



## City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk](http://www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk)

### Minutes

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

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Tuesday, November 16, 2021

3:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

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#### Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Andreas Addison – Chair  
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Vice Chair  
The Honorable Michael Jones – Committee Member (early departure)  
The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Alternate Committee Member (early departure)  
Bonnie Ashley, Deputy City Attorney  
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff  
Jamie Isley, Boards and Commissions Administrator  
Pamela Nichols, Senior Assistant City Clerk  
Candice Reid, City Clerk  
Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst  
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

#### Call to Order

Chair Andreas Addison called the meeting to order at 3:14 p.m., and presided.

#### Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Senior Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency along with citizen speaker guidelines.

#### Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

#### Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of Tuesday, October 19, 2021, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

#### Presentation

##### Creating a Department of Mobility and Multimodal Transportation

*Chair Andreas Addison stated that as progress is made toward achieving the city's Vision Zero goal, the need for a Department of Mobility and Multimodal Transportation is critical and that he would like the committee to discuss next steps and goals for the future.*

*Member Michael Jones remarked about inequities in transportation needs for the Southside of the city and asked about the benefit of such department.*

*Vice Chair Ellen Robertson stated that she supported a discussion with city administration and the Greater Richmond Transit Company on the city's transportation goals.*

*Chair Addison stated that he would like the committee to hold future conversations on achieving goals and strategies for equitable transportation, as outlined in the city's Master Plan. Chair Addison further stated that he would like Council and city administration to reimagine a city where residents can access most daily necessities within 15 minutes from their homes, and the expansion of sidewalks and public transportation.*

## **Staff Report**

Steve Taylor, council policy analyst, provided the committee with the November staff report.

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

*Vice Chair Ellen Robertson advised the committee that the Council retreat crossover for standing committees had been distributed and asked the committee members to consider additional priorities for the committee to explore. Vice Chair Robertson stated she would like to meet with Council staff to discuss next steps.*

## **Paper(s) for Consideration**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

### **ORD. 2021-251**

To amend and reordain Ord. No. 98-248-318, adopted Oct. 12, 1998, which authorized the special use of the property known as 6424 Elkhardt Road for the conversion of an existing office for use as a contractor's shop with accessory outdoor storage, to instead authorize a convenience store, upon certain terms and conditions. (9th District)

**Patron:** Mayor Stoney (By Request)

Kevin Vonck, Planning and Development Review director, provided an overview of ORD. 2021-251, and explained the City Planning Commission had recommended denial of the proposed request.

*Member Michael Jones expressed concern about the potential impact the proposed business would have on the surrounding neighborhood, and stated that most of the area's residents opposed the proposed request.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2021-251 to Council with no recommendation, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

### **ORD. 2021-315**

To provide for the removal of certain monuments on City-owned property and to provide for the disposition of such monuments, as authorized by Va. Code § 15.2-1812.

**Patron:** Mayor Stoney

Robert Steidel, deputy chief administrative officer of Operations, introduced ORD. 2021-315 and explained the request was for the removal of the First Virginia Regiment and the General Williams Carter Wickham statues, which were not included in the initial list of Civil War memorials to be removed from city property.

*Member Michael Jones inquired whether the state government could reverse the removal of the Robert E. Lee statue, and was advised by Jeff Gray, Senior Policy Advisor to the Chief Administrative Officer, that Ron Jordan, Council lobbyist, Advantus Strategies, is scheduled to update city leaders on any legislative changes following the inauguration of new Virginia General Assembly members.*

*Alternate Member Katherine Jordan suggested that the First Virginia Regiment statue be preserved because it differed from Confederate monuments and was intended to recognize all service members.*

Bonnie Ashley, deputy city attorney, explained ORD. 2021-315 would have to be amended in order to exclude the First Virginia Regiment statue from the city's disposition of Civil War memorials.

Steve Taylor, council policy analyst, advised the committee of the history of the First Virginia Regiment statue and explained the statue was not identified as a Civil War memorial.

Kevin Vonck, Planning and Development Review director, reported that the Urban Design Committee and the City Planning Commission reviews did not include the disposition of the First Virginia Regiment statue.

