

Richmond Regional Transit Forum

Kickoff Meeting

Wednesday, October 14, 2015 1:00 PM

Richmond Regional PDC Board Room

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Nick Britton welcomed the forum members and the members went through introductions.

2. Why Are We Here—Purpose and Goals

- Nick Britton presented the purpose of the study, timeline, public involvement, as well as the process of data collection/analysis and the analysis of alternatives.
- Question: How does the Richmond Transit Vision Plan relate to the HB2 process?
 - Answer: We are still unsure process of HB2, and will better know how it relates as the project goes on

3. What We Learned—Summary of Research by GRTC

- John Martin of SIR presented *Shaping the Future of RVA*, which included overall goals, survey results of both riders and business leaders. Found resident and business leaders value transit and would like to advance transit in the region.
- Question: Were answers for survey prompted?
 - Answer: No, the survey was an aided list.
- Question: An important question for this process is how much people are willing to spend on transit. Does the survey address this?
 - Answer: The survey did not address this.
- Question: Statistic is for every \$1 invested in transit you get back \$4. Is that true?
 - Answer: Yes, there is a high return on investment on transit.

4. Where Are We Going—Visioning Exercise

- Lorna Parkins led three group in an exercise about the social impacts of transit.
- **Exercise 1: Vision Elements**
 - From your personal perspective, what is the value of transit for the Richmond Region?
 - Economic:
 - **Opportunity:** access to jobs for everyone, lower opportunity cost to society
 - **Land Use and Property Value Increases:** increase in property values, encourage different types of economic development (different types of land uses)
 - **Economic Development:** attract a skilled workforce, and therefore prospective companies
 - **Cost Savings:** savings at the regional level (less spending on roads, parking, etc.) and savings for the individual (less spending on car purchases and operations)
 - Social:

- **Access:** to jobs, medical care, education, groceries. This creates opportunities for freedom and aging in place.
- **Personal Quality of Life:** not having to drive, independence, safety (DUI), exercise leading to health improvements
- **Community Building:** interaction in the public realm, reinforcement of walkable development patterns, improvement in land use patterns, connecting people to each other and to places (to arts, restaurants, churches, etc.)
- Environment:
 - **Improved Air Quality:** leads to improvements in health
 - **Reduction of Carbon Footprint**
 - **Reduced Development Impacts:** stormwater management, quality of development
 - **Open Space**
- Other:
 - Improved Safety
 - Economic Development
 - Increased Regional Cooperation
 - Improvements to Social Networks
 - Reductions in Poverty
 - Management of Congestion
- **Exercise 2: Headlines**
 - If you were reading headlines about the region's transit system in 10 years, what would you want them to say?
 - Metro region adopts regional public transit system.
 - New transit center opens at I-95 and Willis Road to serve Tranlyn Paper Co.
 - Broad Street reborn as BRT makes it the place to live, work, and play.
 - Pollution levels down by 25%.
 - Richmond Region funds Transit Vision Plan.
 - Gas taxes raised to fund public transit.
 - GRTC continues to set satisfaction and ridership records.
 - Region adopts metro regional public transportation.
 - Richmond region funds vision for expanded transit.
 - GRTC becomes a transit authority.
 - GRTC starts express route to Hanover County.
 - Expand rapid transit.
 - Transit part of new construction to economic development area.
 - Regional transit group embraced by regional leaders.
 - GRTC: a model for transit agencies in the region
 - Light rail funded for RVA.
 - RVA: A great place for social mobility
 - BRT expands to Routes 1, 10, 60 and 360.
 - Area employers attribute recruitment success to transit availability.
 - "Take the Last Bus from Short Pump" is number one on pop charts.

