RICHMOND 300

A Guide for Growth

Designing an equitable, sustainable, and beautiful Richmond for its 300th birthday in 2037

Master Plan
City of Richmond, Virginia

Final | September 29, 2020

INTRODUCED: November 9, 2020

AN ORDINANCE No. 2020-236

To approve the action of the City Planning Commission adopting "Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth" as the Master Plan of the City of Richmond, and to repeal Ord. No. 2000-371-2001-11, adopted Jan. 8, 2001, and all amendments thereto, with the exception of the Riverfront Plan as contained in Ord. No. 2012-202-190, adopted Nov. 26, 2012, the VUU/Chamberlayne Neighborhood Plan as contained in Ord. No. 2016-002, adopted Feb. 8, 2016, the Pulse Corridor Plan as contained in Ord. No. 2017-127, adopted Jul. 24, 2017, the Riverfront Plan as contained in Ord. No. 2017-148, adopted Sept. 25, 2017, the Public Art Master Plan as contained in Ord. No. 2018-205, adopted Sept. 24, 2018, and the James River Park Systems Master Plan as contained in Ord. No. 2019-337, adopted Jan. 27, 2020.

Patron – Mayor Stoney

Approved as to form and legality by
the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: DEC 14 2020 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, the City Planning Commission last adopted a new Master Plan for the City of Richmond on November 6, 2000, which Master Plan the City Council approved by Ordinance No. 2000-371-2001-11, adopted January 8, 2001, in accordance with section 17.06 of the Charter of the City of Richmond (2020), as amended; and

AYES:	9	NOES:	0	ABSTAIN:	
ADOPTED:	DEC 14 2020	REJECTED:		STRICKEN:	

WHEREAS, to facilitate the City Planning Commission's performance of its duties under sections 17.04 through 17.06 of the Charter of the City of Richmond (2020), as amended, the City's Department of Planning and Development Review presented to the City Planning Commission a new Master Plan entitled "Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth" and dated September 29, 2020, to replace the Master Plan adopted on November 6, 2000; and

WHEREAS, in its consideration of the proposed new Master Plan, the City Planning Commission received comments resulting from numerous meetings with individual citizens, civic groups, and City departments that would be affected by the proposed new Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Planning and Development Review contacted 8,573 attendees, received 4,990 survey responses, hosted 111 "Richmond 300" meetings, attended 229 community and stakeholder meetings, reviewed over 2,000 comments, and received over 90 letters and electronic mail messages over the course of three years to create the new Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of section 17.06 of the Charter of the City of Richmond (2020), as amended, the City Planning Commission held public hearings on September 21, 2020, and October 5, 2020, for the purposes of receiving additional public comments relative to the proposed new Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, following its second public hearing on the proposed new Master Plan, the City Planning Commission adopted a resolution, entitled "Resolution of the City of Richmond Planning Commission, Adopting Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth as the Master Plan of the City of Richmond" and dated October 5, 2020, a copy of which is attached to this ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the new Master Plan as adopted by the City Planning Commission on October 5, 2020, encompasses a plan for guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, adjusted, and harmonious development of the city and its environs that will, in accordance with existing and future needs, best promote health, safety, morals, comfort, prosperity, and general welfare, as well

as efficiency and economy in the process of development, as provided in section 17.04 of the Charter of the City of Richmond (2020), as amended; and

WHEREAS, it is the consensus of the Council that it is in the best interest of the City of Richmond that the Council, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, consent to and approve the new Master Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

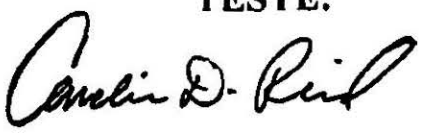
§ 1. That the new Master Plan as adopted by the City Planning Commission at its hearing on October 5, 2020, entitled "Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth" and dated September 29, 2020, a copy of which is attached to and made a part of this ordinance, be and is hereby approved and from the effective date of this ordinance shall be the Master Plan for the City of Richmond.

§ 2. That Ordinance No. 2012-202-190, adopted November 26, 2012, which approved the Riverfront Plan, Ordinance No. 2016-002, adopted February 8, 2016, which approved the VUU/Chamberlayne Neighborhood Plan, Ordinance No. 2017-127, adopted July 24, 2017, which approved the Pulse Corridor Plan, Ordinance No. 2017-148, adopted September 25, 2017, which approved the Riverfront Plan, Ordinance No. 2018-205, adopted September 24, 2018, which approved the Public Art Master Plan, and Ordinance No. 2019-337, adopted January 27, 2020, which approved the James River Park Systems Master Plan, all of which are hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Amendments," shall remain in effect and be deemed part of the Master Plan approved by section 1 of this ordinance, provided, however, that all references to and illustrations of "future land use map" and "future land use categories" in the Amendments shall be deemed to refer to, and shall be deemed to be replaced by, the future land use map and future land use categories of the Master Plan approved by section 1 of this ordinance.

§ 3. That Ordinance No. 2000-371-2001-11, adopted January 8, 2001, and all amendments thereto, with the exception of the Amendments, shall be and are hereby repealed.

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

A TRUE COPY:
TESTE:



City Clerk

CITY OF RICHMOND

PLANNING COMMISSION

October 5, 2020

CPCR.2020.050: RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND PLANNING COMMISSION

ADOPTING RICHMOND 300: A GUIDE FOR GROWTH AS THE MASTER PLAN OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

WHEREAS, Section 17.06 of the City Charter authorizes the City Planning Commission to adopt a Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, harmonious development, a sound economy, attractive residential areas, and the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Richmond can best be achieved with the guidance of a long-range Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the present Master Plan the City Planning Commission adopted on November 6, 2000, and the City Council approved by Ordinance No. 2000-371-2001-11 is now outdated; and

WHEREAS, the City Planning Commission appointed an Advisory Council by City Planning Commission Resolution 2017-79 to guide the planning process, the staff of the Department of Planning and Development Review held and attended hundreds of meetings and collected thousands of comments and survey responses over the course of three years to create the new Master Plan, and the Advisory Council recommended that the City Planning Commission adopt the new Master Plan at a meeting held on September 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the City Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on the Draft Master Plan on June 1, 2020, and a public hearing on the Pre-Final Master Plan on September 21, 2020 for the purpose of receiving public comment relative to the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Planning Commission has reviewed the proposed plan, taken into consideration comments received at its public hearing, and received a report from the Director of the Department of Planning and Development Review, which is contained in the record of this Commission's proceedings;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Richmond City Planning Commission hereby adopts the *Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth* Master Plan dated September 29, 2020 as the City of Richmond's official Master Plan, which will supersede all parts of the 2001 Master Plan and all amendments thereto, with exception of the Riverfront Plan (Ord. 2012-202-190 and Ord. 2017-148), VUU/Chamberlayne Neighborhood Plan (Ord. 2016-022), Pulse Corridor Plan (Ord. 2017-127), James River Park Systems Master Plan (Ord. 2019-337), and

Public Art Master Plan (Ord. 2018-205) (collectively, the Amendments) which Amendments shall remain in effect and be adopted as part of *Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth* Master Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Amendments are deemed to incorporate the future land use map and future land use categories of *Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth* Master Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Commission forwards the *Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth* Master Plan and the Amendments, collectively the 2020 Master Plan, to the City Council with the recommendation of approval.

Rodney M. Poole
Chair, City Planning Commission

Matthew J. Ebinger
Secretary, City Planning Commission

Dear Fellow Richmonders,

I want to personally thank the thousands of Richmonders who have participated in creating *Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth*, the city's updated Master Plan. An updated master plan built upon community consensus is an essential tool for guiding the future of our growing city and for ensuring that new development aligns with citywide goals.

Richmond 300 envisions an equitable, sustainable and beautiful Richmond that ensures a high quality of life for all existing and future residents. To achieve this vision, the plan includes goals to create and maintain high-quality neighborhoods, develop an equitable transportation network that prioritizes the movement of people over the movement of vehicles, foster a diverse economy, provide inclusive housing with access to quality housing choices for all Richmonders, and support a thriving environment with healthy air, clean water, and a flourishing ecosystem. This vision is embodied in and supported by 17 goals, 70 objectives, and over 400 strategies.

Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth is a visionary document that seeks to expand equity throughout the city and prioritizes impactful "Big Moves" that will forever change our city for the better. It plans to reconnect the historically Black neighborhood of Jackson Ward by building over the highway, create a redevelopment plan for Gilpin Court, and provide park access to allow all Richmonders to live within a 10-minute walk of a park – all initiatives founded in long overdue racial justice.

The work of Richmond 300 does not end with City Council's adoption of the Master Plan. The next phase of the plan is the most important: implementation. To implement the plan as written, with all its focus on righting wrongs and building community, we need you to continue to support the vision and goals established in Richmond 300.

Stay involved. Take the time to read this plan and learn how you, as an invested resident, can use Richmond 300 to facilitate the growth of the city and build One Richmond.

With gratitude,

Mayor Levar M. Stoney

RICHMOND PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

PDR

Dear Richmonders,

When we began pulling together *Richmond 300* in 2017, as the first comprehensive update to the City's Master Plan in almost two decades, our goal was to engage a representative cross-section of the public and City staff to articulate a shared vision for the city. Through the voices of thousands of Richmonders—who gave their time and talent to this process—we are pleased to present to the citizens and other community stakeholders *Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth.*

Master Plans are clearly a product of their time. But more than that, well-crafted plans are stories; stories of the aspirations of the many who contributed to its creation, and who represent a collective voice guiding the future of the city. They guide and advise the Planning Commission and City Council on major land use decisions that will shape the city for decades.

Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth—the result of this collaborative process—is different than any of our previous Master Plans.

- Our first Master Plan of 1946 (Bartholomew) looked to the advent of the automobile and the movement of households and economic activity to the suburbs. The mixed-use character of the city was an issue. Today, *Richmond 300* focuses on celebrating and building on the mixed-use character of Richmond to enhance an authentic urban experience.
- All of the Master Plans after 1946 were about managing decline. Today, after 20 years of population growth, *Richmond 300* focuses on guiding the city's next 20 years of growth to help address the pressing sustainability and social-equity issues of our time.
- *Richmond 300* reimagines areas of the city by revitalizing critical nodes and corridors, and creating entire new neighborhoods for the next 100 years; places that future generations will adopt as their own as these new neighborhoods grow and mature. Think about it:
    - The Southside Plaza area is a bustling center of South Richmond.
    - Route 1 is a beautiful mixed-use corridor.
    - Greater Scott's Addition, previously envisioned in earlier plans as only an industrial neighborhood, is a shining example of a 900+ acre collection of new mixed use neighborhoods, anchored by the visionary Crescent Park and a true multi-modal network.

But beyond the plan, *Richmond 300* is just the first step in realizing the vision so clearly outlined in this document. The critical next step is implementation, using all of the tools the City has at its disposal, the expertise of those that build the city, and the continued engagement of our stakeholders in realizing that long-term vision. It will take all of us to create the high-quality, livable, and inclusive city that *Richmond 300* establishes.

As we look to implement the plan, please stay involved and connected in the process as we will continue to need your voices.

Let's get started.

Mark A. Olinger
Director, Dept. of Planning and Development Review

Rodney M. Poole
Chair, City Planning Commission

RICHMOND 300

A Guide for Growth

City-Wide Master Plan

City of Richmond, Virginia

Final – September 29, 2020

City Planning Commission Adopted – October 5, 2020

City Council Adopted – December 14, 2020

RICHMOND PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

PDR

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This document reflects the consensus reached by thousands of Richmonders on guiding the future growth of Richmond. The content in this plan arose from the time, attention, expertise, and passion of thousands of people. The individuals listed here are elected officials, commission members, City staff, and citizens who participated in various *Richmond 300* groups.

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DESMAN, Parking Study
Elevation, Brand Identity
*staff transitioned to new role during the process

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Supporting Reports (under separate cover)

Land Use, Housing, Demographics, and Projections Report by CURA at VCU, 2018

Urban Design Typology Report by CURA at VCU, 2018

Insights Report, 2018

Community Consultation #1, #2, and #3 Reports, 2019, 2020

Parking Study Report, 2020

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RICHMOND 300

Introduction

The Department of Planning and Development Review (PDR) developed this new city-wide Master Plan with extensive community engagement to plan for and guide Richmond's future growth.

Master Plan Purpose and Process

Purpose

The Master Plan is an important document because it provides a framework for the City, the development community, business owners, and residents to shape the growth of Richmond.

This Master Plan also sets the guidance to initiate and evaluate policies, programs, and zoning changes, and to guide the City's capital improvement plan.

Richmond is 62.5 square miles and is not allowed to annex land. The Master Plan helps determine how to plan for growth within the constrained 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 5 years.

Process

***Richmond 300* was developed by thousands of Richmonders.** The process to develop the Master Plan included reaching over 8,500 people during over 100 *Richmond 300*-sponsored meetings and over 220 civic association meetings, City Council district meetings, and festivals such as the 2nd Street Festival and National Night Out. During the planning and draft review process from September 2018 to August 2020, City Staff received and read nearly 5,000 responses to *Richmond 300* surveys and over 2,100 comments on the draft Master Plan maps and content. In addition to the 21-member Advisory Council who dedicated 2.5 years to this process, another 209 people served on Working Groups to shape the content of the plan. Please see the Appendix for a detailed description of the community engagement process.

Master Plan Users

CITY STAFF, COMMISSIONS, & ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Identify areas well-positioned for growth and reinvestment
- Strengthen/grow neighborhoods and Nodes
- Determine how to maximize return on public investment
- Manage capital funds projects
- Develop budgets
- Pursue federal, state, and other grants
- Advance priorities for community wealth building

DEVELOPERS, DESIGNERS, & BUILDERS

- Purchase real estate
- Decide whether it is most appropriate to reuse or construct new buildings in a given location
- Identify likely hot spots for development
- Understand the City's development priorities
- Align design/ development ideas with City goals

RESIDENTS, NON-PROFITS, & BUSINESS OWNERS

- Expand, start, or relocate a business
- Purchase real estate
- Renovate an existing building
- Improve a local park
- Find a suitable location for a community garden
- Attract a new business or service to a neighborhood business district

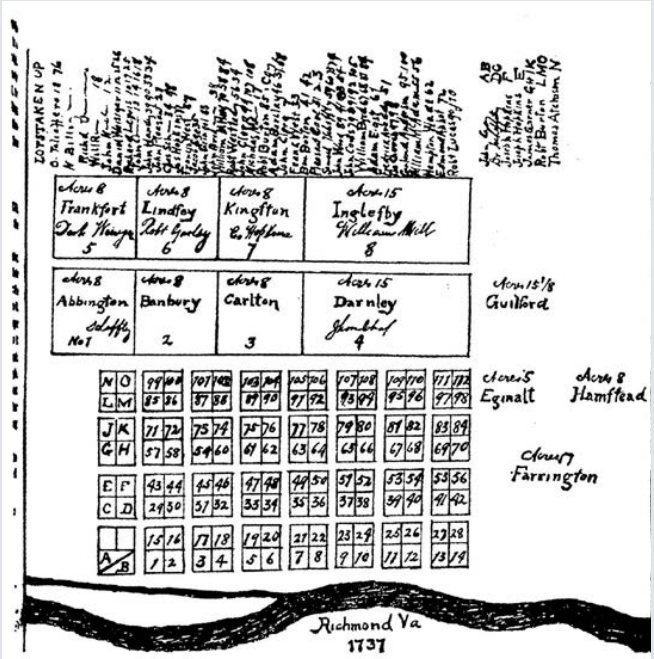
How to Use this Plan

***Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth* outlines a vision statement, goals, strategies, and actions that will shape our land, neighborhoods, and places.** The plan will influence decisions made in the city for the next 20 years and serves several important roles: 1) Setting direction for City Administration, City Staff, and elected and appointed officials including City Planning Commissioners regarding the long-range needs of the city; 2) Informing non-profits, business owners, developers, designers, and builders of Richmond's plans for the future and development priorities; and 3) Communicating the agreed upon future form of the City to provide citizens with a plan to hold decision makers accountable to achieving.

The plan consists of both written policy recommendations and maps, which should be used together when making decisions. Section 15.2-2224 of the Virginia Code identifies several methods available to local governments for implementation of the Master Plan, including a capital improvements program, a subdivision ordinance, and a Zoning Ordinance and zoning district map. In addition to these tools, the city creates plans in many areas including transportation, sustainability, water, sewage, public health, and economic development which support and implement the strategies within *Richmond 300*. These plans included but are not limited to the Bike Master Plan, the Vision Zero Plan, the RVA Clean Water Plan, the Richmond Connects Plan, RVAgreen 2050, the James River Park Master Plan, the Public Art Master Plan, and the Consolidated Plan.

The Master Plan is a "living document" and should be flexible to respond to changing conditions, modify existing policies, or examine an area of the city in greater detail. This document should be reviewed and revised at least every 5 years to reflect the availability of new implementation tools, changes in state and federal law, changes in funding sources, the results of monitoring the effectiveness of existing policies, and the impacts of past decisions, as well as to reflect changes in the community's vision for the future.

Why is it called *Richmond 300*?



In 1737, Richmond is platted by Major William Mayo for William Byrd II.
Source: The Valentine

Richmond was founded in 1737. As we look forward to the city's 300th anniversary in 2037, how do we want Richmond to look, feel, 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.

Master Plan Context

Richmond is on the map.

Richmond has been experiencing remarkable growth. Richmond added more than 32,000 residents between 2000 and 2019, as shown in Figure 1. Richmond's sustained growth in population is something the city has not experienced in over a century. From 2000 to 2019, Richmond's population increased by 17% from 197,790 in 2000 to 230,436 in 2019. The last time the city grew over a 20-year period without annexing land was from 1920 to 1940, when the population increased by 12%. The last time the city population grew over a 20-year period by more than 17% without annexing land was from 1880 to 1900 ,when Richmond grew by 34%, as shown in Table 1.

Young adults and retirees are driving the growth, as shown in Figure 2. Population growth is driven by a number of factors—but mainly, Richmond's population growth comes from people leaving more expensive metropolitan areas in search of less expensive housing and a high-quality of life. Richmond has a higher growth rate in millennials and baby boomers as compared to the neighboring counties. From 2010 to 2018, the number of 25- to 34-year-olds in Richmond grew by 43% compared to 6% and 11% growth in Henrico and Chesterfield, respectively. During the same time period,

32,000+

number of residents Richmond added from 2000 to 2019

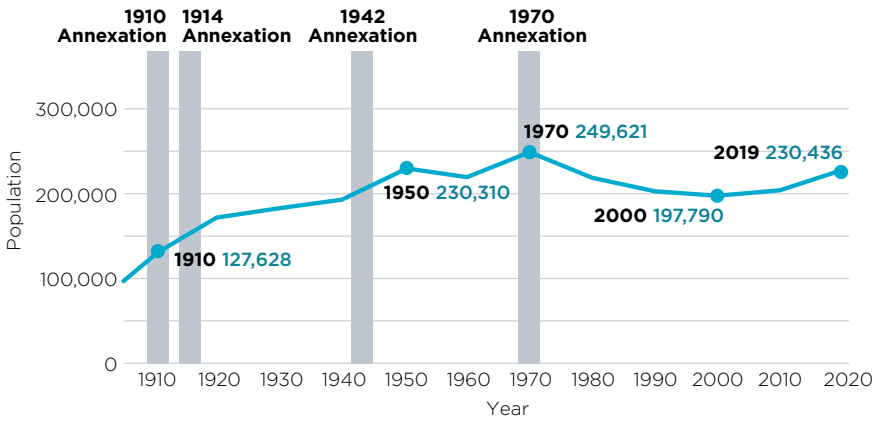


FIGURE 1 // **Historic Population**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: 1910, 1950, 1970, 2000 Censuses, 2019 Population Est.

TABLE 1 // **20-Year Population Growth and Annexation, 1880-2019**

20-Year Span	Absolute Growth	% Growth	Land Annexed?
1880 to 1900	**21,450**	**34%**	**No**
1890 to 1910	46,240	57%	1906 – 4.5 sq. mi.
1900 to 1920	86,617	102%	1906, 1910, 1914 – 18.5 sq. mi.
1910 to 1930	55,301	43%	1910, 1914 – 14 sq. mi.
1920 to 1940	21,375	12%	No
1930 to 1950	47,381	26%	1942 – 16.1 sq. mi.
1940 to 1960	26,916	14%	1942 – 16.1 sq. mi.
1950 to 1970	19,311	8%	1970 - 23 sq. mi.
1960 to 1980	- 744	0%	1970 - 23 sq. mi.
1970 to 1990	- 46,565	-19%	1970 - 23 sq. mi.
1980 to 2000	- 21,424	-10%	No
1990 to 2010	1,158	1%	No
2000 to 2019	**32,646**	**17%**	**No**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: 1910, 1950, 1970, 2000 Censuses, 2019 Population Est.

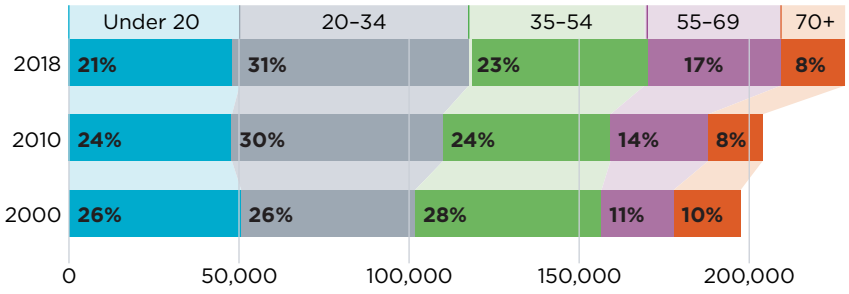


FIGURE 2 // **Population by Age, 2000-2018**
Percentages shown are percent of that year's population in a given age group.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau: 2000 Census, 2010 Census, 2015

the population of 55- to 74-year-olds grew by 38%, compared to 32% and 33% for Henrico and Chesterfield, respectively.

The racial composition of Richmond has shifted since 2000. Increases in White, Latino, and Asian populations are driving Richmond's growth, as shown in Figure 3. The number of Whites, Latinos, and Asians grew in population by over 32,000, 11,000, and 3,000 people, respectively from 2000 to 2018. The number of Blacks decreased by nearly 6,500 people over the same time period. The number of people identifying with Two or More Races increased by nearly 4,000. It is impossible to know which two races those individuals identify with, but irrespective, Richmond is becoming more diverse.

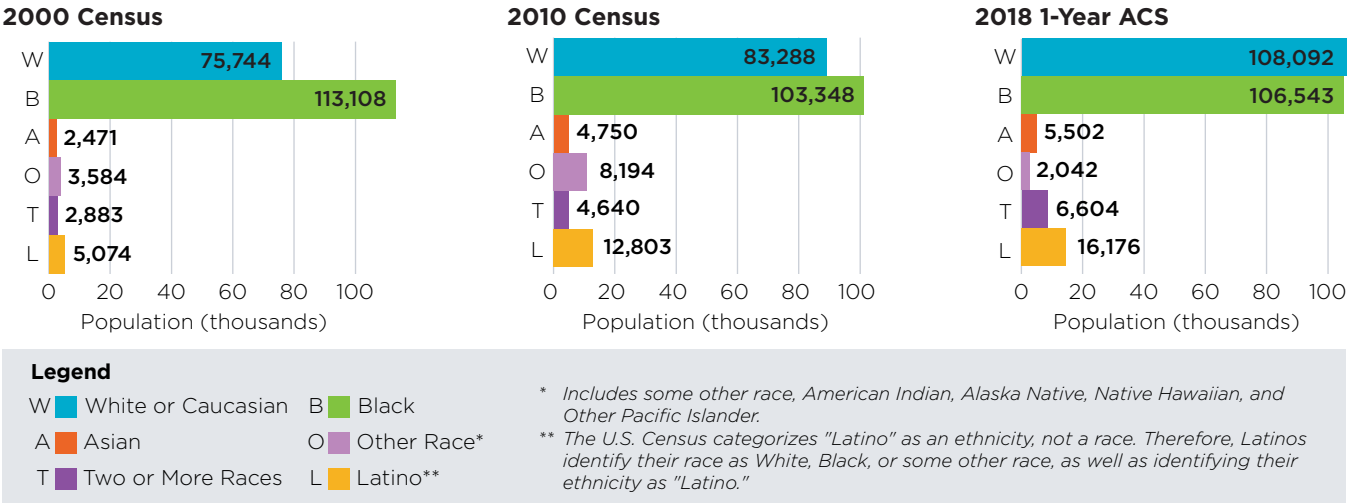


FIGURE 3 // **Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2000, 2010, and 2018**
Source: U.S. Census Bureau: 2000 Census, 2010 Census, 2018 ACS 1-Year Est.

24.5%

Richmond residents live in poverty

Richmond's growth has not benefited everyone.

Richmond's poverty level remains persistently high. The poverty rate increased from 21.4% in 2000 to 25.5% in 2016 and has since decreased to 24.5% in 2019. Poverty rates are highly concentrated in certain areas of the city, particularly the East End which has the largest share of public housing in the city, as well as in large portions of the South Richmond, as shown in Figure 6. Between 2000 and 2014, the median household income in large areas along Route 1 in South Richmond decreased by more than 50%.

Inflation-adjusted median income has decreased. In absolute terms, Richmond's median household income appears to be increasing, but when adjusted for inflation, median household incomes are lower than they were in 1990 and 2000, as shown in Figure 4.

Housing costs in Richmond have outpaced income growth for low- and very-low income households. According the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), from 2000 to 2016, the proportion of housing-cost-burdened households (spending more than 30% of income on housing) increased from 33% to 42%. There is a substantial need for more housing for very-low-income

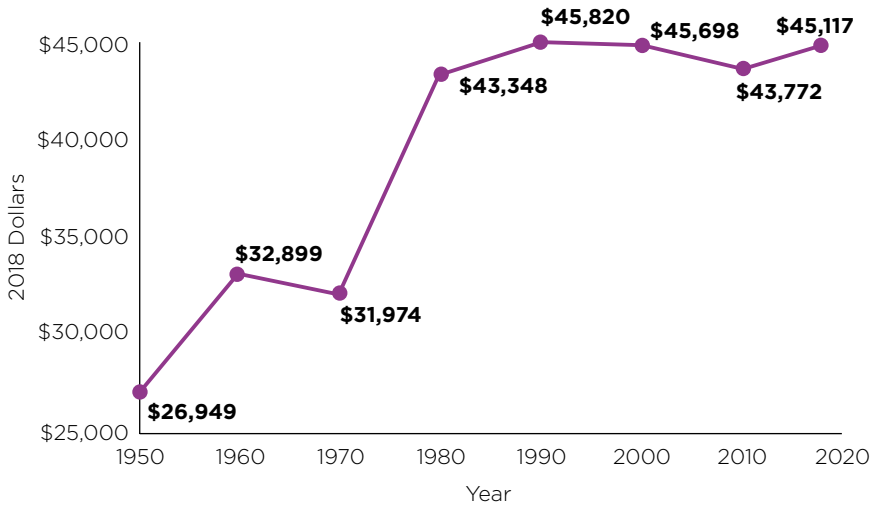
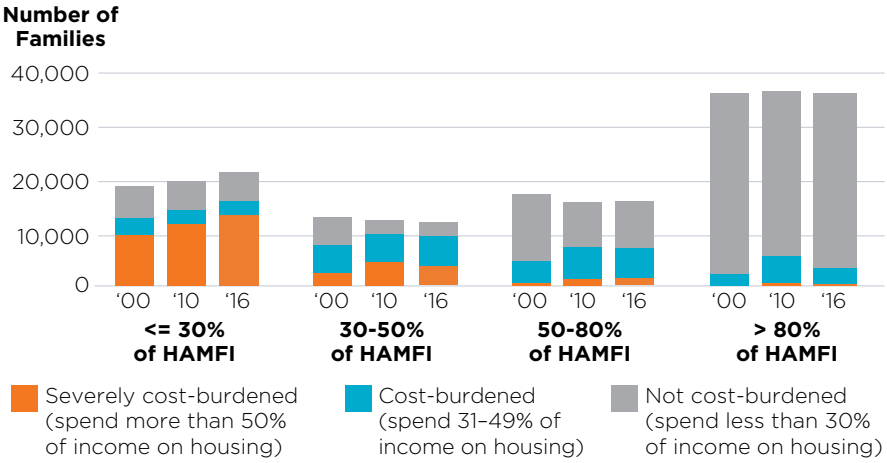


FIGURE 4 // **Inflation-Adjusted Median Household Income, 1950-2018**

Source: U.S. Census: 1950-2000 Censuses, 2010 ACS 1-Year Estimates, 2014-18 ACS 5-Year Estimates



HAMFI = HUD Area Median Family Income

FIGURE 5 // **Housing Cost Burden by Household Income, 2000-2016**

Housing cost burden has increased across all income levels between 2000 and 2016 and decreased slightly at some income levels between 2010 to 2016.

Source: Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS): 2000, 2006-2010 5-yr average, and 2012-2016 5-yr average

and low-income households in Richmond and the Richmond region. Figure 5 shows that the number of families earning less than 30% of the HUD Area Median Family Income has been increasing, and within that category, there are more severely cost-burdened households.

Racial inequities persist in the local and regional labor market. Blacks are employed predominantly in low-wage occupations. White workers in the Richmond region are about three times as likely as Black workers to be employed in management occupations, which earn on average $128,000, the highest-paying job occupations (14.5% of white workers are in management position compared to 5.8% Black workers). Moreover, Black workers are more likely to be employed in the lowest-paying occupations, which pay on average below $27,000.

Education rates have increased across all levels since 1970 but parts of the Southside have experienced a decline in educational attainment since 2000. In 2016, 86% of Richmonders over age 25 had a high school diploma. Between 2000 and 2016, all areas of the city experienced a growth in high school graduation rates, except for parts of the Southside, which showed declining high school graduation rates. Between 2000 and 2016, as shown in Figure 7, in some areas of the Southside, one-third to over one-half of residents over 25 years old do not have a high school diploma. This trend is especially pronounced in neighborhoods along Hull Street and Route 1.

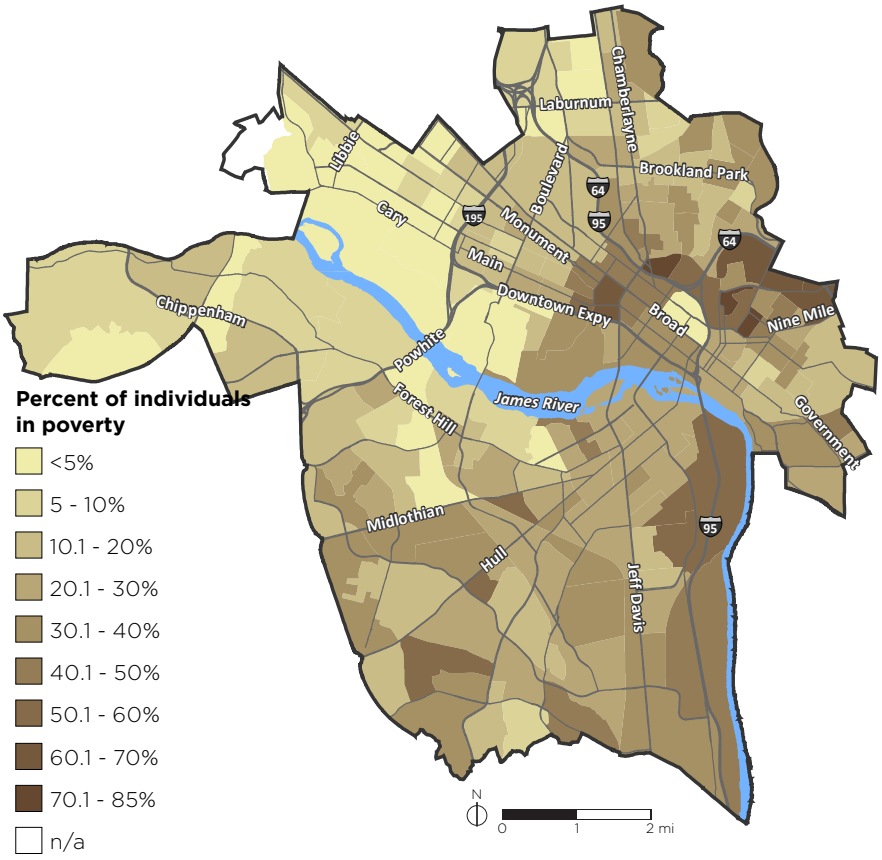


FIGURE 6 // **Individuals in Poverty, 2016**
Source: U.S. Census Bureau: 2012-2016 ACS 5-year Estimates

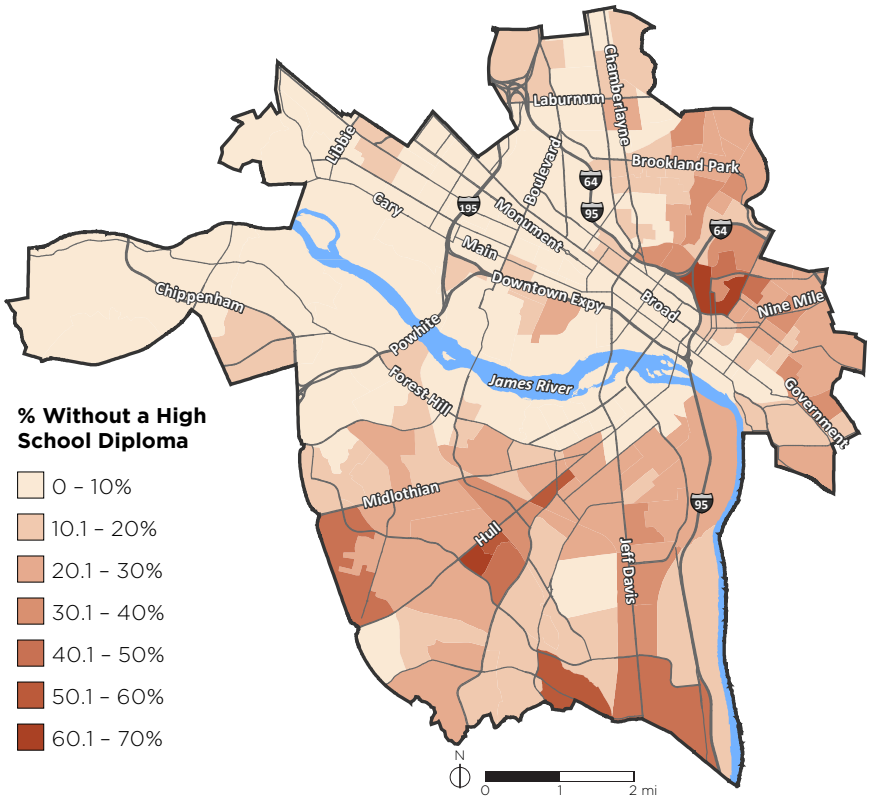
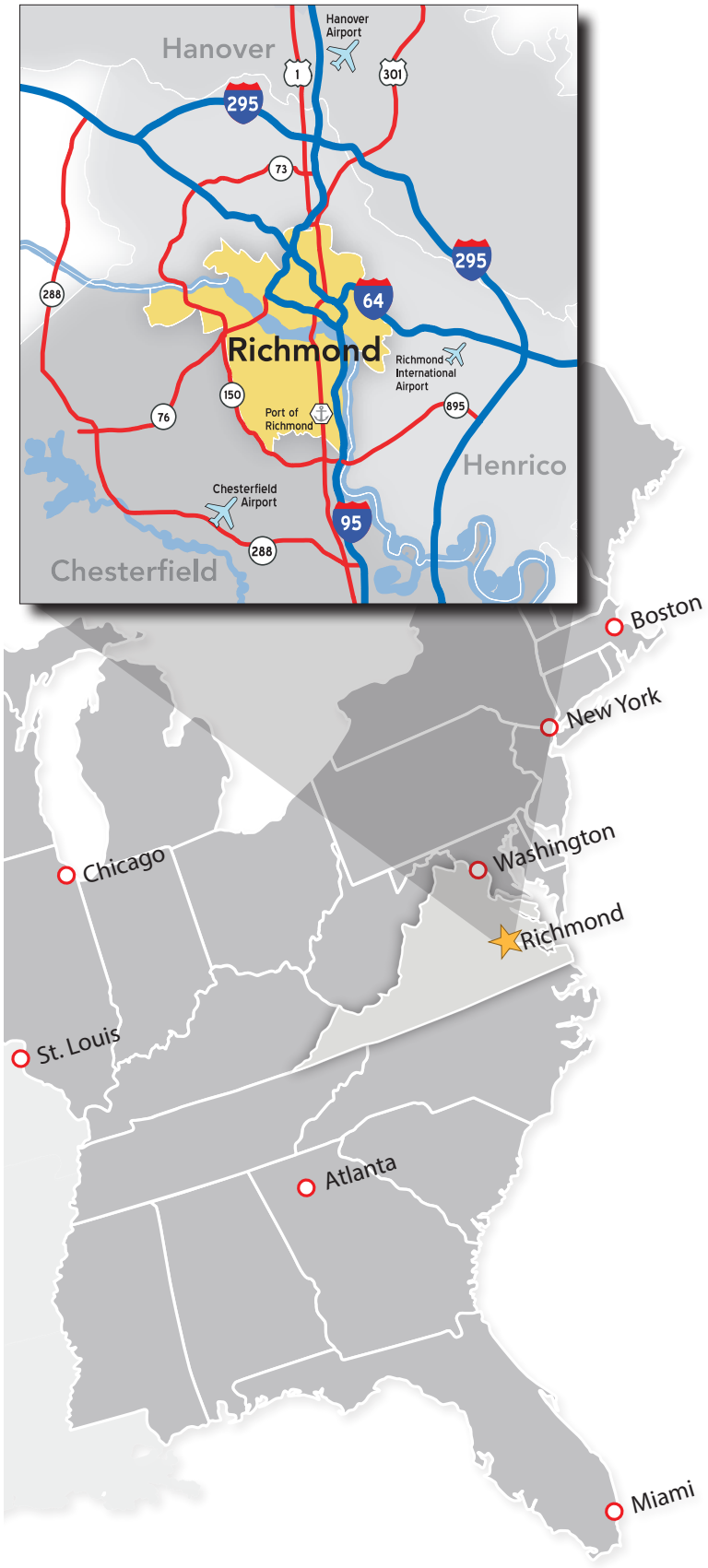


FIGURE 7 // **Population Lacking a High School Diploma, 2016**
The percentage of individuals over 25 who did not graduate high school.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau: 2012-2016 ACS 5-year Estimates

Richmond's central location within Virginia and the East Coast makes the city well-positioned for economic growth and prosperity.

Richmond is located 90 minutes from the beach, the mountains, and the Nation's Capital. Richmond is an ideal place for commerce and innovation to thrive. Located at the convergence of I-95 and I-64, the highest navigable point on the James River, and the crossroads of multiple rail lines, Richmond's central location attracts businesses and residents. Businesses are keen on the Richmond's easy access to the interstates, marine terminal, airport, freight and passenger rail lines, and thousands of graduates of Virginia's exemplary colleges and universities. Residents are attracted to Richmond's roaring James River, easy access to mountain and beach vacations, historic urban authenticity, a culture that supports starting a new business, cultural and artistic vibrancy, higher-education opportunities, and lower housing cost (relative to other larger cities).



Source: Department of Economic Development, City of Richmond

Richmond has an entrepreneurial spirit. In 2019, the Region was home to 42 Inc. 5000 firm (the fastest-growing private companies in the U.S)—compared to the Nashville Region, a celebrated entrepreneurial hub, which had 43 Inc. 5000 firms. The City of Richmond is home to two-thirds of the 42 firms. The businesses include finance and tech firms, as well as design and creative firms.

Richmond has a diverse economy with government and anchor institutions providing stability and innovation. As the Capital of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Richmond's government and anchor institutions provide a stable employment base and opportunities for public-private innovation and training. Virginia Commonwealth University's (VCU) Monroe Park Campus and VCU Health Campus have increased in student population by over 7,000 between 2000 and 2018. The growth of VCU and its investment in programs that spark innovation, like the da Vinci Center and the Brandcenter, have built upon and expanded the entrepreneurial and artistic spirit of Richmond.

Richmond's art and food scene are attracting national attention. In 2019, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts unveiled a new statue, *Rumors of War* by Kehinde Wiley, which garnered national press for its commentary on Confederate monuments. The VCU Arts program has continued to be a top-rated public university arts program. Festivals like the Street Art Festival, Fire,Flour & Fork, and the Afrikana Film Festival invigorate Richmond's arts and food scene. Several Richmond restaurants and breweries have been featured in 10-lists by national press, and several chefs have been nominated for the James Beard Awards.

Business are expanding or relocating into Richmond. Companies with suburban headquarters, like Capitol One and CarMax, have opened large offices in the City of Richmond to help attract creative talent to their companies. The CoStar Group expanded from its corporate headquarters in Washington D.C. to open a research headquarters with over 700 employees along the James River near Brown's Island. Over the past several years, many small- and medium-sized private and non-profit companies have moved from suburban locations into revitalized neighborhoods like Scott's Addition and Manchester.

Richmond: A Very Brief History

The James River. The founding and growth of Richmond is tied to its location along the fall line of the James River. Goods such as wheat and tobacco came down the river from the interior, and sea-going vessels came up the river as far as they could to Richmond's merchants and factories. The James River has not only served as a means of transportation, it has also powered mills and factories, making Richmond one of the most industrialized cities in the south in the late-1700s and early 1800s. With the expansion of the railroad and the invention of steam power in the mid-1800s, the canal and the river no longer formed the core of Richmond's economic base. Today, the river is the heart of a linear park system on both banks.

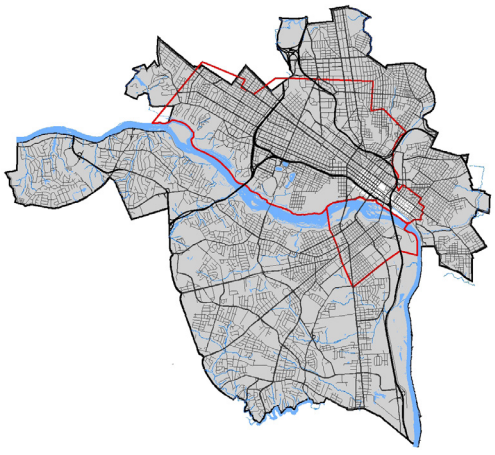
1607

Christopher Newport and John Smith sail up the James River to the fall line, marked by rapids, where the Piedmont and Atlantic Coastal plain meet.

