




Staff Report
City of Richmond, Virginia
Planning Commission



UDC 2023-09	FINAL Location, Character, and Extent Review	Meeting Date: 6/20/2023
Applicant/Petitioner	Adel Edward, Civil Engineering Supervisor, Department of Public Works	
Project Description	UDC 2023-09 FINAL Location, Character, and Extent to renovate a portion of the Canal Walk to better facilitate bike access located nearest to 211 South 14th Street.	
Project Location		
Address: 211 South 14th Street		
Property Owner: CITY OF RICHMOND DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS		
High-Level Details: Addition of a bicycle ramp to an existing pedestrian bridge crossing the canal in Shockoe Bottom, near the 14 th Street Bridge.		
UDC Recommendation	Approval	
Staff Contact	Ray Roakes, Planner, raymond.roakes@rva.gov	
Public Outreach/ Previous Reviews	NA	
Conditions for Approval	NA	

Findings of Fact

Site Description	The site currently includes an existing pedestrian bridge over the Canal Walk.
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.
Prior Approvals	NA
Project Description	<p>The Applicant states: The Canal Walk Improvement project will provide improvements to the pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure along the Canal Walk in Shockoe Bottom.</p> <p>The new infrastructure improvements will provide connectivity via the existing bridge over the Canal with modifications to improve the conditions for bicycle access, including eliminating the need for bicyclists to use</p>

	<p>the switchback, through the extension of the ramp to provide a continuous straight decent from bridge deck to Canal Walk. The existing switchback will remain in place to provide an accessible path.</p> <p>The existing trees along the canal between the new ramp and the 14th Street bridge will be removed to provide adequate width for bicycles and pedestrians to share the space. Existing exposed aggregate paving will be replaced in kind. Landscaping on the slope will be replaced and improved.</p> <hr/> <p>Staff recommended approval. The proposal includes enhancing bicycle access along an important route through the Downtown Core.</p> <p>The UDC recommends approval. The UDC discussed bicycle access along the extent of the Canal Walk.</p>
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Urban Design Guidelines and Master Plan

	Text	Staff Analysis
Master Plan		
	<p>Objective 4.3 Increase neighborhood access to, and through, a well-designed network of open spaces.</p>	The proposal improves access to the canal and improves an important pedestrian and bicycle route through the Downtown Core.
	<p>i. <i>Work with other stakeholders to improve, restore, and maintain the historical canal system (see Goals 6–10).</i></p>	
Urban Design Guidelines		
	<p><i>(p.6) <u>Multimodal Transportation</u>: It is the priority of the UDC to support all modes of transportation, giving deference to pedestrians and vulnerable transportation users. For projects involving elements of transportation, both public transit and non-motorized transportation (walking, biking, etc.) should be considered in the design and planning of all projects.</i></p>	The proposal enhances an important bicycle and pedestrian route.
	<p><i>(P.10) <u>Landscaping, Species Diversity</u>: Landscape plans should include a diverse palette of plant species that include evergreen trees, flowering and shade tree species, shrubs, ground cover, and annual and perennial plantings.</i></p>	The proposal includes a diverse palette and native species.