*Member Jones stated he does not support excluding the First Virginia Regiment statue from the proposed ordinance.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2021-315 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following resolution was considered:**

**RES. 2021-R026**

To direct the City Planning Commission to prepare, submit to public hearing, and consider an amendment making certain changes to the Master Plan.

**Patrons:** President Newbille, Vice President Robertson, Ms. Jordan, Ms. Lambert, Ms. Lynch, Ms. Trammell and Mr. Jones

*Chair Andreas Addison stated he would like to see a viable response from city administration regarding the proposed amendments.*

Kevin Vonck, Planning and Development Review director, stated amendments to the adopted Master Plan would require an engagement process. Mr. Vonck further stated that city administration did not have the resources to move forward with the proposed amendments. Mr. Vonck remarked that focus has been given to the implementation phase of the plan and that city administration would like to direct resources to the implementation rather than amendments to the plan.

*Vice Chair Ellen Robertson expressed concern that Council was limited in its options regarding the adoption or rejection of the city's Master Plan. She stated that she has requested an item on the Council's legislative agenda regarding the Master Plan process. Vice Chair Robertson further expressed concern that Council did not receive regular updates like the City Planning Commission on the development of the Master Plan. Vice Chair Robertson reiterated her support for priority growth nodes around the public housing communities. Vice Chair Robertson remarked that land use policies and industry goals have contributed to neighborhoods in danger of gentrification. Vice Chair Robertson stated she would like to forward the proposed legislation to the full Council for further discussion, and requested city administration to provide a budget and timeline for implementing the amendments, and a report of amendments not to consider.*

*Chair Andreas Addison stated that implementation of the plan was critical; however, resources were not available. Chair Addison inquired whether an end of year surplus for FY 2021 could be allocated to fund implementation efforts. Chair Addison stressed the need for Council to support funding the implementation phase of the Master Plan.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward RES. 2021-R026 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved.** Ayes 2, Jones, Robertson. Noes 1, Addison.

**The following resolution was considered:**

**RES. 2021-R074**

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be conducted a study of the official zoning map for the purpose of designating the area known as the Carver neighborhood as a design overlay district.

**Patron:** Ms. Jordan

*Alternate Member Katherine Jordan provided an overview of RES. 2021-R074, and explained that the Carver neighborhood residents have been working with city staff for a number of years to establish a design overlay district. Alternate Member Jordan stated the city Master Plan supports such designations, and that a design overlay district would help to maintain the character of the neighborhood.*

Kevin Vonck, Planning and Development Review director, explained that zoning classifications do not address form or design of structures. Mr. Vonck stated that a design overlay district prescribes certain elements of form when a structure is built. Mr. Vonck further stated that a design overlay designation could be a stand-alone process or included in the rewrite of the zoning code.

**Public Hearing**

**Jerome Legions, Carver Area Civic Improvement League president**, spoke in support of RES. 2021-R074 and stated a design overlay district will help to preserve the character of the neighborhood. Mr. Legions explained how components of a design overlay district would be used to protect the historic area.

Mr. Vonck explained that a design overlay designation will not address concerns regarding demolition of buildings. Mr. Vonck further explained the overlay designation does not supersede the city's zoning ordinance.

*Vice Chair Ellen Robertson expressed concern regarding the financial impact such designation would have on an area. Vice Chair Robertson asked whether the city should be considering building designs instead of zoning classifications.*

Mr. Vonck explained a design overlay would not dictate the size and intensity of use for structures, but could impact exterior designs with setback and step-back requirements. Mr. Vonck stated such designation would provide certainty for existing neighborhoods and clarity for developers seeking to build in a particular area.

*Member Michael Jones questioned the unintended consequences which may impact homeownership and homeowners' ability to renovate their homes. Member Jones stated that the city has been gentrified and is becoming increasingly unaffordable for residents of a certain income bracket.*

Mr. Vonck reported that home values in the city's old and historic districts have not increased more than homes not located in old and historic districts. Mr. Vonck stated that it is the goal of the city to minimize cost burdens for homeowners.