- Richmond Region achieves ability beyond boundaries.
 - Richmond opens light rail line on the heels of successful BRT.
 - Regional transit service expands into new areas.
 - Regional cooperation lends to transit system named best transit system in America.
 - Dedicated transit lane opens on regional toll road, linking chesterfield to regional transit more efficiently.
 - Drunk driving down after expanded night transit service.
 - Jobs for all, jobs across jurisdictions.
 - Taxi registration down as riders turn to transit.
 - Poverty on the decline with connections to jobs and connecting jurisdictions.
 - High speed rail comes to Richmond.
 - Light rail to airport opens.
 - Local company adds 500 employees, commits to transit mini-hub.
 - GRTC adds early morning and late evening service to support RIC workforce.
 - Region commits to six non park and ride garages to support BRT routes.
 - Campus to campus light rail arrives in Richmond.
 - RVA's transit system connects everyone and everything in the metro area.
 - America comes to RVA to see how we built a world class transit system.
 - The Richmond market has the lowest number of automobiles.
- **Activity 3: In 2040, transit will...**
 - Looking at the statements of what we value about transit, and looking at what we envision for transit in 10 years, what are possible elements of a vision for regional transit?
 - Be a unifying asset to the region.
 - Be a viable transportation option for the region.
 - Be a comprehensive transportation option for the region.
 - Connect to other cities through the airport and Amtrak (interregional, interstate).
 - Get along (movement) because we got along (cooperation).
 - Serve and connect activity centers.
 - Have reliable and dedicated funding.
 - Be for all purposes (outside of work).
 - Improve the quality of life for metropolitan Richmond.
 - Reinforce walkability in our neighborhoods.
 - Provide access to educational options.
 - Provide more individual economic stability.
 - Include everyone in the economy (ladder of opportunity).
 - Social/human economic capital.

5. What's Next?

- The next advisory committee meeting will be in late November/early December
- The first set of public meetings are scheduled for:



Main Street Station	New Bridge Baptist Church	CCWA-Chester Campus
Wednesday, November 4, 2015	Thursday, November 5, 2015	Monday, November 9, 2015
6:00pm-8:00pm	6:00pm-8:00pm	6:00pm-8:00pm
1500 E. Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219	5807 9 Mile Road, Richmond, VA 23223	Nicholas Center, Room N102B (John Tyler CC) 13101 Jefferson Davis Highway, Chester, VA 23831

Attendees

Name	Organization	Email
Adrienne Chargois	GRTC	achargois@ridegrtc.com
Josh Mallow	RRPDC	jmallow@richmondregional.org
Ashley Hall	CRC	ahall@richmondregional.org
E. Martin Jewell	NAACP	martinj957@gmail.com
Catherine Bray	RRPDC	braycl@vcu.edu
Rose Marshall	Chesterfield DSS	marshallr@chesterfield.gov
Theresa Simmons	RMTA	theresa@the-rma.org
Steven Rich	Owl Inc.	stevenrichgm@msn.com
K.E. Lantz	RRPDC	klantz@richmondregional.org
Jo Gehlbach	Richmond Association of Realtors	jgehlbach@rarealtors.com
Chelsea Hartman	Chesterfield	hartmanc@chesterfield.gov
Joanne Simmelink	Chesterfield	simmelinkj@chesterfield.gov
Zach Trogdon	Charles City County	ztrogdon@co.charles-city.va.us
James Smither	VCU	jcsmith@vcu.edu
Troy N. Bell	RIC	tbell@flyrichmond.com
Matthew Rowe	Charles City County	mrowe@co.charles-city.va.us
Karen Aylward	Chesterfield County Economic Development	aylwardk@chesterfield.gov
March Altman	Powhatan County	maltman@powhatan.va.gov
Todd Eur	Henrico County	eur@henrico.us
Garland Williams	GRTC	gwilliams@ridegrtc.com
Walter Johnson		illegible
Nathan Boyah	NAACP	newindustries77@gmail.com
Algappan Subramanian	VCU	subramaniana@vcu.edu
Lisa Guthrie	VTA	lguthrie@lmg-llc.net
John Easter	Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce	john.easter@grcc.com
Nicholas Smith	RVA Rapid Transit	nicholas@psgrichmond.org
Jin Lee	RRPDC	jlee2@richmondregional.org
Tiffany Dubinsky	RRPDC	tdubinsky@richmondregional.org
Nelson Reveley	RVA Rapid Transit	nmr2uf@virginia.edu
Thad Williamson	City of Richmond	Thaddeus.Williamson@richmond.gov .com
Risha Berry	City of Richmond	risha.berry@richmond.gov.com
Garet Prior	Town of Ashland	gprior@town.ashland.va.us
Jane Milici	ULI	jane.milici@uli.org
Brian Montgomery		
Nick Britton	DRPT	nick.britton@drpt.virginia.gov



Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation



Lorna Parkins	Baker	Lorna.parkins@mbakerintl.com
Rebecca Askey	Baker	Rebecca.Askey@mbakerintl.com
John Judy	SIR	bj@sirresearch.com
John Martin	SIR	jwm@sirresearch.com
Meredith Judy	Rhodeside & Harwell	Meredithj@rhodeside-harwell.com