The fall line is the seat of the Powhatan chiefdom — a confederation of 14,000 to 21,000 Algonquian-speaking people — when the British arrive. From first contact, tensions are high between the Native peoples and the British and numerous battles ensue. By 1646, the Powhatan's chiefdom ceased to exist. Following the 1656 Battle of Bloody Run, near Chimborazo, Native populations relinquish their lands in the Richmond area.

c. 1670

William Byrd I inherits the 1,800-acre Falls Plantation on the south side of the James River near present day Manchester. In 1678, he receives a grant of 7,351 acres beginning at Shockoe Creek and running upriver about 5 miles, including Downtown Richmond, the Fan, the Museum District, Windsor Farms, and more. The Byrd family holdings grow to over 79,000 acres in and around present day Richmond (outlined in red in the map below). In 1768, William Byrd III is forced to sell by lottery his holdings in Richmond and Rocky Ridge (Manchester) to pay his gambling debts.



1600 1610 1620 1630 1640 1650 1660 1670 1680 1690 1700 1710

Growth and Expansion. Over 233 years, 1737 to 1970, Richmond would grow through a series of annexations of land from Henrico and Chesterfield Counties. These annexations were fueled by industrial and economic growth and the expansion of transportation systems — the improvement of roads and turnpikes, the introduction of a horse-drawn car line, the establishment of the first financially successful electric trolley in the United States, and the construction of highways. Additionally, later annexations were fueled by a desire by some political leaders to maintain a white majority of the population to retain control of the city government.

1737

Richmond is founded and the city is platted by Major William Mayo for William Byrd II. The streets and blocks run parallel to the James River and encompass an area of only 0.23 square miles. This geometry is repeated as the city grows and has influenced the design of the city for 280 years, only being modified to accommodate the turns in the river and topography.

1742

King George II grants a charter to William Byrd II to establish Richmond as a town.

1780

The state capitol is moved from Williamsburg to Richmond.

1782

Richmond is incorporated as a city with a population of 1,800 — half of whom are enslaved people.

1785

The James River Company is established to improve navigation through dredging, blasting channels through the rocks, and building canals in two places around the rapids.

1792

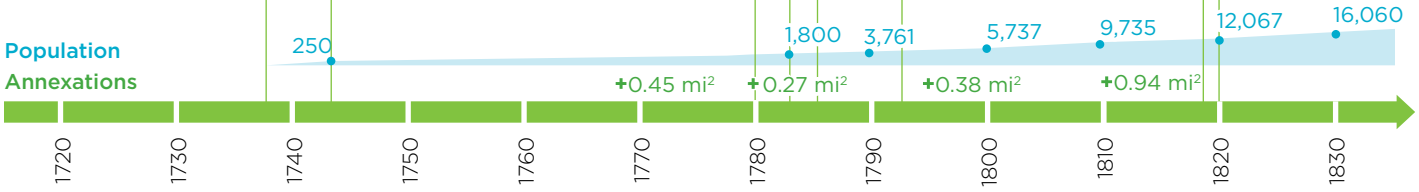
Thomas Jefferson's "temple on the hill" is complete. The Neoclassical design of the Virginia Capitol building would influence architecture in the United States for decades to come.

1819

By 1819, there are eleven plants processing tobacco, four iron works, and three flour mills in Richmond.

1820

By 1820, the Kanawha Canal extends 197 miles upriver from Richmond.



Richmond: A Very Brief History (continued)

Commerce and Trade. Richmond's location at the fall line of the James River established its prominence as a center of trade, industry, and transportation. During the 19th century, Richmond's largest business by value was not tobacco, flour, or iron, but the sale of enslaved people. In the U.S., Richmond was second only to New Orleans in the number of enslaved people sold and traded.

1836

The Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad becomes the first railroad to enter the City with a station located at 8th and Broad Streets.

1860

Richmond is the third most affluent city in the United States, boasting 91 factories.

1871

Jackson Ward is created in an attempt to contain and neutralize the voting power of Richmond's recently emancipated Black population.

1888

The first trolley car line in Richmond begins operation.

1910

Richmond and the City of Manchester, former seat of Chesterfield County, merge. The city boundary crosses the James River for the first time.

1914

Richmond annexes Woodland Heights, Highland Park, Barton Heights, Battery Court, Brookland Park, and Ginter Park — developed as a result of the introduction and expansion of trolley lines. These areas carried deed restrictions prohibiting the sale or lease of properties to persons of color.

1940

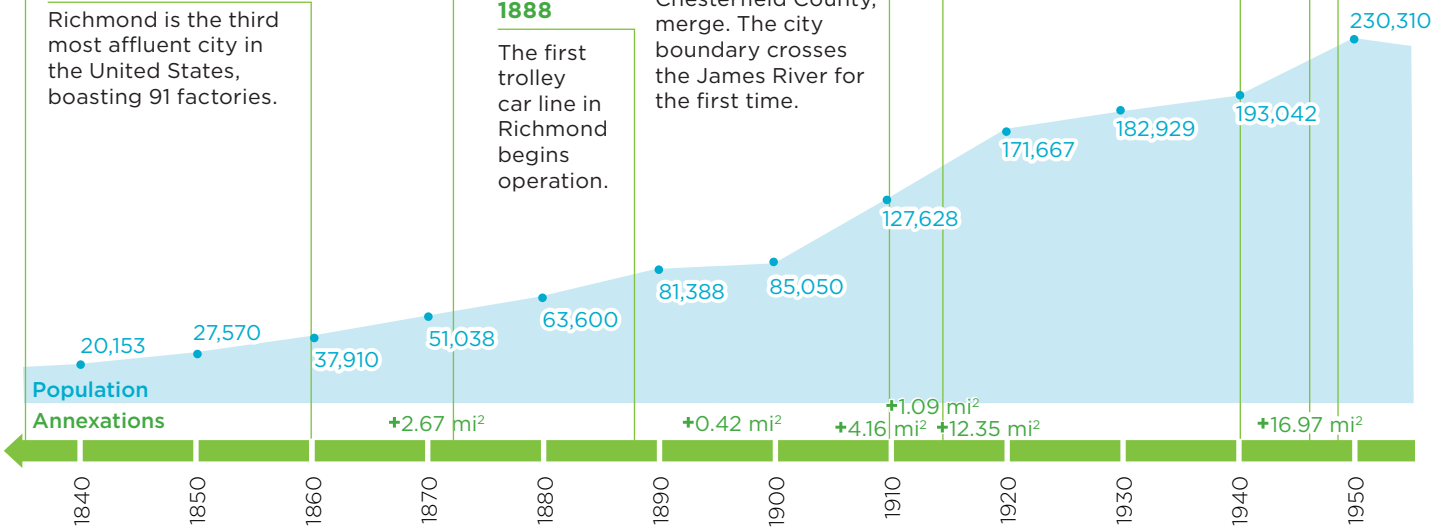
The Richmond Housing Authority (now called the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority) is established. The first public housing project in Richmond, Gilpin Court, opens in 1943.

1946

The first city-wide, long-range Master Plan for the City of Richmond is completed by St. Louis planning consultant, Harland Bartholomew, and adopted by the City Planning Commission and City Council.

1949

The streetcar system is dismantled.



1957

Construction of the Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike (now part of I-95) is complete and Jackson Ward, a historically Black neighborhood, is divided in two by a major highway — resulting in the demolition of a significant portion of the neighborhood.

1970

Richmond City Council votes to clear Historic Fulton a predominantly Black neighborhood. Over 800 buildings on about 350 acres are demolished as part of an Urban Renewal Plan. The City also annexed over 20 square miles of land from Chesterfield County, which would end up being its last annexation.

1976

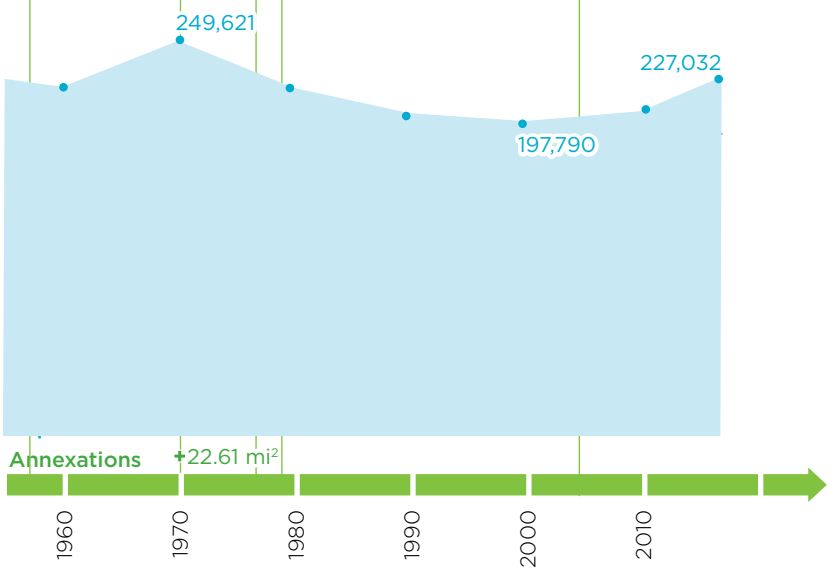
The Downtown Expressway opens to vehicular traffic. Construction of this highway involves demolishing portions of Byrd Park, Randolph, and Oregon Hill.

1979

The Virginia General Assembly adopts legislation granting counties meeting certain standards immunity from annexation by cities with a population over 100,000, thus ending the City of Richmond's ability to expand its boundaries.

2004

Richmond adopts a "strong mayor" form of government.



Policy. Local, state, and federal policies and ordinances did much to shape Richmond, especially laws based on racial segregation and policies that prescribed where investments should be made. Richmond passed a residential segregation ordinance in 1911, which was determined unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1917. Despite this ruling, deeds still carried restrictions against leasing or selling to persons of color. The Home Owners Loan Corporation created "residential security maps," better known as redlining in 1935. These maps discouraged investment in certain areas. The Fair Housing Act of 1968 was designed to put an end to housing discrimination but it was not until 1975, with lending disclosure laws, that practices became more transparent. The disinvestment in and segregation of areas of Richmond made them easy targets for highway construction and urban renewal in the 50s, 60s, and 70s.

Charting Richmond's Future Growth

No one truly knows how much the City of Richmond will grow over the next 20 years. However, having a strategy to manage growth is critical to ensuring that new development, if and when it comes, aligns with city-wide goals. The Center for Urban and Regional Analysis (CURA) at Virginia Commonwealth University developed three growth scenarios, as shown in Figure 8, with housing, land use, and population projections for *Richmond 300* to establish several potential benchmarks to guide future growth.

Moderate Growth Projection

2037 Population: 260,000 people (increase of 40,000 compared to 2015)

- Assumes the continuation of the recent 15-year trend of attracting people of college age, young adults, empty-nesters, and retirees
- Continued out-migration of families with school-age children
- Assumes an annual growth rate of 0.76%—the growth rate that Richmond experienced between 2000 and 2015
- Potential new housing units need:
  Single-family: 8,179
  Multi-family: 4,748
- Potential land demand (for housing, commercial, mixed-use): **1,800 acres**

Strong Growth Projection

2037 Population: 300,000 people (increase of 80,000 compared to 2015)

- Assumes that Richmond will become increasingly attractive to young, working, and older adults
- Some families with young children will move out of the city, yielding a negative net migration for children 0 to 4 years old
- Assumes an annual growth rate of 1.5%—the Richmond annual regional growth rate projected by the University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service in 2012
- Potential new housing units need:
  Single-family: 15,804
  Multi-family: 17,866
- Potential land demand (for housing, commercial, mixed-use): **2,900 acres**

Aggressive Growth Projection

2037 Population: 340,000 people (increase of 120,000 compared to 2015)

- Assumes strong growth of families with children, young and old adults, and dynamic job growth within the city
- Assumes an annual growth rate of 2.5%
- Potential new housing units need:
  Single-family: 22,518
  Multi-family: 27,086
- Potential land demand (for housing, commercial, mixed-use): **3,500 acres**

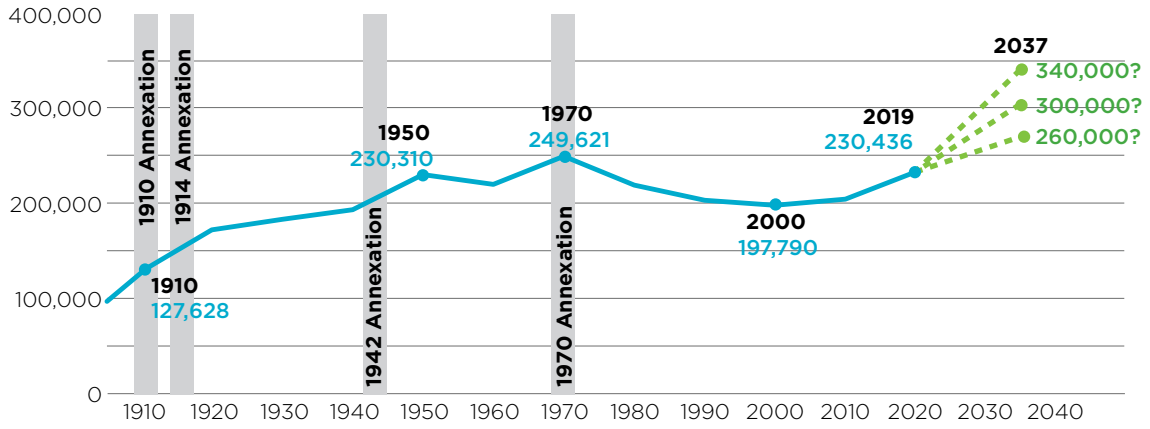


FIGURE 8 // **Historic and Projected Population, 1910-2037**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: 1910, 1950, 1970, 2000 Censuses, 2019 Population Est.; Population Projections by the Center for Urban and Regional Analysis at Virginia Commonwealth University, 2017

A lot can change in 20 years.

Back in 2001, when the last city-wide Master Plan was adopted, the city was a fairly different place:

- Richmond was home to 32,000 fewer residents.
- The VMFA did not have a modern addition — the expansion and new campus design was unveiled in 2010.
- Richmond did not have a Folk Festival — it was established in 2005.
- The Mayor was elected by City Council — Richmond switched to a strong mayor format in 2004.
- Nokia was the largest cell phone provider. The Motorola Razr was released in 2003 and the iPhone in 2007.
- People rented movies from 6,500+ Blockbusters nationwide.
- VCU had 7,000 fewer students.

Room to Grow

Richmond's 62.5 square miles provide ample opportunity to grow the population and the economy. As of a July 2020 field survey, there were 1,693 vacant buildings in Richmond, 20.6% of which had a property violation, and 7.7% of which were abandoned. The majority of the vacant buildings were residential structures (87%). In addition to the vacant structures, there are 3,595 acres of vacant land and 6,153 acres of under-developed land (where the building is less than twice the value of the land), as shown in Figure 9.

Manage Growth

Not all growth is good growth. *Richmond 300* outlines strategies to intentionally grow Richmond equitably, sustainably, and beautifully. Using *Richmond 300* as a guide, the City is in a position to become a welcoming, inclusive, diverse, innovative, and equitable city of thriving neighborhoods, ensuring a high quality of life for all.

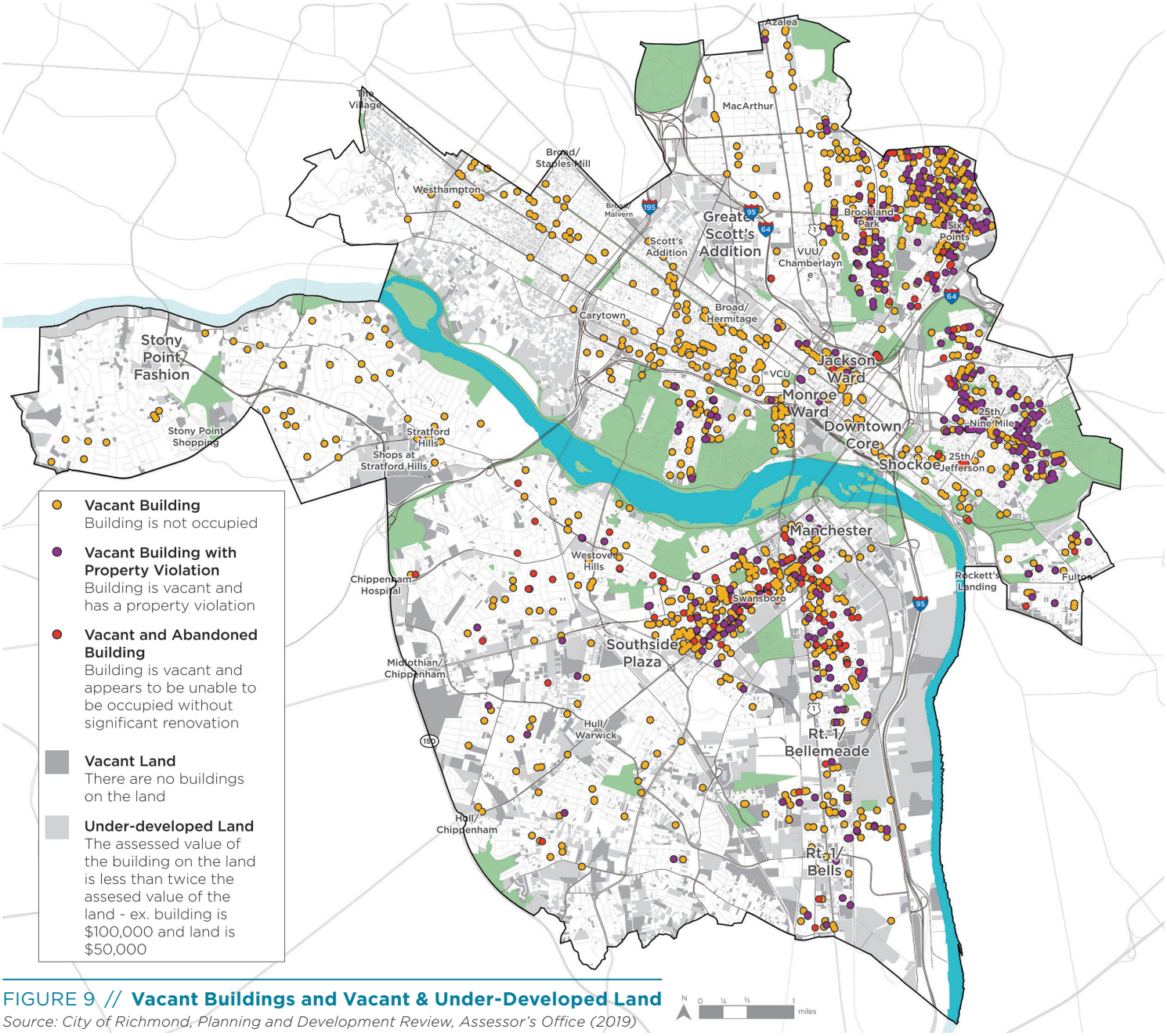


FIGURE 9 // **Vacant Buildings and Vacant & Under-Developed Land**
Source: City of Richmond, Planning and Development Review, Assessor's Office (2019)

Richmond 300 Plan Structure

The *Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth* Vision is implemented via the Nodes Map, the Future Land Use Map, the Future Connections Map, and policy recommendations for land use, transportation, economic development, housing, and environment. This plan has six sections:

1. **Vision and Core Concepts:** includes the city-wide vision for 2037 and detailed descriptions of the core concept that drives the three important maps—Nodes, Future Land Use, and Future Connections—that are referenced throughout the document.
2. **High-Quality Places:** includes recommendations related to land use, public facilities and public land, historic preservation, urban design, and public engagement.
3. **Equitable Transportation:** includes recommendations related to transportation planning, vision zero, bike/pedestrian/transit infrastructure, streets, and emerging mobility.
4. **Diverse Economy:** includes recommendations related to growing, retaining, and attracting businesses, tourism, and anchor institutions.
5. **Inclusive Housing:** includes recommendations related to housing.
6. **Thriving Environment:** includes recommendations related to clean air, clean water, and resilient communities.
7. **Implementation:** outlines how to implement *Richmond 300* using metrics, 6 Big Moves, and reporting.

The *Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth* uses four key terms:

VISION: A statement articulating what we want our city to look and feel like in the future.

GOAL: Broad, long-term aim that defines fulfillment of the vision.

OBJECTIVE: Specific, quantifiable, realistic targets that measure the accomplishment of the goal.

STRATEGY: A policy, infrastructure improvement, partnership, or other activity required to achieve an objective, create a critical condition, or overcome a barrier.

Plan Structure Diagram. *Richmond 300* has three maps that present a growth strategy centered on great places and networks and 5 topics to achieve the 20-year city-wide vision.

Planning for a Post-Pandemic World

As the Department of Planning and Development Review (PDR) was in the midst of finishing up this draft Master Plan document, the World entered a global pandemic. The long-term effects of the pandemic on how people use and move around cities and neighborhoods are unknown. However, the U.S. has in the short-term seen many pre-pandemic trends accelerate during the pandemic, such as, an increasing economic disparity (particularly among Blacks and Latinos), an increase in teleworking, and an increase in biking and walking. The longer-term effects of COVID-19 are unknown but countless webinars, articles, and conferences are sprouting up as developers, planners, architects, demographers, public health experts, social scientists, and other experts discuss the potential effects of the pandemic. How will this pandemic affect life in cities? in America?

PDR hosted a questionnaire from April to August 2020 to gather Richmonders' ideas on how the pandemic may change how they live in Richmond. Some takeaways from the 536 responses received to the survey are listed below.

Outmigration: 52% of respondents believe there will be small out migration of individuals from the densest urban areas of the U.S. (such as New York City, Los Angeles, etc.).

Growth in mid-size and small cities, and suburbs: For individuals leaving dense urban areas, respondents selected mid-sized city (67%), suburban area (52%), and small city (36%).

Continued population growth for Richmond: 69% of respondents believe that Richmond will continue to grow at a steady annual rate of 0.87% (39%) or a moderate annual rate of 1.4% (30%). One respondent wrote: "Current pandemic will not be a factor, but increasing costs of living in major urban areas will be. RVA has a lot to offer (and room to grow) while costs are significantly lower than NYC/Boston/DC Area."

More balconies and porches: The number one feature respondents (over 84%) believe individuals will want in their home is a private balcony or porch.

More sidewalks: 97% of respondents said that individuals will absolutely want to have sidewalks in their neighborhood in a post-pandemic society.

More teleworking: 97% of respondents believe that office workers will work much more (48%) or somewhat more (49%) than they did pre-pandemic.

More parks: 93% of respondents believe individuals will seek access to parks much more (53%) or somewhat more (40%) than they did pre-pandemic.

More bike riding: 88% of respondents believe individuals will ride bikes much more (39%) or somewhat more (49%) than they did pre-pandemic.

More walking: 92% of respondents believe individuals will walk for pleasure or exercise much more (45%) or somewhat more (47%) than they did pre-pandemic.

Return to transit: 36% of respondents believe individuals will ride transit a little less and 51% believe individuals will return to pre-pandemic transit use.

Prioritize pedestrians, bikes, and transit at the curb: Respondents believe the top users that should be prioritized at the curb are pedestrians (86%), bicycles (74%), and transit (55%) .

More digital engagement: 89% of respondents believe digital public engagement will be used much more (52%) or somewhat more (37%) than it was pre-pandemic.

CHAPTER 1

Vision and Core Concepts

Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth realizes the city-wide vision and goals by supporting the equitable and sustainable growth of Nodes throughout Richmond connected by viable commercial corridors. The Master Plan strengthens Nodes by aligning future land use, future connections, and public policy (related to land use, transportation, economic development, housing, and the environment) to increase the vitality of these critical emerging places within Richmond.

City-Wide Vision

City-Wide Vision:

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

The city-wide vision is a wide reaching vision that touches on all aspects of city management—not just land use management—but also social and cultural aspects of city life that are not within the scope of this Master Plan document. This document focuses on land- and place-based strategies to achieve the city-wide vision.

Vision Values

The city-wide vision embraces several important values:

WELCOMING
Feeling accepted and comfortable despite age, gender, race, sexuality, or income

INCLUSIVE
Accepting differences and intentionally involving diverse opinions, attitudes, and behaviors

DIVERSE
Intentionally creating a state of mixed people, institutions, and mixed-use places

INNOVATIVE
Nurturing new ideas, methods, devices, or businesses

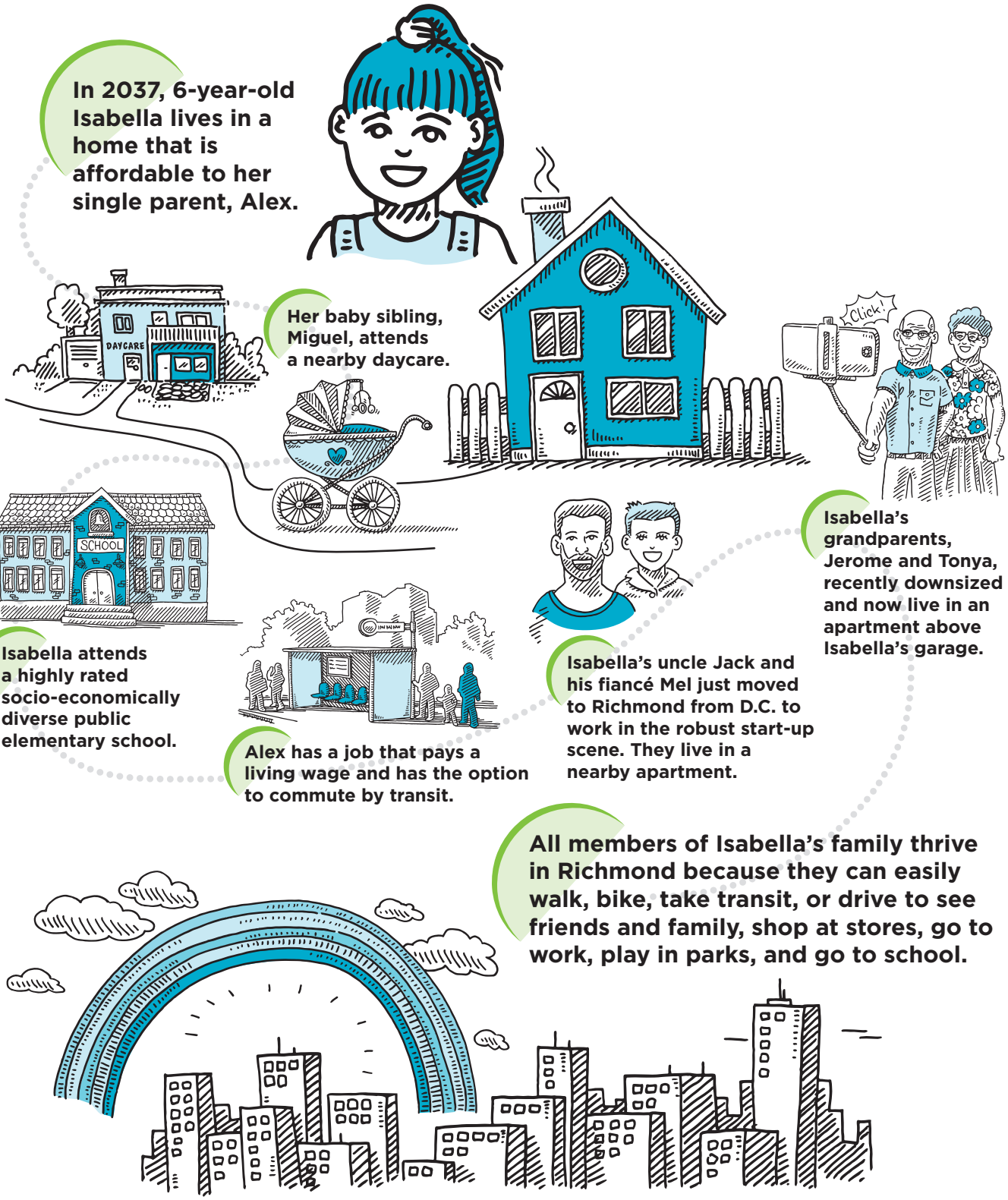
SUSTAINABLE
Meeting the current environmental, social, and economic needs of our community without compromising the ability of future generations to meet those same needs

EQUITABLE
Providing equal or equivalent access to goods, services, status, rights, power, and amenities

THRIVING
Energizing communities with opportunities for and support of cultural, civic, and economic involvement

Vision Story

The city-wide vision story helps to illustrate how the city-wide vision could be realized in the lives of Richmonders in 2037. What vision story would you tell?



Topic Visions

Five topic visions speak to how the city should physically grow over the next 20 years.

High-Quality Places

Richmond is a well-designed city of communities interconnected by a network of Nodes, public facilities, and open spaces providing services to residents, businesses, and visitors.
As the Capital of the Commonwealth, Richmond leads the region in high-quality business and residential growth. Richmond's unique neighborhoods and districts, both historical and new, support a diversity of uses, the equitable accommodation of all phases of life, and the efficient use of land to promote sustainable and healthy lifestyles.

Equitable Transportation

Richmond prioritizes the movement of people over the movement of vehicles through a safe, reliable, equitable, and sustainable transportation network.
Walking, biking, and transit options are the most convenient and used forms of transportation in Richmond, thereby improving the natural environment and our health. Richmond's multi-modal transportation system is high-quality and easy for all people to use regardless of income and physical abilities, seamlessly connecting Richmond neighborhoods and attractions to each other, the region, and the nation.

Diverse Economy

Richmond is home to a variety of businesses and industries that offer opportunities for quality employment and capital investment.
Richmond is a first choice location for businesses and investment because the city's transportation, housing, cultural, outdoor, commercial, and institutional amenities create a vibrant city. Richmonders of all income levels have opportunities for life-long learning and skill-building.

Inclusive Housing

Richmond is a city where all people can access quality housing choices.
By preserving and increasing housing options, Richmond supports existing and new residents, regardless of income. As the city grows, Richmond provides options to existing residents, preventing involuntary displacement and reducing housing disparities. Housing is the foundation of inclusive Richmond neighborhoods that are walkable with adequate linkages to services, goods and open spaces.

Thriving Environment

Richmond is a sustainable and resilient city with healthy air, clean water, and a flourishing ecosystem.
Carbon emissions are low, air and water quality are high, and city-wide solid waste production is minimal. The City is positively adapting to the effects of a changing climate, with a built environment that enhances and protects natural assets, including the James River. All residents have equitable access to nature and a healthy community.

Goals

Seventeen goals, grouped under the five topic areas, have objectives and strategies that provide policy, infrastructure, partnership, or other recommendations to achieve the topic and city-wide visions.

HIGH-QUALITY PLACES	Goal 1	**Complete Neighborhoods:** Establish a city of complete neighborhoods that have access to Nodes connected by major corridors in a gridded street network.
	Goal 2	**City-Owned Assets:** Efficiently manage City-owned land and facilities.
	Goal 3	**Historic Preservation:** Support growth that preserves the historical urban fabric and enhances understanding of Richmond's multi-faceted past.
	Goal 4	**Urban Design:** Establish a distinctive city comprising architecturally significant buildings connected by a network of walkable urban streets and open spaces to support an engaging built environment.
	Goal 5	**Planning Engagement:** Foster a planning engagement culture that effectively and equitably builds people's capacity to organize to improve the city and their neighborhoods.
EQUITABLE TRANSPORTATION	Goal 6	**Land Use & Transportation Planning:** Align future land use and transportation planning to support a sustainable and resilient city.
	Goal 7	**Vision Zero:** Systemically change the built environment to shift our safety culture and ensure that individuals are not killed or seriously injured on city streets.
	Goal 8	**Non-Car Network:** 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 9	**Streets, Bridges, & Connections:** Build and improve streets and bridges to expand connectivity for all users.
	Goal 10	**Emerging Transportation Technologies:** Incorporate emerging technology into the transportation network in ways that seek to reduce single-occupancy vehicle use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
DIVERSE ECONOMY	Goal 11	**Businesses & Jobs:** Foster an environment that supports the growth of existing and new small, medium, and large businesses, focusing on Nodes, major corridors, and industrial centers.
	Goal 12	**Tourism:** Develop tourism and attractions to further elevate Richmond's image and to continue to delight existing and future residents, employees, and visitors.
	Goal 13	**Anchor Institutions:** Leverage institutions to strengthen job sectors and collaborate on land planning.
INCLUSIVE HOUSING	Goal 14	**Housing:** Preserve, expand, and create mixed income communities, by preserving existing housing units and developing new ones—both renter- and owner- occupied—throughout the city.
THRIVING ENVIRONMENT	Goal 15	**Clean Air:** Improve air quality within the city and the region, achieve a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions within the city by 2030, and achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions within the city by 2050 via RVAgreen 2050.
	Goal 16	**Clean Water:** Improve local water quality and manage the built environment to enhance and protect natural assets such as the James River.
	Goal 17	**Resilient & Healthy Communities:** Positively adapt to the effects of a changing climate via RVAgreen 2050, and ensure that all residents have equitable access to nature and a healthy community.

Nodes

Nodes are places in Richmond where people and jobs are today and continue to grow into the future. Nodes are the places of convergence of many uses and include offices, shopping, housing, and/or public gathering places as well as access to multiple modes of transportation.

Nodes are important places in Richmond and deserve special attention in the Master Plan to ensure that land use planning, transportation planning, and public policy align to make thriving crossroads in Richmond's communities. The Nodes are places in Richmond that can either 1) accommodate additional growth in jobs and population or 2) are major activity centers today and should be preserved/enhanced. The Nodes Map, as shown in Figure 10, depicts the location and scale of each Node:

Regional/National Node: A center with significant cultural, entertainment, government, and business destinations as well as shopping, housing, and unique place-based attractions.

Neighborhood Node: A local crossroads typically within or next to larger residential areas that offers goods and services to nearby residents, employees, and visitors.

Micro Node: A notable place within a neighborhood that generally provides goods and services to the immediate residents but may attract visitors.

The Nodes map also highlights the **Priority Growth Nodes** where the City is encouraging the most significant growth in population and development over the next 20 years. This section of the Plan includes descriptions for the Nodes designated as primary growth areas.

Descriptions for all the Regional/National Nodes and the Neighborhood Nodes can be found in Appendix C of this Plan. Micro Nodes are not described in detail in the Plan, but are called out on the Node Map because the Micro Nodes provide mixed-use destinations within primarily residential areas and help create a unique sense of place within many of Richmond's historic urban neighborhoods. Micro Nodes are a model for future development as new neighborhoods emerge.

PRIORITY GROWTH NODES

Downtown. As the regional center of employment, the Capital of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the home to a major state university and hospital system, the Downtown Area contains five sub-Nodes:

- Downtown Core
- Jackson Ward
- Monroe Ward
- Shockoe
- Manchester

Greater Scott's Addition

Route 1/Bellemeade Rd

Route 1/Bells Rd

Southside Plaza

Stony Point Fashion Park

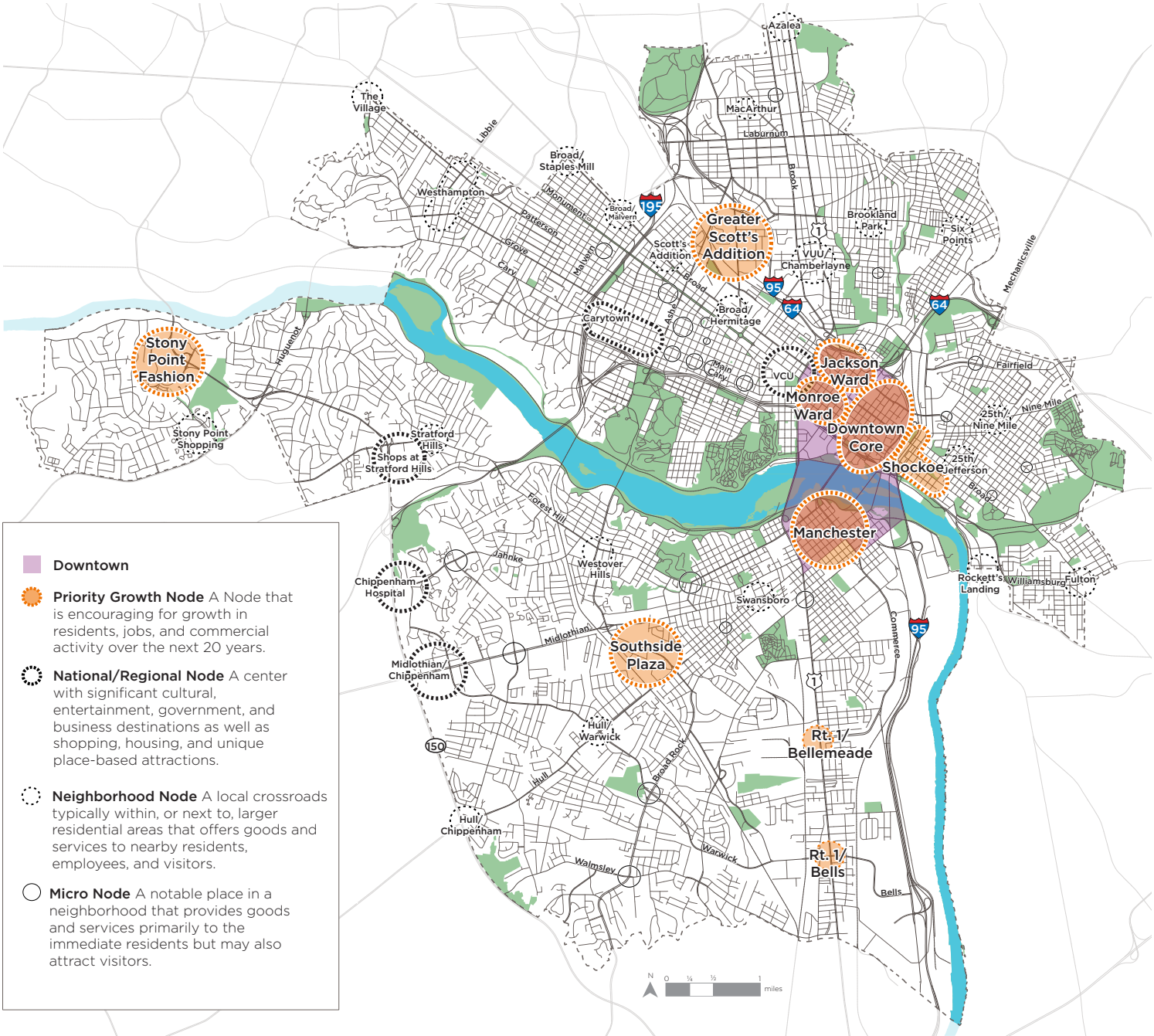


FIGURE 10 // **Nodes Map**
Nodes are places in Richmond that can either 1) accommodate additional growth in jobs and population or 2) are major activity centers today and should be preserved/enhanced.

Priority Growth Node

Downtown — Downtown Core

Vision

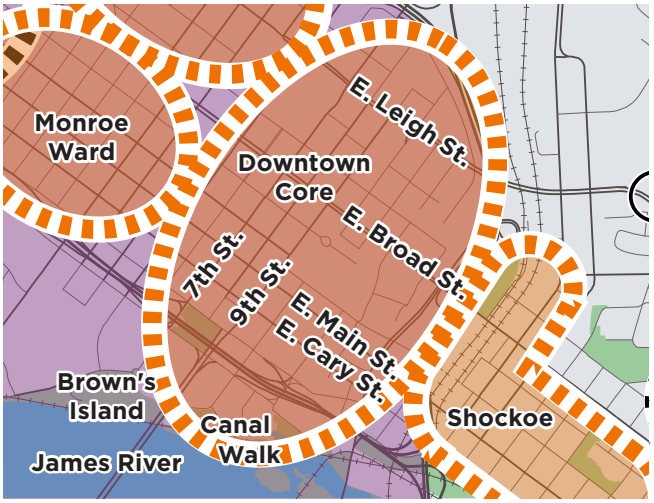
As the highest density of office employment in the region, the Downtown Core continues to serve as the backbone of the local, state, and federal government in Richmond as well as a financial, insurance, bio-tech, and healthcare center. Over the next 20 years, the Downtown Core continues to transition from a primarily office district to an 18-hour district (18 hours of the day are lively and 6 are sleepy) with a mix of uses, including entertainment, residential, and retail uses. New infill development matches the intensity of existing buildings and includes active ground floor uses that enliven the sidewalks. Signature public spaces and greenways connect the Downtown Core's sub-districts to one another and generate activity at the pedestrian level by increasing pedestrian, bike, and transit connections among the various sub-districts, plazas, parks, and the James River. City-owned property, such as the Coliseum, are redeveloped to foster a mixed-income, mixed-use development that enlivens Downtown by drawing people to Downtown in the evenings and on the weekend.

Growth Potential

In 2019, there were approximately 77 acres of vacant/underdeveloped land in the Downtown Core, representing 26% of the Downtown Core's total land area.

Primary Next Steps

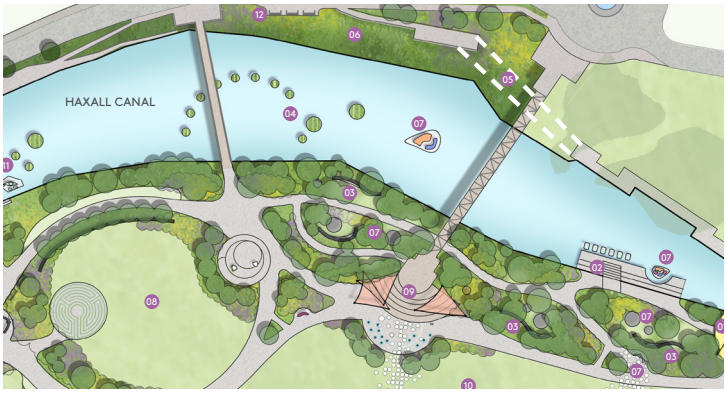
- **Coliseum Plan:** Develop the Coliseum Area Framework Plan with community engagement (Goal 1).
- **Coliseum Redevelopment:** Create and issue a Request for Proposals for the Coliseum area using the guidance from the Coliseum Area Framework Plan to reposition City-owned assets into revenue-generating properties (Goal 1, Goal 2).
- **Highway Capping:** Examine process to sell the air-rights above the Downtown Expressway between Canal, Byrd, 6th, and 7th Streets (Goal 9).



