



## City of Richmond

### Minutes - Draft

900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk](http://www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk)

## Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee

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Tuesday, January 19, 2016

3:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

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### Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Chair  
The Honorable Jonathan Baliles – Vice Chair  
The Honorable Kathy Graziano – Member  
The Honorable Charles Samuels (Alternate Member) – *early departure*  
Lou Brown Ali, Council Chief of Staff  
Jean V. Capel, City Clerk  
William Echelberger Jr., Council Budget Analyst  
Pamela Nichols, Assistant City Clerk  
Alexander Rawles, Boards and Commissions Administrator  
Candice Reid, Deputy City Clerk  
Matthew Welch, Assistant City Attorney

### Call to Order

Chair Ellen Robertson called the meeting to order at 3:28 p.m.

### Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the chair's request, Pamela Nichols, Assistant City Clerk, 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 and conduct during the meeting.

### Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes from Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 3:00 p.m., were approved ~ Motioned by Committee member Kathy Graziano and seconded ~ Vote 3/0.

### Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

### Board Vacancies

Alexander Rawles, Boards and Commissions Administrator, reviewed the board applications for consideration by the committee.

**It was the consensus of the committee to approve recommendation of the following board applicants:**

**Capital Region Airport Commission**

- Algenon Brown – Reappointment
- Robert F. Norfleet – Reappointment

**Central Virginia Waste Management Authority**

- Dr. Emmanuel Adediran – Initial appointment
- Mark Kukoski – Reappointment

**Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee**

- Julien Williams – Reappointment
- John Sydnor – Reappointment

**Clean City Commission**

- Wanda K. McGee – Initial appointment

**Technical Advisory Committee**

- Amy M. Inman – Initial appointment

*It was the consensus of the committee to continue consideration of the City Planning Commission, Commission of Architectural Review, Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority and Urban Design Committee appointment recommendations, to the February 16<sup>th</sup>, Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting.*

*The committee asked Mr. Rawles to send a questionnaire to current applicants and potential applicants for vacancies on the City Planning Commission and the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority.*

**Discussion Item(s)**

**Process for Council's appointment to the Board of Commissioners of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority.**

Chair Ellen Robertson advised a representative from the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority, that she would like to meet to discuss Council's appointment to the Board of Commissioners of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

**Paper(s) for Consideration**

**Committee member Kathy Graziano moved to forward the following paper to Council with the recommendation to continue to the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Land Use, Housing & Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and approved ~ Vote 3/0:**

**ORD. 2015-033** - To rename the building located at 900 East Broad Street and known as "City Hall" as "L. Douglas Wilder City Hall."

**Patron:** Ms. Trammell

**Committee member Kathy Graziano moved to forward the following papers to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved ~ Vote 3/0:**

ORD. 2016-003 - To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Lease Agreement between Cellco Partnership, doing business as Verizon Wireless, as Lessee, and the City of Richmond, as Lessor, to allow Cellco Partnership, doing business as Verizon Wireless, to operate telecommunications equipment at 1006 Williamsburg Road.

**Patron:** Mayor Jones

ORD. 2016-004 - To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Lease Agreement between Cellco Partnership, doing business as Verizon Wireless, as Lessee, and the City of Richmond, as Lessor, to allow Cellco Partnership, doing business as Verizon Wireless, to operate telecommunications equipment at 1401 Pump House Drive.

**Patron:** Mayor Jones

ORD. 2016-005 - To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Lease Agreement between Cellco Partnership, doing business as Verizon Wireless, as Lessee, and the City of Richmond, as Lessor, to allow Cellco Partnership, doing business as Verizon Wireless, to operate telecommunications equipment at 2408 The Terrace.

**Patron:** Mayor Jones

ORD. 2016-006 - To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Lease Agreement between Cellco Partnership, doing business as Verizon Wireless, as Lessee, and the City of Richmond, as Lessor, to allow Cellco Partnership, doing business as Verizon Wireless, to operate telecommunications equipment at 4001 Stonewall Avenue.

**Patron:** Mayor Jones

ORD. 2016-007 - To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Lease Agreement between Cellco Partnership, doing business as Verizon Wireless, as Lessee, and the City of Richmond, as Lessor, to allow Cellco Partnership, doing business as Verizon Wireless, to operate telecommunications equipment at 4308 Hermitage Road.

**Patron:** Mayor Jones

### **Support**

**Jennifer Mullen** spoke in support of ORD. 2016-003, ORD. 2016-004, ORD. 2016-005, ORD. 2016-006 and ORD. 2016-007 stating that the lease agreements provide revenue to the city and will allow Cellco to operate certain telecommunication equipment.

**Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward the following paper to Council with the recommendation to continue to the February 16<sup>th</sup> Land Use, Housing & Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and approved ~ Vote 3/0:**

ORD. 2015-199 - To amend City Code §§ 38-156, concerning the abatement of certain refuse, litter and weed control violations, and 86-44, concerning the times and places of collection for bulk items, brush and loose leaves, for the purposes of requiring the Chief Administrative Officer to waive certain fees for the abatement of certain violations, requiring the Director of Public Works to provide written notification of the date on which bulk items are scheduled for collection, and prohibiting the placement of bulk items for collection on or near a public right-of-way more than 48 hours before the date scheduled for collection.