*Vice Chair Robertson expressed additional concern regarding the escalation of costs which are frequently associated with certain types of district designation.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to forward RES. 2021-R074 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following resolution was considered:**

**RES. 2021-R077**

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be developed goals and a “scorecard” for certain development projects that promote cohesion between the implementation of the City’s Master Plan and the implementation of the City’s economic development plans and that ensure positive growth and equitable opportunity for the citizens of the City of Richmond.

**Patron:** Mr. Addison

*Chair Andreas Addison introduced RES. 2021-R077 and explained the request is to create a scorecard/checklist to ensure equity and growth priorities of the city will be incorporated in future development opportunities. Chair Addison further explained the scorecard is intended for economic developments on city-owned properties and publicly financed developments.*

Leonard Sledge, Economic Development director, stated that city administration supported a checklist for economic development opportunities on city-owned properties; however, some of the items identified in the proposed legislation would be included in the community benefit agreement. Mr. Sledge also stated that city administration would like to work with the patron in an effort to merge goals into one cohesive document.

*Chair Addison stated that the intent is to combine past legislation and new goals established by Council. Chair Addison further stated that the scorecard will empower Council to measure the achievement of economic goals, and will better define elements to be included in the community benefit agreement.*

*Alternate Member Katherine Jordan exited the meeting at 4:52 p.m.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward RES. 2021-R077 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

**ORD. 2021-301**

To install an appropriate number of speed tables to be determined by the Department of Public Works in Hawthorne Avenue between West Brookland Park Boulevard and the southern terminus of Dupont Circle.

**Patron:** Ms. Lambert

Kiya Stokes, 3<sup>rd</sup> District liaison, introduced ORD. 2021-301 and explained that the area residents requested the installation of speed tables, and the request was supported by the Battery Park Civic Association. Mr. Stokes further explained the area has experienced a significant increase in vehicle speeding along the proposed streets and the speed tables will improve traffic safety.

Bobby Vincent, Department of Public Works director, stated that city administration supported the proposed legislation.

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding pending legislation prior to the committee meeting. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the committee and are included as an attachment to the November 16, 2021 Land Use, Housing and Transportation meeting minutes, which can be accessed at <https://richmondva.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5351135&GUID=741C2C85-2333-4364-BA26-A178116609A3&Options=&Search=>.

In response to a question by the committee, Mr. Vincent stated that his department has been coordinating the installation of speed tables with existing pavement projects.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2021-301 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

**ORD. 2021-302**

To erect all-way stop signs at the intersections of South Pine Street and China Street and South Pine Street and Albemarle Street.

**Patron:** Ms. Lynch

Amy Robins, 5<sup>th</sup> District liaison, introduced ORD. 2021-302 and explained Oregon Hill residents have been working with city staff for a number of years on the request for all-way stop signs. Ms. Robins also distributed the results of a survey of support which was conducted by the Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association.

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

Bobby Vincent, Department of Public Works director, stated that city administration will work with the area's residents to reduce traffic hazards and the Richmond Police Department (RPD) to discuss enforcement efforts.

*Vice Chair Ellen Robertson expressed support of ORD. 2021-302, and asked whether there were issues which needed to be addressed regarding all-way stop signs.*

Mr. Vincent explained that nationally, all-way stop signs were considered hazardous because of distracted driving; however, the installation of such signs on the city's local streets were a good traffic control tool. Mr. Vincent further explained that requests for all-way stop signs, which do not meet conditions set forth in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, will not be supported by city administration.

*Member Michael Jones asked about the types of requests not supported by city administration.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to forward ORD. 2021-302 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

**ORD. 2021-313**

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Standard Project Administrative Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation for the purpose of receiving grant funds in the amount of \$90,355.00 to fund the City's Park-N-Ride Bus Purchase project.

**Patron:** Mayor Stoney

Bobby Vincent, Department of Public Works director, introduced ORD. 2021-313 and explained that in collaboration with the Department of Equitable Transit and Mobility, city administration has been working with the state to establish Park-N-Ride locations throughout the city. Mr. Vincent further explained the grant funds will be used to purchase a shuttle bus to transport patrons who reside on the outskirts of the city to areas within the city.