Downtown Core — Regional/National Node
The seat of local and state governments, the financial/office district, the Canal Walk, Shockoe Slip, the Convention Center, and the Coliseum Area.

- **Two-Way Streets:** Continue to convert streets from one-way to two-way as appropriate (Goal 9).
- **Life Sciences Cluster:** Market and expand growth opportunities for life science-focused businesses and supporting entities clustered near VA Bio+Tech Park and VCU Health (Goal 11).
- **Downtown Marketing & Services:** Continue to market Downtown as a the cultural, business, government, and recreation destination of the Richmond Region and support cleaning, event, and placemaking services throughout Downtown (Goal 4).
- **Riverfront Plan:** Continue to implement the Phase 1 recommendations outlined in the Riverfront Plan to improve access from Downtown to the James River (Goal 4, Goal 17).
- **Non-Car Connectivity:** Improve non-car connectivity by encouraging urban design that promotes walking, continuing to improve transit access, and developing on-street bike facilities and greenways to Jackson Ward, the Riverfront (per the Riverfront Plan), Church Hill, and other areas (Goal 4, Goal 8, Goal 17).

Coliseum Area Aerial
The defunct Coliseum and expanse of vacant land and buildings around it present an opportunity for the City to fill a void in the middle of the Downtown Core with tax-producing properties and a building, use, and street network that connect the area to the larger Downtown community.



Brown's Island Improvements
Venture Richmond has undertaken a public process to implement improvements on Brown's Island identified in the Riverfront Plan.
Source: Brown's Improvement Plan, September 2019

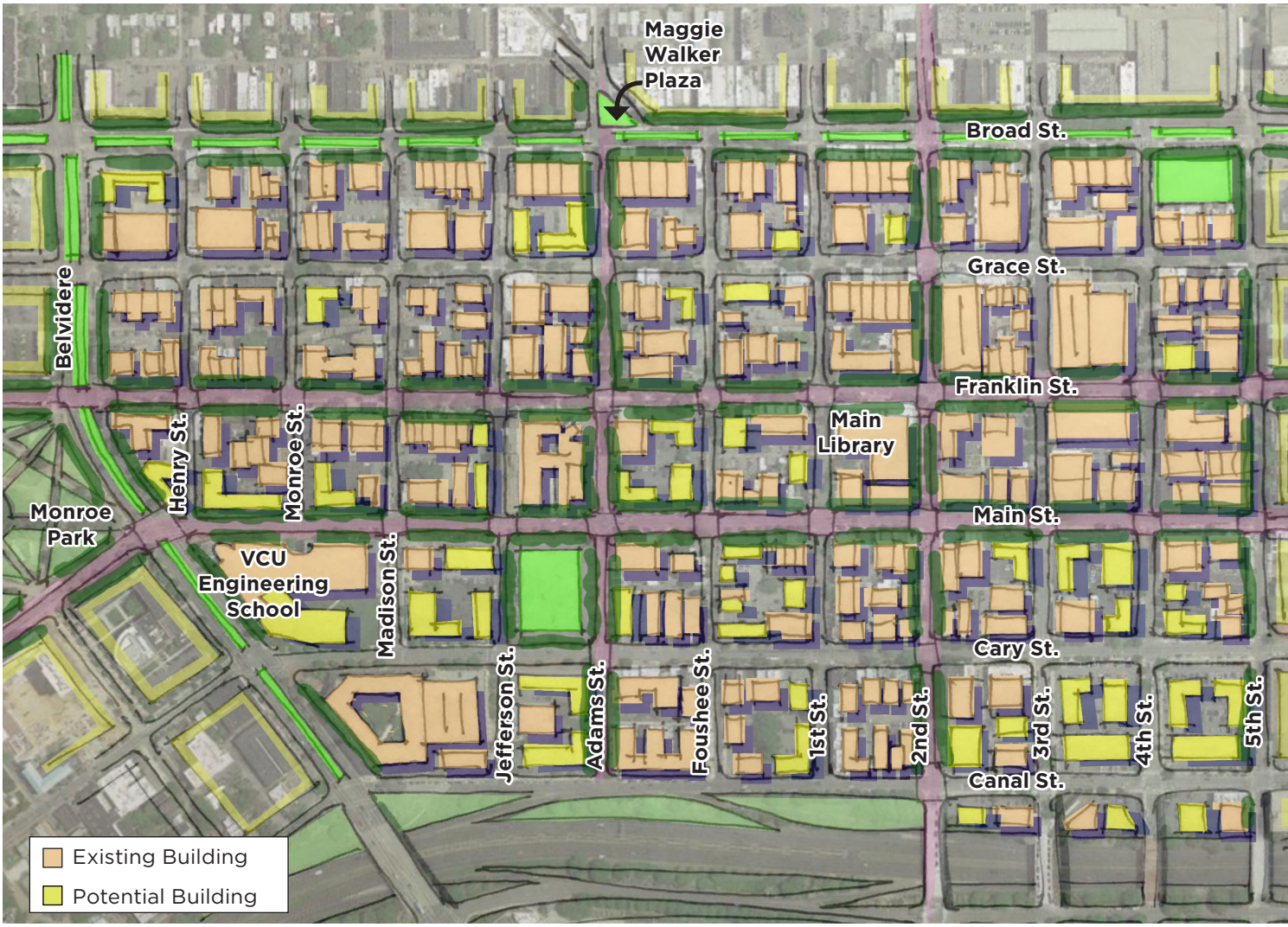
Downtown to River Connections
Since the Downtown Expressway acts a barrier between the Downtown Core and the James River, connectivity improvements, such as creating the 13th Street tunnel and capping the highway between 7th, Byrd, and Canal Streets, will help improve Riverfront access.
Source: Richmond Riverfront Plan, November 2012

Priority Growth Node

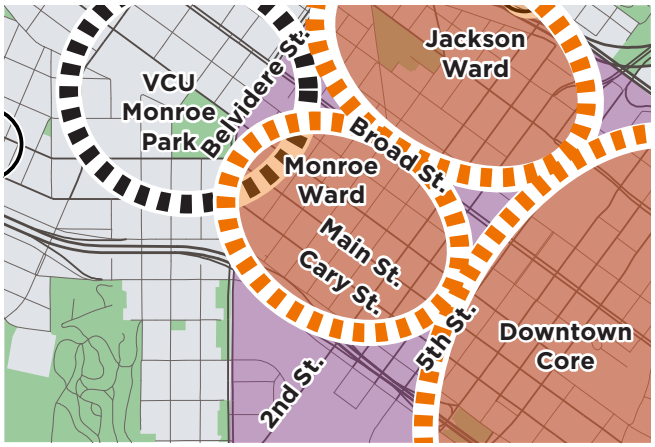
Downtown — Monroe Ward

Vision

Monroe Ward is transformed from the detached parking garage of the Downtown Core into a significant residential and office mixed-use district between two of the region's greatest concentrations of activity—the VCU Monroe Park Campus and the Downtown Core. Historic buildings are preserved and complemented by denser development on vacant lots that generate activity. There is a critical mass of residents, shoppers, workers, and tourists who are attracted to the residential options, retail and restaurant destinations, jobs, and cultural attractions in Jackson Ward, the Arts District, and the Downtown Core. New pocket parks provide outdoor greenspace for Monroe Ward's residents, workers, and visitors, and are connected to other Downtown districts via greenways, bike lanes, and transit.



Monroe Ward Conceptual Site Plan
There is great potential for Monroe Ward to redevelop into a vibrant extension of the Downtown Core.



Monroe Ward — Regional/National Node
Situated between VCU's Monroe Park Campus and the Downtown Core, in 2020, Monroe Ward is home to many surface parking lots, several historic buildings, a restaurant row along Grace Street, and a scattering of newer buildings.

Growth Potential

In 2019, there were approximately 40 acres of vacant/underdeveloped land in Monroe Ward, representing 49% of Monroe Ward's total land area.

Primary Next Steps

- **Transit:** Increase frequency and hours of the #5 bus route that runs along Cary and Main Streets (Goal 8).
- **Bike Facilities:** Build bike lanes on 1st, 2nd, and/or 3rd Streets (Goal 8).
- **Grace Street:** Convert Grace Street from 4th Street to Belvidere Street into a two-way street (Goal 9).
- **Marketing:** Promote Monroe Ward as a prime location to attract and grow target industries in corporate headquarters, professional services, and financial services (Goal 11).
- **Greenway:** Develop the Ashland to Petersburg Trail through Monroe Ward (Goal 8, Goal 17).
- **Parks:** Identify key parcels for creation of pocket parks (Goal 17).

Priority Growth Node

Downtown — Jackson Ward

Vision

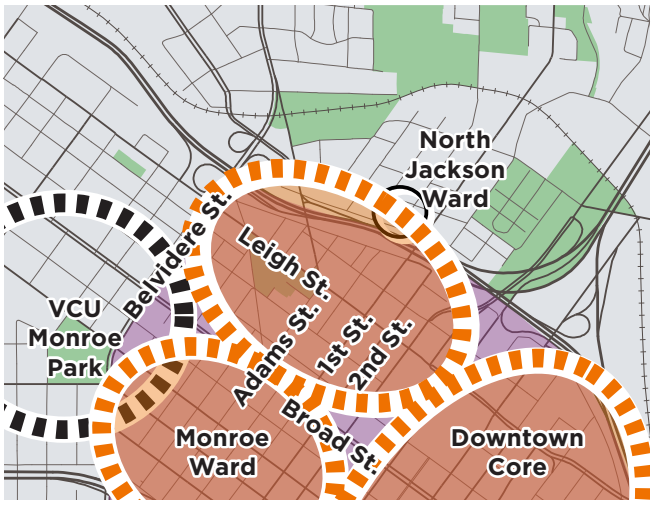
Jackson Ward has retained historic buildings and plays a leading role in supporting Black cultural and economic vitality. Jackson Ward continues to be a residential neighborhood with non-residential uses scattered throughout at corners and along major roads—such as 1st Street, 2nd Street, and Marshall Street. New infill developments incorporate high-quality architecture and complement the character of historic buildings. Jackson Ward is better connected to the rest of Downtown with the conversion of one-way streets to two-way, greenways, transit, a new park, and bridges connecting Jackson Ward to North Jackson Ward over the highway. Decking over the highway will reunite the two sides of Jackson Ward that were divided in the 1950s by the construction of the highway.

Growth Potential

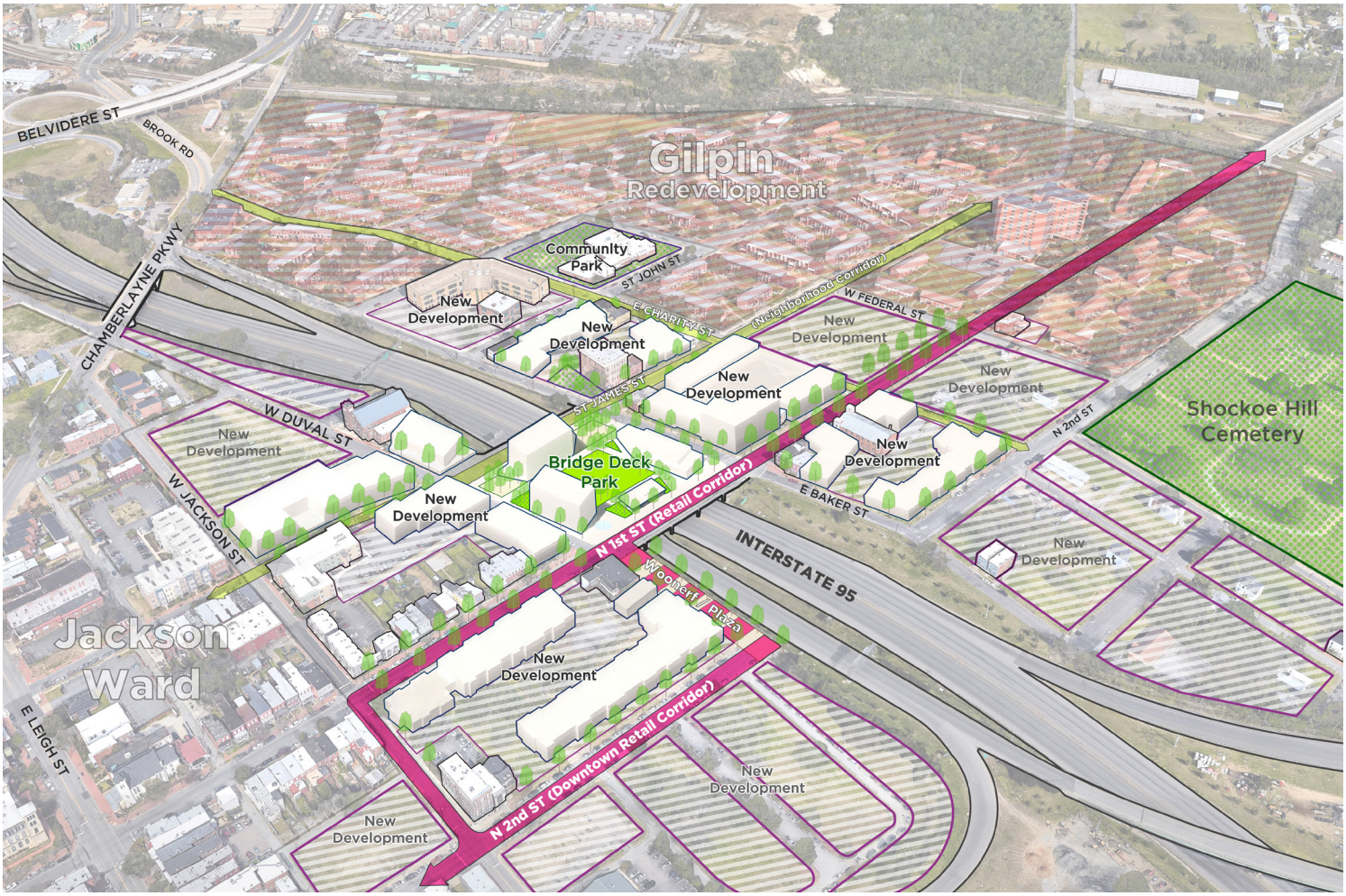
In 2019, there were approximately 29 acres of vacant/underdeveloped land Jackson Ward, representing 33% of the Jackson Ward's total land area.

Primary Next Steps

- **Highway Deck Study:** Commence a planning study to analyze the feasibility of building a park, roads, and buildings over I-95 and I-64, reconnecting Jackson Ward and North Jackson Ward (Goal 8, Goal 9, Goal 17).
- **Business Growth:** Increase the number and support the growth of minority-owned businesses (Goal 11).
- **Historic and Cultural Attractions:** Maintain, grow, and market historic attractions such as the Black History Museum and Maggie L. Walker's Home (Goal 13).
- **Gilpin Court Transformation:** Develop a plan with existing community input to include Gilpin Court and vacant land in North Jackson Ward to transform the neighborhood into a mixed-use, mixed-income, walkable, and transit-adjacent community that provides both housing and jobs for residents (Goal 1, Goal 14).



Jackson Ward — Regional/National Node
This Node centers on the Historic Jackson Ward neighborhood but also extends north slightly to connect to North Jackson Ward.



Reconnecting Jackson Ward
By capping the highway with streets, parks, and buildings, Jackson Ward will once again be one neighborhood.

In 2017, the City's Public Art Commission unveiled the Maggie Lena Walker Plaza at a gateway to Jackson Ward.

Priority Growth Node

Downtown — Shockoe

Vision

Shockoe is a national destination for historic tourism, education, and interpretation as well as a regional and neighborhood destination. Shockoe is connected to other neighborhoods and amenities, such as the Virginia Capital Trail and the Canal Walk. New development complements historic sites and supports public space amenities such as the 17th Street Farmer's Market Plaza, the Low Line, and a new park. Main Street Station continues to serve as the multi-modal transportation hub of Richmond by augmenting its offerings to include more transportation options and high-speed rail service. Uses around Main Street Station support the bustle of a train station with amenities that serve commuters, visitors, residents, and employment base.

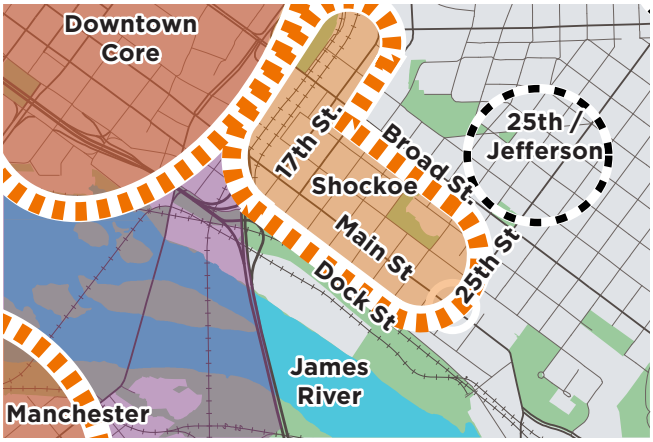
Growth Potential

In 2019, there were approximately 44 acres of vacant/underdeveloped land in Shockoe, representing 35% of Shockoe's total land area.

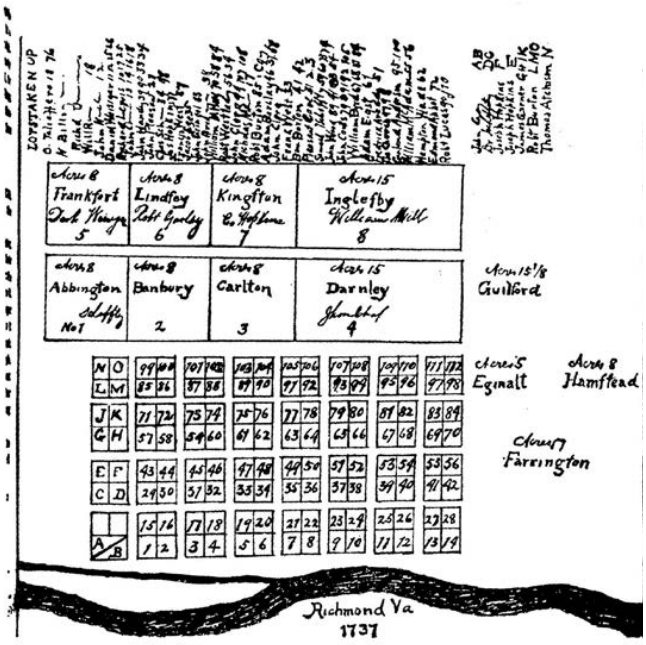
Primary Next Steps

Implement the recommendations in the Shockoe Area Plan, some of which include:

- **Small Area Plan:** Complete and adopt the Shockoe Small Area Plan (which is under development), as an element of *Richmond 300* (Goal 1).
- **Rezoning:** Rezone the Shockoe area in alignment with the Future Land Use Map to allow appropriate growth while also protecting and enhancing significant historic sites (Goal 1).
- **Archeology:** Adopt an archaeological ordinance to provide guidance to public and private land owners in conducting and managing archaeological discoveries (Goal 3).
- **Memorialization:** Continue efforts to commemorate, memorialize, and interpret sites of historical and cultural significance in Shockoe. Advocate for additional state and federal funding to fund commemoration efforts (Goal 3).
- **High-Speed Rail:** Advocate for the creation of a high-speed rail station at Main Street Station to further Main Street Station's position as the regional mass transit hub with the convergence of rail, BRT, regional bus, and GRTC local bus routes (Goal 8)..



Shockoe — Regional/National Node
The oldest part of the city, this Node includes the original 1737 plat established by Major William Mayo.



In 1737, Richmond is platted by Major William Mayo for William Byrd II and only includes 0.25 miles of land, known as Shockoe.
Source: The Valentine

The City is developing a Small Area Plan for Shockoe under the guidance of the Shockoe Alliance. The Shockoe Alliance's mission is to guide design and implementation of concepts and recommendations for the future of Shockoe as a holistic area rooted in history and informed by those with shared interests to advance these efforts in support of the mission. Shockoe was the center of the Powhatan Confederacy for thousands of years prior to the arrival of the British in 1607. By the mid-1840s, Richmond was one of the large centers of domestic trade in enslaved Africans [top left: Slavery Reconciliation Statue; top right: a Richmond Slave Trail Marker; middle right: site of the Lumpkins Slave Jail]. It was also a transportation and manufacturing Center [middle left: Main Street Station Head House; bottom left: renovated Main Street Station Train Shed].

Priority Growth Node

Downtown — Manchester

Vision

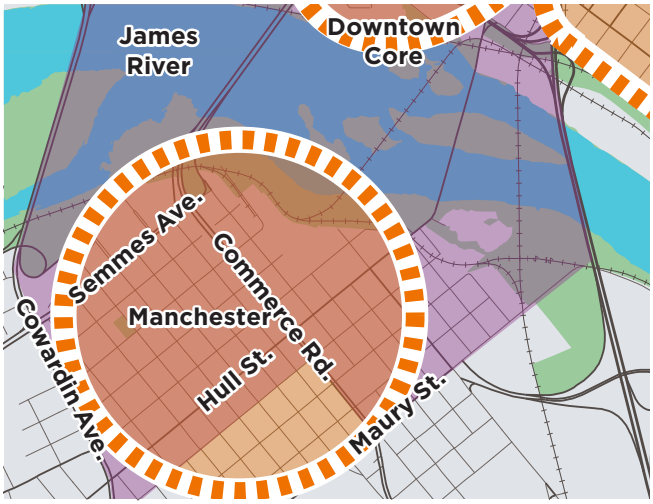
Manchester continues to increase in population and economic activity to support a thriving business corridor along Hull Street. The formerly industrial part of Manchester provides jobs as well as housing. Manchester is connected to South Richmond and the Downtown Core by a network of greenways along former railways, along roads, and along Manchester Canal. A variety of housing options in Manchester are available to low-, moderate-, and high-income individuals. Manchester's interconnected street grid is enhanced with street trees and improved infrastructure to support pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders.

Growth Potential

In 2019, there were approximately 162 acres of vacant/underdeveloped land in Manchester, representing 55% of Manchester's total land area.

Primary Next Steps

- **Corridor Plan:** Develop a corridor plan for Commerce Road with recommendations on how to transform the road into a Great Street with amenities such as buildings addressing the street, a greenway (the Ashland to Petersburg Trail), street trees, underground utilities, lighting, and other amenities and encourage redevelopment and business growth (Goal 1, Goal 8, Goal 9).
- **Rezone:** Rezone areas of Manchester in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan to allow residential development in the Industrial Mixed-Use areas that do not currently allow residential uses (Goal 1, Goal 14).
- **Design:** Implement design standards to create a high-quality, well-designed urban realm, including elements such as street lights and exploring the creation of signature public art (Goal 4).
- **Riverfront Plan:** Implement the Phase 1 recommendations identified in the Riverfront Plan for Manchester (Goal 4, Goal 17).
- **Ped/Bike Infrastructure:** Improve pedestrian and bike infrastructure to/from this Node, specifically improving Manchester Canal, developing rails-to-trails greenways connecting to South Richmond, and developing the Ashland to Petersburg Trail. Advocate for state and federal funding for the canal and trails (Goal 8, Goal 17).
- **Transit Alignment:** With community input, develop a preferred alignment for a North-South BRT line through Manchester, either along Cowardin or along Hull Street, and then traveling down Midlothian, Hull, or Route 1 (Goal 8).
- **Mayo Bridge:** Develop and implement the plan for rehabilitating/replacing the Mayo Bridge that incorporates pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure (Goal 9).



Manchester — Regional/National Node
Once a separate locality, Manchester merged with Richmond in 1910.

Manchester Conceptual Aerial
Manchester's proximity to Downtown Core and the James River is strengthened over the next 20 years with investments in improving connections, such as enhanced transit on Hull Street, improved bridges, the Ashland to Petersburg Trail, and an improved Manchester Canal.

Following the adoption of the Downtown Plan in 2010, the City rezoned about 700 properties in Industrial Manchester from M-2 (heavy industrial) to RF-2 and B-7, two districts that allow a mix of uses, including residential. Since the rezoning, Industrial Manchester has added several dozen new developments.

Property owners have built low-scale infill residential developments, such as these two-family homes, in the primarily residential neighborhood of Manchester. New projects are designed to complement the "front door" character of Manchester.

Priority Growth Node

Greater Scott's Addition

Vision

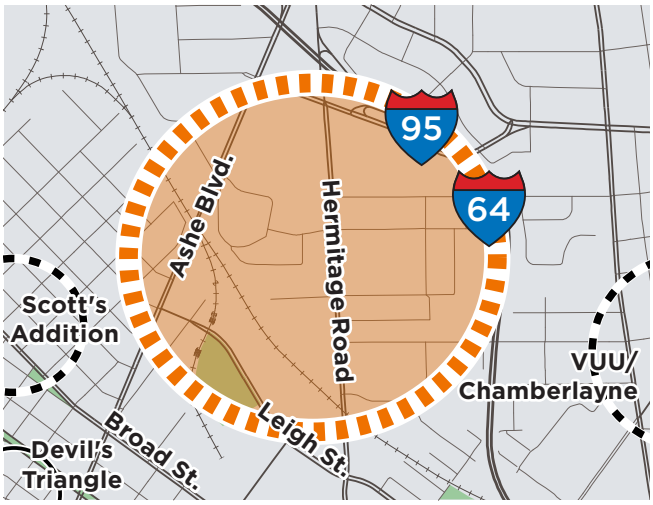
Greater Scott's Addition is home to a series of neighborhoods that provide new employment and housing developments connected by a series of open spaces and a transportation network that support families and aging-in-place. The variety of housing options and employment in Greater Scott's Addition provide opportunities for low-income, moderate-income, and high-income households. The Diamond is demolished and a new multi-purpose stadium is constructed along Hermitage. Uses along Hermitage, a public plaza, and the crescent park complement the new stadium development. Visitors to Greater Scott's Addition have the option to safely arrive by foot, bike, transit, or car. Parking is centralized in a few parking garages to encourage users to park once and visit multiple destinations. The signature public park, a crescent park, between Ashe and Hermitage serves as a central convening space and is connected with greenways to multiple smaller public parks.

Growth Potential

In 2019, there were approximately 458 acres of vacant/underdeveloped land in Greater Scott's Addition, representing 60% of Greater Scott's Addition's total land area.

Primary Next Steps

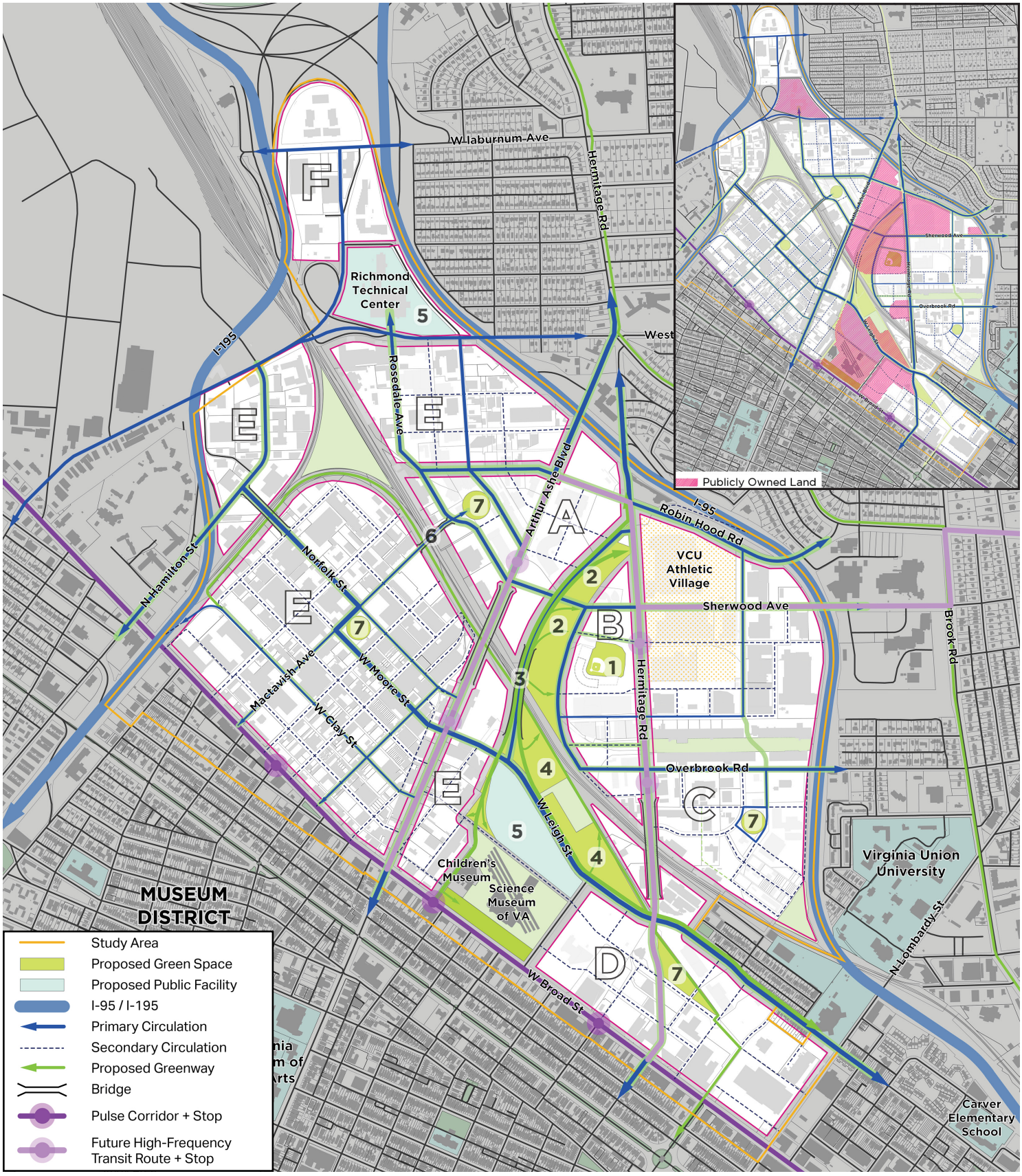
- **Rezoning:** Rezone Greater Scott's Addition in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan (Goal 1).
- **Request for Proposals:** Issue a Request for Proposals to redevelop the City-owned land between N. Ashe Boulevard and Hermitage Road using the Greater Scott's Addition Framework Plan and including elements such as crescent park, low-income housing, breaking up super blocks to create a street grid incorporating features that support walking, biking, and transit such as engaging architecture, public space, sidewalks, street trees, buildings built to the street, and street furniture (Goals 2, 4, 8, 9, 14, 17)
- **Great Streets:** Transform N. Ashe Boulevard and Hermitage Road into Great Streets, featuring buildings addressing the street, underground utilities, street trees, lighting, enhanced transit, and other amenities (Goal 9, Goal 17).
- **Bridge Feasibility:** Increase connectivity and access among neighborhoods in Greater Scott's Addition by creating new bridges from Leigh Street to the Diamond, Mactavish Street to Rosedale Avenue, and Norfolk to Hamilton Street (Goal 9).
- **Marketing:** Market Greater Scott's addition to grow, retain, and attract businesses in the target industries (Goal 11).
- **Green Infrastructure:** As part of the redevelopment of the Diamond site, develop a district-wide green infrastructure system to reduce flow of stormwater into the Combined Sewage System, reduce the heat-island effect, and increase the tree canopy, among other benefits (Goal 17).
- **Housing:** As part of the redevelopment of the Diamond site, create more housing, rental and ownership, at various price points, including units for low-income households (Goal 14).
- **Park Creation:** As part of the redevelopment of the Diamond site, develop a series of parks, including the signature crescent park, and



Greater Scott's Addition — Regional/National Node
This area has excellent access to I-95/I-64 and features the Baseball Diamond and primarily industrial areas that are transitioning to mixed-use.

Greater Scott's Addition Complete Street Illustration
Streets for everyone designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders while also incorporating stormwater infrastructure

investigate a funding source for park creation and maintenance, such as a bond or a special park district assessment to fund more parks in the area (Goal 17).



Greater Scott's Addition Framework Plan

This Framework Plan is the result of a planning process in 2019-2020 that included public meetings and three surveys with over 1,300 responses. The Framework Plan envisions several districts connected by a series of open spaces and Complete Streets (described on the next two pages).

Districts

Example Places in Other Cities

A | GATEWAY DISTRICT

Regional destination for offices, shopping, and entertainment with landmark architecture

B | BALLPARK AND ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

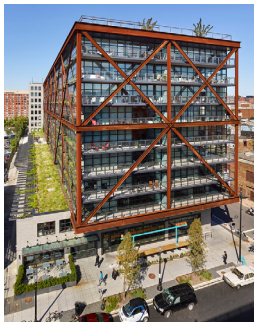
Lively community integrated with entertainment and a new sports venue

C | OWNBY DISTRICT

A core of dense mixed-use development employing the latest in sustainable practices relating to energy and water on a district scale

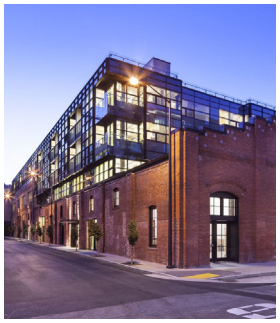
D | ALLISON DISTRICT

Dense, compact, transit-oriented mixed-use development anchored by a reconnected street grid



E | INDUSTRIAL MIXED-USE

Continued evolution of Scott's Addition combining entertainment, residential, office, and light industrial uses



F | OFFICE PARK

Office park development

Open Space Network

Example Open Spaces and Features from Other Cities

1 | BALLPARK AND PLAZA

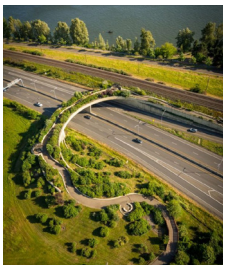
Vibrant outdoor space activated by the baseball stadium

2 | CRESCENT PARK

Signature urban public space with passive lawns and a relaxing atmosphere with integrated green infrastructure to support water quality (site for large-scale community events)

3 | LANDMARK BRIDGE

Bridge over the CSX tracks connecting the crescent park and development on the north side to the Pulse Corridor



4 | SOUTHERN PARK

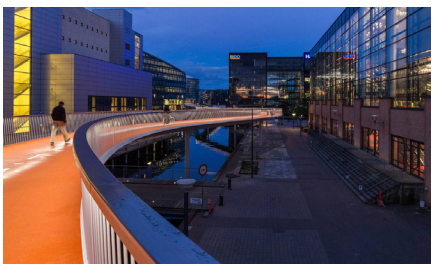
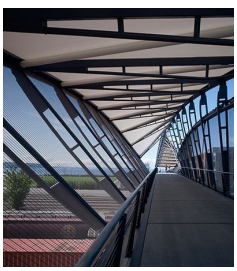
Public space with sports fields and active-use areas for youth with integrated green infrastructure that supports water quality

5 | PUBLIC FLEX SITE

Space to meet future community needs such as a school, library, rec center, or public space

6 | PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE BRIDGE

Safe and comfortable urban bridges over the train tracks

7 | NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Small Nodes of public space in which neighborhood activities are centered

Diamond Site Potential Transformation
The urban neighborhood created along N. Arthur Ashe Boulevard [top] is possible because the grand Crescent park [bottom] tucked in the middle of the site establishes a strong design edge, providing an oasis to enjoy nature, gather, and relax.

Greater Scott's Addition Conceptual Aerial
Crescent park, a signature element, anchors a series of green spaces that connect a new baseball stadium, residential areas, and employment.

Brookland Pkwy
VCU Athletic Village
Sherwood Ave
Ballpark Plaza
Overbrook Rd
Neighborhood Park
Active Recreation
Roadway Bridge
Bike Lane
Neighborhood Park
Hermitage Rd

Priority Growth Node

Route 1 / Bellemeade Road

Vision

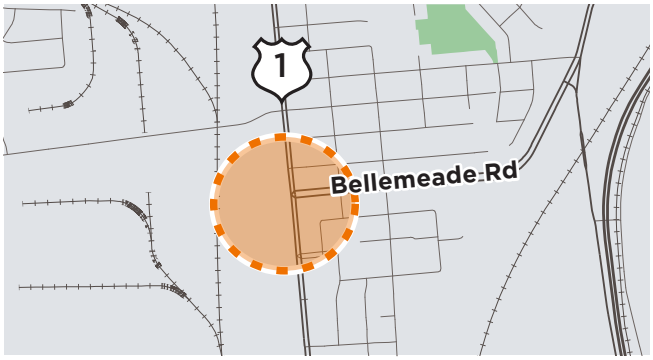
The intersection of Route 1 and Bellemeade Road is a walkable, well-connected, mixed-use Node with medium-scale buildings that are complementary with the surrounding single-family neighborhoods. Commercial development includes both neighborhood-serving commercial uses and job-generating businesses. The warehouses on the west side of Route 1 are redeveloped into a mix of medium-density residential projects and job-generating businesses. The apartment complexes at the southeastern corner of the intersection are redeveloped into medium-scale, mixed-use development that continues to provide affordable multi-family housing units in addition to market rate housing and commercial uses. The increased residential development along the corridors and in the neighboring Nodes establishes a market for services and amenities, such as a grocery store. New buildings address the corridors to create a pleasant pedestrian environment with parking minimized. Both Route 1 and Bellmeade Road are Great Streets with street trees, pedestrian amenities, enhanced transit, and greenways.

Growth Potential

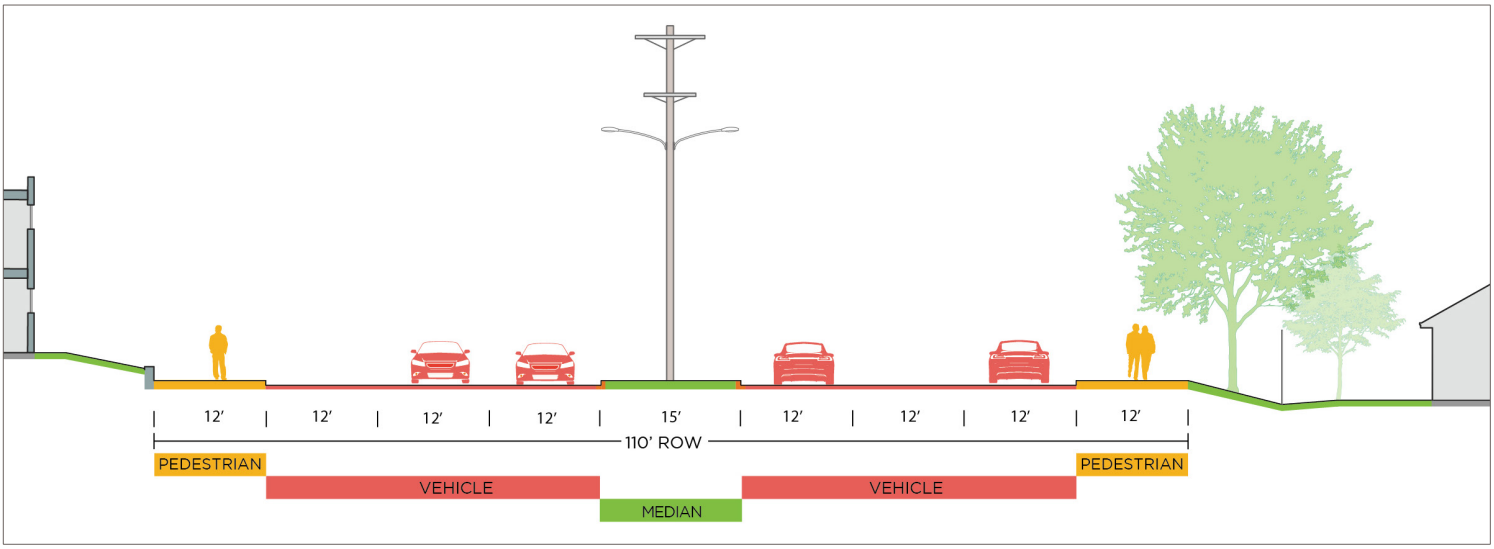
In 2019, there were approximately 21 acres of vacant/underdeveloped land in the Route 1/Bellemeade area, representing 21% of Route 1/Bellemeade's total land area.

