East Broad Street

Richmond, VA 23219

email: alexally@mhcprevents.org

Phone:(804) 643-5337

From: tjelder7@comcast.net
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Gap in Bus Rapid Transit Stops
Date: Monday, August 31, 2015 10:37:50 AM

Dear Mr. Eastman,

The plans for a Bus Rapid Transit system to get downtown sound very good, except that there is no stop near my house. My daughter takes the bus downtown most days. I live in the 3900 block of West Grace Street, three blocks from West Broad Street and the nearest BRT stop is almost a mile away at Cleveland. There is a big gap between the Cleveland and Staples Mill Road stops. Would you please consider adding a stop around Malvern Avenue to make it feasible to get the bus from the Jefferson Terrace and Sauer Gardens neighborhoods?

Thank you for your work, and for considering my request.

Sincerely,
Jane M. Elder
3919 W. Grace St.
Richmond, VA 23230

From: [Lanier, Ronald L. \(VDDHH\)](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Public Comment on GRTC Pulse: Bus Rapid Transit Project
Date: Friday, September 04, 2015 10:01:20 AM

Good morning Mr. Eastman,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I have said it before and I think it's worth reminding. Please ensure that for every transit audible announcement or alert, that there be a visual representation (sign or text) for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. Emphasis has usually been on physical access, which is important, but citizens with sensory disabilities, such as a hearing loss, are very often overlooked.

Again, thank you, and I am excited about the future of this great city, destined to be accessible by all!

Ron

Ronald L. Lanier

Director

Virginia Department for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
1602 Rolling Hills Drive, Suite 203
Richmond, VA 23223-5012
804.662.9502 (v/tty)
804.662.9718 (fax)
800.552.7917 (v/tty)
804.325.1675 (vp)
ronald.lanier@vddhh.virginia.gov
www.vddhh.org

From: nmerva@gmail.com on behalf of [Nelson Reveley](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Planning Commission & BRT
Date: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 8:05:46 AM

Dear Mr. Eastman and Planning Commission:

As a member of the Clergy Committee for Rapid Transit, I wanted to express my strong support for a metropolitan-wide bus rapid transit system, of which I think the line from Rocketts Landing to Willow Lawn can serve as the first leg of this much larger system that will unite the counties and the city together .

Along with other members of the Clergy Committee, I believe that the people of Metropolitan Richmond have endured centuries of division and conflict and that we should now step forward in solidarity, telling the world that we intend to be the capital city of reconciliation.

I believe that all should have the opportunity to live in mutual prosperity, in constructive relationships, in educated diversity, in justice, and in hope for the future.

I believe that Metropolitan Richmond must be linked together with a comprehensive public transportation system for the sake of all our citizens.

Metropolitan Richmond is currently ranked in the bottom ten percent of American cities in public transportation, and it can move to the top ten percent by building the four rapid transit lines, which have been identified by transportation planners and RVA Rapid Transit.

I join with residents, businesses, and institutions of all of our jurisdictions, asking our leaders to unite without delay in this common constructive cause.

Many thanks for your time and consideration.
Grace and Peace,

Nelson Reveley

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Nelson Reveley

Ph.D. Candidate, Religious Studies
Theology, Ethics, and Culture
University of Virginia

From: [Jane Dowrick](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: support for rapid transit
Date: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 4:04:57 AM

Dear Mr. Eastman and Planning Commission:

I am writing as a member of the Clergy Committee for Rapid Transit and in strong support of a metropolitan-wide bus rapid transit system - a system that would unify the counties and the city - and I see the BRT line from Rocketts Landing to Willow Lawn as the first leg of this larger system.

Such a system would generate excellent economic development. It would more fairly open access to employment, education, health care, and the cultural gifts of the region for all. It would improve quality of life for all, reducing the need to own and drive a car. It would help address looming traffic congestion and parking issues in the decades to come as our population grows.

I appreciate the efforts to make the plans and implementation of this first leg of BRT a success, and I look forward to the good this transportation system will bring to neighborhoods across Metropolitan Richmond.

Sincerely,

Jane Dowrick, member of St. James's Episcopal Church, Richmond VA

Jane Dowrick and Michael Whitlow

From: [Otto Williams's iPhone](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: Broad St BRT
Date: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 8:45:28 PM

Couldn't attend today's meeting but I support the project 100%. I'm a native Richmonder and have lived in the city or suburbs most of my life.
E. Otto Williams, Jr.

From: [Diana Damschroder](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: transit improvements
Date: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 1:25:08 PM

Please ensure that ALL richmond area residents can get to jobs, shops, doctors & other transportation like airport and train.

From: [Dominic Carter](#)
To: [Eastman, Jeff R. - PDR](#)
Subject: BRT in Metropolitan Richmond
Date: Wednesday, September 09, 2015 2:58:56 PM

Dear Mr. Eastman and Planning Commission:

I am writing as a member of the Clergy Committee for Rapid Transit and in strong support of a metropolitan-wide bus rapid transit system - a system that would unify the counties and the city - and I see the BRT line from Rocketts Landing to Willow Lawn as the first leg of this larger system.

Such a system would generate excellent economic development. It would more fairly open access to employment, education, health care, and the cultural gifts of the region for all. It would improve quality of life for all, reducing the need to own and drive a car. It would help address looming traffic congestion and parking issues in the decades to come as our population grows.

I appreciate the efforts to make the plans and implementation of this first leg of BRT a success, and I look forward to the good this transportation system will bring to neighborhoods across Metropolitan Richmond.

Sincerely,
Dominic

Dominic Carter
Clergy & Church Relations

RVA Rapid Transit
2209 E. Grace Street
Richmond VA 23223
o: [804-783-7903](tel:804-783-7903) ext. 31
c: [804-252-1543](tel:804-252-1543)