**Patrons:** Ms. Robertson and Mr. Agelasto

*Chair Ellen Robertson introduced ORD. 2015-199 and explained that the proposed legislation will not add additional fees to the current fees associated with a notice of violation.*

*John Buturla, DCAO of Operations, reported that the Department of Public Works does not have the resources to enforce the proposed legislation; he asked Ms. Robertson to give the department additional time to look at available options.*

*Chair Robertson stated that she would like to meet with the city's administration, prior to the next committee's meeting, to discuss alternatives to address bulk collection.*

**Committee member Kathy Graziano moved to forward the following paper to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved ~ Vote 3/0:**

ORD. 2016-002 - To adopt an amendment to the Master Plan for the City of Richmond, adopted by the City Planning Commission on Nov. 6, 2000, and by the City Council by Ord. No. 2000-371-2001-11, adopted Jan. 8, 2001, as previously amended, to incorporate the VUU/Chamberlayne Neighborhood Plan, applicable to an area including Virginia Union University and the Chamberlayne Industrial Center, on the north side of the city, as a part of the Master Plan.

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

*Lory Markham, Planner III / Land Use Administrator – Planning and Development Review, introduced ORD. 2016-002.*

### **Opposition**

**Nicholas Smith** spoke in opposition to the proposed legislation stating that the plan does not address bike safety on Brook Road; he recommended that the plan be amended to include bike lanes.

*Mark Olinger, Director – Planning and Development Review, stated the plan includes several options for bike lanes on Brook Road. Mr. Olinger further stated that the department was willing to look at other options for bike lanes on Lombardy Street.*

**Committee member Kathy Graziano moved to forward the following papers to Council with no recommendation, which was seconded and approved ~ Vote 3/0:**

ORD. 2015-263 - To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit Project Development Agreement between the City of Richmond, the Greater Richmond Transit Co., the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the County of Henrico to facilitate the implementation of the Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit project and to set forth the responsibilities of the parties.

**Patron:** Mayor Jones

*Selena Cuffee-Glenn, Chief Administrative Officer, introduced ORD. 2015-263 and provided a brief overview of the project. Ms. Cuffee-Glenn stated that the Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project will improve transit service, enhance economic opportunities and reduce travel time for existing riders. She further stated that, in May 2015, City Council adopted the capital improvement program (CIP) for the city's share of the project funding.*

*Amy Inman, Senior Administrative of Multimodal Transportation – Economic and Community Development, provided copies of the BRT project agreement overview.*

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

*Carrie Rose Pace, Public Relations Manager – Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC), stated that the BRT project will help enhance quality of life and increase livability. She stated that the Urban Design Committee (UDC) and City of Richmond Planning Commission approved sixty percent of the design with conditions to return information regarding tree planting and landscape design. She further stated that efforts were made to broaden public outreach beyond the project's corridor, to include meetings with organizations, businesses, neighborhood associations and community centers.*

### **Opposition**

**Scott Garnett** spoke in opposition of the propose legislation expressing concerns regarding the alleged negative impact the project will have on business owners located on the Broad Street corridor, and what he referred to as the accelerated timeline. Mr. Garnett stated that, before the city moves forward with the proposed project, a virtual markup of the project should be executed to best determine the impacts.

**Travis Sarkees** spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that more information was needed regarding the project.

**Kevin Korda** spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that business owners were not notified of the project until January 2015 and that the proposed project makes no common sense. He stated that construction of the BRT stations will negatively impact business owners along Broad Street.

**Marty Jewell** spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that the project will not benefit the city's residents. He stated that a cost benefit analysis should be prepared prior to Council's approval of the project; he urged the committee to delay consideration of the proposed legislation until all relevant questions were answered. Mr. Jewell stated that the project should extend beyond the city to include the surrounding localities.

**Jonathan Marcus** spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that the project will not resolve current transit problems or expand use of transit service to residents who do not utilize the bus service. Mr. Marcus questioned the source of funding for and the legality of the project.

**Chris Dovi** spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that he was a proponent for public transit; however, he felt there was very little public engagement of business owners and transit users along Broad Street. Mr. Dovi further expressed concerns regarding the impact the project will have on parking along Broad Street.

**Charlie Diradour** spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that the city needed a holistic transit plan and not a segmented plan. Mr. Diradour stated that the plan main lines retail customers to Willow Lawn and the city should consider a plan that will transport the city's residents throughout the city. He further stated that he was concerned about the construction timeline.

**Lisa Arnham** spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation alleging that an unfair agreement was reached regarding replacing the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) shuttle services with the proposed BRT project.

**Jon Kucera** spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that he was concerned with the accelerated timeline. Mr. Kucera stated that the traffic plans for Adams and Broad Streets and Brook Road should be reassessed.

### **Support**

**Dominic Carter** spoke in support of the proposed legislation stating that the city was the heart of the metropolitan area with an outdated transit system, and that the project will allow transportation to the surrounding localities.