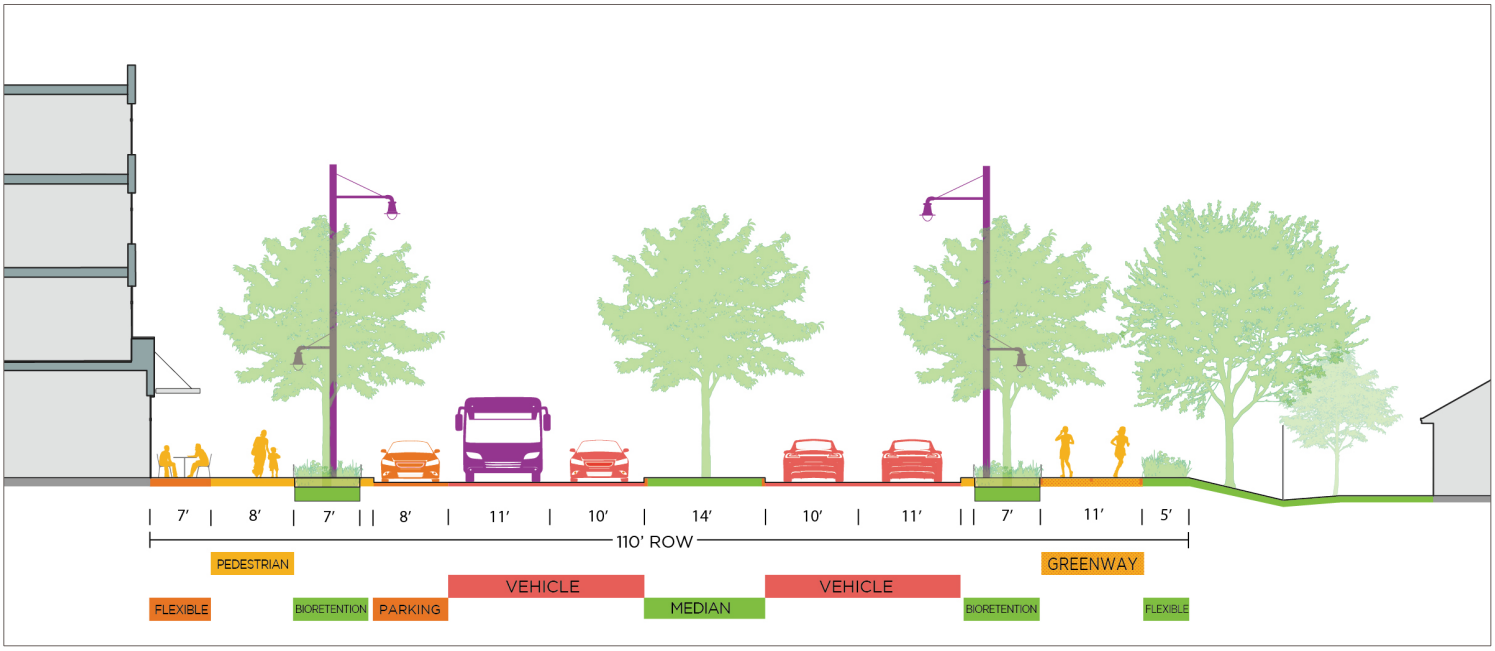
Primary Next Steps

- **Corridor Plan:** Develop a corridor plan for Route 1 with recommendations on how to transform the road into a Great Street with amenities such as buildings addressing the street, a greenway (the Ashland to Petersburg Trail), street trees, underground utilities, lighting, and other amenities and encourage redevelopment and business growth (Goal 1, Goal 8, Goal 9).
- **Rezone:** Prioritize the rezoning of this Node to align with the Future Land Use Plan to encourage the residential development and economic revitalization of the corridor in a building form that improves the pedestrian environment (Goal 1, Goal 11, Goal 14).
- **Greenway:** Develop the Ashland to Petersburg Trail and provide enhanced transit along Route 1 (Goal 4, Goal 8, Goal 17).
- **Transit Alignment:** With community input, develop a preferred alignment for a North-South BRT line through Manchester, either along Cowardin or along Hull Street, and then traveling down Midlothian, Hull, or Route 1 (Goal 8).
- **Incentives:** Explore the creation of a Technology Zone and other new economic development incentives to encourage the economic revitalization of the Route 1 corridor (Goal 11).
- **Quality Homes:** Develop programs that permit homeowners to remain in their homes, in high-quality structures to limit the involuntary displacement of residents in the surrounding single-family neighborhoods (Goal 14).
- **New Park:** Transfer city-owned property to PRCF to develop a park within a 10-minute walk of this Node and host community planning sessions to develop ideas for the park design (Goal 2, Goal 17).



Route 1 / Bellemeade — Neighborhood Node





Route 1 Potential Street Section Transformation
The existing street section [top] has more travel lanes than is necessary for the amount of vehicles that travel on Route 1. The street can be transformed [bottom] into a complete street with various elements such as outdoor seating, sidewalk trees, pedestrian-level lighting, on-street parking, enhanced transit, car lanes, median trees, and a wide greenway (the Ashland to Petersburg Trail).

Priority Growth Node

Route 1 / Bells Road

Vision

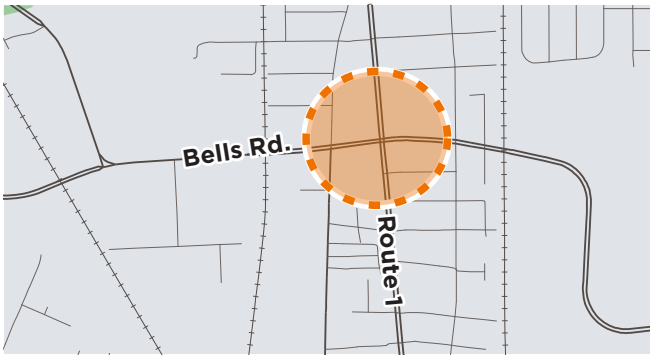
In 2037, the Route 1 corridor is home to a dynamic mix of uses with increased intensity at the intersection of Bells Road and Route 1. This intersection serves as a gateway into South Richmond from I-95, and Route 1 and Bells Road are Great Streets with sidewalks, street trees, pedestrian amenities, enhanced transit, and bicycle amenities. The commercial and mixed-use development along Route 1 provides neighborhood-serving shopping and service destinations in a building form that improves the pedestrian environment by locating the buildings close to the street, limiting driveways, and encouraging access from existing or new alleys. Predatory commercial uses, including pawn shops and check cashing businesses are limited. Office and industrial uses complement the nearby Port of Richmond and heavy industrial uses at the Philip Morris Plant. Vacant land on Route 1 and Bells Road is redeveloped to provide housing options at varying affordability levels in medium-scale buildings compatible with the surrounding residential area.

Growth Potential

In 2019, there were approximately 13 acres of vacant/underdeveloped land in the Route 1/Bells area, representing 34% of Route 1/Bells' total land area.

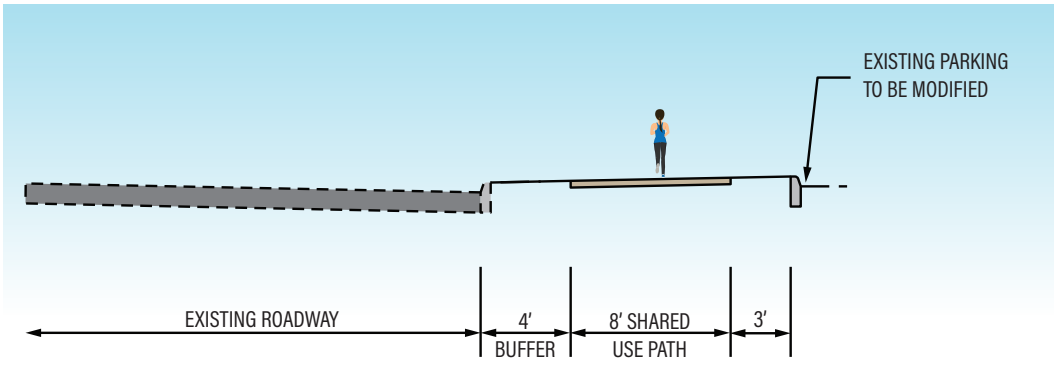
Primary Next Steps

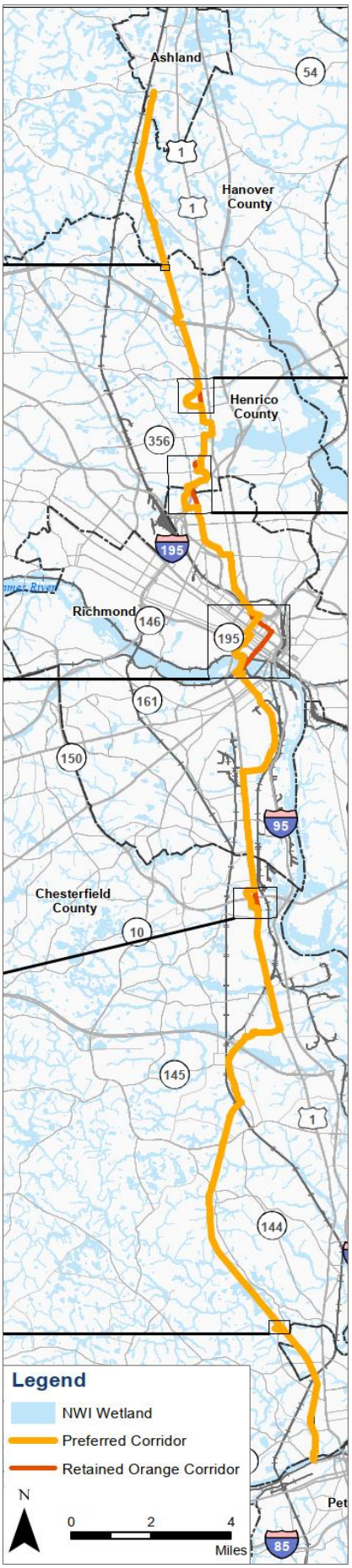
- **Corridor Plan:** Develop a corridor plan for Route 1 with recommendations on how to transform the road into a Great Street with amenities such as buildings addressing the street, a greenway (the Ashland to Petersburg Trail), street trees, lighting, and other amenities and encourage redevelopment and business growth (Goal 1, Goal 8, Goal 9).
- **Rezone:** Prioritize the rezoning of this Node to align with the Future Land Use Plan to encourage the residential development and economic revitalization of the corridor in a building form that improves the pedestrian environment (Goal 1, Goal 11, Goal 14).



Route 1 / Bells — Neighborhood Node

- **Greenway:** Develop the Ashland to Petersburg Trail and provide enhanced transit along Route 1 (Goal 4, Goal 8, Goal 17).
- **Transit Alignment:** With community input, develop a preferred alignment for a North-South BRT line through Manchester, either along Cowardin or along Hull Street, and then traveling down Midlothian, Hull, or Route 1 (Goal 8).
- **Incentives:** Explore the creation of a Technology Zone and other new economic development incentives to encourage the economic revitalization of the Route 1 corridor (Goal 11).
- **Quality Homes:** Develop programs that allow homeowners to remain in their homes in high-quality structures to limit the involuntary displacement of residents in the surrounding single-family neighborhoods (Goal 14).
- **New Park:** Identify land within a 5-minute walk of this Node for a new park, transfer land to PRCF ownership, and host community planning sessions to develop ideas for the park design (Goal 2, Goal 17).





Ashland to Petersburg Trail Conceptual Images

The Virginia Department of Transportation is leading a multi-locality planning effort to create the Ashland to Petersburg Trail, a greenway (also referred to as a shared-use path) from Ashland to Petersburg [see right image for the trail alignment]. The Ashland to Petersburg Trail will run along the eastern side of Route 1 [see top image for the plan and bottom image for the section].

Source: Ashland to Petersburg Trail Study, Virginia Department of Transportation, February 2020

Priority Growth Node

Southside Plaza Area

Vision

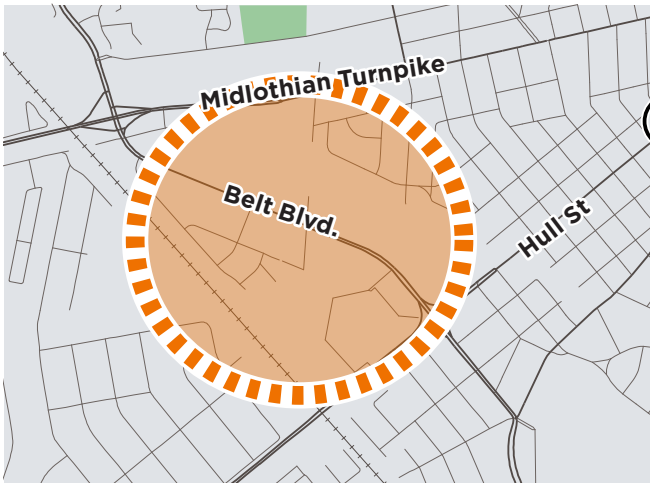
The Southside Plaza Area is the bustling center of South Richmond, offering employment, housing, recreation, and entertainment in a walkable human-scale environment. This area serves as a multi-modal transportation hub with connections to a regional greenway system via the James River Branch Trail and to the regional transit system with multiple bus lines converging in the Southside Plaza area. New City facilities anchor the redevelopment of this area by providing government services and green space.

Growth Potential

In 2019, there were approximately 54 acres of vacant/underdeveloped land in the Southside Plaza Area, representing 32% of the Southside Plaza Area's total land area.

Primary Next Steps

- **Small Area Plan:** Develop a Small Area Plan with community input for the Southside Plaza area that provides details on the opportunities for redevelopment and a system of public open space, greenways, and streets improve connectivity (Goal 1).
- **Rezone:** Rezone the Southside Plaza area in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan (Goal 1).
- **Catalyst:** Acquire land to catalyze the redevelopment of the Southside Plaza Area (Goal 2).
- **Greenway:** Build the James River Branch Trail on abandoned CSX right-of-way and connect adjacent neighborhoods to the trail (Goal 8, Goal 17).
- **Transit Alignment:** With community input, develop a preferred alignment for a North-South BRT line through Manchester, either along Cowardin or along Hull Street, and then traveling down Midlothian, Hull, or Route 1 (Goal 8).
- **Great Streets:** Transform Belt Boulevard and Hull Street into Great Streets featuring buildings addressing the street, underground utilities, street trees, lighting, enhanced transit, and other amenities (Goal 4, Goal 9).

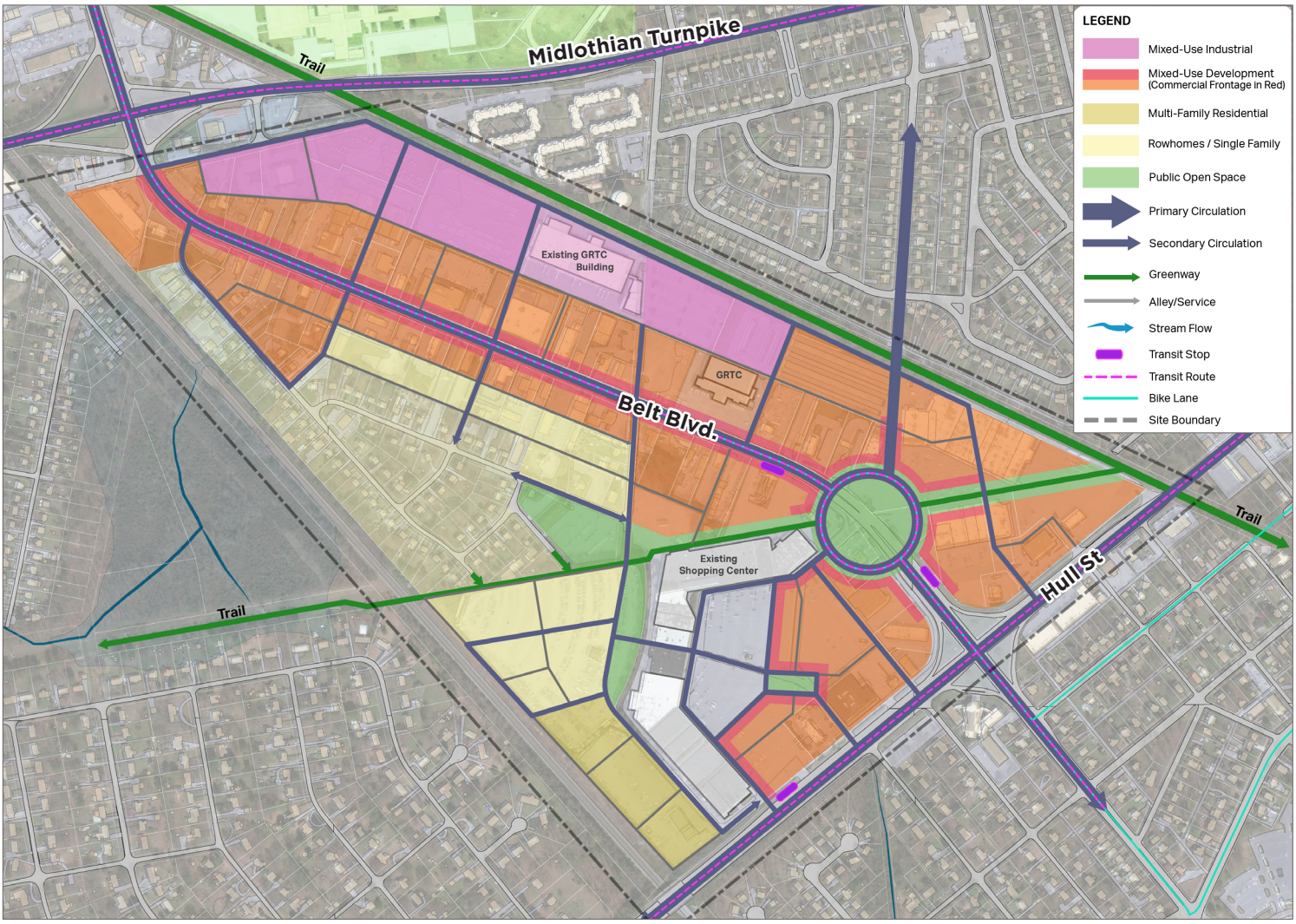


Southside Plaza Area — Regional/National Node

- **New Park:** Identify land within a 10-minute walk of this Node for a new park, transfer land to PRCF ownership, and host community planning sessions to develop ideas for the park design (Goal 2, Goal 17).

The Southside Plaza Area in 1960

Source: The Library of Virginia



Southside Plaza Area Conceptual Plan

Southside Plaza has the potential to be transformed into the bustling center of South Richmond, offering employment, housing, recreation, and entertainment in a walkable, human-scaled environment.

Priority Growth Area

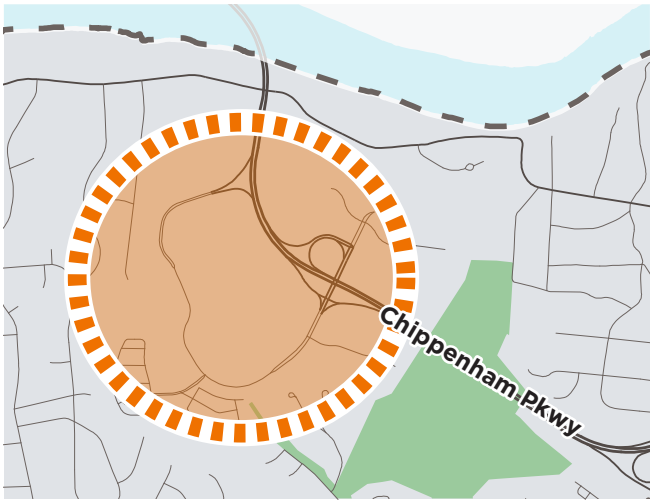
Stony Point Fashion Park

Vision

Stony Point Fashion Park is transformed from a declining mall in 2020 to a village-style development that has expanded its significant residential community to complement office and retail uses. The redevelopment of Stony Point Fashion Park has capitalized on its strong regional highway connections, while also providing bike, pedestrian, and transit connections to adjacent neighborhoods and the greater Richmond region.

Growth Potential

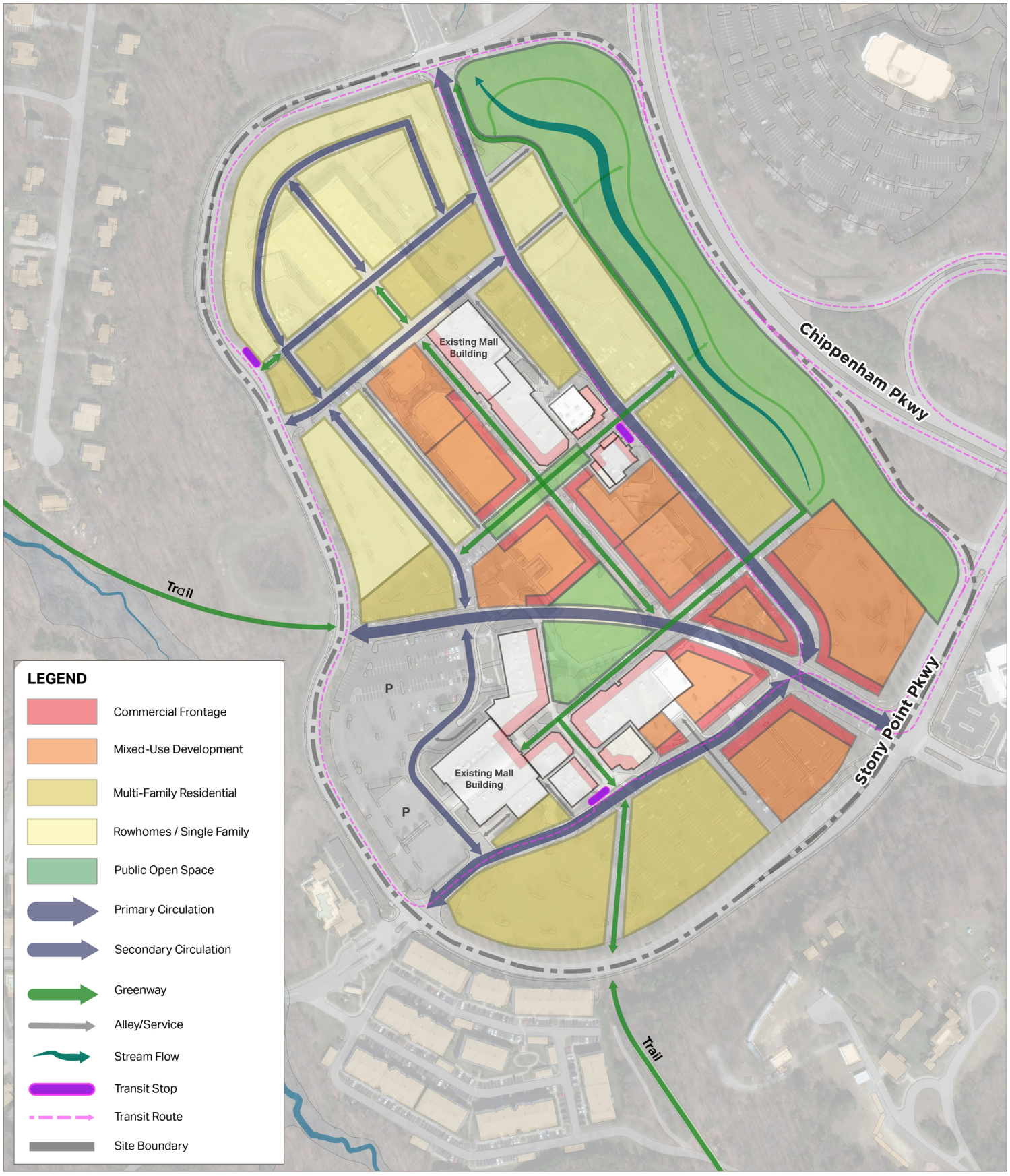
In 2019, there were approximately 72 acres of vacant/underdeveloped land in Stony Point Fashion Park, representing 27% of the Stony Point Fashion Park's total land area.



Stony Point Fashion Park — Regional/National Node

Primary Next Steps

- **Small Area Plan:** Develop a Small Area Plan with community input for the Stony Point Fashion Park that provides details on the opportunities for redevelopment and a system of public open space, greenways, and streets to improve connectivity (Goal 1).
- **Rezone:** Rezone the Stony Point Fashion Park area in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan (Goal 1).
- **Greenway:** Build greenways and connect adjacent neighborhoods to the greenways (Goal 8, Goal 17).
- **Transit Expansion:** Once enough demand exists, expand transit service to reach Stony Point Fashion Park (Goal 8).
- **Target Industries:** Consider marketing this area for business creation and attraction, targeting corporate headquarters and professional services (Goal 11).
- **Housing:** As part of the Small Area Plan, identify areas for more housing, rental and ownership, at various price points, including units for low-income households (Goal 14).
- **New Park:** Identify land within the Stony Point Fashion Park area for a new park, transfer land to PRCF ownership, and host community planning sessions to develop ideas for the park design (Goal 2, Goal 17).



Stony Point Fashion Park Conceptual Plan
The Shopping Mall is transformed into a village-style community that expands existing residential options and provides office and retail space.

Future Land Use

Future land use designations are both visionary and strategic, and include language about how the area should look and feel in the future, but do not specify what an owner can or cannot legally do with their property.

Future land use is an important tool in helping communities envision the future of a place without getting into the implementation of how, specifically, the buildings, streets, public spaces, and parks will be designed and built.

Once a future land use map is adopted, the City and others, utilize various tools (zoning, streetscape projects, park and open space projects, transportation improvements, and economic development programs) to achieve its vision.

Each Future Land Use Category is realized with a variety of zoning districts. Each Future Land Use Category does not align with only one zoning district, but rather, several zoning districts.

Each Node has a varying set of future land use designations, depending on the unique characteristics and scale of the Node. See the previous section for descriptions of the Priority Growth Nodes and the Appendix C for all the other Node descriptions.

The future land use map shown in Figure 11 depicts the city with 10 different future land use designations described in detail in this section. Each future land use designation is described with the following elements:

- **Description:** a brief sentence conveying the general intent of the district.
- **Development Style:** describes how the area looks and feels today and provides general guidance on how new development should look and feel.
- **Ground Floor:** some of the categories include descriptions of how the ground floor should be designed and used.
- **Mobility:** describes how people are envisioned to move around the area.
- **Intensity:** describes the prevailing lot size and general heights of the buildings.
- **Primary Uses:** describes the predominant uses that are found in the area and that establish the basic characteristics of the area.
- **Secondary Uses:** describes the supporting uses that are sometimes found in the area.

The aforementioned characteristics are intended to provide general guidance on the future look and feel of areas of the city. The future land use categories are not zoning. Revising the Zoning Ordinance to implement the vision of the future land use map is a Big Move identified in the Implementation Chapter to advance the vision and goals outlined in *Richmond 300*.

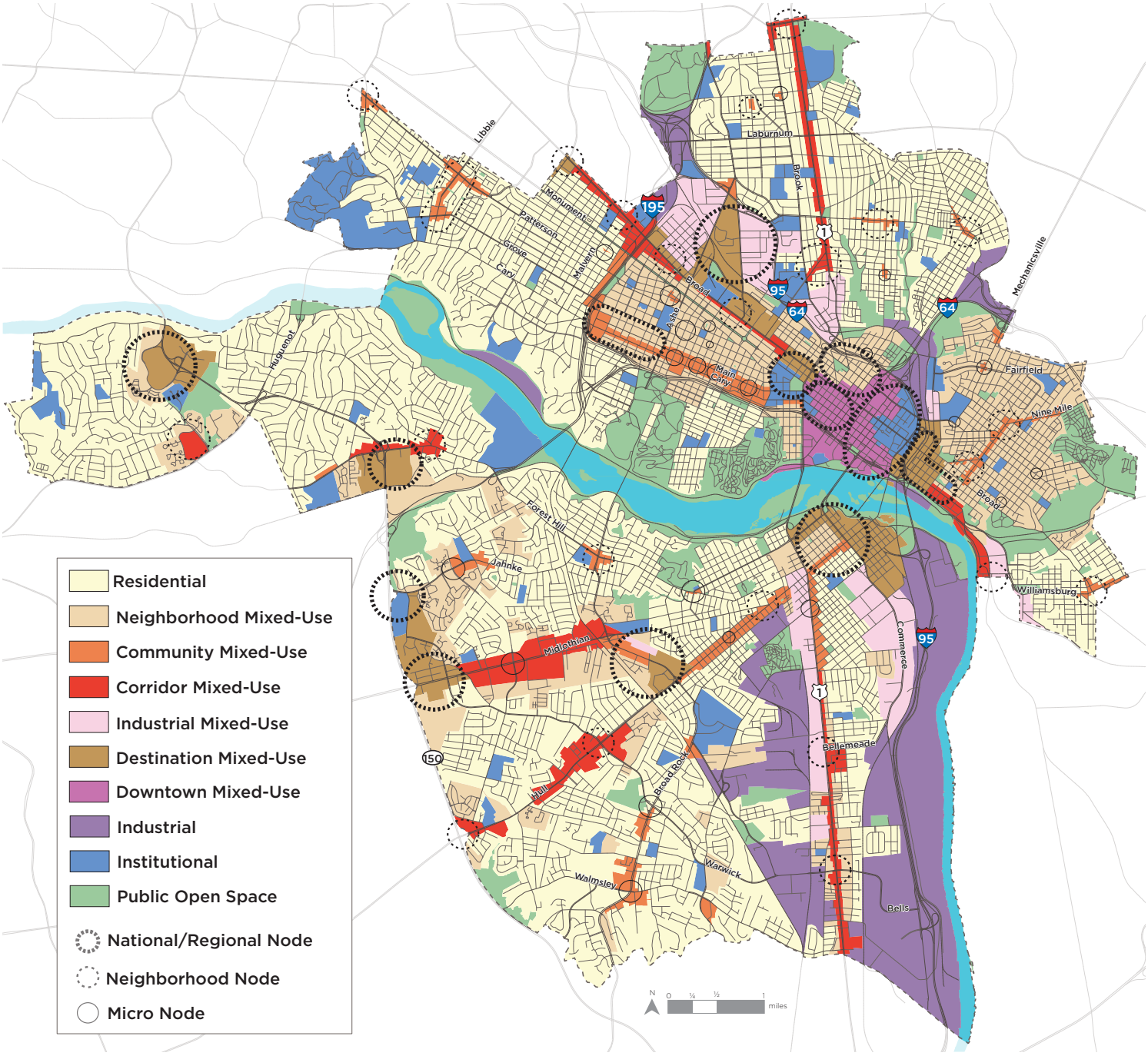


FIGURE 11 // **Future Land Use Map**

Residential

Neighborhood consisting primarily of single-family houses on large- or medium-sized lots more homogeneous in nature.

Development Style: Houses on medium-sized and large-sized lots in a largely auto-dependent environment. Homes are setback from the street. Future developments continue and/or introduce a gridded street pattern to increase connectivity. Future single-family housing, accessory dwelling units, duplexes, and small multi-family residential buildings are built to a scale and design that is consistent with existing buildings.

Ground Floor: Not applicable.

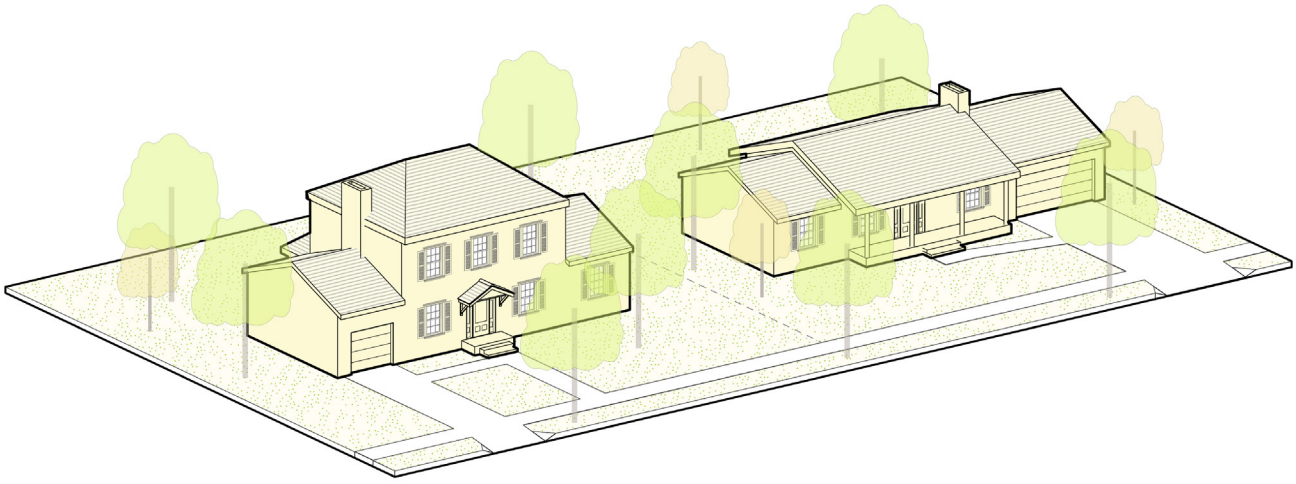
Mobility: Bicycle and pedestrian access are prioritized and accommodated. Low residential density means that it is not possible to provide frequent transit within these areas; however, frequent transit may be found at the edges of these areas within more intense future land use designations. Many homes have driveways and/or garages, which are located off an alley behind the home if an alley is present.

Intensity: Buildings are generally one to three stories. Lot sizes generally range up to 5,000 to 20,000+ sq. ft. Residential density of 2 to 10 housing units per acre.

Primary Uses: Single-family houses, accessory dwelling units, and open space.

Secondary Uses: Duplexes and small multi-family buildings (typically 3-10 units), institutional, and cultural. Secondary uses may be found along major streets (see Street Typologies Map).

Duplexes, also known as two-family homes [top], and small multi-family buildings [bottom] are secondary uses.



Residential Diagram 1

When the neighborhood lacks alleys, such as the ranch style homes [top], driveways may be present; however, if the neighborhoods has alleys, driveways are not advised as shown in the large estate home [bottom].

Homes in the Residential category may be rather close to one another on medium-sized lots [top] or further apart on larger lots [bottom].

Residential Diagram 2

Neighborhood Mixed-Use

Existing or new highly-walkable urban neighborhoods that are predominantly residential with a small, but critical, percentage of parcels providing retail, office, personal service, and institutional uses.

Development Style: These areas feature a variety of building types that are close to one another and create a unified street wall. The building size, density, and zoning districts for these areas vary depending on historical densities and neighborhood characteristics. Future development should generally complement existing context. Setbacks, plazas, and parks create a sense of place and community gathering areas. New developments on larger parcels continue or introduce a gridded street pattern to increase connectivity within the neighborhood and to adjacent neighborhoods. In historic neighborhoods, small-scale commercial uses exist today or should be allowed to reestablish. In new neighborhoods, small scale commercial buildings should be introduced.

Ground Floor: Regardless of use, buildings should engage the street with features such as street-oriented façades with windows and door openings along street frontages. Appropriate setbacks, open space, front porches, elevated ground floors, and other features that provide a sense of privacy should be provided for residential uses.

Mobility: Pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access are prioritized and accommodated. Bike parking is provided. New driveways are prohibited on Priority and Principal Street frontages. Vehicular access to parcels should use alleys wherever possible. Parking areas should be located to the rear of street-facing buildings.

Intensity: Building heights are generally two to four stories. Buildings taller than four stories may be found along major streets (see Street Typologies Map). Parcels are generally between 1,500 and 5,000 sq. ft.

Primary Uses: Single-family houses, accessory dwelling units, duplexes, small multi-family buildings (typically 3-10 units), and open space.

Secondary Uses: Large multi-family buildings (10+units), retail/office/personal service, institutional, cultural, and government.

Neighborhood Mixed-Use Diagram
A mix of housing types with features that engage the street and opportunities for small-scale commercial uses at the corner.

Neighborhood mixed-use areas are predominantly residential with various home styles (top row) and a small percentage of non-residential uses, such as restaurants, churches, and retail (bottom row).

Neighborhood Mixed-Use Perspective
Residential buildings address the street but are slightly set back to provide residents with a sense of privacy.

Community Mixed-Use

Cluster of medium-density, walkable commercial and residential uses that provide neighborhood services to nearby residential communities and sometimes feature regional attractions.

Development Style: The building size, density, and zoning districts for these areas may vary significantly depending on historical densities and neighborhood characteristics. Future development should generally complement existing context. Uses may be mixed horizontally in several buildings on a block or vertically within the same building. Developments continue or introduce a gridded street pattern to increase connectivity.

Ground Floor: Ground floor uses engage with, and enliven, the street. Monolithic walls are discouraged, while windows, doors, storefronts, and other features that allow transparency and interaction between building and street are encouraged.

Mobility: Pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access are prioritized and accommodated. Bike parking is provided. Driveway entrances are required to be off alleys whenever possible; new driveways are prohibited on priority and principal streets. Parking areas are located within the structure and to the rear of buildings and require screening; shared parking requirements are encouraged.

Intensity: Buildings generally ranging from two to six stories, based on street widths and depending on the historic context and stepping down in height adjacent to residential areas, as necessary. New buildings that are taller than historical buildings should step back from the build-to line after matching the height of the predominant cornice line of the block.

Primary Uses: Retail/office/personal service, multi-family residential, cultural, and open space.

Secondary Uses: Single-family houses, institutional, and government.

Community Mixed-Use Diagram
The building size, density, and zoning districts for these areas may vary depending on historical densities and neighborhood characteristics. The common theme among all Community Mixed-Use areas is that a mix of uses are allowed and buildings must address the street.

Community mixed-use areas have commercial and residential buildings built to the sidewalk and parking located at the curbside or at the rear of the building.

Community Mixed-Use Perspective
Residential and commercial buildings with windows and doors that open to the street enliven the sidewalk and help create a engaging environment with street trees, sidewalks, and no off-street parking visible from the street.

Corridor Mixed-Use

Found along major commercial corridors and envisioned to provide for medium- to medium-high-density pedestrian- and transit-oriented development.

Development Style: The building size, density, and zoning districts for these areas may vary significantly depending on historical densities and neighborhood characteristics. Future development should generally complement existing context. Uses may be mixed horizontally in several buildings on a block or vertically within the same building. Developments continue introduce a gridded street pattern to increase connectivity.

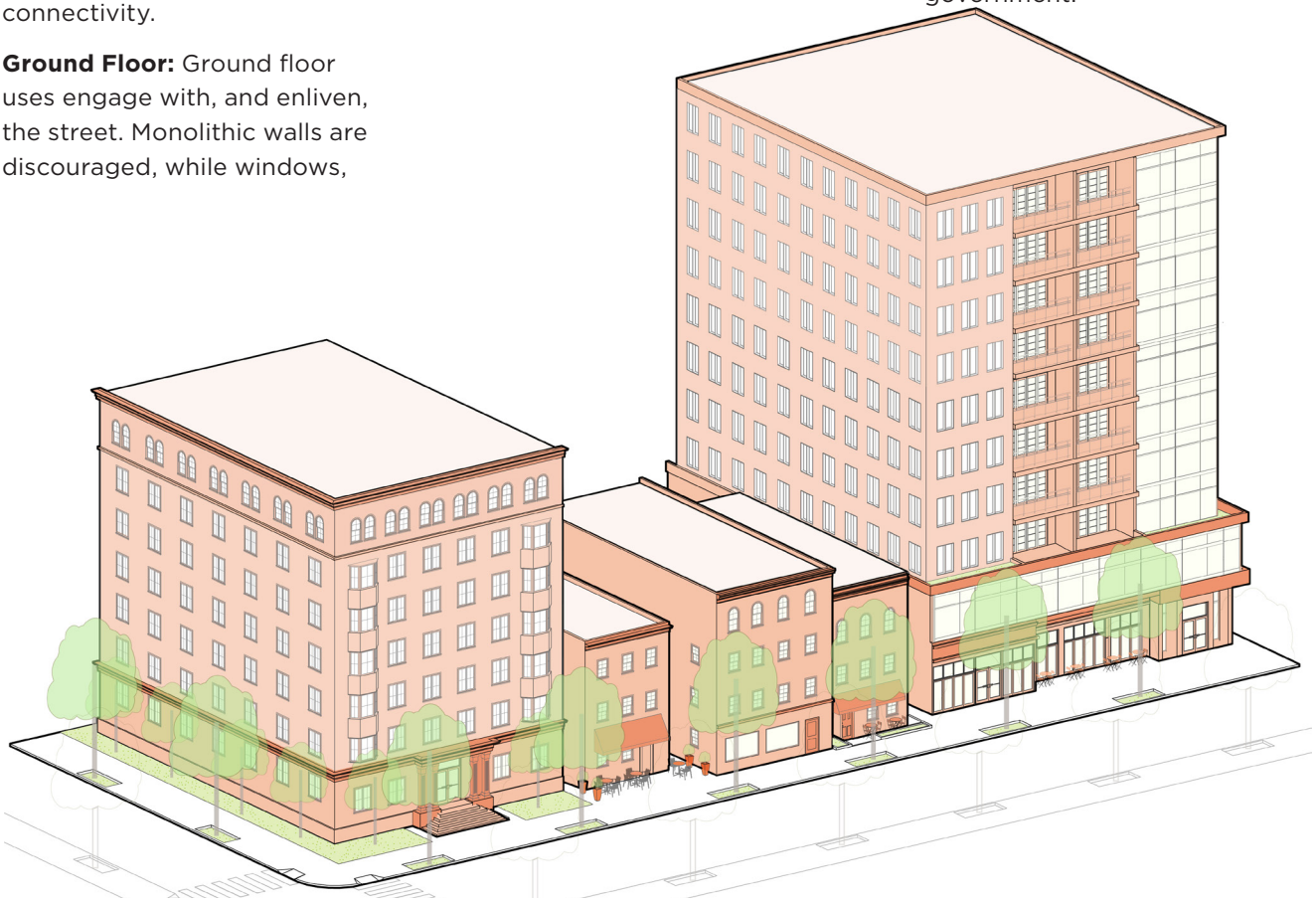
Ground Floor: Ground floor uses engage with, and enliven, the street. Monolithic walls are discouraged, while windows, doors, storefronts, and other features that allow transparency and interaction between building and street are encouraged. Active commercial ground floor uses are required on street-oriented commercial frontages.

Mobility: Pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access are prioritized and accommodated. Bike parking is provided. Driveway entrances are required to be off alleys whenever possible; new driveways are prohibited on priority and principal streets. Parking areas are located within the structure and to the rear of buildings and require screening; shared parking requirements are encouraged.

Intensity: Buildings generally ranging from two to ten stories, based on street widths and depending on the historic context and stepping down in height adjacent to residential areas. New buildings that are taller than historical buildings should step back from the build-to line after matching the height of the predominant cornice line of the block.

Primary Uses: Retail/office/personal service, multi-family residential, cultural, and open space.

Secondary Uses: Single-family houses, institutional, and government.



Corridor Mixed-Use Diagram
The building size, density, and zoning districts for these areas may vary significantly depending on historical densities and neighborhood characteristics. In some areas, the Corridor Mixed-Use will look like the three buildings in the middle and in other areas, taller buildings are appropriate. The common theme among all Corridor Mixed-Use areas is that a mix of uses are allowed and buildings must address the street.

Corridor Mixed-Use areas have commercial and residential buildings built to the sidewalk and parking located at the curbside or at the rear of the building.

Corridor Mixed-Use Perspective
Residential and commercial buildings with windows and doors that open to the street enliven the sidewalk and help create a engaging environment with street trees, sidewalks, and no off-street parking visible from the street.

Industrial Mixed-Use

Formerly traditional industrial areas that are transitioning to mixed-use because of their proximity to growing neighborhoods and changes in market conditions. These areas may still retain some light industrial uses.

Development Style: A mix of building types with low-scale, post-industrial buildings that are adapted for a new use are adjacent to new taller residential and/or office buildings. These areas allow "maker uses" to continue while encouraging more individuals to live, work, and play in the area. Buildings should have street-oriented façades with windows and door openings along street frontages. New light industrial uses are compatible with residential and office uses, and are attractively buffered. New developments continue or introduce a gridded street pattern to increase connectivity.

