

INTRODUCED: May 14, 2018

AN ORDINANCE No. 2018-153

To reserve the easternmost southbound lane of North Belvidere Street on the north side of North Belvidere Street's intersection with West Broad Street for vehicular traffic making a left turn from southbound North Belvidere Street onto eastbound West Broad Street.

Patron – Ms. Gray

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: JULY 23 2018 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, the Greater Richmond Transit Company has announced plans to eliminate the ability of vehicular traffic to make a left turn from the southbound lane of North Belvidere Street onto the eastbound lane of West Broad Street as part of the Richmond Transit Network Plan; and

WHEREAS, many residents, property owners, and business owners in the vicinity of this planned traffic modification eliminating the ability of vehicular traffic to make a left turn from the southbound lane of North Belvidere Street onto the eastbound lane of West Broad Street have voiced opposition to these plans and expressed concerns about increased traffic congestion and decreased traffic safety in the area if the current plans are executed; and

AYES: _____ NOES: _____ ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: _____ REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Council of the City of Richmond, it is in the best interests of the residents of the city of Richmond that vehicular traffic be permitted to make a left turn from southbound North Belvidere Street onto eastbound West Broad Street; and

WHEREAS, section 2-428 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2015), as amended, requires an appropriate study by the Department of Public Works prior to the adoption of an ordinance regulating traffic within the City; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance has been properly referred to the Department of Public Works, more than 60 days have elapsed since such referral, and the Department of Public Works has not submitted a report to the City Clerk;

NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. That the easternmost southbound lane of North Belvidere Street on the north side of North Belvidere Street's intersection with West Broad Street shall be reserved for vehicular traffic making a left turn from southbound North Belvidere Street onto eastbound West Broad Street, and the Department of Public Works shall provide and maintain such traffic signals, signs, and street markings as may be necessary to give proper notice of and effect to this traffic pattern.

§ 2. This ordinance shall be in force and effect upon adoption.



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Ordinance/Resolution Request

RECEIVED

MAY 04 2018

TO Allen Jackson, City Attorney

THROUGH Lou Ali, Council Chief of Staff *LA*

FROM Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst *ST*

COPY Kimberly Gray, 2nd District Council Member
Craig Bieber, 2nd District Liaison
Haskell Brown, Deputy City Attorney
Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff *MB*

DATE May 2, 2018

PAGE/s 1 of 2

TITLE Permitting a left-turn from N. Belvidere onto W. Broad Street and heading toward Downtown.

OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY

This is a request for the drafting of an **Ordinance** **Resolution**

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

K. Gray

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Land Use, Housing & Transportation

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

The patron requests that legislation be drafted for Council's consideration that permits a left turn onto Broad Street from N. Belvidere South (heading South) onto W. Broad Street (heading East) toward Downtown, pursuant to City Code Section 2-428.

City Code Section 2-428(c) delineates procedures to be used by City Council to regulate traffic in the City.

BACKGROUND

Plans have been announced by the GRTC to eliminate the southbound left-turn from Belvidere (south-bound) onto Broad Street (heading East). Since the implementation of the

regulation, many residents, property, and business owners have voiced opposition to the regulation. The Jackson Ward Association and the Downtown Business Association have also announced opposition to eliminating this turn. Elimination of the turn creates congestion in Jackson Ward and along Marshall Street. Allowing the turn would alleviate this congestion and increase traffic safety.

Council may exercise authority over traffic in the City pursuant to City Code Section 2-428(c).

