

# Transportation – Compiled Big Ideas

May 16, 2019



In fall 2018, PDR collected big ideas related to housing to potentially include in the new city-wide Master Plan from three groups:

1. The general public via Community Consultation #1, which included 1,030 participants online and in person.
2. The Richmond 300 Advisory Council, the sub-committee of the City Planning Commission charged with overseeing the creation of the Master Plan.
3. The Richmond 300 Technical Team, which is comprised of city departments and quasi-city entities.

The big ideas from the three groups are summarized below. Please note, these summaries are what PDR heard – that does not mean that all of these ideas are appropriate for inclusion in the city-wide Master Plan because some ideas are more operational/management focused, and not land use management focused.

## Community Consultation #1 - Big Ideas Summary | Transportation

PDR staff received **715 big ideas** related to Transportation.

- **Transit: 272 big ideas** are related to this topic:
  - **Expand local bus system:** Provide more routes to more places in the city and the region, including to the Airport and into the surrounding counties.
  - **Expand the BRT network:** Create more high-frequency bus systems with dedicated lanes, especially connecting the north and south sides of the city, and to Short Pump.
  - **Free/reduced transit fares:** Provide free or reduced transit fares, at least for low-income riders, which could increase ridership.
  - **Bus stop amenities:** Increase and maintain the amenities of local bus stops, including shelters, seating, maps, and lighting.
  - **Park 'n Ride:** Provide Park 'n Ride facilities at both ends of the Pulse BRT.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure: 155 big ideas** are related to this topic area:
  - **Build more bike lanes:** Build more bike lanes and other bike amenities throughout the city and into the counties, to encourage the use of this mode of transportation. Ensure an equitable distribution of bicycle amenities.
  - **Bike system connectivity:** Make bike lanes connect to one another for a more holistic system, and don't end bike lanes abruptly.
  - **Expand the bike share:** Expand the bike share to with the addition of more stations.
  - **Bike Master Plan:** Implement the City's Bike Master Plan.
  - **Sidewalks:** Build sidewalks where missing such as in South Side and maintain them where they exist.
  - **Car-free zones:** Create "car-free zones" in locations like Carytown.
  - **Universal access:** Provide universal access for those that may use a wheelchair, especially near and around transit stops/stations.

- **Crosswalks:** Improve and install more crosswalks to increase pedestrian safety when crossing streets. Consider increasing crossing times.
- **Multi-Modal Transportation System:** 107 big ideas are related to this topic area which echoed comments regarding Transit and Bike/Pedestrian Infrastructure, and promoted a system of non-automobile transportation options:
  - **Complete streets:** Invest in complete streets infrastructure that provides a means for pedestrians, cyclists, buses, and automobiles to commute and travel safely.
- **Rail: 64 big ideas** are related to this topic area:
  - **Light Rail/Streetcar/Trolley:** Build a light rail/streetcar/trolley system throughout the city similar to what once existed.
  - **High-speed rail:** Build high-speed rail between Richmond and D.C., or as far as New York and N.C. if possible.
  - **Train service to Charlottesville:** Provide train service to Charlottesville, V.A.
- **Roadways, Parking, and Infrastructure: 106 big ideas** are related to this topic area:
  - **Safety:** Improve the safety of roadways by reducing speed limits, enforcing speeding, better lighting, elimination of traffic circles, and introducing traffic calming elements.
  - **Signage and wayfinding:** Improve the signage and wayfinding system so that residents and tourists can navigate the city more easily.
  - **Pavement and potholes:** Better maintain the existing roadways with more frequent re-paving and fixing of potholes.
  - **Two-Way Street Conversions:** Convert one-way streets to two-way streets to increase connectivity and decrease speeding.
  - **Parking:** More parking downtown and at major destinations and employers. Pursue parking decks when surface parking is scarce.
  - **Electric Vehicles and Green Infrastructure:** Provide for the use of electric vehicles with charging stations and incentives for their use. Plant more street trees to provide more shade and reduce the urban heat island effect. Pursue other green infrastructure technology and initiatives.

## Advisory Council - Big Ideas Summary | Transportation

- 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.
- 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Technical Team - Big Ideas Summary | Transportation

- Create a city-wide transportation improvement map (starting with existing plans) - with greenway system, BRT network, on-street bike, prioritized areas for sidewalks (near schools, near transit stops, in areas with no-car households), inter-city travel (bus network, high speed rail))
- Design parking to not “kill a whole block”
- Update the Richmond Connects Plan
- Improve bus stops
- Increase shared mobility options throughout the city
- Implement Vision Zero - how does vision zero fit to the land uses and urban design typologies in our city?
- Apply Complete Streets methodology to accommodate all users - how does Complete Streets align to land uses and urban design typologies
- Adopt a Smart Cities approach - land use first then transportation
- Reduce trips by developing mixed-use, walkable neighborhoods. Improve interconnectivity between and within
- Achieve state of good repair on roads (\$22 million annual to maintain existing roads and bridge)
- Weekend road closures for recreation (Pony Pasture, Huguenot Bridge)

- Figure out how to plan for AV
- Provide an EV charging infrastructure (incentivize - zoning ordinance?)
- Parking requirements for shared vehicles (how does our zoning ordinance allow for that)
- Coordinate transit, parking and shared mobility as a combined planning approach
- Explore new revenue sources for funding future transportation (curb management, parking benefit districts, etc.)
- Build up density on future transit lines so they can be successful
- Promote sustainable and culturally-sensitive neighborhood level transportation planning - how does this get more specific? - Include community engagement process
- Define environmental justice metrics and apply to projects
- Prioritize infrastructure investments to areas where there are more non-car households
- Examine emergency response times (and evaluate locations of existing police and fire stations)
- Reduce emissions related to transportation by creating an environment that encourages people to shift modes
- Reduce the transportation barriers that prevent/hinder non-car households from getting to jobs