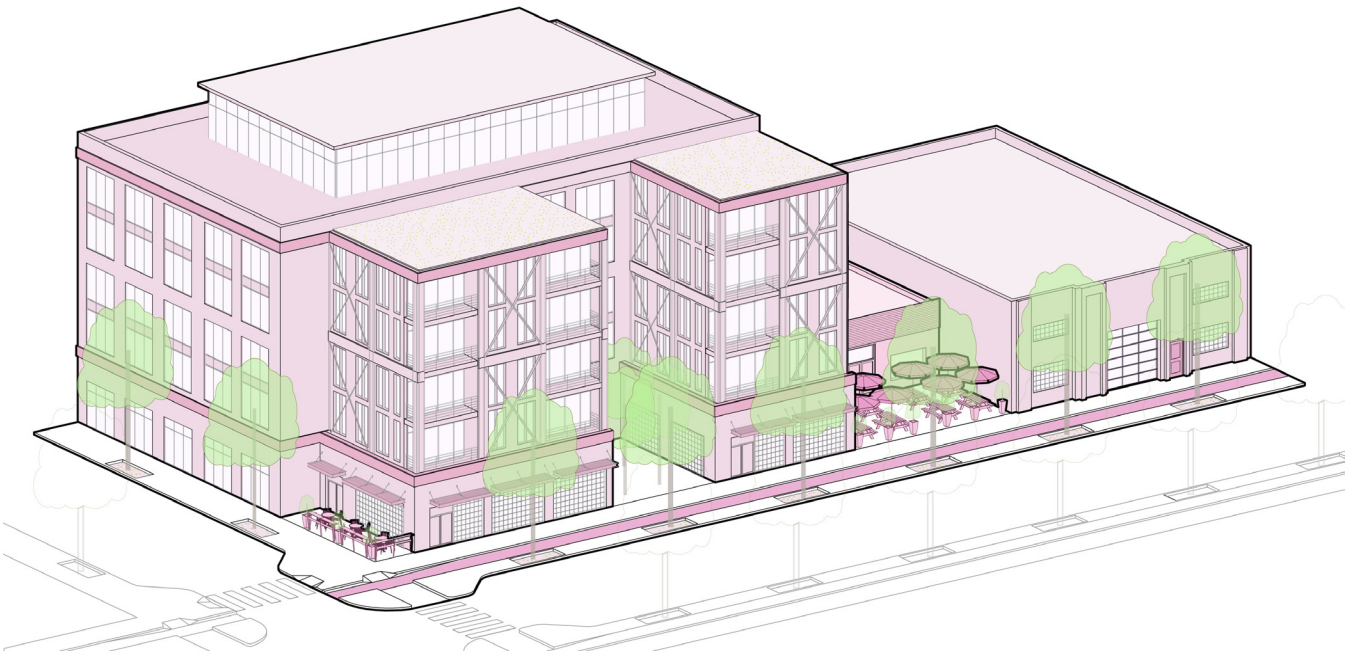
Ground Floor: Ground floor uses engage with and enliven the street. Monolithic walls are discouraged, while windows, doors, storefronts, and other features that allow transparency and interaction between building and street are encouraged. Active commercial ground floor uses are required on street-oriented commercial frontages.

Mobility: Pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access are prioritized and accommodated. Bike parking is provided. New driveway entrances are prohibited on priority and principal street frontages and minimal driveway entrances are allowed on secondary streets. Vehicular access to parcels should use alleys where possible. Loading for trucks must be provided off-street. Parking lots and parking areas should be located to the rear of street-facing buildings.

Intensity: Medium- to high-density, three to eight stories.

Primary Uses: Retail/office/personal service, multi-family residential, cultural, and open space.

Secondary Uses: Institutional and government.



Industrial Mixed-Use Diagram
A mix of building types with low-scale, post-industrial buildings adjacent to new taller residential and/or office buildings.

Industrial mixed-use areas feature residential, retail, office, and light industrial users in buildings that are a historic renovations [top] or new construction [bottom].

Industrial Mixed-Use Perspective
Ground floor uses engage with and enliven the street. Buildings have street-oriented façades with windows and door openings along street frontages.

Destination Mixed-Use

Key gateways featuring prominent destinations, such as retail, sports venues, and large employers, as well as housing and open space. Located at the convergence of several modes of transportation, including Pulse BRT or other planned transit improvements.

Development Style: Higher-density, transit-oriented development encouraged on vacant or underutilized sites. New development should be urban in form, may be of larger scale than existing context, and, where relevant, should pay special attention to the historic character of the existing context. Development should enhance the public realm and create a sense of place. Many buildings are vertically mixed-use. Developments continue or introduce a gridded street pattern to increase connectivity.

Ground Floor: Ground floor uses engage with, and enliven, the street. Monolithic walls are discouraged, while windows, doors, storefronts, and other features that allow transparency and interaction between building and street are encouraged. Active commercial ground floor uses are required on street-oriented commercial frontages.

Mobility: Pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access are prioritized and accommodated. Bike parking is provided. Driveway entrances are required to be off alleys whenever possible; new driveways are prohibited on priority and principal street frontages. Surface parking is prohibited as a principal use; when surface parking is provided as an accessory use, it should be located to the rear of buildings and screened. Parking requirements are reduced to allow more market-based parking strategies, including shared parking.

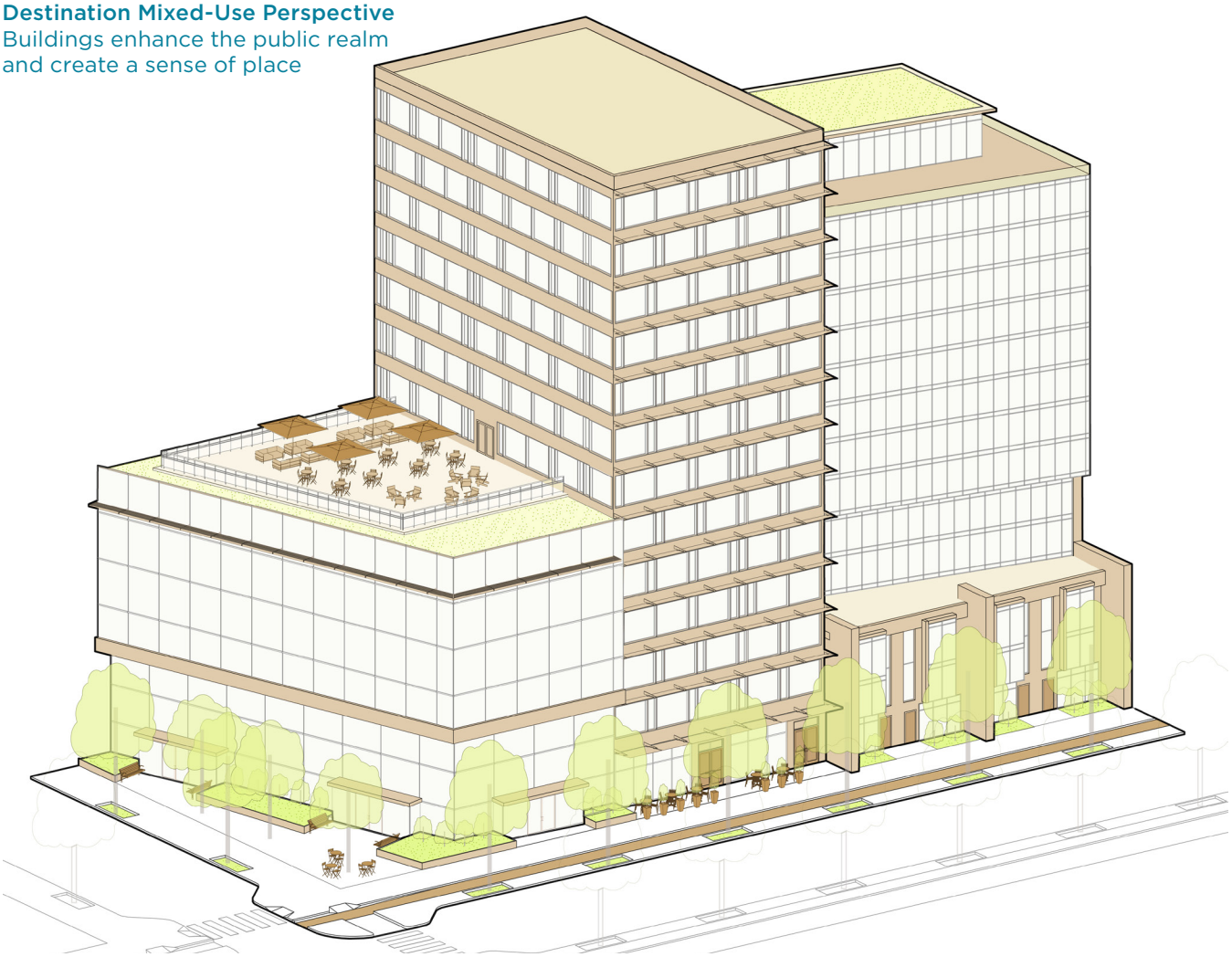
Intensity: Buildings typically a minimum height of five stories.

Primary Uses: Retail/office/personal service, multi-family residential, cultural, and open space.

Secondary Uses: Institutional and government.

Destination mixed-use areas include a mix of commercial and residential buildings with features that encourage walking and buildings that are generally at least five stories tall.

Destination Mixed-Use Perspective
Buildings enhance the public realm and create a sense of place



Destination Mixed-Use Diagram
Higher-density, transit-oriented development encouraged on vacant or underutilized sites. Future development is urban in form and may be of larger scale than existing context.

Downtown Mixed-Use

Central business district of the Richmond region features high-density development with office buildings, residential buildings, and a mix of complementary uses, including regional destinations in a highly-walkable urban environment.

Development Style: Higher-density pedestrian- and transit-oriented development encouraged on vacant or underutilized sites. Historic buildings are adapted for new uses. Future development should be urban in form and may be of larger scale than existing context. Plazas and setbacks create an engaging street life. Many buildings are vertically mixed-use. New developments continue or introduce a gridded street pattern to increase connectivity.

Ground Floor: Ground floor uses engage with and enliven the street. Monolithic walls are discouraged, while windows, doors, storefronts, and other features that allow transparency and interaction between building and street are encouraged. Active commercial ground floor uses required on street-oriented commercial frontages.

Mobility: Pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access are prioritized and accommodated. Bike parking is provided. Driveway entrances are required to be off alleys whenever possible; new driveways are prohibited on priority and principal street frontages. Surface parking is prohibited as a principal use. Parking requirements are substantially less in these areas than other areas of the City and are largely eliminated.

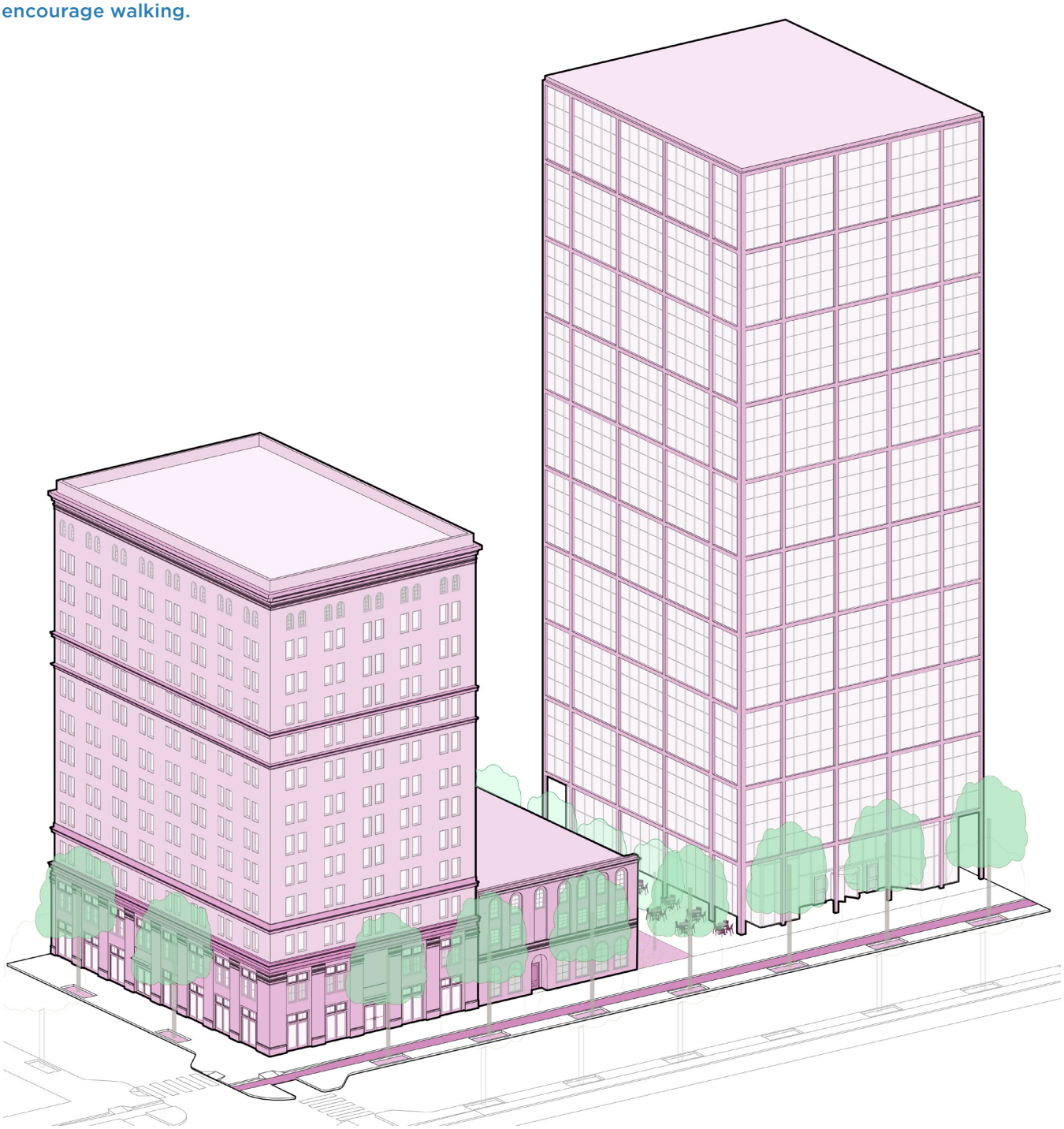
Intensity: Buildings typically a minimum height of five stories.

Primary Use: Retail/office/personal service, multi-family residential, cultural, institutional, government, and open space.

Secondary Uses: Not applicable.

Downtown Mixed-Use Perspective
The architectural variety of historic and new construction creates visual interest and tells a compelling story about the evolution of Richmond's built environment.

The tallest buildings in the city with a mix of commercial and residential buildings with features that encourage walking.



Downtown Mixed-Use Diagram
The most intense of all the land uses, downtown mixed-use features the tallest buildings in Richmond which are often alongside shorter, historic buildings that have been adapted and reused for new uses.

Industrial

Manufacturing and production areas that primarily feature processing, research and development, warehousing, and distribution.

Development Style: The arrangement of structures, parking and circulation areas, and open spaces should recognize the unique needs of industrial users. Industrial areas have a design aesthetic that buffers industrial uses from other adjacent uses.

Ground Floor: Not applicable.

Mobility: Pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access is accommodated. Bike parking is provided. Parking lots and parking areas are located to the rear of street-facing buildings. Vehicle entrances are located off alleys or secondary streets.

Intensity: One to three stories with exceptions for unique building features relating to that industrial use.

Primary Uses: Industrial and open space.

Secondary Uses: Retail/office/personal service.

Industrial users range in scale and level of intensity of production and manufacturing.

Institutional

Public and quasi-public entities, such as local, state, and federal government, hospitals, universities, schools, and religions institutions.

Development Style: Several buildings owned by an institution are often connected by an engaging character that creates a campus-like environment.

Ground Floor: Active commercial ground floor uses are required on street-oriented commercial frontages. Residential uses may be permitted on the ground floor in certain sections of the area. Regardless, ground floor residential units should still have street-oriented façades with setbacks, front yards, and balconies where appropriate.

Mobility: Pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access are prioritized and accommodated. Bike parking is provided. New driveway entrances are prohibited on priority and principal street frontages and minimal driveway entrances are allowed on secondary streets. Ground floor parking is prohibited on principal street frontages.

Intensity: Varies.

Primary Uses: Institutional, cultural, government, and open space.

Secondary Uses: Retail/office/personal service and multi-family.

There are several campuses throughout Richmond. A campus is a contiguous space with multiple buildings connected by park-like open space.

Public Open Space

Public and quasi-public parks, recreation areas, open spaces, and cemeteries.

Development Style: Includes passive and active recreation, natural habitats, cemeteries, and large plazas.

Ground Floor: Not applicable.

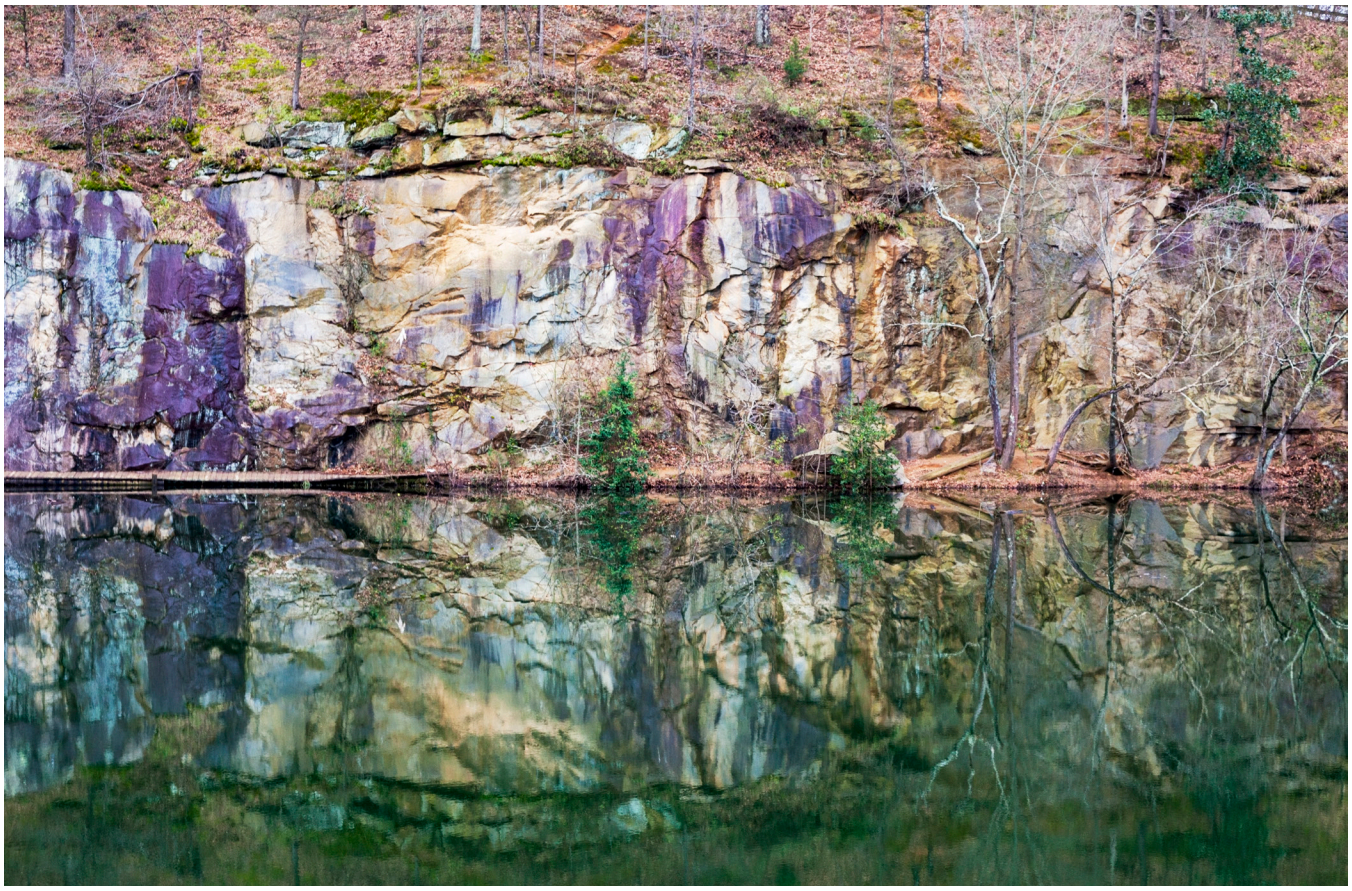
Access: Designed in a manner to allow access by all modes of transportation, while emphasizing connections to bicycle and pedestrian amenities, such as sidewalks, bike lanes, and shared-use paths. Bike parking and other such amenities are provided as well.

Density/Height: Not applicable.

Primary Uses: Open space.

Secondary Uses: Cultural, institutional, and governmental.

Parks in Richmond have many features, including playgrounds [top], passive recreation areas [middle], and garden-like settings [bottom].



Parks are a variety of scales, ranging from regional parks, like the James River Park System [top] to community gardens [left] and pocket parks [right].

Future Connections

The Future Connections Map depicts the envisioned transportation networks that will provide access to and among Nodes.

The elements in the Future Connections Map described in this section are great streets, street typologies, greenways and on-street bike facilities, enhanced transit, street connections, interchanges, and bridges. The policy recommendations related to these future connections are found in Goals 6 through 10.

Great Streets

Great Streets, shown in Figure 12, are significant entrances to the city and serve as major connectors between city destinations. Great Streets are roadways that require robust attention to make them prominent promenades to the city. Some parts of the Great Streets shown on the Future Connections Map are quite beautiful and should be replicated in other parts of the city. For instance, Ashe Boulevard as it runs through the Museum District is a beautiful promenade with wide sidewalks, street trees, buried power lines, and buildings that address the street with windows, doors, and porches that engage the street. However, as it travels north toward I-95/I-64, its splendor is diminished. As the areas around Ashe Boulevard near the Diamond Site are redeveloped, it is envisioned that the street would be beautified and become a truly Great Street.

Street Typologies

The character of a street changes as the adjacent land uses change. The Street Typology Map, shown in Figure 12, depicts four Street Typologies which are applied to the most frequently-used streets (those with high annual average daily traffic (AADT)). When planners, developers, and transportation engineers plan for changes to buildings and the street along the streets identified in this map, they should all work closely together to ensure the street design meets the needs of the envisioned land uses:

Major Mixed-Use Streets

- Carry high volumes of vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles, through commercial and mixed-use areas
- Prioritize use and density-scaled sidewalks and crosswalks
- Require form elements, such as buildings to the street with parking in the rear, as well as building windows and entrances on the street
- Incorporate streetscape features, such as trees, benches, and trash receptacles
- Ideal locations for transit routes and transit stops
- Prioritize the curbside for walking, bicycling, transit, and short-term parking access and loading for local shops and restaurants

Major Residential Streets

- Carry high volumes of vehicles, as well as pedestrians and bicycles, through residential neighborhoods
- Prioritize for creating sidewalks and crosswalks
- Install street trees as a buffer between sidewalk and street
- Ideal locations for transit routes and transit stops
- Ensure low street speed by utilizing traffic calming measures

Major Industrial Streets

- Carry high volumes of vehicles, including a high percentage of truck traffic, through industrial areas
- Prioritize sidewalks and crosswalks
- Install street trees with a buffer between sidewalk and street
- Ideal locations for transit routes and transit stops

Limited Access Highways

- Interstate, Downtown Expressway, Chippenham Parkway, and other limited-access highways that do not allow for non-vehicular access

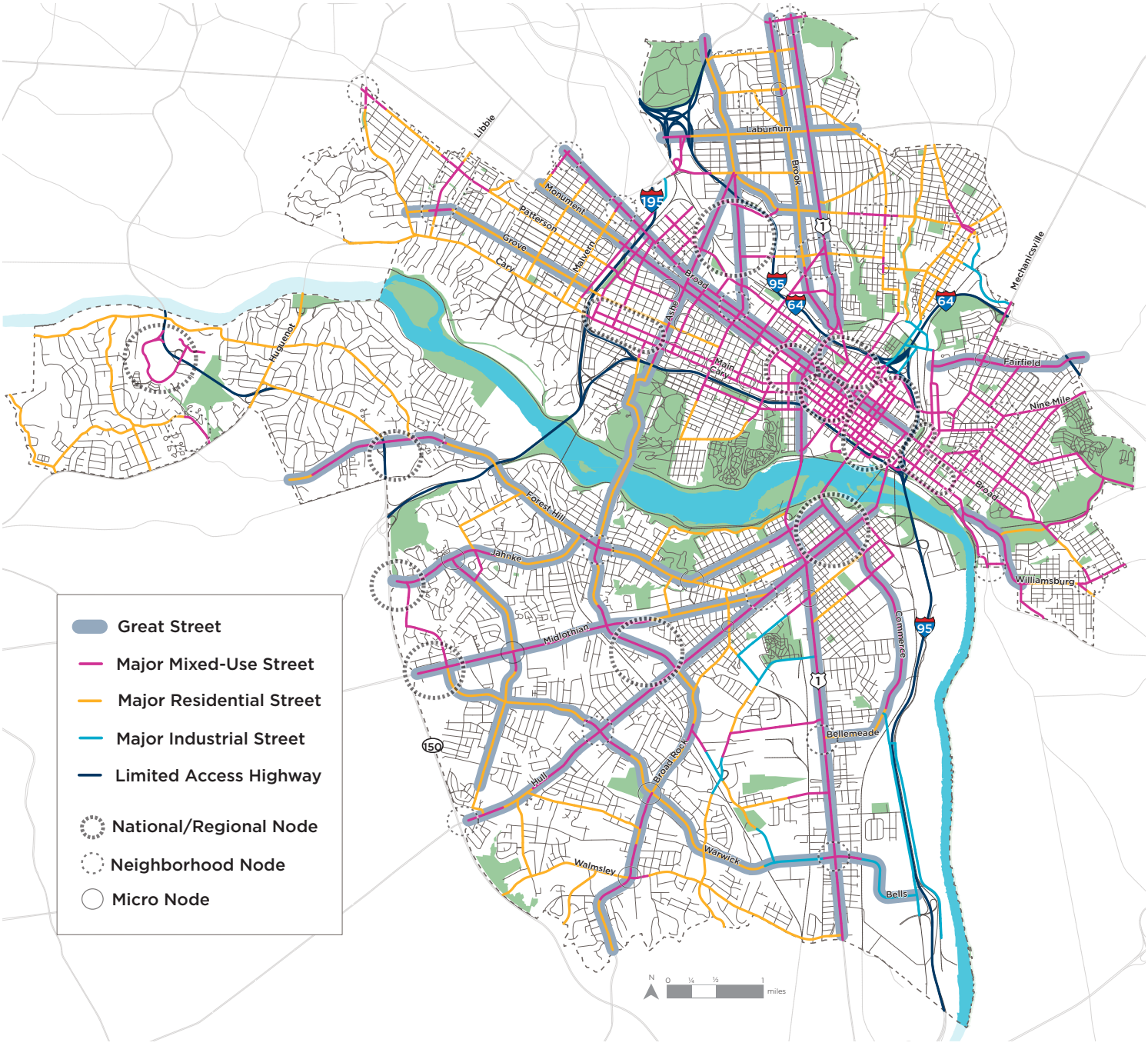


FIGURE 12 // **Great Streets and Street Typologies Map**

Greenways

Richmond 300 identifies a network of greenways A greenway is a universally accessible paved path that is a minimum of 8-feet wide and intended for non-vehicle users. Examples of greenways in Richmond are the Canon Creek Greenway and the Virginia Capital Trail. Greenways are sometimes also referred to as shared use-paths. Non-vehicle users are pedestrians, joggers, cyclists, rollerbladers, skateboarders, wheelchair users, people pushing strollers, and other users that are not using a vehicle for transportation.

Multi-use trails are not shown on this map. Multi-trails are very important recreation routes in the city and should be expanded and maintained, but *Richmond 300* does not include multi-use trails on these future connections maps. A multi-use trail is a single track or natural surface trail that is open to one or more user groups. In Richmond multi-use trail users groups are hikers and bikers, but elsewhere user groups might include horses, ATV's etc.

The objectives and strategies related to greenways are found in multiple sections of *Richmond 300*, but mainly in Goal 8 and Goal 17.

On-Street Bicycle Facilities

Figure 13 also depicts existing and proposed On-Street Bicycle Facilities, which were adapted from the Bike Master Plan and the Pulse Corridor Plan. The intent of the On-Street Bicycle Facilities is to provide infrastructure for bicycles and other non-vehicle users. *Richmond 300* does not specify the exact type of On-Street Bicycle Facility (i.e., buffered bike lane, protected bike-lane, cycle track, bike/walk boulevard, etc.) but rather by showing these lines on the Future Connections Map, this Plan is stating that some type of bike infrastructure should be included on this road. This Plan does not consider a sharrow as an adequate form of on-street bicycle infrastructure. The objectives and strategies related to on-street bicycle facilities are in Goal 8.

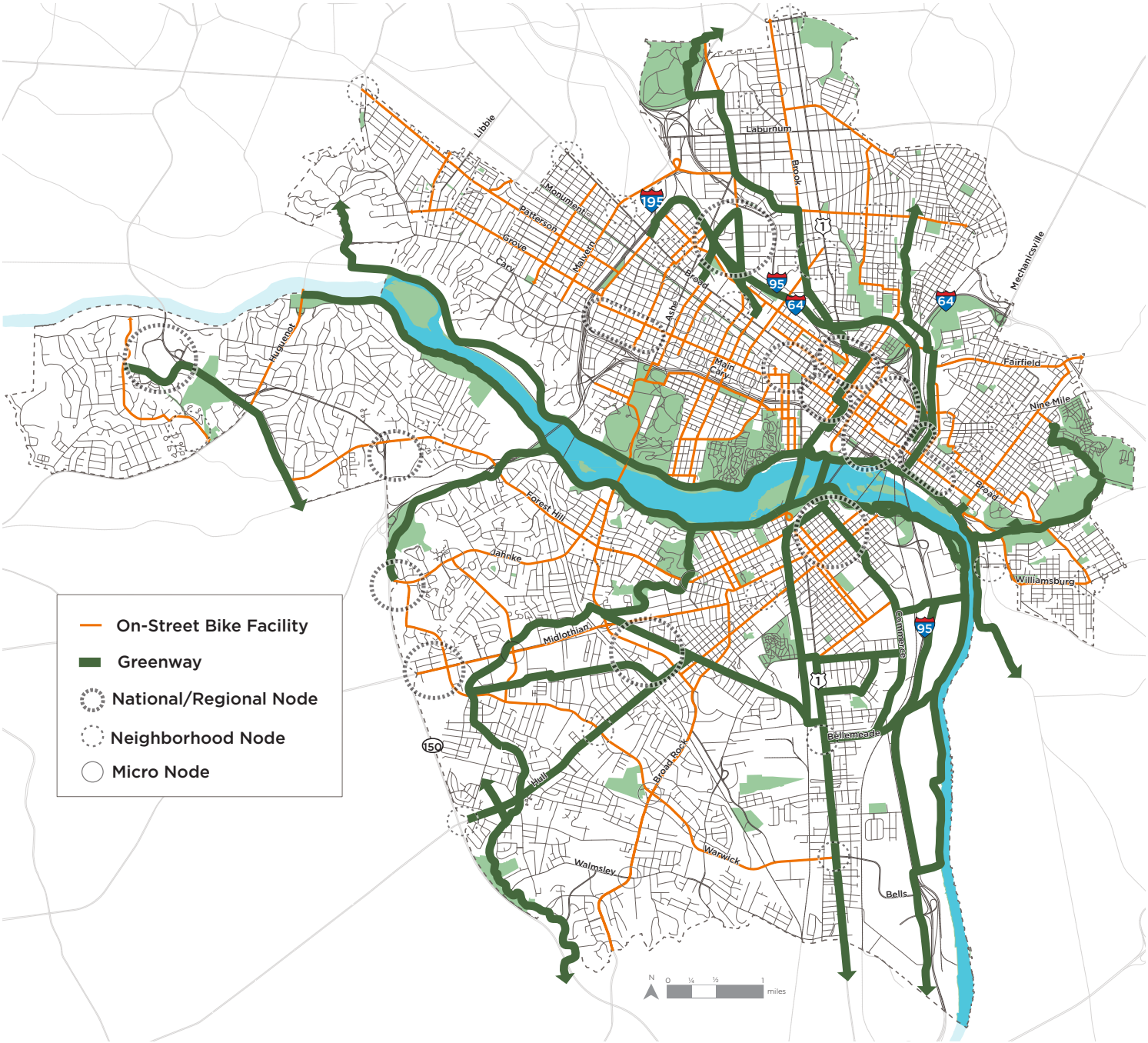


FIGURE 13 // **Greenways & On-Street Bike Facilities Map**

Enhanced Transit Routes

The Enhanced Transit Routes shown in Figure 14 are transit corridors envisioned to have high-frequency service (ideally every 10 minutes, but likely 15 minutes) and longer service hours (ideally 24/7, but likely less). The Future Land Use Map shows a mix of residential, employment, and commercial uses along these Enhanced Transit Routes to accommodate a higher number of future riders (residents, visitors, and employees) within close proximity of the Enhanced Transit Route. These objectives and strategies related to Enhanced Transit are in Goal 8.

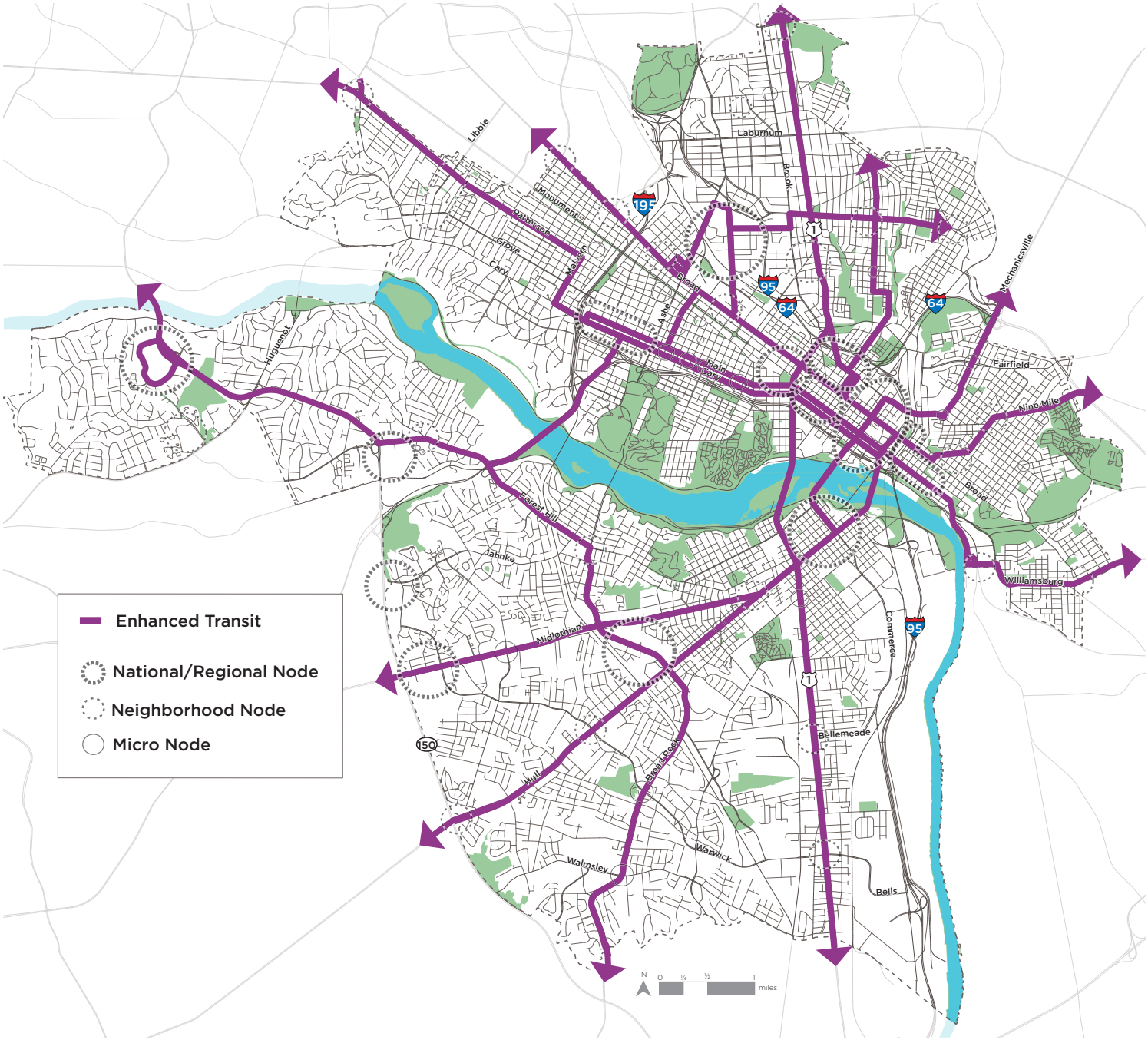


FIGURE 14 // **Enhanced Transit Map**

Street Connections, Interchanges, and Bridges

Urban planners and transportation planners have long argued in favor of creating gridded street networks. Gridded street networks allow all users to easily traverse an area without getting lost in dead ends and being funneled to congested main roads. Gridded street networks also increase the connectivity of an area and make it easier to reach key destinations. Figure 15 shows areas of the City where there are large-scale opportunities to introduce a gridded street network, such as the Ashe/Hermitage site.

Figure 15 also identifies several locations for highway interchange improvements, bridge rehabilitation or replacement, and new bridge connections, which are briefly described below and in Goal 9.

1. Improvements at the interchange of Saunders Avenue with Westwood Avenue.
2. Improvements at the interchange of I-95/64 with Arthur Ashe Boulevard.
3. A new bridge over the CSX railroad that connects Norfolk Street from Scott's Addition to Hamilton Street to the west increases connectivity between these neighborhoods.
4. A new pedestrian/bike bridge over the CSX railroad that connects Scott's Addition to the north increases connectivity and provides direct access to Greater Scott's Addition, an area of great redevelopment potential.
5. A new landmark bridge between W. Leigh Street and the Diamond site increases connectivity and provides direct access to Greater Scott's Addition, an area of great redevelopment potential.
6. Improvements at the interchange of I-95/64 with Chamberlayne Avenue.
7. Capping the existing I-95/64 interstate between Jackson Ward and Gilpin Court with future development and/or open space reconnects previously severed neighborhoods to each other, providing not only enhanced connectivity but a sense of place and continuum of urban design that a bridge alone would not provide.
8. Capping the existing Downtown Expressway between lower Monroe Ward and Gambles Hill with future development and/or open space reconnects previously severed neighborhoods to each other, providing not only enhanced connectivity but a sense of place and continuum of urban design that a bridge alone would not provide.
9. Improvements at this interchange of I-95 with Broad Street.
10. Rehabilitation of the Nickel Bridge to expand accommodations for pedestrians and bicycles, and add transit.
11. Rewatering of the historic Kanawha Canal serves as a recreational amenity and tourism attraction that would provide small, non-motorized boats access between Byrd Park and the James River, as well as enhance the sense of place along a proposed future greenway.
12. Rehabilitation ore placement of the Mayo Bridge.
13. Reopening of the historic canal locks serves as a recreational amenity and tourism attraction that would provide boats access between the James River and the Haxall Canal.
14. A new street connection resulting from the extension of Carnation Street under Chippenham Parkway increases access and connectivity between neighborhoods in Richmond and Chesterfield County.
15. A new street connection between Richmond and Chesterfield County under Chippenham Parkway would connect the recent development at Stonebridge in Chesterfield County with potential future development of the large tract of land south of Midlothian Turnpike.

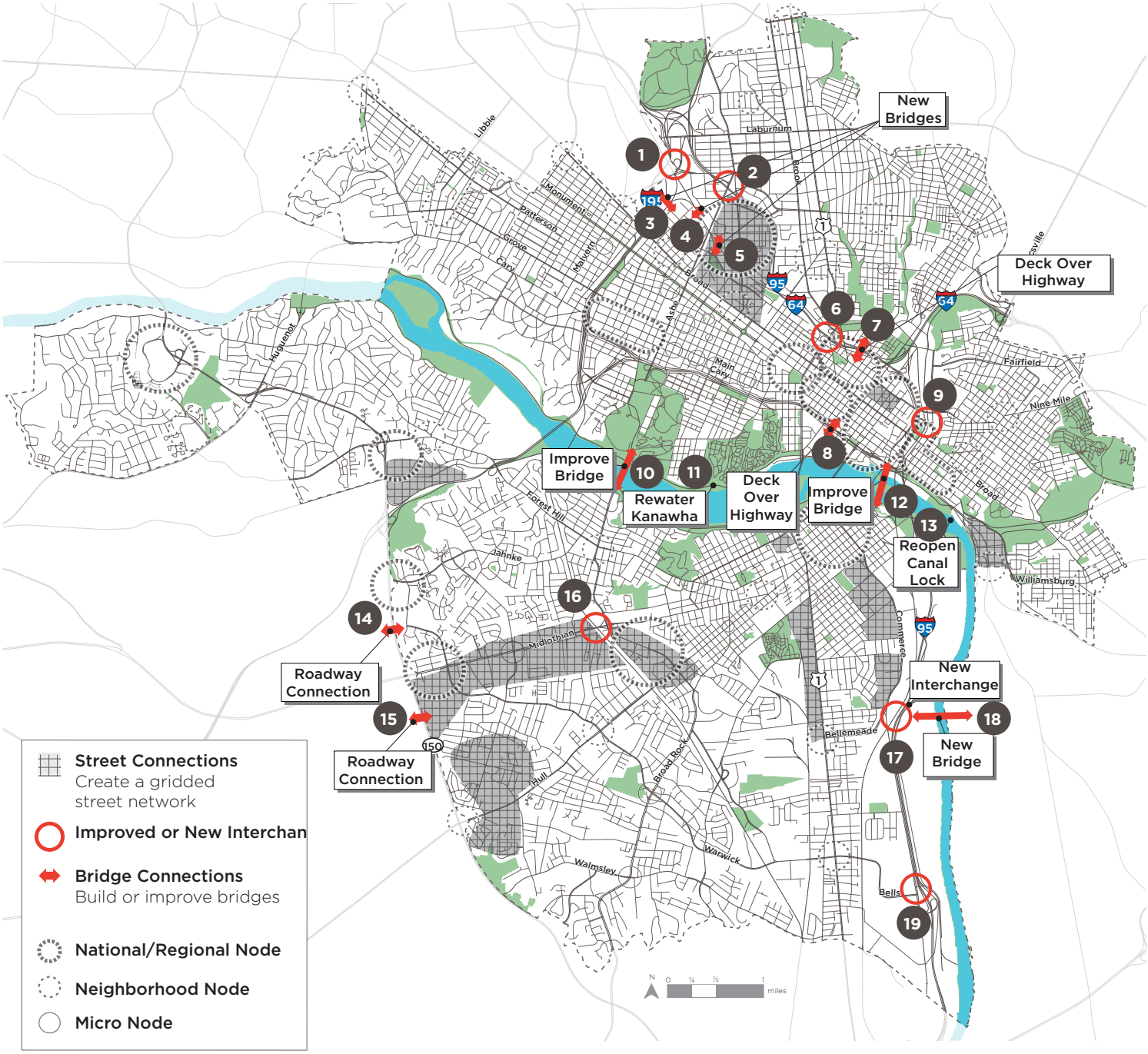


FIGURE 15 // **Connections, Interchanges, and Bridges Map**

16 A reconfigured interchange of Midlothian Turnpike and Belt Boulevard would increase pedestrian and bicycle safety. Changing this interchange to an at-grade intersection would soften the overall impact of roadway infrastructure on the area, enhancing the overall urban design as potential future redevelopment takes place around the interchange and south to Southside Plaza.