*Vice Chair Ellen Robertson inquired about access to the shuttle and ridership.*

Mr. Vincent stated that the city has been considering Park-N-Ride locations on city-owned properties with underutilized parking spaces and senior living homes.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2021-313 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

**ORD. 2021-314**

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a License Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Tourism Authority, doing business as Virginia Tourism Corporation, for the purpose of facilitating the continued operation of the Welcome Center in the Main Street Station at 1500 East Main Street in the city of Richmond. (7th District)

**Patron:** Mayor Stoney

Bobby Vincent, Department of Public Works director, introduced ORD. 2021-314.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2021-314 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

**ORD. 2021-316**

To designate that portion of Wythamar Avenue located between its intersection with Larchmont Lane and its intersection with Midlothian Turnpike in honor of Sharnaz Hill and her daughter, Nezhiah Hill.

**Patron:** Ms. Lynch

Amy Robins, 5<sup>th</sup> District liaison, introduced ORD. 2021-302 and explained the proposed request was supported by the area's civic association and residents of the apartment complex where Ms. Hill and her daughter resided.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to forward ORD. 2021-316 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

**ORD. 2021-317**

To designate the 3500 block of East Broad Rock Road in honor of Melissa Anne Paige.

**Patron:** Ms. Trammell

*Chair Andreas Addison, Vice Chair Ellen Robertson and Member Michael Jones asked to be added as co-patrons.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2021-317 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following resolution was considered:**

**RES. 2021-R065**

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the Department of Public Works to develop a process for City residents to request traffic studies of the residential areas within their neighborhoods for the purpose of assessing the appropriateness of instituting a 15 mile per hour speed limit in such areas to increase traffic safety.

**Patrons:** Ms. Lynch, Ms. Jordan, Ms. Lambert and Ms. Larson

Amy Robins, 5<sup>th</sup> District liaison, introduced RES. 2021-R065 and explained the chief patron has begun the withdrawal process for the proposed legislation. Ms. Robins noted that it is the intent of the patron to introduce an ordinance for a citywide 15 miles per hour speed limit on interior roads.

*Member Michael Jones asked the Office of the City Attorney to explain the process needed to institute a 35 miles per hour speed limit citywide.*

Bonnie Ashley, deputy city attorney, stated that it was her understanding that new state legislation allowed localities to reduce speed limits without an engineering study, but she would review the state code to confirm.

Steve Taylor, council policy analyst, advised the committee that state code allows localities to reduce speed limits on city maintained streets.

Robert Steidel, deputy chief administrative officer of Operations, explained Council's process for neighborhood traffic management was adopted in 2004 and was still in effect.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to continue RES. 2021-R065 to the December 21, 2021, Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**Discussion Items**

There were no discussion items.

*Member Michael Jones exited the meeting at 5:22 p.m.*

**Board Vacancies**

Jamie Isley, boards and commissions administrator, reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson asked the committee to continue consideration of the applications to the Capital Region Airport Commission to allow additional time for the discussion of Council's appointment to the commission. Vice Chair Robertson reported that each of the surrounding jurisdictions have at least two elected officials serving on the commission and she would like consideration to be



given to amending the city's membership to perhaps include a member from the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee.

**Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward the following board appointment applications to Council with the recommendation to approve, and to continue consideration of the appointment applications for the Capital Region Airport Commission, to the January 18, 2022, Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting.**

Board Name	Criteria for Appointment	Applicant Name
<b>Central Virginia Waste Management Authority</b> (6 Members)	Alternate – Reside or work in the city (3 vacancies)	Noah Hillerbrand 5 <sup>th</sup> District Resident
<b>Commission of Architectural Review</b> (9 members)	At-Large city resident (1 vacancy)	John C. Greir 2 <sup>nd</sup> District Resident
<b>Urban Design Committee</b> (11 Members)	Landscape Architect – Reside or work in the city (1 vacancy)	Luigi Mignardi 6 <sup>th</sup> District Resident

**The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Robertson, Addison.**

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.