**Nelson Rigley** spoke in support of the proposed legislation stating that the project will be the first step to a regional transportation system and will provide transit service to the surrounding localities. Mr. Rigley stated that plans to support businesses along the project's route, during the construction phase, were currently being considered.

**Marilyn Olds** spoke in support of the proposed legislation stating that the planned connectors for the residents in public housing will be a crucial asset for the residents. Ms. Olds stated the project will expand the range of access to jobs for transit users.

**Charles Willis** spoke in support of the proposed legislation stating that the extension of transportation into the surrounding localities will create opportunities for residents to have access to the retail areas outside of the city's limits.

**Jimmy Adkins** spoke in support of the proposed legislation stating that the project will reduce travel time and improve the standard of living for transit users.

**Nicholas Smith** spoke in support of the proposed legislation stating that the city's residents will benefit tremendously from the project and the time is now, for the city to move forward with a rapid transit system.

**Stuart Schwartz** spoke in support of the proposed legislation stating that adjustments have been made to address parking along the project's corridor, loading zone issues, construction mitigations and public outreach communication. Mr. Schwartz stated that the project will be an anchor for the East End, increase safety on Broad Street and attract larger developments to the city.

**Charles Pearce** spoke in support of the proposed legislation stating that the project will be beneficial for the city.

**Art Burton** spoke in support of the proposed legislation stating that the project will create jobs and that he hopes the goals of the project will benefit all residents and not just a select few.

**Jerry McQuire** spoke in support of the proposed legislation stating that, even though he supported the project, he opposed what appeared to be, an accelerated timeline. Mr. McQuire stated that the project should be executed in phases in order to determine the impacts of the project. He stated that more details regarding the project were needed before the city moves forward.

*Committee member Kathy Graziano asked questions pertaining to the proposed timeline, financial impacts if the timeline was delayed and the portion of the project which was approved by the Urban Design Committee and the City's Planning Commission.*

*Selena Cuffee-Glenn reported that the timeline for the project has not changed and approximately fifty public and stakeholder meetings were held in 2015; she reiterated that, in May 2015, City Council approved the proposed timeline along with the CIP budget.*

*Robert Cary, Richmond District Engineer – Virginia Department of Transportation, VDOT, stated that a one year delay in the project could result in a one point five million dollar increase of the total cost of the project. Mr. Cary stated that the Urban Design Committee and the City's Planning Commission approved the major design features but not the intricate details. He further stated that the project's team was willing to update City Council on an ongoing basis, during the construction phase of the project.*

*Vice Chair Baliles asked questions regarding operational control on Broad Street, cost overruns, the procurement process for BRT buses and the total cost of the buses. Mr. Baliles requested a copy of a budget proforma for other BRT projects. He stated that he was seeking additional information on the overall budget impact associated with improving the transit system.*

*Mike Sawyer, City Transportation Engineer – Department of Public Works, stated that, the city will maintain operational control.*

*Patrice Strachan, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, stated that, although the department anticipates that the project will be completed under budget, the department has committed to fund overrun for the project.*

*David Green, Chief Executive Officer – Greater Richmond Transit Company, stated that GRTC has placed a purchase order for ten BRT buses and anticipates the delivery of one of the ten buses in December 2016. Mr. Green stated that a BRT project would cost approximately three million dollars; however, the costs associated with this project will be offset in some area, and therefore, he cannot provide an estimated cost impact.*

*Councilor Charles Samuels advised the committee of potential amendments to ORD. 2015-263 regarding public outreach, the project's final plan, a request for an economic development plan to help mitigate any negative impact on businesses along Broad Street during the construction phase and improvements to a connectivity plan. Mr. Samuels asked questions relative to the approximate timeline for the construction of the BRT stations.*

*Robert Cary stated that the estimated timeline, for the construction of the BRT stations, could be six months or less, depending on the method of construction. Mr. Cary also stated that access to businesses will be maintained throughout the construction phase.*

*Amy Inman stated that the construction agreement states that the design builder must mitigate impacts on parking and loading zones for businesses along Broad Street. She stated that overnight parking will be restored on a daily basis and she will provide City Council with a copy of the design builder's RFP as outlined in the plan.*

*Mr. Samuels asked about statistics on the mode of transportation for customers along the proposed BRT route and the decrease in travel times if several of the existing GRTC bus stops were eliminated and if Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology was installed on buses along the Broad Street corridor.*

*Selena Cuffee-Glenn stated that city administration will provide responses to the proposed amendments and a copy of the approved timelines for the BRT project to City Council prior to its January 25th meeting.*

*Chair Ellen Robertson stated that she would like more information on the mitigation plans for businesses along Broad Street during the construction phase and that every effort should be made to minimize impacts to businesses and its customers. Chair Robertson asked questions regarding operational costs and any identified sources of funding for the project.*

*Councilor Charles Samuels exited the meeting.*



## **Staff Report**

Bill Echelberger, Council Budget Analyst, provided the committee with the January staff report.

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

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** February 16, 2016 at 3:00 p.m., Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall

**Staff Contact:** Pamela Nichols, 804-646-7931, [pamela.nichols@richmondgov.com](mailto:pamela.nichols@richmondgov.com)