17 A new interchange of I-95/64 with Bellemeade Rd would provide direct access to industrial areas along the River and alleviate the need for trucks to travel longer distances through residential neighborhoods.

18 A new, multi-modal bridge across the James River connecting Richmond and Henrico County, providing enhanced regional connections and access to I-95 that would divert traffic away from local roadways, including E. Main Street through Shockoe Bottom which is stressed by continued development in eastern Henrico County.

19 Improvements at the interchange of I-95 with Bells Road allows for better access and connectivity by providing more movement directions than the current interchange allows, supporting operations at the Richmond Marine Terminal.

CHAPTER 2

High-Quality Places

Vision: Richmond is a well-designed city of communities interconnected by a network of Nodes, public facilities, and open spaces providing services to residents, businesses, and visitors.

As the Capital of the Commonwealth, Richmond leads the region in high-quality business and residential growth. Richmond's unique neighborhoods and districts, both historical and new, support a diversity of uses, the equitable accommodation of all phases of life, and the efficient use of land to promote sustainable and healthy lifestyles.

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Goal 1: Complete Neighborhoods

Establish a city of complete neighborhoods that have access to Nodes connected by major corridors in a gridded street network.

Existing Context

Many of Richmond's neighborhoods are growing in population. Richmond is largely a city of single-family neighborhoods with 33% of its real estate devoted to single-family houses, as shown in Figure 16. Neighborhoods are served and connected to each other by commercial corridors and mixed-use centers.

Richmond has created entirely new residential areas in the past 20 years.
The population has significantly increased in areas of the city that previously had nearly no residents. These parts of the city in particular, which are not traditional single-family neighborhoods, account for the largest share of Richmond's growth over the last 20 years, with the emergence of 18-hour neighborhoods in Downtown, Shockoe Bottom, Manchester, and Scott's Addition.

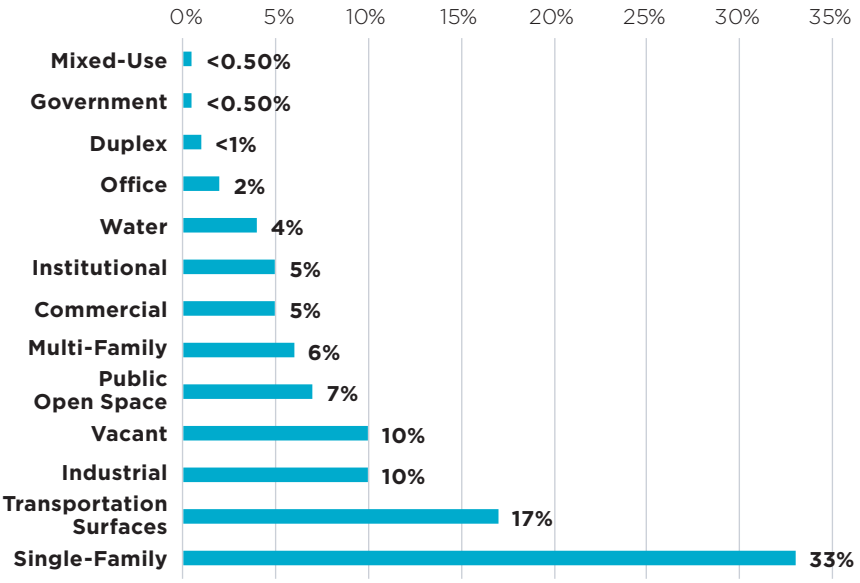


FIGURE 16 // **Existing Land Use Land Area**
Source: City of Richmond's Assessor's Office

From 1950 to 2000, a great deal of Richmond's single-family neighborhoods experienced a decrease in population that resulted in the demolition of many homes and the abandonment of structures.

However, since 2000, many of the previously abandoned homes and vacant lots have been redeveloped. The population has increased in Richmond's urban neighborhoods, such as the Fan, the Museum District, and Church Hill as people across the country are seeking walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods with many amenities nearby. The population has also steadily increased in Richmond streetcar suburbs, which feature slightly larger homes on larger lots, such as Bellevue, Barton Heights, Ginter Park, Woodland Heights, Spring Hill, and others. Even with this increase in population, several neighborhoods still have many abandoned structures and vacant lots, such as Barton Heights, Washington Park, Swansboro, and more (please see Figure 17).

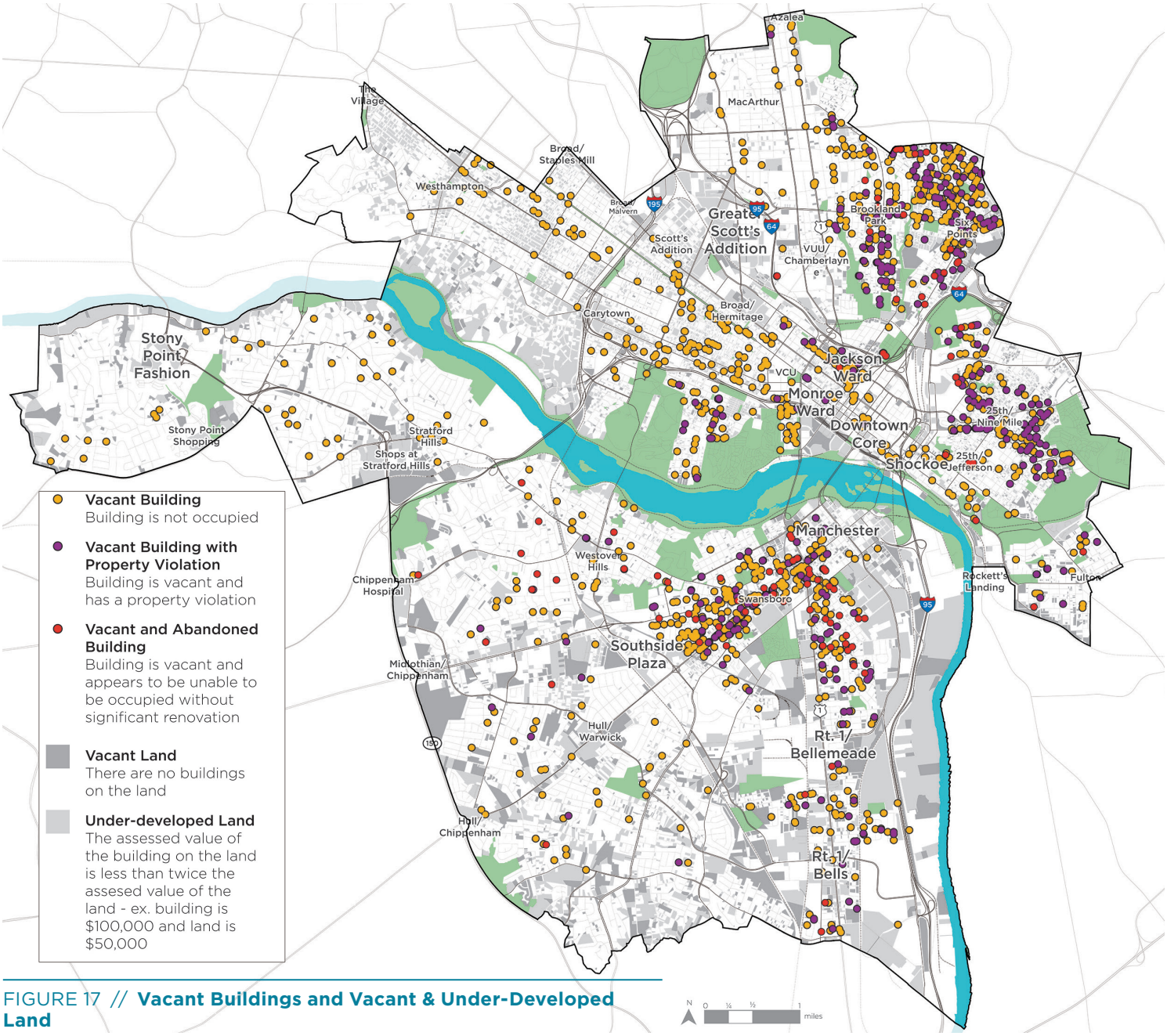


FIGURE 17 // **Vacant Buildings and Vacant & Under-Developed Land**

Source: City of Richmond, Planning and Development Review, Assessor's Office (2019)

Richmond is less dense than it was in 1950. Richmond has a total residential density of about 3,500 people per square mile (sq. mi.). Richmond's population density in 2019 was less than it was in 1950 (5,800 people/sq. mi.)—even when the area annexed in 1970 is removed. Richmond is slightly less dense than cities of comparable population and comparable land area (please see Table 2).

Richmond's Zoning Ordinance is evolving to allow more mixed-use, form-based development. The current Zoning Ordinance was adopted in the mid-1970s and was a single-use, or Euclidean zoning document, meaning that it sought to separate uses, allowing only residential in some areas, and allowing only commercial and office in others. Single-use zoning across the nation has been shown to lead to sprawling auto-dependent communities. Due to changes in housing preference and a concern for reducing the negative effects of climate change, individuals are increasingly drawn to mixed-use, transit-supporting, walkable neighborhoods. The Zoning Ordinance has been amended in recent years to allow for more mixed-use districts that allow a combination of uses, with fewer requirements for parking and more focus on building form (size and shape). This was evident in the adoption of the Pulse Corridor Plan (2017) and subsequent rezonings of Scott's Addition and Monroe Ward to support the Pulse Corridor Plan.

TABLE 2 // **2016 Density Comparison**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: 2016 ACS 1-Year Estimates

City	Population	Size (mi^2)	Density (ppl/ mi^2)	Population change ('10-'16)
Washington, D.C.	681,170	61.0	11,167	13.20%
Minneapolis	413,645	54.0	7,660	7.51%
Pittsburgh	303,624	55.4	5,481	-0.68%
Norfolk	245,115	54.1	4,531	0.95%
Richmond	**223,170**	**62.5**	**3,571**	**9.28%**

Note: These cities were chosen as comparative cities because they are a similar geographic size as Richmond and they do not have the ability to annex land.

5,800

people per square mile in 1950

4,032

people per square mile in 2018 (in the same land area)

Objective 1.1

Rezone the city in accordance with the Future Land Use Plan, as shown in Figure 18 and described in Chapter 1.

a. Re-write the Zoning Ordinance to achieve the goals set forth in *Richmond 300.*

b. Prioritize rezoning parcels in Priority Growth Nodes (see Figure 19 for locations of the priority growth Nodes).

c. Evaluate zoning districts in historical areas that were developed prior to the advent of zoning regulations to ensure new construction similar in form to the historical context is allowed (see Goal 3).

d. Reduce the Special Use Permit (SUP) cost for small commercial uses to allow small businesses to open in small spaces (see Goal 11).

e. 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. Descriptions of the Priority Growth Nodes are found starting on page 26 and descriptions of the other National/Regional Nodes and Neighborhood Nodes are on page C-1 (see Goal 4 and Goal 8).

f. Rezone to allow more housing types throughout the city (see Goal 14).

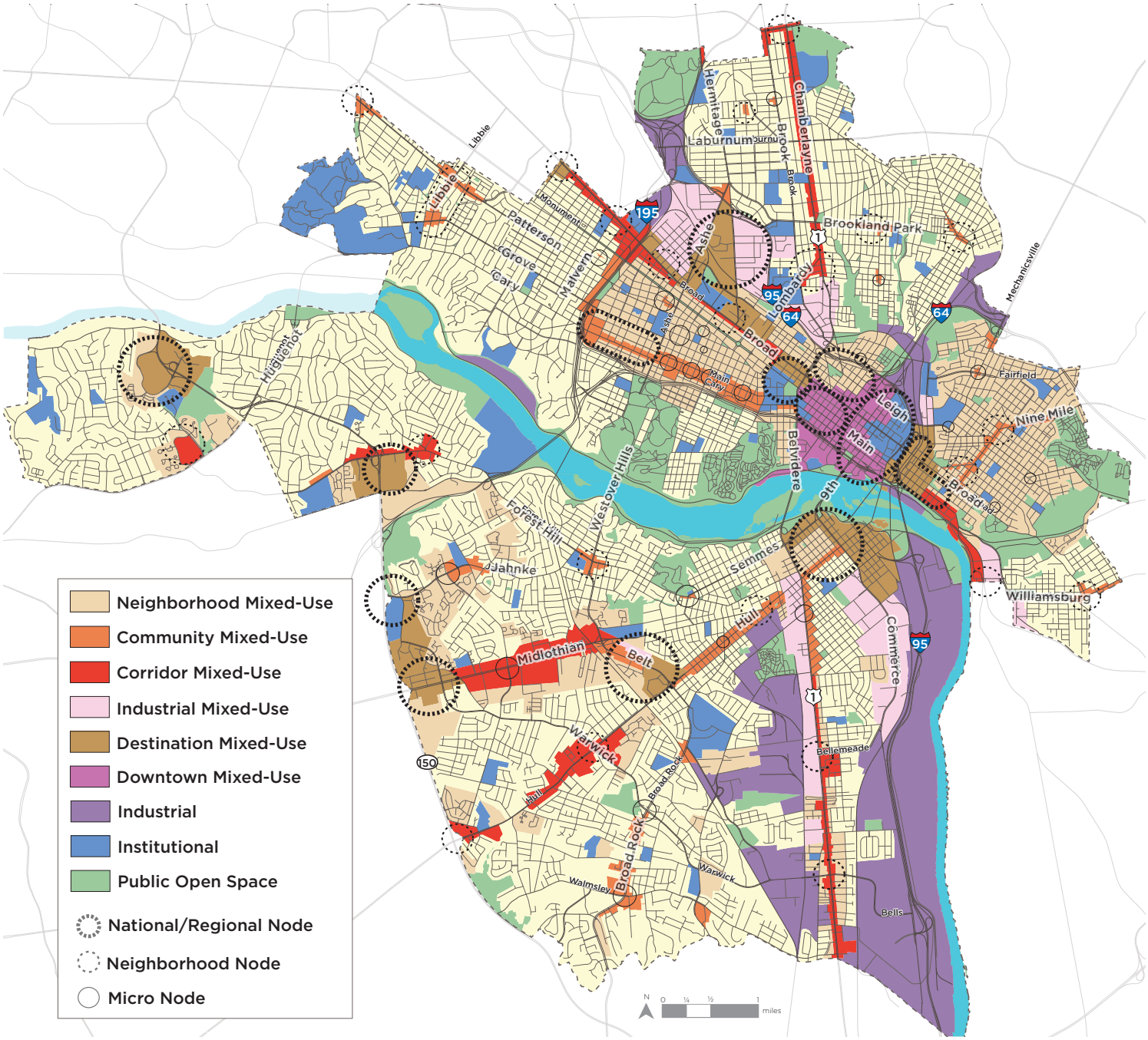


FIGURE 18 // **Future Land Use Map**
See Chapter 1 for descriptions of the Future Land Use categories.

Objective 1.2

Develop and adopt small area plans for areas that require more examination.

a. Develop a Coliseum Framework Plan.

b. Develop small area plans for the Priority Growth Nodes at Shockoe, the Southside Plaza Area and Stony Point to evaluate and suggest specific opportunities for placemaking, connectivity, mixed-income housing, economic development, and open space.

c. Develop a detailed corridor plans for Commerce Road and for Route 1 with specific recommendations on how to transform the road into a Great Street with amenities such as buildings addressing the street, a greenway (the Ashland to Petersburg Trail), street trees, lighting, and other amenities and encourage redevelopment and business growth.

Objective 1.3

Support the growth of jobs and housing in Nodes by using placemaking, clustering community-serving facilities at Nodes, and prioritizing infrastructure projects that encourage multi-modal accessibility to and from Nodes, as shown in Figure 19.

a. Coordinate public and private investments to create innovative mixed-used developments.

b. Co-locate, consolidate, and modernize community-serving public facilities, and locate them in or near Nodes (see Goal 2).

c. Utilize public art and the public realm to create unique features within Nodes (see Goal 4).

d. Increase the number of transportation options viable at each Node by utilizing a Complete Streets approach to allocating space in the right-of-way (see Node descriptions for future connections improvements and Goals 6–10).

e. Develop marketing plans, including signage, graphics, and branding, to differentiate the Nodes from one another and retain, create, and attract/retain businesses (see Goals 11–13).

f. Implement housing strategies that increase housing at all income levels along corridors and at Nodes (see Goal 14).

g. Develop new parks at Nodes and connect them via greenways to one another (Goal 8 and Goal 17).

Objective 1.4

Maintain and improve primarily residential areas by increasing their linkages to Nodes, corridors, parks, and open space, and maintaining high-quality design standards.

a. Implement urban design and architecture strategies that maintain and enhance the unique character of Richmond's residential districts (see Goals 3–4).

b. Implement transportation strategies that increase access among residential areas, Nodes, and corridors (see Goals 6–10).

FUTURE OF SHOPPING CENTERS

In 2020, retail uses in varying forms including big box shopping centers, strip commercial centers, and malls compose approximately 600 acres of the city. As the retail landscape of the country changes with increased online shopping, the future of these commercial centers must be explored. The goals and objectives of *Richmond 300* encourage the redevelopment of these centers in a more urban form with less emphasis on parking and more flexibility to incorporate multiple uses. As *Richmond 300* is implemented, the future of shopping centers and the tools to revitalize and support these centers must be explored.

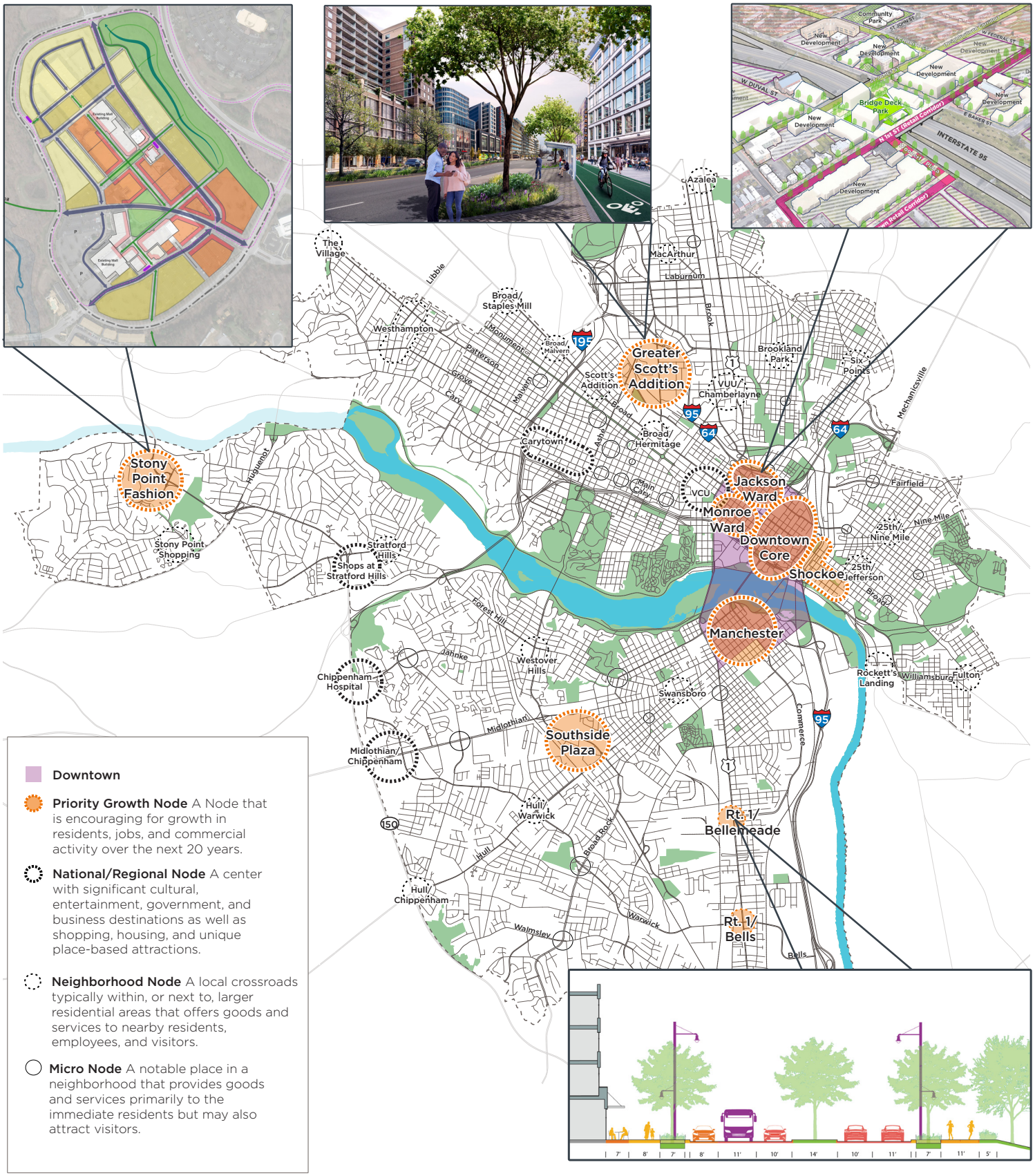


FIGURE 19 // **Nodes Map with Illustrations**

Nodes in Richmond are of two types: 1) places that can accommodate additional growth in jobs and population or 2) places where major activity exists today and should be preserved/enhanced. Descriptions of the Priority Growth Nodes are found starting on page 26 and descriptions of the other National/Regional Nodes and Neighborhood Nodes are on page C-1.

Goal 2: City-Owned Assets

Efficiently manage City-owned land and facilities.

Existing Context

The City of Richmond owns 4,400 acres of land.
The City of Richmond operates a wide range of facilities that serve the public good, providing services to residents both directly and indirectly. The City owns 4,400 acres of real estate, making it one of the largest landowners in the city, as shown in the hatched shade in Figure 20. The management of this land is under various City departments and includes:

- 100s of individual facilities, ranging from City Hall to facilities that support various City department functions;
- 21 community centers providing after-school programming, adult continuing education, athletic fields, swimming pools, and other enrichment activities;
- 25 fire stations and support facilities that support the City's Fire Department and provide fire-fighting services to the City's residents and businesses;
- 4 police precincts and support facilities, including five police stations, in order to facilitate public safety and deter crime;
- 8 branch libraries and one main library located throughout the city that provide access to printed and digital resources for all Richmonders; and
- 47 public schools, including 27 elementary schools, seven middle schools, eight high schools, and several specialty schools.

The Capital Improvement Budget must align with the Master Plan.
There is limited funding to maintain the City's existing facilities and to build new facilities; however, the City's Biennial Capital Improvement Budget outlines priorities for incrementally addressing facility needs. Per the City Charter, the Capital Improvement Budget must align with the Master Plan. Since 2001, when the last city-wide Master Plan was adopted, the City has completed many projects, including the renovation of all eight library branches, the construction of four new schools, the exterior re-cladding of City Hall, the construction of a new Justice Center, and countless other projects. Given that many of the City's facilities are over 50 years old, new facility needs will continue to arise. Furthermore, as the population shifts, the City must incrementally adjust services to serve the changing geography of its residents and businesses.

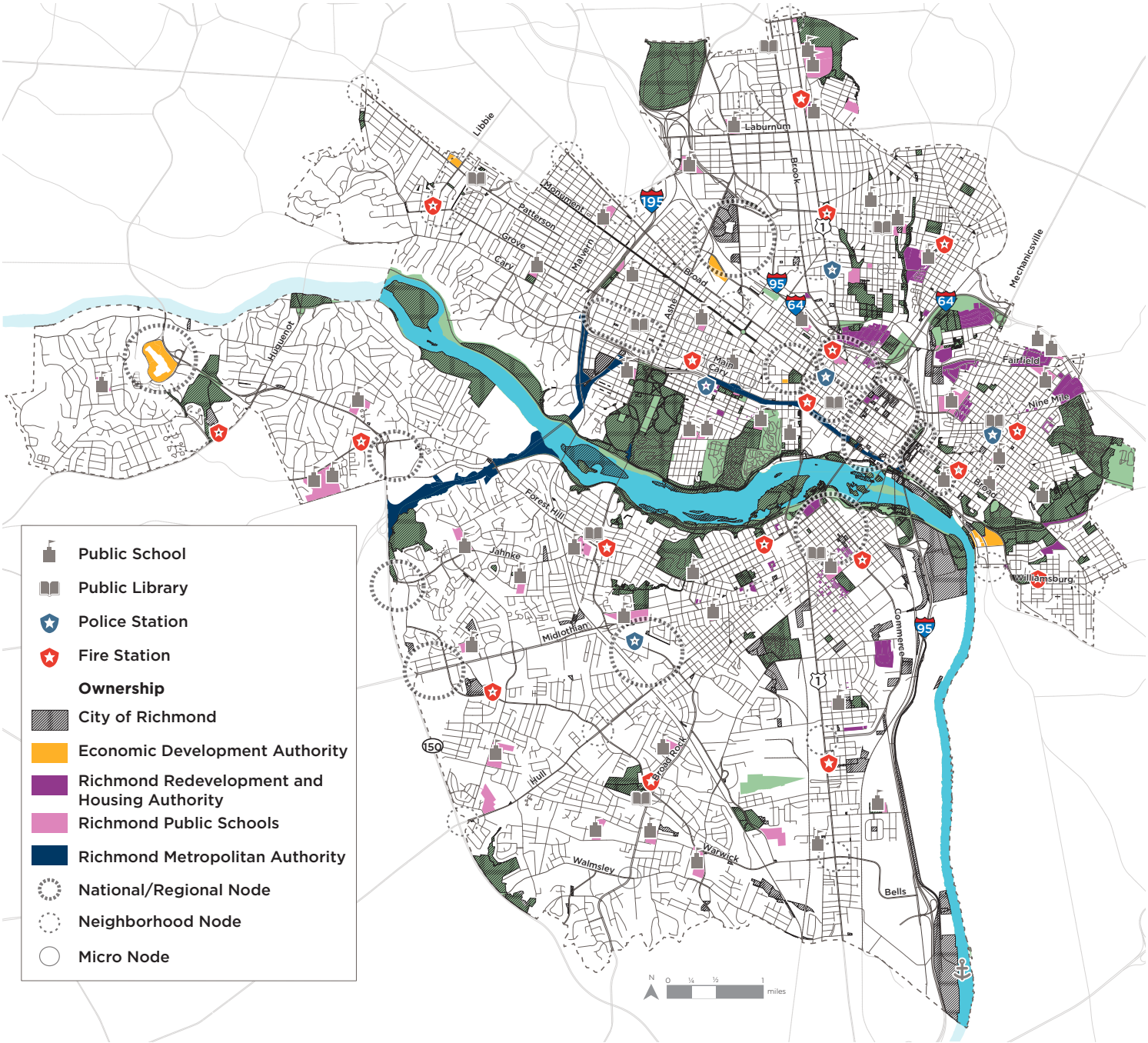


FIGURE 20 // **City Buildings, City-Owned Land, and Other Key Ownership**

Objective 2.1

Align new facilities and improve existing City-owned facilities with the Future Land Use Plan.

a. Develop and maintain a facility assessment inventory of all City-owned facilities to track the longevity and maintenance of major systems (building envelope, plumbing, security, HVAC, roof, etc.) and plan for repair and replacement.

b. Analyze police precincts and fire stations within the context of the Future Land Use Plan and determine whether there are needs for creating, relocating, and/or closing police and fire stations to align with population projections and meet minimum response times.

c. Develop a schools facility master plan based within the context of the Future Land Use Plan to determine whether there are needs for creating, relocating, and/or closing schools to align with population projections.

d. Finish implementing the Libraries Master Plan by renovating the Main Library, and then explore creating a new Libraries Master Plan to plan facilities improvements for the next generation of library users and incorporating other community-serving services.

e. Develop a parks and community facilities master plan based within the context of the Future Land Use Plan that seeks to ensure all Richmonders live within a 10-minute walk of a park (see Goal 17).

f. Implement programs to improve the energy efficiency of City-owned buildings (see strategies in Thriving Environment).

Objective 2.2:

Create a real estate acquisition and disposition strategy, prioritizing increasing jobs, housing, access to parks, and other basic needs of low-income and traditionally marginalized communities.

a. Create and implement a real estate disposition strategy that aligns disposition with helping to reach *Richmond 300* goals, and includes redeveloping surplus public facilities, including, but not limited to, school facilities, the Diamond site, and the Coliseum.

b. Create, implement, and fund a real estate acquisition strategy that includes key reasons for acquiring land, such as, assembling parcels for economic development, open space, and public facilities.

Objective 2.3:

Plan for expansion and improvement of utilities to support housing and employment centers.

a. During the creation of Small Area Plans and other planning efforts, include staff from the Department of Public Utilities to ensure utility infrastructure plans align with anticipated growth in housing and/or employment areas (Goal 1).

b. Implement energy retrofits and other energy initiatives in the Clean Air Goal of *Richmond 300* to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption (Goal 15).

c. Implement green infrastructure measures and other measures outlined in RVA H20 Plan and in the Clean Water Goal of *Richmond 300* to improve water quality and reduce stormwater runoff (Goal 16).

d. Improve communications infrastructure by expanding broadband internet access, focusing on low-income areas (Goal 11).

Goal 3: Historic Preservation

Support growth that preserves the historical urban fabric and enhances understanding of Richmond's multi-faceted past.

Existing Context

One-third of Richmond's real estate is located within a historic district.

Historic preservation not only saves historic buildings, but also helps protect authentic and unique neighborhoods, which are highly valued by Richmond residents and also serve as great tourist attractions and economic development assets. Approximately 25,000 properties in the city are located in either a City Old & Historic District or a National Register Historic District, representing one-third of all city real estate, as shown in Figure 21.

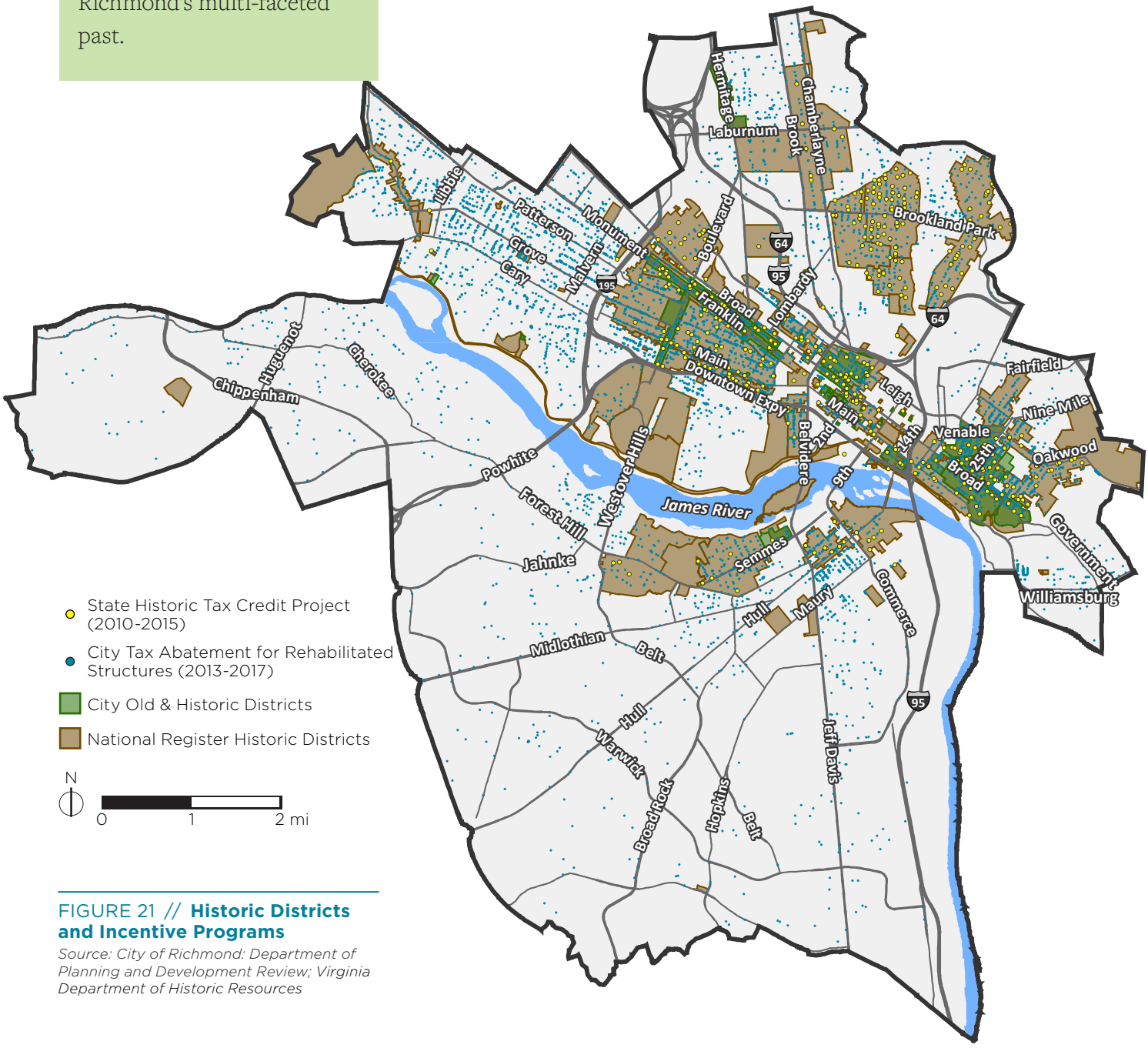


FIGURE 21 // **Historic Districts and Incentive Programs**

Source: City of Richmond: Department of Planning and Development Review; Virginia Department of Historic Resources

City Old & Historic Districts preserve the physical appearance of structures.
City Old & Historic Districts preserve historic neighborhoods by requiring exterior modifications, new construction, and additions to be reviewed by the Commission of Architectural Review (CAR). These local historic districts, first established in 1957, are among the earliest local districts in the country. In total, 45 such districts exist in the city, with approximately 4,500 properties, representing about 6% of all city parcels. Staff from PDR facilitate the review and approval of thousands of changes to properties in these districts over the years.

National Register Historic Districts provide property owners the opportunity to access tax credits to rehabilitate their property.
National Register Historic Districts are not directly managed by the City and do not place any requirements on property owners whose land is located within them. These districts are designated by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and managed by the U.S. National Park Service (NPS). Properties located in these districts are eligible for state and federal tax credits, which encourage the rehabilitation of historic structures. The use of historic tax credits has accelerated significant redevelopment and rehabilitation throughout Richmond's historic neighborhoods. There are 135 such districts throughout the city. National Register Historic Districts are purely honorific and do not offer any protections to properties located within their boundaries, except when state or federal funds are involved, leaving much of Richmond's historical fabric vulnerable to development pressures.

Historic landscapes, especially historic cemeteries are often overlooked in the preservation process.
The city has at least 15 historic cemeteries, containing nearly 700 acres. Some are privately owned, like Hollywood, while others, like Oakwood, are owned and operated by the City of Richmond. Richmond's historic Black cemeteries have not fared well, suffering from neglect and abandonment to nearly complete destruction. There are a number of small cemeteries, especially in south Richmond, that have long been abandoned that are uncovered during development and are not properly documented or dealt with. Cemeteries provide access to greenspace, nature, history, and genealogy. Although Richmond values its history and historic neighborhoods, it has never had a comprehensive process for

Top: Cary Street in Shockoe Slip
Bottom: Homes in the Fan

identifying, evaluating, and protecting historic buildings, neighborhoods, and landscapes, especially historically Black communities and cemeteries.

87% of the city's buildings were built prior to 1987. In 2037, buildings that were built prior to 1987 will be at least 50 years old, which is the current NPS eligibility threshold for establishing historic districts, as shown in Figure 22. Given that in 2020, 80 percent of the city's buildings are over 50 years old, in 2037 the city will have even more old buildings. Not all the old buildings are well-built or of historical value, however, as the city changes over the next 20 years, planners, developers, and the general public will want to ensure that Richmond's residents have high-quality structures in which to live, work, and play.

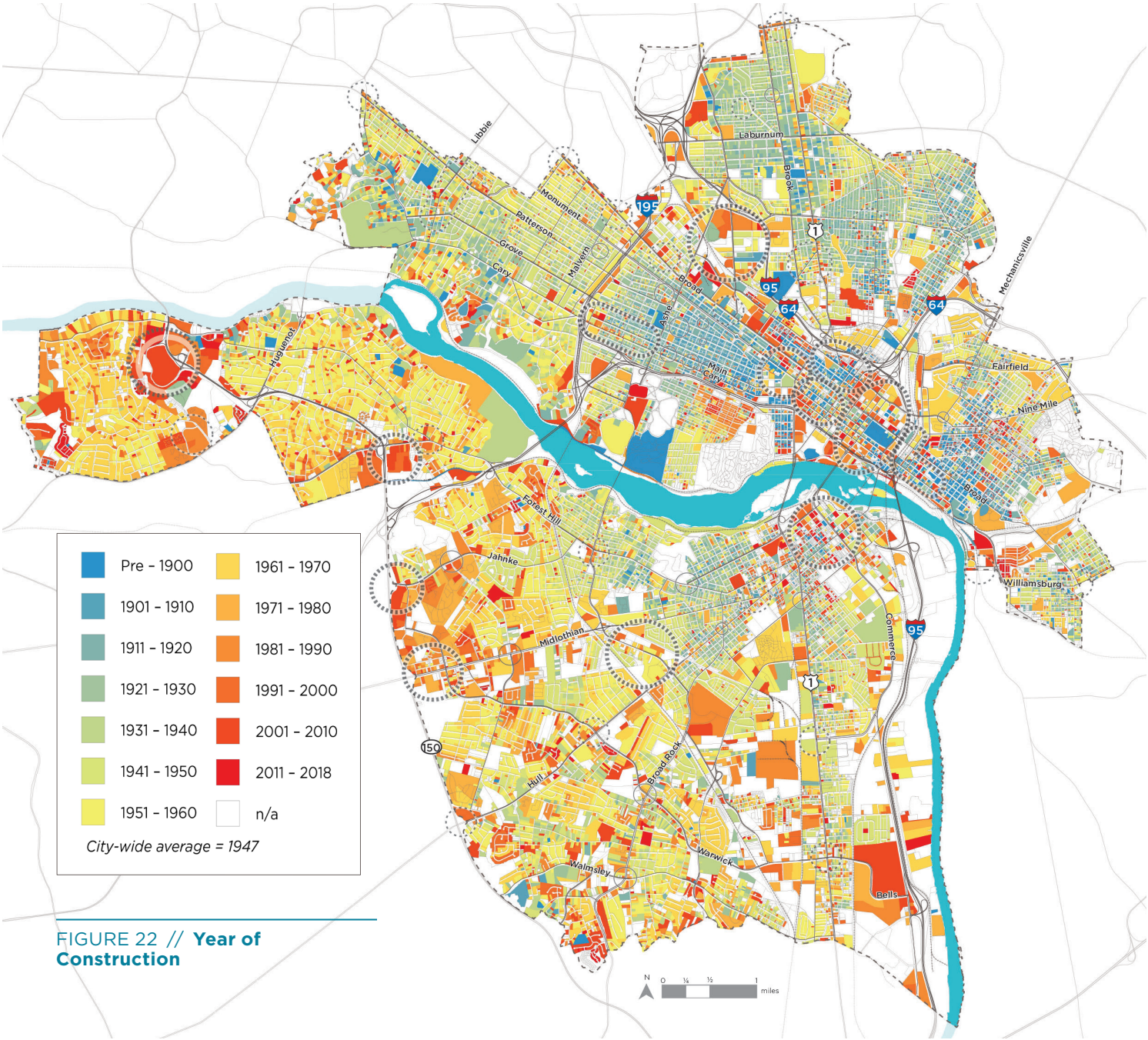


FIGURE 22 // **Year of Construction**

Objective 3.1

Preserve culturally, historically, and architecturally significant buildings, sites, structures, neighborhoods, cemeteries, and landscapes that contribute to Richmond's authenticity.

a. Develop and regularly update a city-wide preservation plan to establish near- and long-term preservation priorities and to identify proactive and innovative strategies to protect the character, quality, and history of the city.

b. Identify partnerships and funding sources for the identification, protection, preservation, and if needed acquisition of abandoned and neglected cemeteries, especially Black cemeteries

c. Complete and maintain a historic resources inventory that is current, comprehensive, and cost-effective.

d. Identify areas of the city where we should restore and maintain historic paving, while also balancing the access needs of all users.

e. Review and revise the CAR's Guidelines to improve the clarity and usability and regularly update the Guidelines to respond to new technologies and market demand.

f. Develop stronger code enforcement tools for violations in City Old & Historic Districts.

g. Utilize the city historic resources inventory, and identify additional districts for varying levels of protections.

h. Establish controls to ensure that archaeological sites and subsurface materials are properly identified, evaluated, and mitigated. This should include proactive measures to prevent disturbance and potential destruction.

i. Utilize historic preservation best practices for City-owned resources to prioritize preservation and reuse activity more heavily than new construction or demolition of historically and culturally significant resources.

j. Evaluate the City's tax abatement program to incentivize preservation best practices, energy efficiency, and projects providing affordable housing.

