



# Richmond City Council

*The Voice of the People*

Richmond, Virginia

## Office of the Council Chief of Staff

### Land Use, Housing, & Transportation Standing Committee

January 20, 2026

#### Legislative Summary

**Previous Meeting:** November 18, 2025

**Next Meeting:** February 17, 2026

#### Committee Notes

#### Presentations:

- Dylan Wheeler – Maggie Walker Land Trust will present on the organization housing impact in the region, units developed, housing partners, and how the Trust helps lower housing costs for participants. Members may wish to ask:
  - 1) How does the program save housing costs for a participant?
  - 2) How does a participant build equity?
  - 3) How many units are developed in participating jurisdictions?
  - 4) How many units are planned to be developed in the participating jurisdictions in the foreseeable future?
  - 5) There have been some concerns expressed as to the impact of assessments on non-profit properties.
    - a) How does that impact participant owners in your program?
    - b) How does that impact your organization?

#### Discussion Items:

- Presentation Schedule for 2026.

#### Ordinances & Resolutions for Consideration:

##### 1. **Ordinance No. 2025-278**

**Patron** Mayor Avula

Key Points:

- To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Lease Agreement between the City of Richmond, as landlord, and Virginia Community Voice, as tenant, for the purpose of leasing certain real property located at 2015 Ruffin Road.



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- Virginia Community Voice is a community advocacy group which champions, racial healing, greening, and community development in south Richmond.
- This is for a lease term of one year.
- The tenant will be responsible for routine maintenance and landscaping.
- Committee members may wish to know the following:
  - 1) Whether or not it is anticipated that the lease will renew
  - 2) If so, is it anticipated that the rent be increase at any future renewal?
  - 3) Will the property be eventually surplus?
  - 4) What is the value of the property?

Fiscal Impact:  None  Yes. No fiscal impact anticipated. The lease is for \$250 dollars.

## 2. Ordinance No. 2025-279

**Patron** Mayor Avula

Key Points:

- Authorizes the Chief Administrative Officer, to execute a Master Agreement for Use of Commonwealth Transportation Funds between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for the purpose of utilizing grant proceeds from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT).
- The City has used grants from DRPT to make improvements at Main Street Station in the past.
- The City needs to complete the attached agreements to access future grants.
- Members may wish to know what types of needs and projects the Administration hopes to have DRTP grant assistance from in the near future under this agreement.
- Questions: Members may wish to know: 1) How does the program work? 2) How much has the City received from it in the past? 3) What projects are to be supported by the program?

Fiscal Impact:  None  Yes. Costs and grants are not anticipated from signing the agreement, but the agreement is needed to pursue some grants from this State Agency.



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### 3. Ordinance No. 2025-280

**Patron** Mayor Avula

#### Key Points

- Authorizes the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Grant Agreement Under the Fiscal Year 2024 Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program between the City of Richmond and the United States Department of Transportation for the purpose of funding the implementation of Vision Zero safety program activities.
- These grants are intended to help improve safety on public roads and help improve safety on the high injury network.
- The Administration's O&R does not specify specific projects that potential funds and grants will be used for in its O&R.
- Question(s): 1) The Committee may wish to inquire as to what improvements are intended to be addressed with any grants that are received. 2) What programs will be funded?

Fiscal Impact:  None  Yes. The City is pursuing \$1,000,000 in matching funds from the USDOT, in addition to \$125,000 in CVTA funds.

### 4. Ordinance No. 2025-281

**Patrons** Mayor Avula

#### Key Points

- To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Lease Agreement between the City of Richmond, as landlord, and Bakery RVA L.L.C., as tenant, for the purpose of overflow parking and creating a designated area for ride share drop-off and pick-up at 212 North 18th Street. (7th District)
- The Shockoe Bottom property will be temporarily leased until redeveloped for affordable housing pursuant to efforts to use some City surplus property for housing.
- It is hoped that active use under the lease will help prevent crime and dangerous activities in this area until the property is redeveloped.
- Questions: 1) Members may wish to know when redevelopment of the property is expected to start. 2) Will there be an update on redevelopment of the property? 3) Why is there no rental charge for use of the property, isn't there some value in this use?



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Fiscal Impact:  None  Yes. No rent is required under the lease.

### 5. Ordinance No. 2026-002

**Patrons** Mayor Avula

#### Key Points

- To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a standard project agreement between the City of Richmond and VDOT to provide funding for the Gillies Creek Greenway Phase IV project.
- The project is funded through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program.
- The Gillies Creek Greenway Phase IV will construct approximately 0.45 miles of a 10-foot-wide asphalt shared-use path.
- The path will connect Jennie Scher Road to the existing shared-use path on Stony Run Parkway, improving safety and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists.
- The project aligns with Richmond 300 Master Plan goals, specifically focusing on equitable transportation and enhancing multimodal infrastructure.
- The Standard Project Administration Agreement outlines responsibilities for both the City of Richmond and VDOT regarding project administration and compliance with federal and state regulations.

Fiscal Impact:  None  Yes. The total project cost of \$1,489,975 will be fully reimbursed by VDOT, with no financial burden on the city.

### 6. Resolution No. 2026-R002

**Patrons** Mayor Avula

#### Key Points

- To request that the Virginia Department of Transportation amend the street mileage inventory for the City of Richmond.
- Periodically the State updates its inventory of lane miles used for traffic in localities. According to the Administration's O&R additional lane miles have been added to the City's inventory with new developments.
- The State government assists localities with funds for roads and streets, based, in part, on the number of traffic lane miles in the inventory.
- Council endorsement is needed with this resolution.



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- Questions: 1) Would you briefly explain how the inventory works? 2) How many miles were added in the city? 3) How much in State funds are at stake? 4) Where will those funds be expended?

Fiscal Impact:  None  Yes. The requests to update the City's inventory of traffic lane miles has not impact. But updating the inventory will make the City eligible for an increased amounts of funds from VDOT.

### 7. Resolution No. 2026-R003

**Patrons** Cmbrs. Lynch & Breton

#### Key Points

- To commit to working with the City's Administration to develop and implement a comprehensive energy efficiency program that reduces the energy burden and cost of living for vulnerable households, supports small businesses, assists in the preservation of housing and the stabilization of neighborhoods, and makes meaningful progress towards the City's climate goals.
- After declaring a climate crisis in the City in 2023. Household energy costs are adversely impacting Richmonders' cost of living.
- Given the Council expressed concerns about the climate crises in 2023 and the City's roll in providing various utilities there is a need to establish efforts to address the negative impacts of increasing utility costs to Richmonders. This paper commits the City to developing a comprehensive approach to addressing costs concerns.

Fiscal Impact:  None  Yes. There are no immediate fiscal impact/costs.