

Advisory Council Small Group Discussions: Land Use and Transportation Policy Ideas

Date: December 12, 2018, 4 P.M.
Location: Main Library, Basement
101 E. Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23219



At the Advisory Council's (AC) monthly meeting on December 12, 2018, the AC was provided with a summary of the big ideas shared by the public at the open houses and through the online survey related to Land Use & Urban Design, Historic Preservation, Public Facilities, and Transportation. The AC was split into two groups to have two small group discussions related to Land Use and Transportation using the big ideas as a starting point. The AC members discussed these questions:

- 1. What would a successful Master Plan include related to the topic?*
- 2. What policies/elements must the Master Plan include related to the topic when it is adopted in 2020?*

Below is a summary of the ideas discussed. Please note that this is just the beginning of the conversation about policies for the Master Plan which will continue in the Working Groups and during Community Consultation #2 and future public meetings.

LAND USE

Group 1:

- Create a public engagement strategy/process for planning.
 - Communicate the existing laws and processes that are in the books today.
 - Provide a glossary of planning terms
- Create density without losing open space or ruining Richmond's historic authenticity.
- Create a preservation plan.
 - End demolition by-right.
 - Identify the historically significant areas.
- Allow accessory dwelling units.
- Create incentives for developers to create more affordable units (tax breaks).
- Create more parks.
 - Trails/parks along the River.
 - All citizens within 10 minute walk to park.
- Incentivize green infrastructure in new developments.
- Identify areas for industry.
 - What does industry look like in 20 years?
- Reduce housing displacement.
- Eliminate parking requirements.
- Densifying corridors.

- Identify high priority areas.
- Rely more on form than use/intensity.
- Create walkable grids -eliminate superblocks.
- Place civic uses in neighborhood centers.
 - Be able to walk to school and library.

Group 2:

- Explore ways to create permanent community gardens.
 - Use the Maggie Walker Land Bank.
 - Provide tax incentives to private property owners.
- Mandate the inclusion of publicly accessible green space as a part of private development of a certain size.
- Include more density near transit, in city centers, at nodes, and along major corridors.
- Create overlays that encourage walkability/multimodal options.
- Encourage mixed use to include ground floor commercial spaces.
 - Use community benefits agreements.
- Identify areas around nodes that call for small area plans.
 - Set the ground work for the small area plans in the Master Plan.
 - Require certain uses within the small area plans including green space, services, public uses, etc. Set these standards in the Master Plan.
 - Connect the nodes to each other and connect all nodes to the city center.
- Develop a citywide preservation plan.
- More office space is needed.
- Encourage the development of spaces that allow for start-ups to scale up.
- Encourage flex-space like Clopton Siteworks.
- Revitalize vacant properties.

TRANSPORTATION

Group 1:

- Highlight existing/new modes, identify access by various users, and apply complete streets.
- Use green medians for bike lanes.
- BRT on Hull/Chamberlayne – Bus on Route 1
 - Increase population within a 10 minute walk of routes.
- Plan for autonomous vehicles.
- Incentivize equitable TOD.
- Improve streetscapes.
 - Prioritize high frequency transit corridors, parks, schools, healthcare.
- Create a new Richmond Connects Plan.
- Identify “choke points” in the system and plan for improved infrastructure.

- Identify areas for road diets.
- Convert more roads to two-way streets.
- Create a bike way /multi-use trail system.
- Explore areas to convert to car-free zones.
- Build upon the Bike Master Plan and adopt.
- Expand DPW staff to include staff focused on alternate modes.
- Establish a new department in the City called “Department of Transportation.”
- Create a curb management policy/program.

Group 2:

- Emphasize coordination with design and engineering.
 - Establish design guidelines.
 - Introduce order to existing options including Lyft/Uber protocol, autonomous vehicles.
- Examine “last mile” solutions
- Introduce a Downtown circulator.
- Include an equitable approach to transportation planning.
 - Provide free or reduce fares.
- Density is needed to drive enhanced transit including new Pulse lines.
- Create a policy for less cars on the road including autonomous vehicles to relative lane miles.
- Develop higher speed rail.
 - Prepare for the impact of Amazon’s HQ2
 - Encourage better rail to Main Street Station.
- Include bike connectivity.
- Develop a greenway system/bike lanes that are completely separate from vehicle lanes which will be a transportation asset not just for recreation.
- Incorporate electric charging infrastructure for electric vehicles.
- Connect Manchester to the City in a ped/bike friendly manner.
- Improve transit services everywhere not strictly for transit-dependent communities.
- Plan to get people to take transit to Downtown (Richmond is ranked 5th in terms of places with jobs in the CBD but low in terms of the number of people who take transit to the CBD).
- Remove parking minimums.