Renovating historic buildings helps retain a place's authenticity and character while also sometimes honoring specific individuals or events that happened in the past. Adaptive reuse projects can be found throughout Richmond and have included turning a car dealership into an office/apartment building [top], a cookie factory into condominiums [middle], and a carriage house into a church and then into apartments [bottom].

k. Lobby the General Assembly to maintain historic rehabilitation tax credits and adopt other legislation that improves the quality and character of Richmond's neighborhoods.

l. Establish viewshed protections to protect/enhance views of critical natural features, such as the Libby Hill looking down river.

Objective 3.2

Reduce the demolition of historical buildings.

a. Create flexibility in the Zoning Ordinance to encourage the adaptive reuse of historical buildings and deter demolition, such as allowing for compatible densities and uses in historical areas (e.g., reduce parking requirements for historical institutional buildings that are changing uses).

b. Increase property maintenance code enforcement as a proactive tool to prevent demolition by neglect.

c. Re-evaluate, fund, and utilize the City's Spot Blight property acquisition process, and prioritize disposition to non-profit housing developers and/or the Land Bank.

d. Re-evaluate and utilize the City's demolition by neglect ordinance to preserve "at risk" resources.

e. Increase funding for the Spot Blight acquisition program and explore additional programs to reduce blight.

f. Develop a city-wide demolition review policy to ensure historic resources are considered before any demolition can proceed.

Objective 3.3

Broaden the constituency for historic preservation by more equally representing, preserving, and sharing the sites related to traditionally under-represented groups (e.g., Native Americans, Blacks).

a. Increase education and outreach efforts regarding the preservation of neighborhood character and available incentive programs for historic preservation, adaptive reuse, and place-based economic development.

b. Ensure that historic preservation values and interests are coordinated with economic development groups, affordable housing developers, and advocates and ethnic and cultural groups.

c. Strengthen programs and partnerships that engage the public in exploring community history and places of significance.

d. Work with the Richmond Public Library to develop oral history projects.

e. Pursue public and private partnerships to fund the preservation of significant sites.

ADAPTIVE REUSE OF INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS

In 2020, over 150 religious institutions were located in Richmond. These institutions own over 470 acres of land, which include religious buildings, parking lots, and vacant land. Several institutions are major property owners within communities throughout the city. As congregations decrease in size, religious institutions have sought to sell their buildings and properties. This has resulted in the adaptive reuse of churches as residential buildings and new construction occurring on vacant lots and parking lots owned by religious institutions. As *Richmond 300* is implemented, religious institutions and the future owners of formerly-religious buildings should work closely with PDR staff as they plan for the adaptive reuse of these unique buildings, which are often signature buildings in the community and can be challenging to retrofit for new uses.

Goal 4: Urban Design

Establish a distinctive city comprising architecturally significant buildings connected by a network of walkable urban streets and open spaces to support an engaging built environment.

Existing Context

Quality urban design is what makes a place feel like true neighborhood, not just a collection of buildings.
Urban design refers to how the built environment looks and feels, how buildings relate to one another, and how the "public realm" (streets, sidewalks, parks, etc.) enables such uses to function. Richmond has a wide variety of urban design, ranging from historic single-family neighborhoods to new Downtown high-rises.

Half of Richmonders live in streetcar suburbs or post-war suburbs. Historic urban neighborhoods and post-industrial neighborhoods have grown the most since 2000.
In preparation for *Richmond 300*, the Center for Urban and Regional Analysis at VCU completed an examination of the city's "urban design typologies," which classifies city neighborhoods into eleven typologies, as shown in Figure 23. Two main trends emerge when looking at Richmond's population in regard to these typologies. First, nearly half of all Richmond residents live in either a streetcar neighborhood (older suburbs that were originally served by the Richmond streetcar system) or a post-war suburb (car-dependent neighborhoods built after World War II). The second main takeaway is that the typologies that have seen the most population growth since 2010 are downtown, post-industrial neighborhoods (e.g., Scott's Addition), and historic urban neighborhoods (e.g., the Fan, Church Hill, Union Hill).

Streetcar neighborhood

Post-war suburb

Apartment court

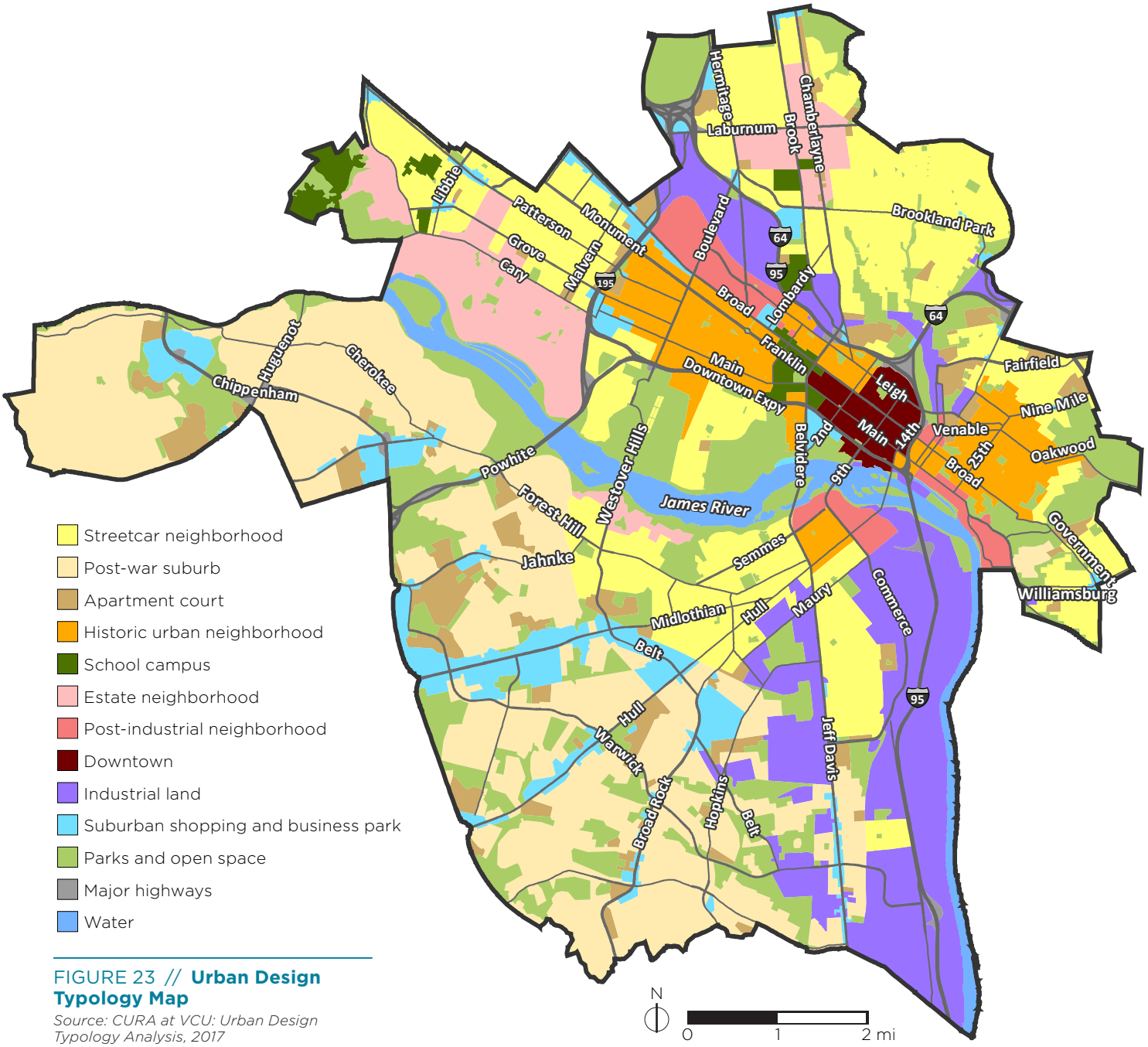


FIGURE 23 // **Urban Design Typology Map**

Source: CURA at VCU: Urban Design Typology Analysis, 2017

Historic urban neighborhood

Estate neighborhood

Post-industrial neighborhood

Homebuyers are increasingly drawn to walkable urban neighborhoods.
Across the country, individuals are seeking neighborhoods that embody walkable urbanism, whether they are historic neighborhoods that are reemerging, such as the Fan and Church Hill, or new urbanist neighborhoods, such as Libbie Mill in Henrico. Walkable urbanism describes places that are overall less-reliant on the automobile and feature non-residential destinations within a short walk, bike ride, or transit trip. While auto-oriented residential neighborhoods continue to flourish in and around the city, newer neighborhoods that are closer to the city's core have been built with greater focus on the pedestrian experience. The City has sought to encourage this trend by eliminating parking minimums, removing parking lots as a principal use in several zoning districts, and requiring sidewalks and other amenities, such as street trees, with new developments.

"Good urban design doesn't solve everything but bad urban design doesn't solve anything."

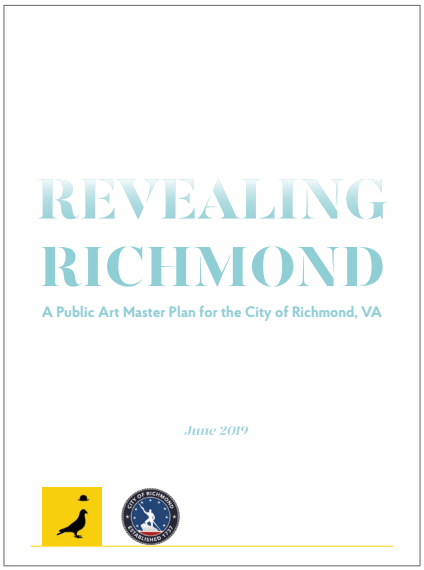
—Mark A. Olinger, Director, Department of Planning and Development Review, City of Richmond

Homes in Northside [top] and Oregon Hill [bottom].

75% of Richmonders live within a 10-minute walk of a public park.
Public parks serve a vital role to the health and well-being of Richmond's residents and its environment. As more residents live closer to the city's center in either multi-family apartment buildings or in houses with very small yards, greater importance has been given to the City's public parks system. The City's nearly 3,000 acres of parkland include pocket parks nestled in the Fan and regional attractions such as the James River Park System and Byrd Park.

From 2010 to 2020, the City improved several parks and plazas and constructed new ones, such as the Maggie L. Walker Plaza, Kanawha Plaza, Monroe Park, and the improvements to the Riverfront, including the T. Tyler Potterfield Memorial Bridge. Having a park within walking distance of every resident of the city is a Big Move of *Richmond 300*. Currently, about three-quarters of Richmonders live within a 10-minute walk of a public park. Large areas of the city are not within a 10-minute walk of a park, especially in the areas of South Richmond that were annexed from Chesterfield County in 1942 and 1970.

Public art is critical to showcase a place's uniqueness, culture, and history.
Richmond has a Percent for Art Ordinance that requires large capital improvement projects to allocate 1% of the budget to a public art fund that is administered by the Public Art Commission. The Public Art Commission completed a Public Art Master Plan in 2018, which guides the City's investments in public art. Recent public art projects include the Maggie L. Walker statue, the rings at the foot of the T. Tyler Potterfield Memorial Bridge, and the medallion at the Hull Street Courthouse. Future public art projects and improved streetscapes in all parts of the city set the tone for high-quality development and create pride for residents as they look forward to the future prosperity of their neighborhood and their personal household.



Relaxing at Byrd Park [left]. In 2018, City Council and City Planning Commission adopted the Public Art Master Plan [right] as part of the City's Master Plan. The Public Art Master Plan provides a 10-year vision to guide the City's investments in Public Art.

Objective 4.1

Create and preserve **high-quality, distinctive, and well-designed neighborhoods and Nodes** throughout the city.

a. Develop zoning districts that support protect and enhance neighborhood character, especially in areas that are not protected by City Old & Historic Districts.

b. Allow and encourage a variety of architectural styles.

c. On development sites that encompass most of a city block or block frontage, require multiple buildings and/or façade articulation to increase visual interest, require massing that is responsive to the human-scale, and consider pedestrian through-block connections through existing super blocks to establish a street grid.

d. Require sites with frontage on Great Streets to meet special design guidelines, such as burying power lines and the six design elements outlined in the Pulse Corridor Plan, to ensure the buildings enhance and support the Great Street.

e. Encourage development that respects and preserves the natural features of the site through sensitive site design, avoids substantial changes to the topography, and minimizes property damage and environmental degradation resulting from disturbance of natural systems.

f. Ensure that building materials are durable, sustainable, and create a lasting addition to the built environment, and provide maximum adaptability for environmental change, change of use, and efficiency.

g. Require the screening of utilities, communication, transformers, and other service connections to buildings.

h. Require adequate distribution of windows and architectural features in order to create visual interest.

i. Encourage design approaches that support creative solutions for transitions among varying intensities of building types and land uses.

j. Apply design standards, guidance, and regulation consistently across the city regardless of market conditions or rent structure of development.

k. Promote an attractive environment by minimizing visual clutter and confusion caused by a proliferation of signage, ensuring that public and private signage is appropriately scaled to the pedestrian experience.

l. Encourage roof lines and upper levels of tall buildings to be articulated with a distinguishable design.

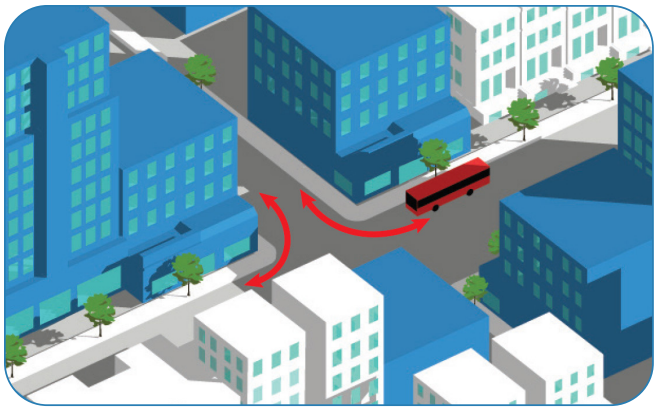
m. Require the podiums of tall buildings to reflect the human-scale, with design elements and active uses on the ground level.

n. Prohibit driveways for new small-scale residential buildings on blocks that have alley access.

o. Increase building permeability by requiring new buildings to have functioning entrances from the sidewalk and restricting blank walls at ground level.

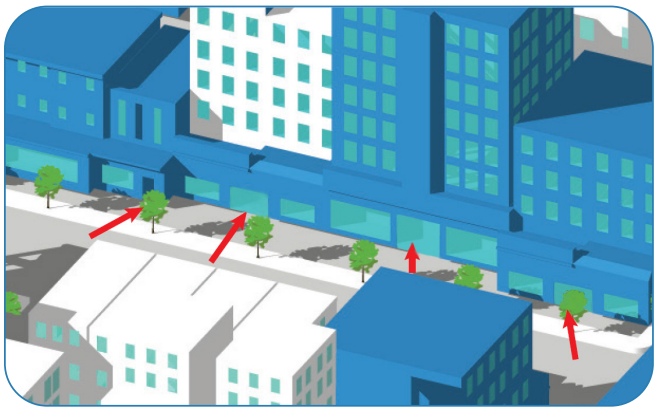
p. Encourage building placement and massing design that reduces the heat island effect by varying building heights in neighborhoods to increase airflow.

q. Expand the City's façade improvement program.

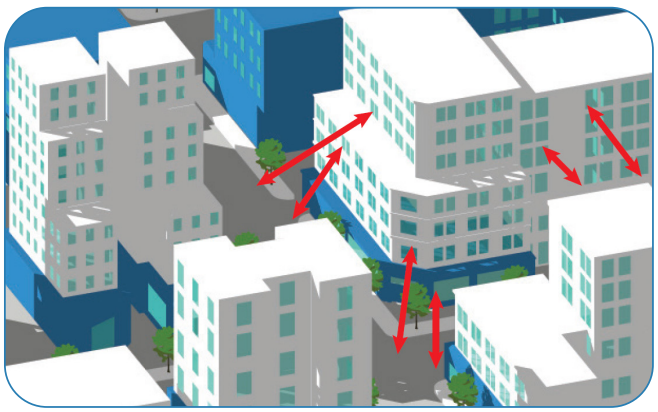


Hold the Corner

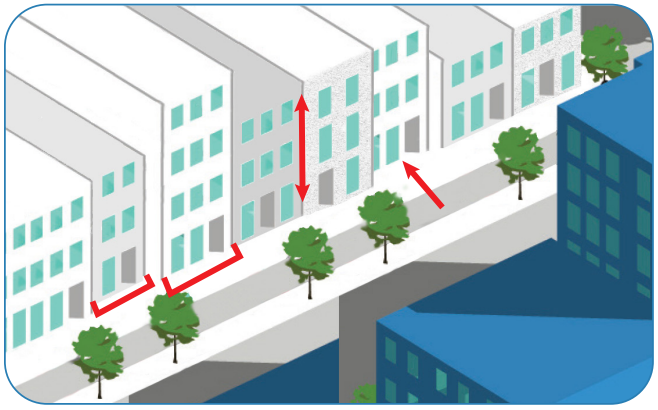
Appropriate Setbacks/Stepbacks



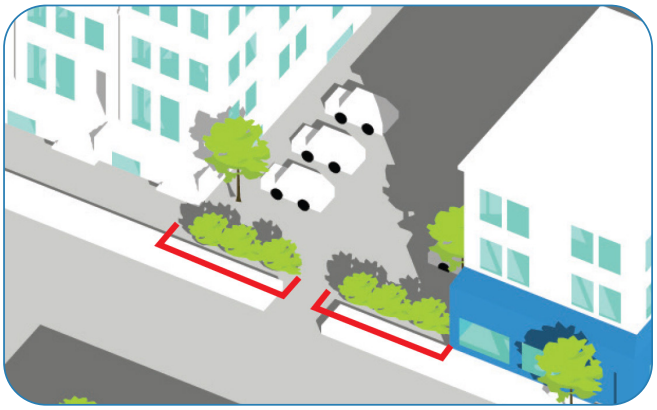
Entrances Face the Street



Transparency



Façade Articulation



Screened Parking/Services

Pulse Corridor Plan of Development Overlay Form Elements. Under the Pulse Corridor Plan of Development Overlay, developers must make considerations to each of the six elements in site plan design, which are key in creating an engaging pedestrian environment.

Objective 4.2

Integrate public art into the built environment to acknowledge Richmond's unique history and neighborhood identity, and engage the creative community, focusing public art efforts in areas that do not have public art today.

a. Develop public art projects within Nodes to elevate the place's unique character through creative placemaking.

b. Utilize public art projects to preserve the cultural heritage of places, prioritizing areas that are experiencing major changes in demographics and development.

c. Link public art with major public facility initiatives (e.g., plazas, buildings, parks, bridges) and expand the definition of public art to include architectural embellishments of buildings, or landscape features.

d. Encourage outdoor art features on private land and buildings as part of a city-building aesthetic.

e. Implement the Public Art Master Plan.

Public art can include traditional statues, such as the Maggie L. Walker statue and plaza, which were unveiled in 2017 [top], and also architectural embellishments as shown on Main Street Station [bottom].

Objective 4.3

Increase neighborhood access to, and through, a well-designed network of open spaces.

a. Develop a Park Master Plan providing all Richmonders access to a quality public park within a 10-minute walk of their home, as shown in Figure 24 (see Goal 2 and Goal 17).

b. Integrate natural features, history, culture, and art to enhance public open spaces throughout the city.

c. Revise the Zoning Ordinance to change the definition of open space to require 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.

d. Protect and restore natural resources (see Goals 15–17).

e. Utilize conservation easements to expand the open space network (see Goals 15–17).

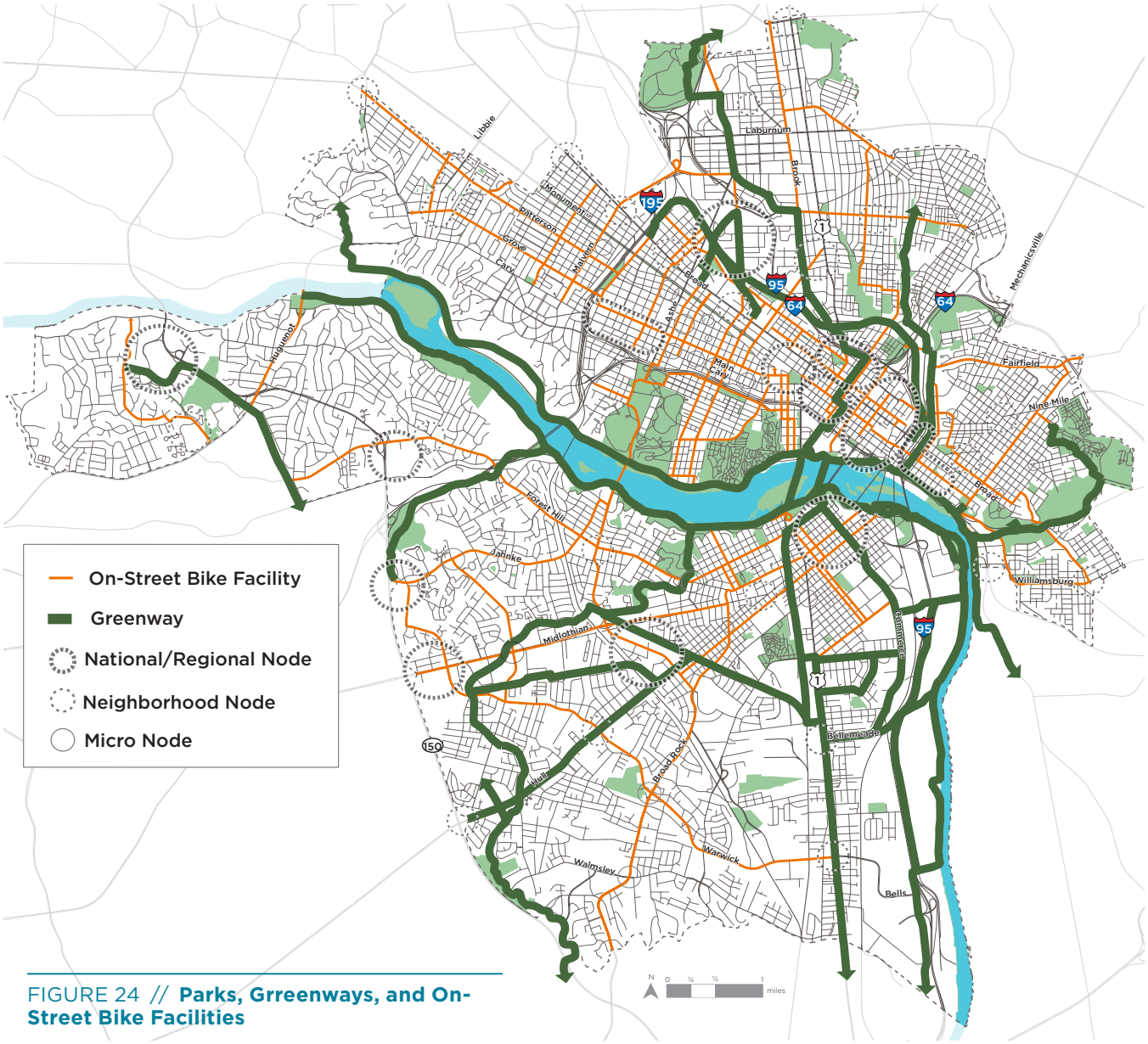


FIGURE 24 // **Parks, Grreenways, and On-Street Bike Facilities**

f. Require any new development along the river and canals to provide for public access and activated ground levels (see Goal 2 and Goal 15).

g. Provide for the continuing maintenance of common open space; provision may include joint ownership by all residents in a homeowners association, donation of open space or conservation easements to a land trust or government entity, or other measures.

h. Reserve appropriate riverfront and canal-facing sites for public amenities and river-related development such as boating services, picnics, etc.

i. Work with other stakeholders to improve, restore, and maintain the historical canal system (see Goals 6–10).

j. Implement the Richmond Riverfront Plan and the James River Park Master Plan.

k. Encourage the creation of a balance of natural rather than hard landscape in creating and improving parks.

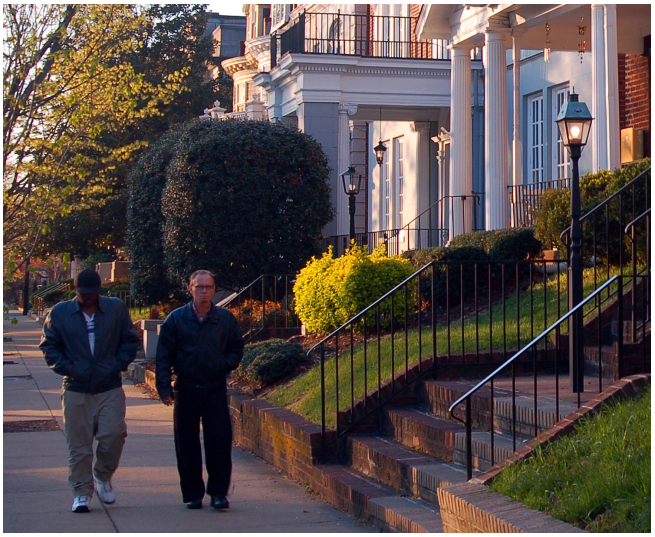
Objective 4.4

I**ncrease Richmond's walkability** along all streets.

a. Develop city-wide public realm standards to include shade trees, bike parking, bike share, signage, public art, screened parking, street furniture, pedestrian-level lighting, and other elements in the public right-of-way that enhance walkability.

b. Strengthen the streetscape connections by installing pedestrian infrastructure such as sidewalks, crosswalks, pathway, and trails where such infrastructure is missing.

c. Bury utilities underground along all Great Streets and bury utilities underground where possible on all other streets.



The Fan is a very walkable neighborhood because it has sidewalks, street trees, homes and businesses with windows, doors, and porches, and other elements that create a pleasant walking environment.

Goal 5: Planning Engagement

Foster a planning engagement culture that effectively and equitably builds people's capacity to organize to improve the city and their neighborhoods.

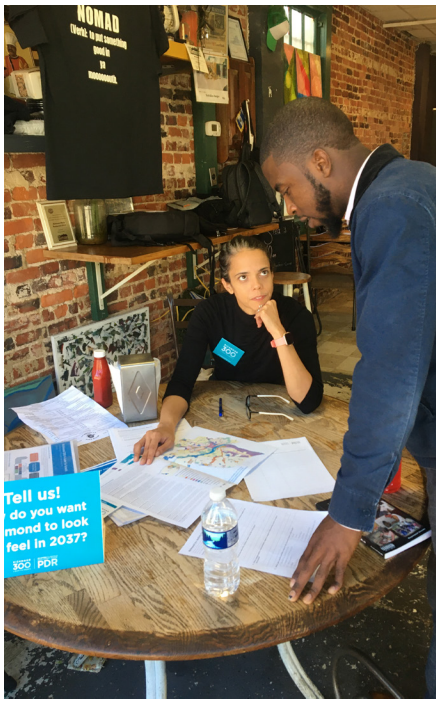
Existing Context

Engagement between the City and the community is essential to ensure that the public's needs are being met and that their vision for the city is being fulfilled.

PDR values the input of residents, businesses, and property owners to help guide the development of plans that will affect the future of neighborhoods and the city-at-large. The department notifies property owners directly when there are projects being considered by public bodies that are within proximity to their property. The boards and commissions that are managed by PDR staff, which notify property owners and/or civic associations, include City Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Commission of Architectural Review, and Urban Design Committee.

Currently, 130 civic associations are listed on the City's official Civic Association website.

PDR reaches out to local civic groups as part of the overall planning process, and in regard to specific projects. These groups have defined boundaries, which range from a single neighborhood to a collection of neighborhoods covering large areas of the city. The City does not directly manage these groups or their boundaries, which has resulted in many overlapping boundaries by multiple groups, and also areas of the city, particularly South Richmond, that have no formally established civic associations. During the implementation of *Richmond 300*, great potential exists to strengthen the bond between City and resident through the continuing public engagement process. This can be done by educating community members on the importance of their involvement in the planning process and including those that have been traditionally under-represented in the process.



Public engagement takes many forms, which may include office hours in community businesses [left] or large public meetings [right], two types of meetings held during the *Richmond 300* planning process.

Objective 5.1

Increase public knowledge of planning processes and continuously engage civic associations, special interest groups, and traditionally under-represented groups in the planning process.

a. Create a Richmond planning knowledge program administered by PDR for everyday Richmonders to learn about the planning process and understand how their voices can be incorporated into the planning decision-making processes, such as special use permits, rezonings, City Old & Historic Districts, and other planning regulations.

b. Issue an annual *Richmond 300* report that tracks how the City is implementing *Richmond 300* strategies.

c. Host annual events about *Richmond 300* to ensure Richmond's existing and new residents are aware of the visions, goals, objectives, and strategies outlined in the plan.

d. Maintain and share the Civic Association database with city residents and City staff.

e. Create a process to officially register civic associations with the City, eliminate overlapping boundaries, and assist in establishing civic associations where none exist.

f. Review and update Richmond's Guide to Neighborhood Associations.

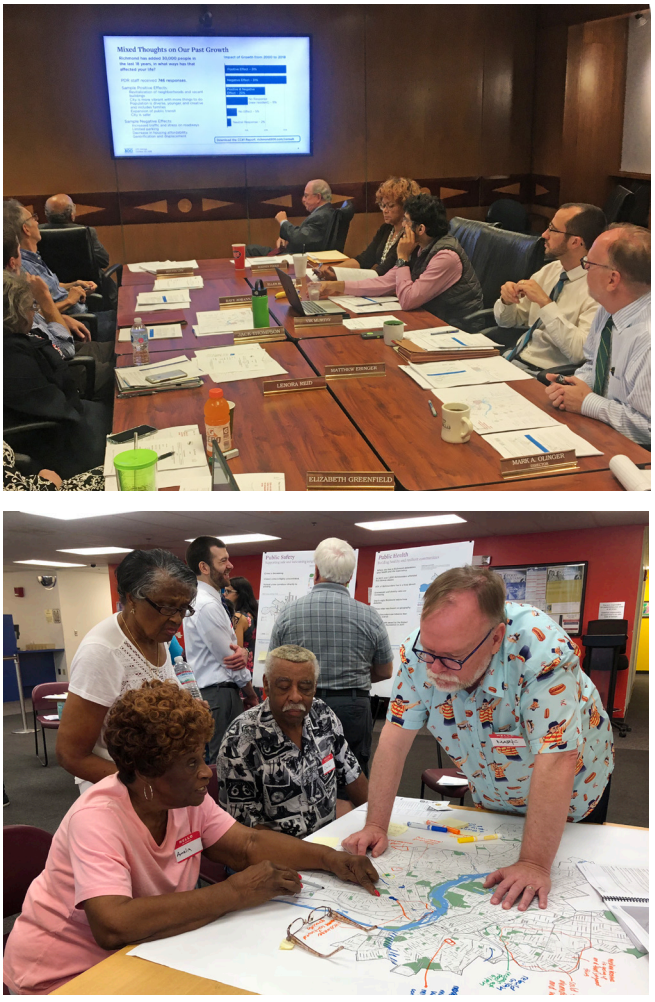
g. Develop a set of unique and targeted engagement methods, beyond conventional surveys and town halls, to engage traditionally under-represented groups in the planning process.

Objective 5.2

Engage City staff, appointed commissioners, and elected officials in the planning process.

a. Develop on-boarding training materials about *Richmond 300* for Human Resources to share with new City employees.

b. Present the *Richmond 300* annual report at the City Council's Organizational Development Standing Committee and other relevant commissions and committees to continue to educate new and existing council members and commissioners about *Richmond 300*.



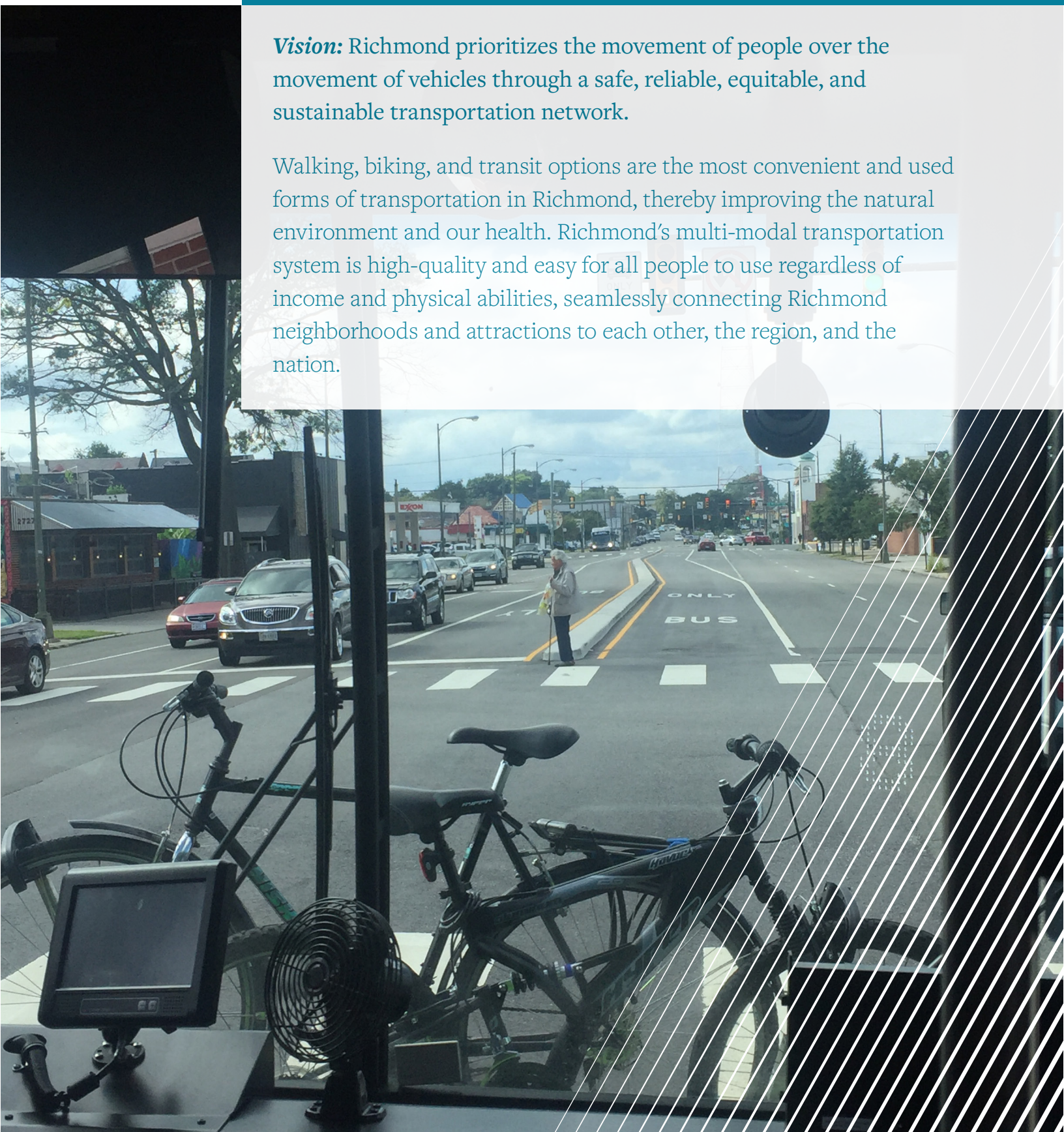
***Richmond 300* retreat with the City Planning Commission [top]. Community members provide their Big Ideas for South Richmond during Community Consultation #1**

CHAPTER 3

Equitable Transportation

Vision: Richmond prioritizes the movement of people over the movement of vehicles through a safe, reliable, equitable, and sustainable transportation network.

Walking, biking, and transit options are the most convenient and used forms of transportation in Richmond, thereby improving the natural environment and our health. Richmond's multi-modal transportation system is high-quality and easy for all people to use regardless of income and physical abilities, seamlessly connecting Richmond neighborhoods and attractions to each other, the region, and the nation.



Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Goal 6: Land Use and Transportation Planning

Align future land use and transportation planning to support a sustainable and resilient city.

Existing Context

Creating excellent places is paramount.
Historically, across the United States, transportation investments have prioritized the movement of people from one place to another as safely and quickly as possible, which has resulted in an exclusive focus on designing roads and less attention on designing excellent destinations. *Richmond 300* focuses on creating high-quality places with features and amenities. Goal 6 of *Richmond 300* is critical to ensuring transportation projects do not singularly focus on moving people expeditiously, but instead prioritize creating great places for people that are supported by well-designed transportation networks because, ultimately, the place matters more than how fast people got there.

In the planning and design of cities, far more attention must go toward serving the needs and aspirations of people and the creation of great places as opposed to expediting movement.

—Robert Cervero, et al., Beyond Mobility

Objective 6.1

Increase the number of residents and jobs at Nodes and along enhanced transit corridors in a land development pattern that prioritizes multi-modal transportation options.

a. Rezone the city in accordance with the Future Land Use Plan (see Goal 1).

b. Develop housing at all income levels in and near Nodes and along major corridors (see strategies Goal 14).

c. Support the retention, creation, and attraction of businesses in and near Nodes and major corridors (see strategies in Goal 11).

d. Encourage collaboration across PDR, the Department of Economic Development (DED), the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), the Department of Public Works (DPW), and GRTC to focus infrastructure improvements and rezoning at Priority Growth Nodes to position them for future transit stops (make them pre-transit-oriented development [TOD] ready).

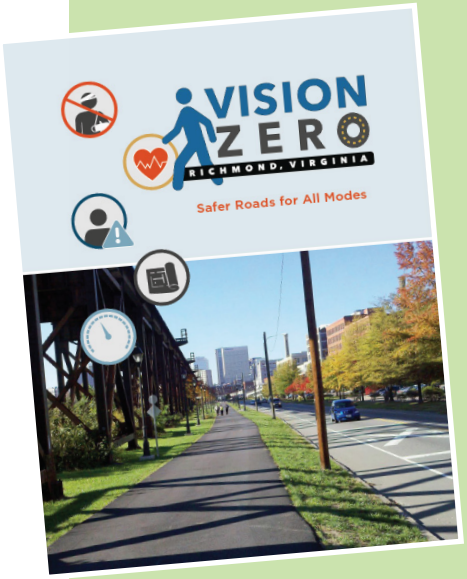
e. Update the Richmond Connects Plan, in collaboration with PDR, DED, HCD, DPW, GRTC, the Virginia Department of Transportation, PlanRVA, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization, and the general public, to include a specific project list to develop more multi-modal transportation options in a safe network tied to the Future Land Use Plan.

f. Develop a network of Great Streets with urban design and multi-modal access that creates beautiful and welcoming corridors throughout the city (see Goal 4).

The proposed transformation of N. Arthur Ashe Boulevard near the Diamond accommodates multiple modes of transportation, which in turn support a new series of urban neighborhoods.

Goal 7: Vision Zero

Systemically change the built environment to shift our safety culture and ensure that individuals are not killed or seriously injured on city streets.



Existing Context

Richmond is a Vision Zero city.
Vision Zero emerged in the 1990s in Sweden when the Swedes realized that traditional road safety techniques and programs were never going to significantly reduce or eliminate fatal crashes. The Swedes lobbied their government to implement sweeping reforms to improve the safety of transportation infrastructure to reduce deaths and injuries in traffic crashes to zero. In 2018, the City of Richmond released its Vision Zero Action Plan, which outlines a number of actions and strategies, such as addressing dangerous behavior, designing a safe transportation system for all road users, and developing education and awareness campaigns, to reduce traffic deaths and injuries to zero by 2030.

Traffic deaths and injuries are a continuing problem.
The prevalence of traffic crashes is a health crisis. The top behaviors that lead to injury or death in crashes are not wearing a seatbelt, driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, distracted driving, and speeding. People walking and biking are the most vulnerable users, 28% of pedestrians involved in traffic crashes are killed. From 2011 through 2016, there were a total of 22 deaths and 313 incapacitating injuries in Richmond involving pedestrians and cyclists, representing 1.9% and 27% of all crashes, respectively. Compare this to traffic crashes involving only vehicles, where during the same time frame there were 56 deaths (0.2% of all vehicle crashes), and 1,062 incapacitating crashes (3.7% of all vehicle crashes). This suggests that a pedestrian or cyclist involved in a crash is 9.8 times more likely to die and 7.4 times more likely to experience an incapacitating injury than a motorist involved in a crash with another motorist. Pedestrian and cyclist deaths rose to a 30-year high in 2018 nationally. While the objectives in Goal 7 of *Richmond 300* seek to ensure Vision Zero is upheld in Richmond, there are many objectives in other parts of this Plan that will help the City reach its Vision Zero goal, such as the objectives listed in Goal 6, Goal 8, Goal 9, and Goal 10. Figure 25 shows the locations of pedestrian- and bicycle-involved crashes from 2011 to 2016 in the City of Richmond.

Objective 7.1

Reduce all traffic-related deaths and serious injuries to zero by implementing the Vision Zero Action Plan.

a. Prioritize and implement safety treatments on the high-injury street network, especially those aimed to reduce speeding (per the Vision Zero Action Plan).

b. Provide safe and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant access to transit stops in the high-injury street network as determined by GRTC (per the Vision Zero Action Plan).

c. Conduct engineering surveys to determine the appropriate level of traffic control required for pedestrians to cross at intersections.

d. Expand the Safe Routes to Schools program to all schools and conduct formal audits.