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes No

Budget Amendment Required Yes No

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact \$ N/A

Note: N/A

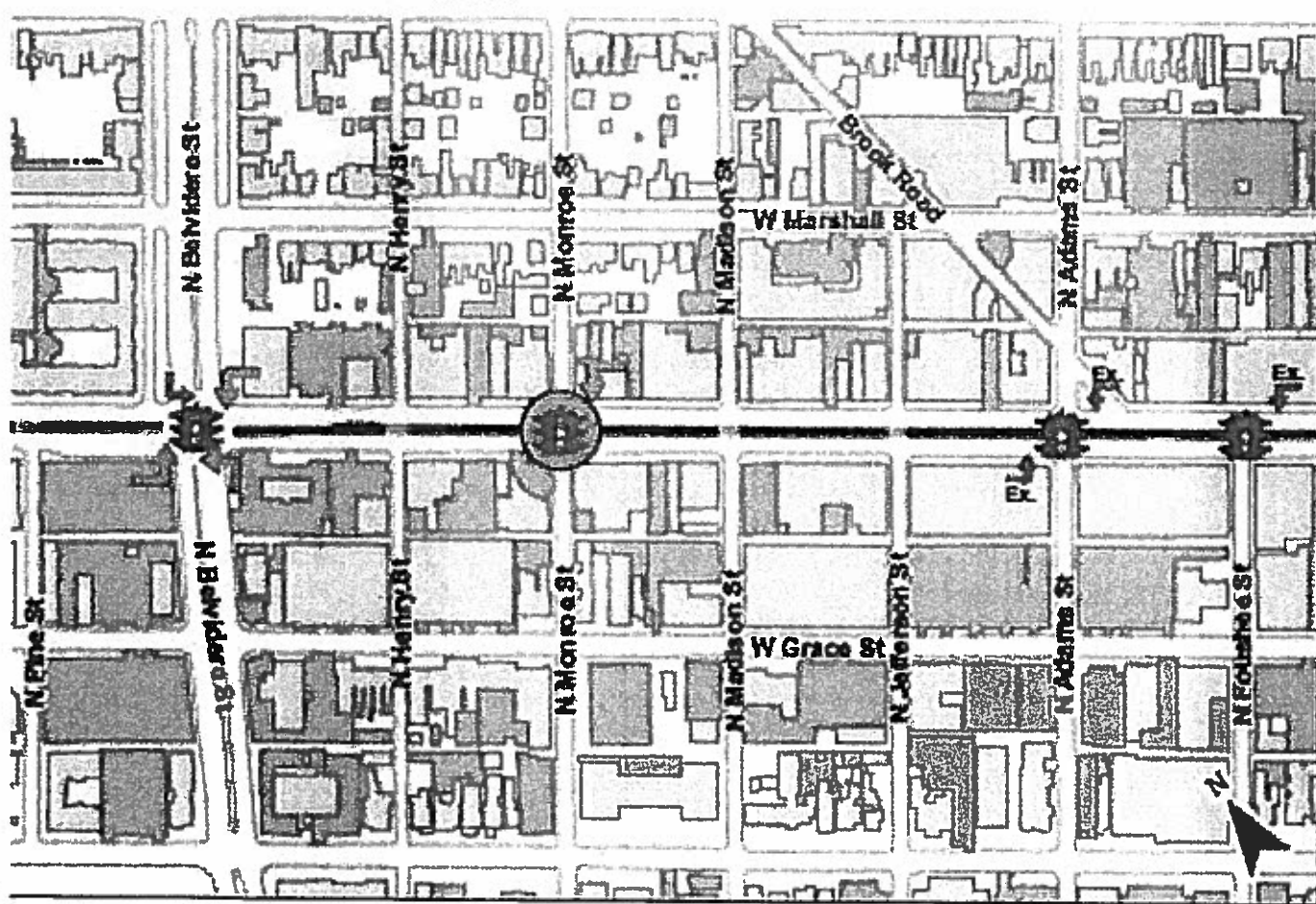
Attachment/s Yes / No Copy of the GRTC PULSE MEMO regarding Broad and Belvidere Left Turns (dated March 27, 2018)

WHAT: MEMO re: BROAD & BELVIDERE LEFT-TURNS

WHEN: March 27, 2018

WHY: In response to an inquiry from Councilwoman Gray's office received on March 22, 2018, the Pulse project team provides the following requested information regarding the elimination of the Southbound Belvidere Street left-turn onto Eastbound Broad Street.

BRIEF: As approved by the City of Richmond Planning Commission in 2015, the Southbound left-turn from Belvidere onto EB Broad St. is being removed for final roadway configuration for GRTC Pulse (Bus Rapid Transit) service. Below is a snapshot of this part of the route, showing the prohibited SB Belvidere left in red:



This left-turn removal has been in the plans since 2015, and was approved based on the engineering recommendation from the City of Richmond's Department of Public Works made in June 2015. The traffic report is available beginning on page 19 here: [http://ridegrtc.com/media/annual-reports/GRTC BRT Traffic Analysis Report Version 3.0 with Appendices.pdf](http://ridegrtc.com/media/annual-reports/GRTC-BRT-Traffic-Analysis-Report-Version-3.0-with-Appendices.pdf)

PULSE HOTLINE 804-980-0084





In brief summary, the traffic analysis at the Broad/Belvidere intersection indicated that both general traffic congestion and BRT operations would be too adversely impacted if the SB Belvidere left-turn onto EB Broad remained.

As a result of this left-turn removal:

- These pre-existing conditions will remain permitted: SB Belvidere vehicular traffic may either use the Marshall or Franklin EB lanes from those signalized intersections with existing left-turns.
- A new traffic signal was installed at Broad and Monroe to permit a SB Monroe left-turn onto EB Broad St., compensating for the removed left-turn from SB Belvidere.
- The new traffic signal at Broad and Monroe will also permit WB Broad St. left-turns onto SB Monroe to reach Grace St. and proceed WB to Belvidere.

These movements ensure there are multiple signalized ways to flow through this area, not just through the Broad and Belvidere intersection. Where there are existing no-lefts today that will remain, those are noted as "Ex." on the map.

Additionally, improved pedestrian north-south access was created, which is also seen in the snapshot above (in green).

Regarding future changes to these conditions, the right-of-way at the Broad/Belvidere intersection is constrained and any improvements now would require additional right-of-way where the ICA and VCU buildings sit. Therefore, any mitigation of traffic is challenging from an environmental and land use perspective.

BACKGROUND: Work continues to progress for the Pulse project. Drivers are encouraged to pay close attention to Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) signage indicating differing lane closures in locations where work is occurring. Anticipated schedules are subject to change. **Work is weather- and progress-dependent.** For assistance, please call the **Pulse Construction Hotline 804-980-0084**. During construction, the public will continue to have access to businesses, organizations and services located along the Project route.

GRTC Pulse is a modern, high quality, high capacity rapid transit system that will serve activity centers on a 7.6-mile route along Broad Street and Main Street, from Rocketts Landing in the City of Richmond to Willow Lawn in Henrico County. The Pulse will link the public to many exciting destinations, businesses, services and restaurants.



PULSE HOTLINE 804-980-0084

