

Big Moves

Bullets to share at existing meetings

Draft – March 6, 2020



Master Plan Background Information

WHY IS IT CALLED RICHMOND 300?

Richmond was founded in 1737. As we look forward to the city's 300th anniversary in 2037, how do we want Richmond to look and work? How do we want our city to feel and grow over the next 20 years so that when we celebrate our 300th anniversary we are proud of where we are? *Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth* will articulate our vision for Richmond in 2037 and outline recommendations to get us there.

WHY DOES THE CITY NEED A MASTER PLAN?

The City is only 62.5 square miles and is not allowed to annex land. The Master Plan helps determine how to plan for growth within the limited footprint of the city. Furthermore, every jurisdiction in Virginia is required to prepare a master plan (also known as the comprehensive plan) per the Code of Virginia (§ 15.2-2223) and review it every five years. The last city-wide Master Plan was adopted in 2001. The Master Plan sets policy related to housing, economic development, infrastructure, zoning, land use, transportation, and more.

Big Moves

The five Big Moves are five items that the city would like to advance over the next 5-10 years as we seek to reach the city-wide vision outlined in *Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth*:

In 2037, Richmond is a welcoming, inclusive, diverse, innovative, and equitable city of thriving neighborhoods; ensuring a high quality of life for all.

PROVIDE GREENWAYS & PARKS FOR ALL

100% of Richmonders live within a 10-minute walk of a park

Sample goals, objectives, and strategies from Richmond 300 that help Provide Greenways & Parks for All:

- Develop a parks Master Plan (Strategy 2.1.d)
- Buy land for economic development, parks, and public facilities (Strategy 2.2.b)
- Encourage private land owners to include usable open space, small parks, playgrounds, green roofs, courtyards, etc. in their developments and link the open spaces to the city-wide open space network (Strategy 4.1.p)

- Develop greenways throughout the city connecting Nodes; focus efforts specifically in Southside and including, but not limited to, the following proposed shared-use paths: Ashland to Petersburg, James River Branch, and Kanawha Canal (Strategy 8.2.a)
- Provide connections between new developments and existing open spaces (Strategy 4.2.c)
- Develop a strategy for acquiring land for new parks and open spaces (Strategy 17.4.d)
- Revise zoning ordinance to include a green space/green amenity minimum (Strategy 17.4.b)
- Expand the community garden program and develop standards and guidelines for community gardens on public lands to ensure transparency, continuity of use, and community benefit (Strategy 17.3.a)
- Develop materials explaining where urban agriculture is permitted by right in the zoning ordinance and explore expanding where it is permitted as a by-right use (Strategy 17.3.b)
- Increase the percentage of Richmonders within a 10-minute walk of quality open space to 100%, prioritizing low-income areas with a high heat vulnerability index rating (Objective 17.4)
- Increase city-wide tree canopy to 60% and seek to achieve a 30% tree canopy in all neighborhoods, prioritizing areas with a high heat vulnerability index rating and low tree canopy coverage (Objective 17.5)
- Reduce urban heat, prioritizing areas with a high heat vulnerability index rating (Objective 17.6)

REIMAGINE PRIORITY GROWTH AREAS

Reimagine Rt. 1, Southside Plaza, Greater Scott's Addition, Downtown, and Stony Point into high-quality places

Sample goals, objectives, and strategies from Richmond 300 that help Reimagine Priority Growth Areas:

- Prioritize rezoning parcels in primary growth nodes (Objective 1.1.a)
- Increase transportation options at each node (Objective 1.4.a)
- Develop Small Area Plans for the primary growth nodes at Southside Plaza, Route 1/Bells, Route 1/Bellemeade, and Stony Point to evaluate and suggest specific opportunities for placemaking, connectivity, mixed-income housing, economic development, and open space (Objective 1.1.f)
- Utilize public art and the public realm to create unique features within Nodes (Objective 1.2.a)
- Create and implement a real estate disposition strategy (Objective 2.2.a)
- Increase number of jobs in Nodes (Strategy 11.4)
- Continue to allow more housing types throughout the city and greater density along enhanced transit and at Nodes (Strategy 14.5)

- Foster an environment that supports the growth of existing and new small, medium, and large businesses, focusing on Nodes, major corridors, and industrial centers (Objective Goal 11)

RE-WRITE THE ZONING ORDINANCE

Direct growth to appropriate areas while maintaining and creating new authentic neighborhoods adjacent to enhanced transit. Encourage the development of housing options throughout the city to expand the geography of opportunity by deconcentrating poverty

Sample goals, objectives, and strategies from Richmond 300 that relate to Re-writing the Zoning Ordinance:

- Re-write the zoning ordinance (Strategy 1.1.b)
- Evaluate zoning districts in historic areas that were developed prior to the advent of zoning regulations to ensure new construction similar in form to the historic context is allowed (Strategy 1.1.c)
- Rezone parcels in nodes with design requirements that encourage walking – such as providing sidewalks, street trees, shade structures, pedestrian-level lighting, street furniture, and street-level windows and doors; prohibiting parking facing the street; and limiting driveway entrances (Strategy 1.1.d)
- Rezone to allow more housing types throughout the city (Strategy 1.1.e)
- Encourage context-sensitive development to protect and enhance neighborhood character (Strategy 4.3a)
- Improve walkability by installing or increasing pedestrian infrastructure (Strategy 4.1.b)
- Update zoning ordinance to allow for accessory dwelling units and two-family dwellings in all residential zones (Strategy 14.5.c, 14.5.d)
- Redevelop RRHA properties into well-design, walkable, mixed-income, transit-adjacent communities (Strategy 14.6)
- Encourage the development of “middle housing” (Strategy 14.5.f)
- Amend zoning ordinance to allow permanent supportive housing by-right in certain districts (Strategy 14.10.a)
- Prioritize funding projects and providing density bonuses for projects providing housing to low-income individuals within a ¼ mile of transit (Strategy 14.1.a)

RECONNECT THE CITY

Cap highways to reknit neighborhoods destroyed by interstates, build/improve bridges, introduce street grids and make the city easier to access by foot, bike and transit

Sample goals, objectives, and strategies from Richmond 300 that help Reconnect the City:

- Reestablish connections between disconnected areas, focusing first on the Downtown Expressway between 2nd and 7th, and I-95/I-64 at Jackson Ward (Strategy 9.2.f)
- Improve pedestrian crossing experiences on bridges over barriers, including sidewalks, shading, and planting (Strategy 9.2.g)
- Strengthen programs/partnerships that engage the public in exploring community history and places of significance (Strategy 3.3.c)
- Support infrastructure projects with transportation options to connect individuals from their homes to their jobs, specifically focused on low-income areas, low car-ownership areas, and areas in the high-injury network (Strategy 11.1.d)
- Enhance walking, biking, and transit infrastructure to provide universal access to all users, prioritizing low-income areas and areas within the high-injury street network (Goal 8)

REALIGN CITY FACILITIES

Improve city buildings (schools, libraries, fire stations, police stations, etc.) to provide better services in efficient, shared-use, accessible facilities

Sample goals, objectives, and strategies from Richmond 300 that relate to Realigning City Facilities:

- Co-locate, consolidate, and modernize public facilities, and locate them within Nodes (Strategy 1.3.a)
- Create and maintain a facility assessment inventory of City-owned facilities (Strategy 2.1.a)
- Develop a schools facility master plan (Strategy 2.1.c)
- Develop a parks and community facilities master plan (Strategy 2.1.d)
- Improve the energy efficiency of City-owned buildings (Strategy 2.1.e)