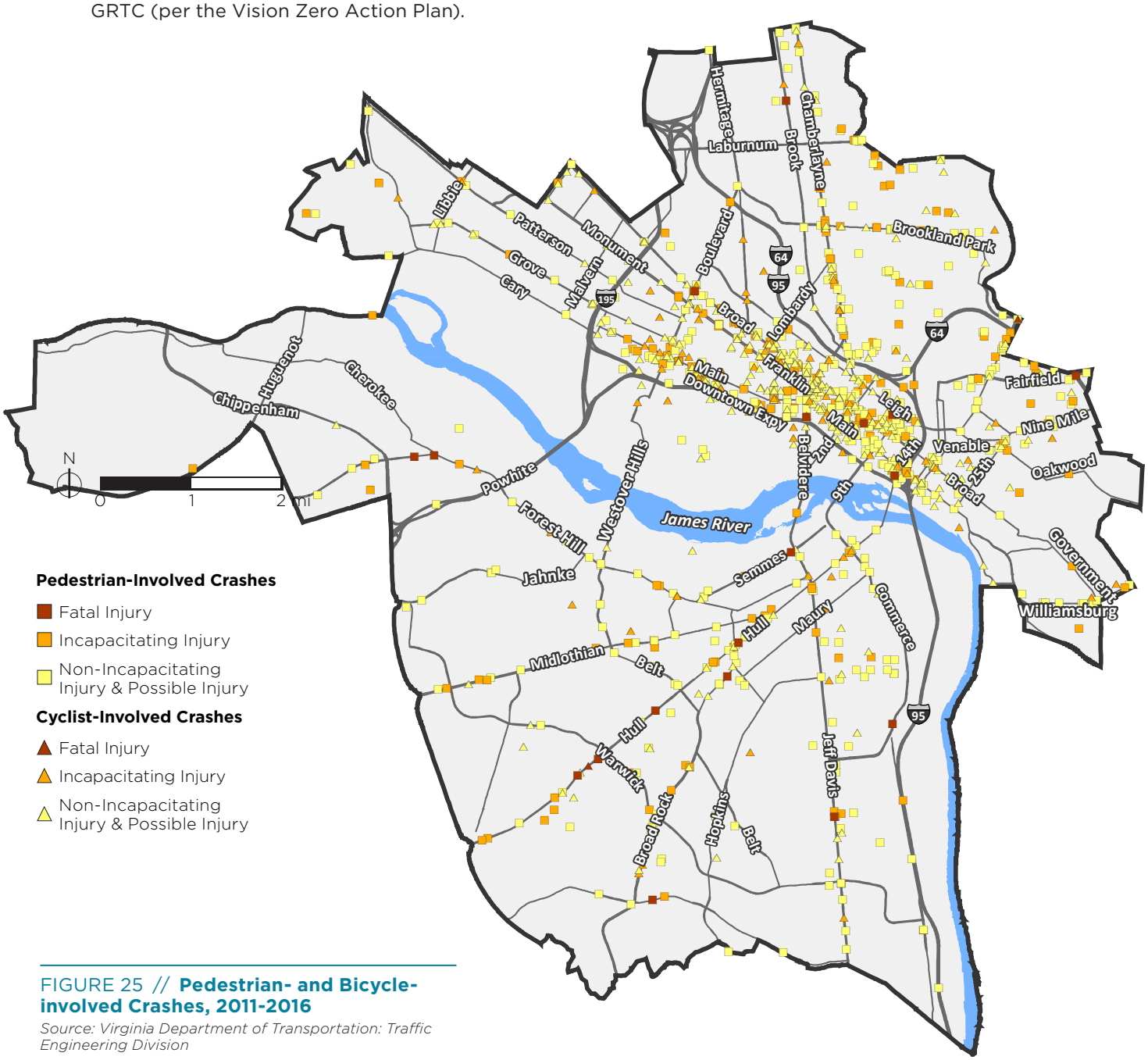


FIGURE 25 // **Pedestrian- and Bicycle-involved Crashes, 2011-2016**

Source: Virginia Department of Transportation: Traffic Engineering Division

Goal 8: Non-Car Network

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.

Existing Context

Richmond has an average Walk Score® of 51.
Walkable neighborhoods can help to make physical activity an inherent part of a resident's day and provide alternative transportation options to vehicles. Richmond's average Walk Score® is 51, or "somewhat walkable," with the most walkable areas being Downtown, Carytown, and VCU, as shown in Figure 26. Walk Score® uses the street grid and proximity to retail, amenities, and attractions to generate the score. Walk Score® does not factor in the quality of the pedestrian environment, as such there may be places in the Walk Score® map that have a high Walk Score® but do not have good pedestrian infrastructure. This goal, along with the High-Quality Places Goals and Thriving Environment Goals, seeks to create a better walkable urban environment throughout Richmond's neighborhoods to increase health equity and resiliency.

50 miles of sidewalk repaired or replaced in last 5 years.
DPW is responsible for maintaining the 836 miles of sidewalks throughout the city, as well as installing new segments of sidewalks where they are missing. Approximately 50 miles of sidewalk have been repaired or replaced from 2015 to 2019 through the Capital Improvement Program, which is funded through a combination of federal, state, and city funds. The City continues to fund sidewalk repair and installation and requires new developments to install sidewalks.

Richmond is investing in bike infrastructure.
During the 20th century, the transportation industry nationwide focused on transport by vehicles. For most of the 21st century, transportation professionals have been working on behalf of all modes, including biking and walking. In 2011, the City hired its first bicycle, pedestrian, and trails coordinator. In 2012, Bike Walk RVA, an advocacy program of the non-profit Sports Backers, dedicated to advocating for the growth of biking and walking in the region, was established. In 2015, DPW developed a Bike Master Plan for the city with extensive community engagement. By the end of 2020, there will be 50 miles of bike lanes in the city, of which about 16 miles are buffered or barrier-separated. An additional 20 miles of bike lanes are designed or under construction. The Virginia Capital Trail was completed in 2015, providing a 52-mile multi-use trail between Richmond and Williamsburg.

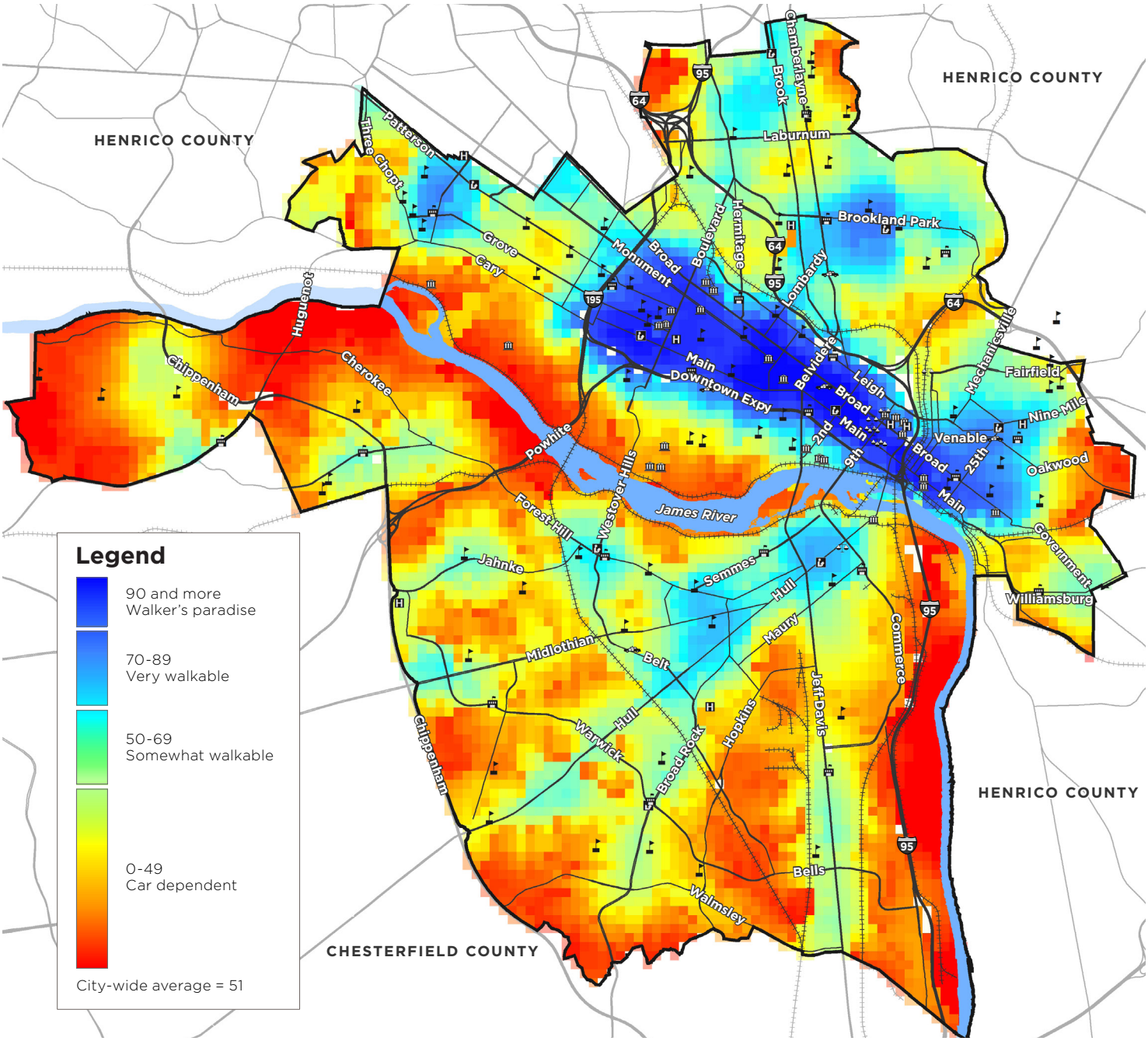


FIGURE 26 // **Walk Score® Map**
The Walk Score® Map is a tool for showing how close amenities such as businesses, parks, and schools are to a specific place in the city. The city-wide Walk Score® is 51, meaning that on average, the city is somewhat walkable with some errands accomplished on foot, but the majority of errands require a car. This map shows the divide in walkability between areas of Richmond that are north of the James River, which are generally walkable, and the south side of the James River, which are generally car dependent. The re-write of the Zoning Ordinance will seek to improve walkability by creating form requirements and allow more urban mixed-use districts.
Data source: Walk Score® (2016)

Bus ridership is increasing.
Bus ridership has increased since June 2018, when GRTC launched the Pulse BRT and new bus system routing tied to the Pulse, the first time since the 1960s that the bus system has been redesigned. In Fiscal Year 2019 (July 2018 to June 2019), bus ridership increased by 16% compared to FY 2018. Since the launch of the new system, GRTC has been investing in bus shelter improvements and expanding routes outside the city, such as the new routes to Short Pump in Henrico County and along Route 1 in Chesterfield County.

Inter-city train ridership is increasing.
In 2003, Main Street Station re-opened to passenger rail service (passenger rail service had stopped in 1975). The February 2020 ridership statistics from AMTRAK showed a 1.6% increase from FY2019 to FY2020 in on and offs at Main Street Station (compared to Staples Mill Station, which had an increase of 16.26% in the same time period). The difference in ons and offs between the two stations can primarily be attributed to the fact that Main Street Station receives fewer trains than Staples Mill Station, which is the terminus of the Northeast Regional Route that operates between Boston's South Station and Richmond's Staples Mill Station. In 2019, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration released a Record of Decision outlining the preferred alignment for high-speed rail from DC to Richmond. The preferred alignment calls for creating new high-speed rail stations in the Richmond region at Main Street Station in Richmond and at Staples Mill Station in Henrico.

The objectives listed under Goal 8 of *Richmond 300* seek to elevate the prominence of the non-car network and make walking, biking, and taking transit easier, safer, and generally an excellent experience.

Top: Pulse Bus Rapid Transit Stop
Middle: RVA Bike Share Station
Bottom: Bike/Walk Boulevard on Floyd Avenue

Objective 8.1

Improve pedestrian experience by increasing and improving sidewalks and improving pedestrian crossings and streetscapes, prioritizing low-income areas.

a. Conduct and maintain a sidewalk inventory.

b. Require developers to construct sidewalks and street trees as part of their development projects (see Goal 4), including single-family infill developments in neighborhoods.

c. Reduce the creation of driveways and car access curb cuts, especially if there is alley access to the parcel and/or multiple parcels can utilize the same car access curb cut to access their sites.

d. Construct ADA-compliant sidewalks and street crossing and retrofit existing sidewalks with ADA-compliant ramps, per federal requirements.

e. Improve street furniture, plant shade trees, and install pedestrian-level lights and other streetscape improvements (see Goal 4).

f. Consider permanent or temporary street closures and expanding and improving bike-walk streets, which are not entirely closed to cars but use physical infrastructure to slow cars. This could include, but is not limited to, weekend closures of Riverside Drive for bicycle and pedestrian use and/or weekend closures of Cary Street in Carytown for bicycle, pedestrian, and retail use.

g. Implement strategies to increase connectivity of the street network (see Goal 9).

h. Implement traffic-calming measures to slow down traffic.

A new sidewalk in Church Hill includes ADA-compliant ramps at the intersection.

Objective 8.2

Increase the miles of greenways in an interconnected, regional network.

a. Develop greenways throughout the city connecting Nodes, neighborhoods, and adjacent localities; focus efforts specifically in South Richmond and including, but not limited to, the following greenways: Ashland to Petersburg, James River Branch, Kanawha Canal, Manchester Canal, and South Bank of the James River (see Future Connections Map for the network of greenways).

b. Coordinate greenway development with adjacent jurisdictions to develop a regional network.

c. Collaborate with freight rail companies to develop rails-to-trails projects and trails-next-to-rails projects.

Top: Canon Creek Greenway
Bottom: The Virginia Capital Trail

Objective 8.3

Expand and improve on-street networks and amenities serving bicyclists and other non-vehicle users, as shown in Figure 27.

a. Expand, improve, and maintain on-street bike networks as shown in the Future Connections Map, which amends the networks proposed in the Bike Master Plan and in the Pulse Corridor Plan; prioritize the creation of separated, buffered bike lanes.

b. Expand the users of bike lanes to include other non-vehicle users, such as scooters and electric bicycles.

c. Expand the bike sharing program to include more stations in a larger footprint adjacent to high-priority transit stops and other destinations (e.g., museums, parks, shopping districts).

d. Install amenities (e.g., shelters, benches, parking, maintenance tools, restrooms, bike parking, water fountains with bottle-refill stations) along enhanced transit routes and greenways (see Goal 12).

e. Revise the Zoning Ordinance to require bike parking for more uses.

f. Increase the number of bike racks on sidewalks and/or use the curb to provide on-street bike parking.

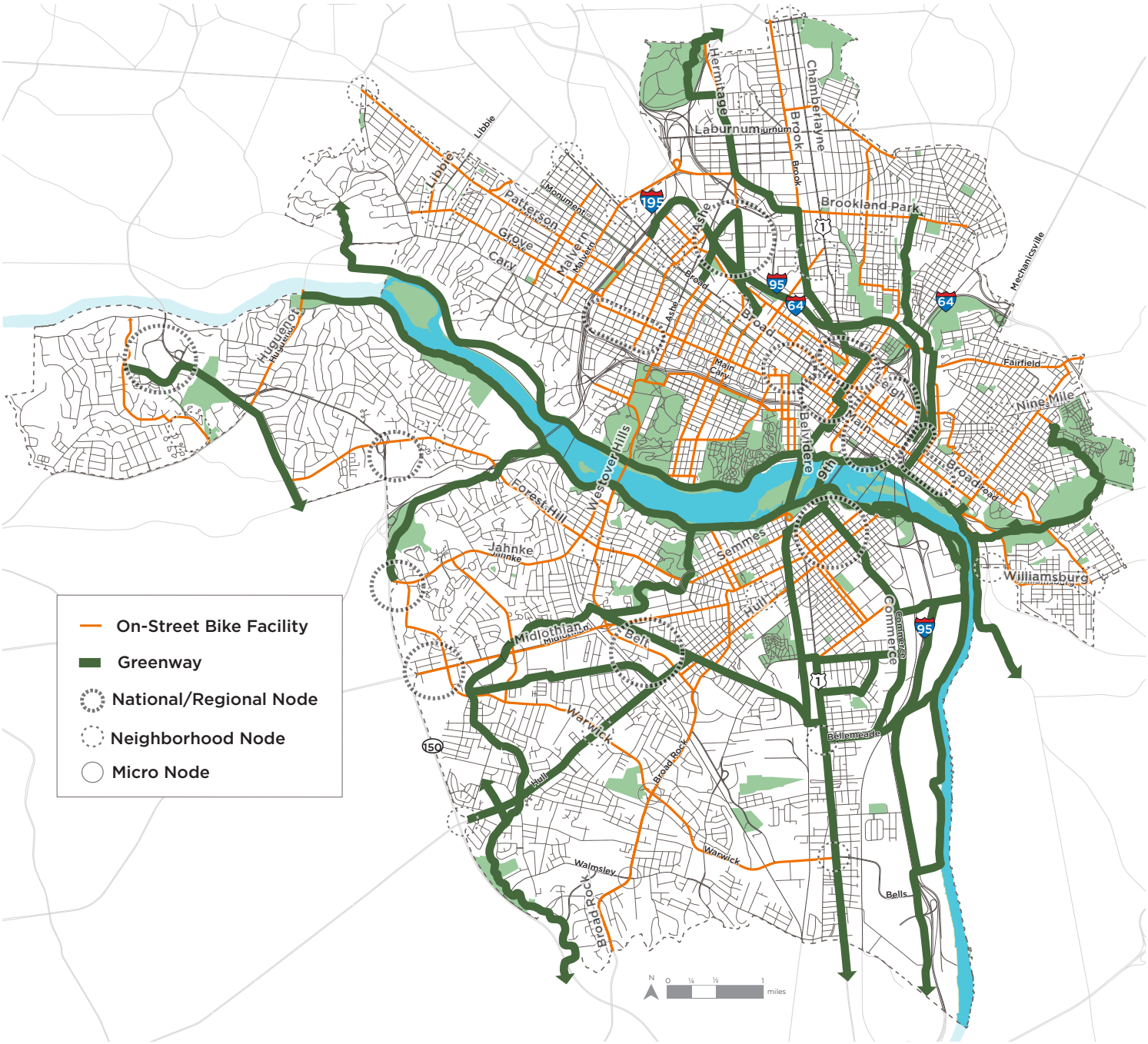


FIGURE 27 // **Greenways & On-Street Bike Facilities Map**

Objective 8.4

Increase transit service to serve existing and new riders so that 75% of residents live within a half mile of a transit line with service that comes every 15 minutes by 2040, as shown in Figure 28.

a. Increase high-frequency transit service to serve existing and new riders where the density of jobs and housing are high, and encourage higher density of jobs and housing where high-frequency transit services exists.

b. Improve and maintain priority transit stops with amenities such as shelters, benches, trash cans, and bike parking, focusing first on improving stops in low-income and low-car ownership areas.

c. With community input, develop a preferred alignment for a North-South BRT line through Manchester, either along Cowardin or along Hull Street, and then traveling down Midlothian, Hull, or Route 1.

d. Create frequent service transit stops to the Riverfront and airport with additional lines, if needed.

e. Extend service hours along all routes, prioritizing routes that serve under-served and poorly connected communities.

f. Ask GRTC to review the productivity of the transit network at least every 3 years.

g. Evaluate creating an infill BRT station at or near Malvern/W. Broad and Lombardy/W. Broad.

h. Coordinate seamless transit service with the surrounding localities.

i. Ask GRTC to conduct annual customer satisfaction surveys.

j. Working with GRTC, evaluate the need for transfer centers at critical points of the bus system and if a transfer center is needed, design the center so it supports walkable urban design.

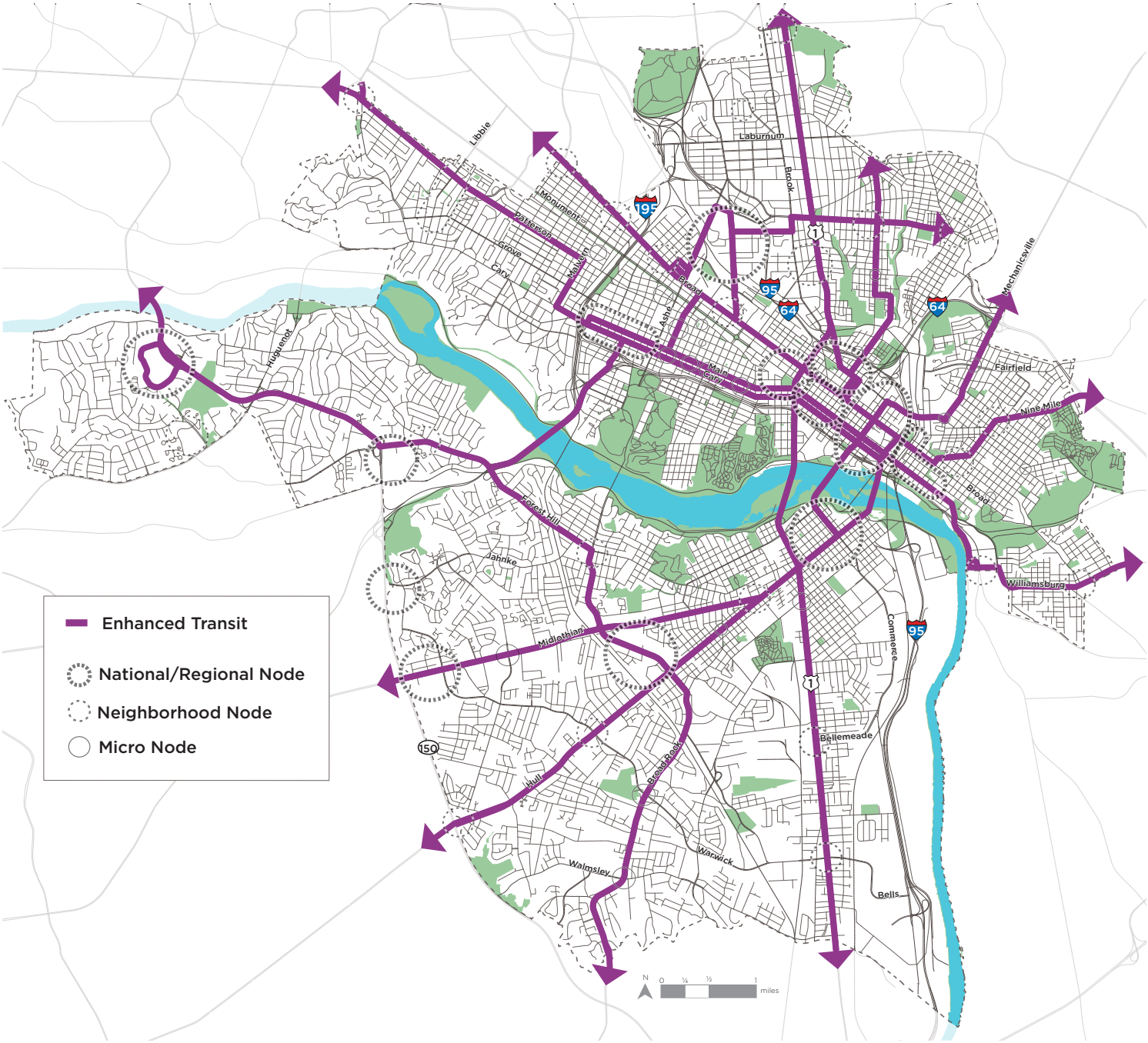


FIGURE 28 // **Enhanced Transit Map**

Objective 8.5

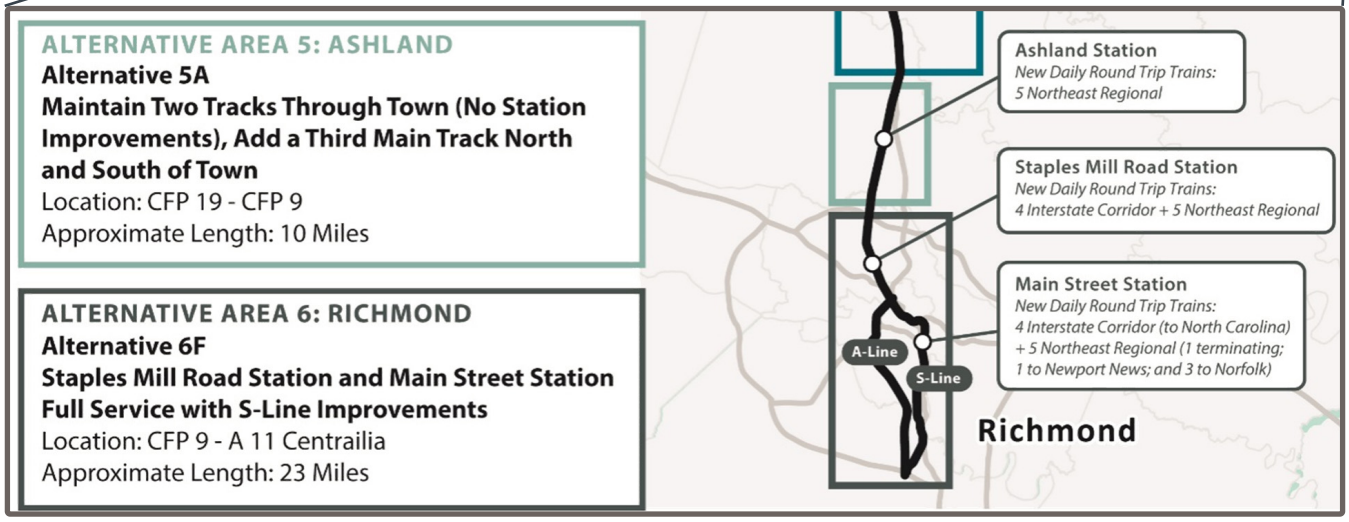
Increase the number of intercity travel options connecting the Richmond region to other regions and cities.

a. Expand and maintain passenger rail service to Main Street Station, including exploring the creation of regional rail service to Charlottesville.

b. Implement the Washington, D.C. and Richmond Southeast High Speed Rail project and other high-speed rail projects to Raleigh and Hampton Roads, and eliminate at-grade crossings.

c. Continue to offer regional bus service and ensure multi-modal options are available near regional bus stations to included better transit connections with amenities.

d. Expand transit service to Richmond International Airport.



The preferred alignment for the DC to Richmond High Speed Rail Project

Source: DC to Richmond Southeast High Speed Rail Record of Decision, U.S. Dept. of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, September 2019

Objective 8.6

Increase the number of employers implementing Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies to shift individuals from single-occupancy vehicles to biking, walking, and transit for daily tasks (see Table 3 for the mode split in 2000 and 2018).

a. Develop and maintain a database of employers with TDM plans.

b. Develop a menu of tools to incentivize employers to offer TDM plans and determine which incentives and/or requirements to implement, including reduced parking requirements; increased transit, carpool, vanpool, and bicycle amenities; showers and lockers for bike commuters; and tax abatements.

c. Advertise and promote TDM benefits.

d. Explore tax breaks for individuals who participate in a TDM program.

e. Expand the City's TDM program.

f. Leverage technology to share travel time by all modes of transportation with users.

g. Expand the current Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) city employee trip reduction program to other employers in the city.

74.5%

of working Richmonders drove alone to work in 2018 (compared to 72.2 in 2000)

TABLE 3 // **Means of Transportation to Work for Workers 16 Years and Over, 2000 and 2018**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: 2000 Census,, 2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates

	2000 Census		2018 1-Year ACS		% change from 2000-2018
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Drove Alone	62,743	72.2%	83,742	74.5%	3%
Carpooled	11,165	12.8%	10,001	8.9%	-30%
Public Transit	7,354	8.5%	7,441	6.6%	-22%
Bicycle	969	1.1%	3,734	3.3%	202%
Walked	3,941	4.5%	5,160	4.6%	2%
Other means	729	0.8%	2,303	2.0%	156%

Goal 9: Streets, Bridges & Connections

Build and improve streets and bridges to expand connectivity for all users.

Existing Context

Building and improving Richmond's street network and bridges is critical to connect our neighborhoods to one another and provide multiple routes for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit moving around the city.

The design of streets and bridges greatly affects their functionality and ability to support other land use goals. Seemingly inconsequential items, such as the width of the planting strip along the street and the burying of power lines, have rippling effects on many of the goals outlined in this plan. If a planting strip is too narrow, street trees cannot survive and thrive and therefore are unable to serve critical functions like providing shade and natural habitats, cooling areas during Richmond's heatwaves, and retaining rain water during Richmond's intense rain storms. Burying power lines not only makes a street more aesthetically pleasing but also increases Richmond's resiliency.

The older parts of Richmond that were built before cars became prevalent, such as the Fan, Spring Hill, and Bellevue, have gridded street networks.

Newer parts of Richmond, such as the 1970 Chesterfield annexation which was built to rural and post-WWII suburban design standards, have culdesacs that funnel all traffic to major roads. The objectives in Goal 9 of *Richmond 300* seek to better connect our city using roads that provide access to all Richmonders.

Complete Street Illustration
Streets for everyone designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders while also incorporating stormwater infrastructure.

Objective 9.1

Improve streets for all users by aligning future land use categories with Complete Streets recommendations, prioritizing low-income areas and areas within the high-injury network.

a. In the update to Richmond Connects, include develop complete street recommendations to improve access for all users on the street typologies shown in Figure 29.

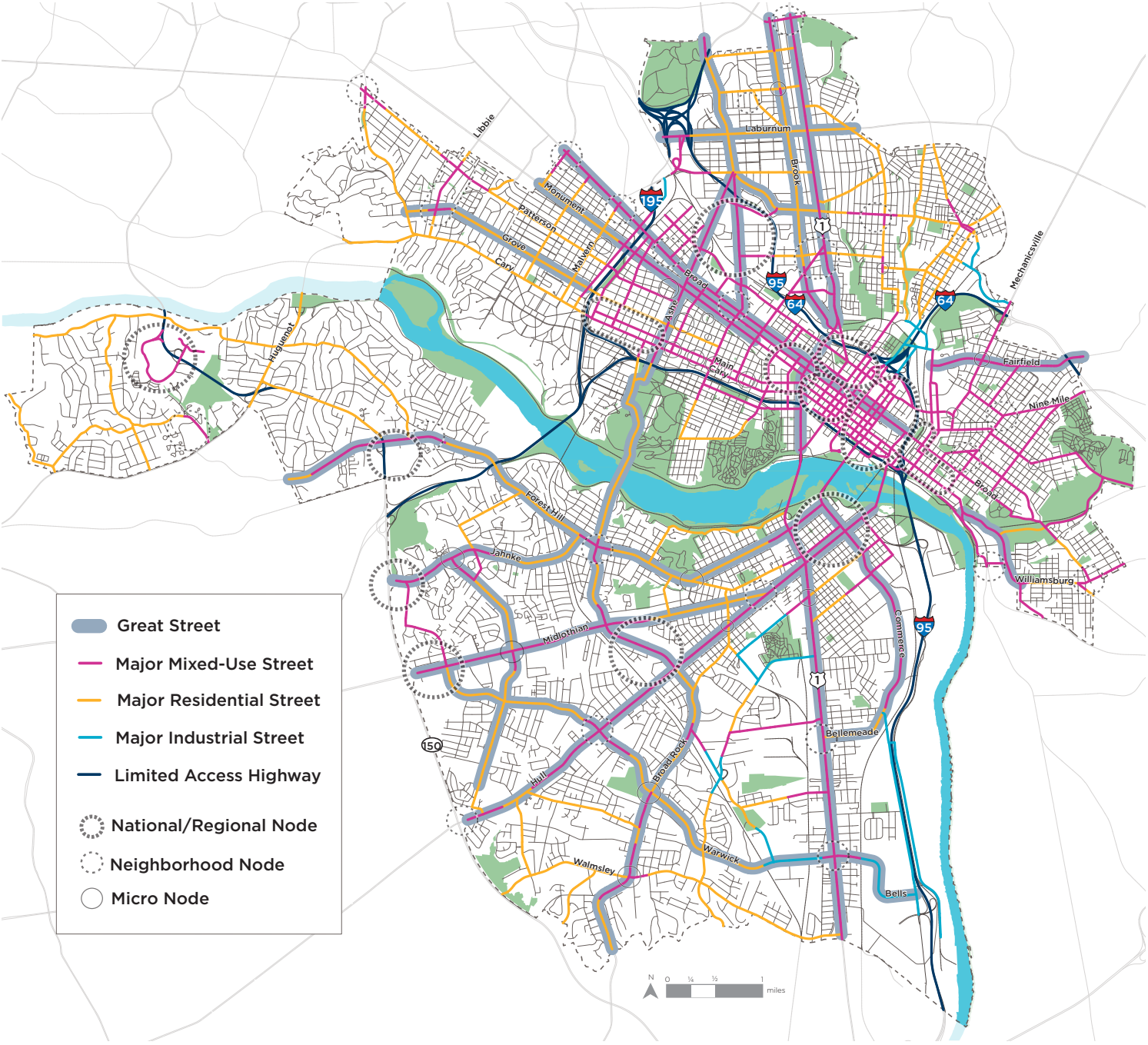
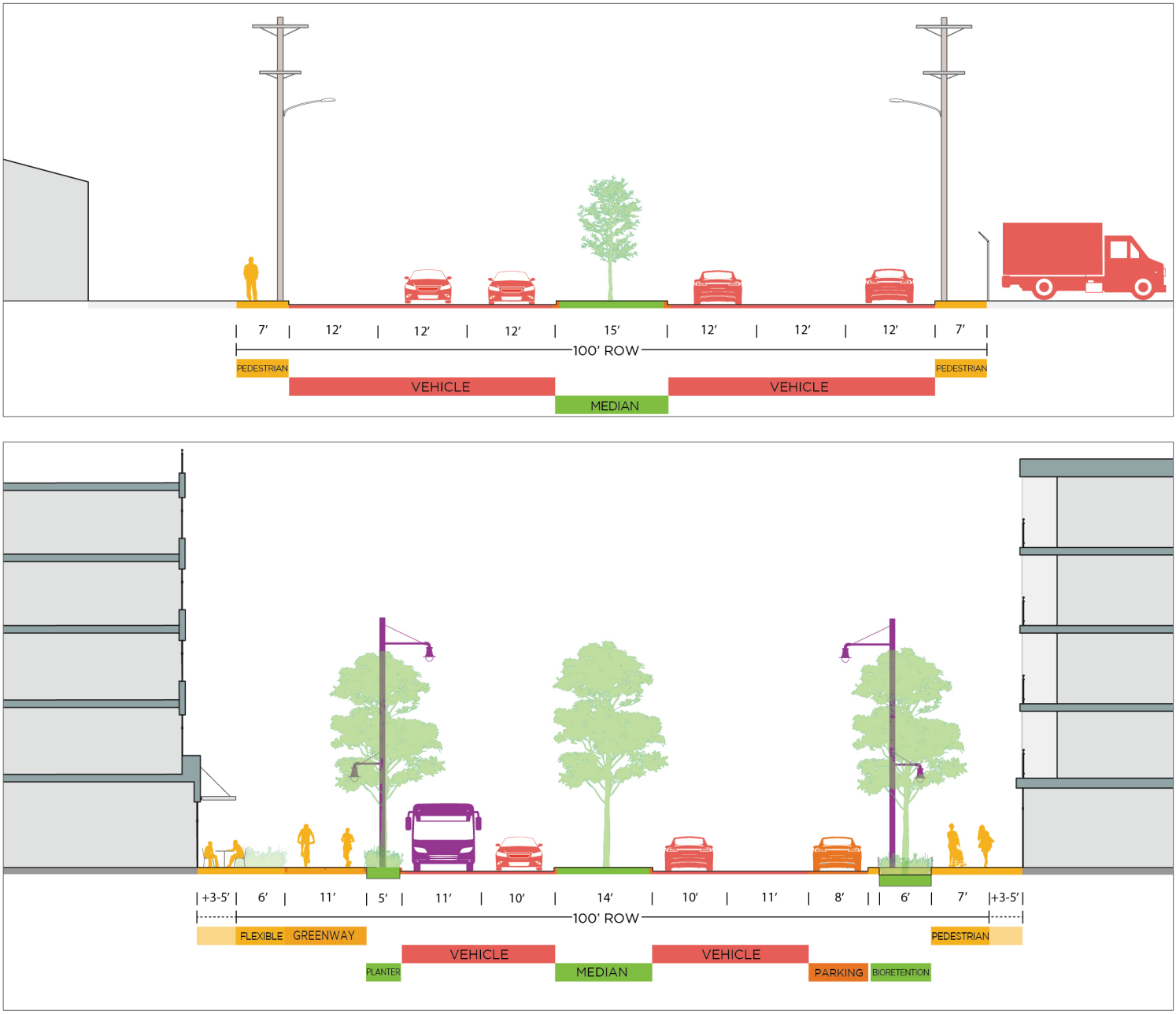


FIGURE 29 // **Great Streets and Street Typologies Map**



Commerce Road Potential Street Section Transformation
The existing street section [top] has more travel lanes than is necessary for the amount of vehicles that travel on Commerce Road. The street can be transformed [bottom] into a Great Street with various elements such as outdoor seating, sidewalk trees, pedestrian-level lighting, on-street parking, enhanced transit, car lanes, median trees, and a wide greenway (the Ashland to Petersburg Trail).

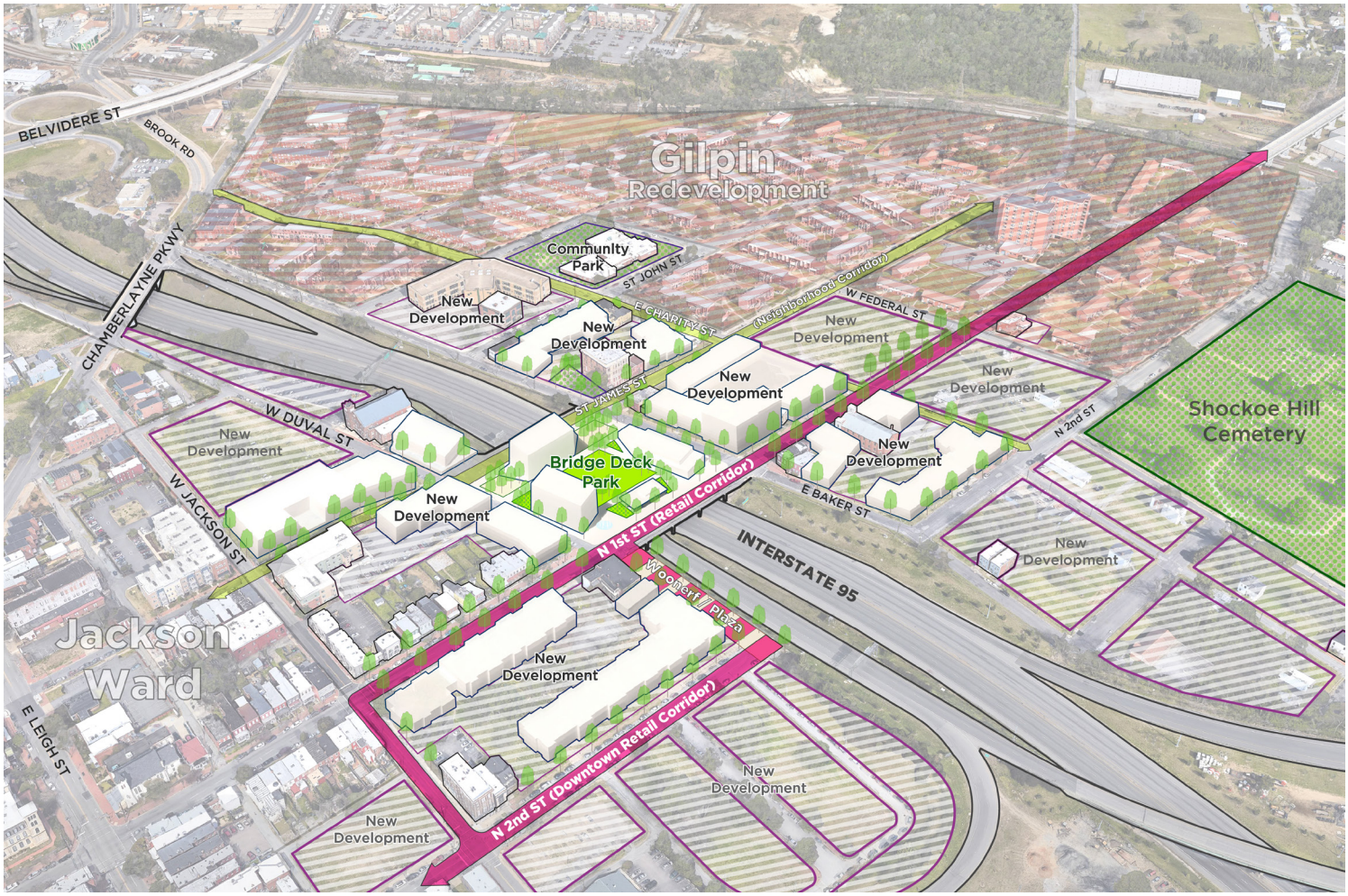
Objective 9.2

Improve and create bridges to strive for a high level of reliability, access, and safety, as shown in Figure 30.

a. Develop and implement a plan to rehabilitate and repair city bridges so that less than 10% of bridges are rated as structurally deficient and all bridges have been substantially renovated and maintained.
   - Implement the projects outlined in the I-95/I-64 Overlap Study, ensuring that neighborhoods do not lose access to I-95/I-64, and that changes to ramp alignment do not place significant traffic burdens on neighborhoods or remove significant redevelopment potential.
   - Develop and implement a plan for rehabilitating the Mayo Bridge, Lee Bridge, and the Nickel Bridge that adds accommodations for pedestrians, bicycles, and transit.
   - Improve pedestrian crossing experiences on all bridges over barriers (e.g., James River, the Downtown Expressway, I-195, I-95/I-64, rail lines); pedestrian improvements should include not only sidewalks, but also shading and plantings that improve the walking experience.

b. Develop and implement a plan for building bridges that connect Norfolk Street to Hamilton Street and connect W. Leigh Street to the Diamond Site.

c. Explore capping highways to re-establish connections between disconnected areas, focusing first on the Downtown Expressway between 2nd and 7th, and I-95/I-64 at Jackson Ward.



By capping the highway with streets, parks, and buildings, Jackson Ward will once again be one neighborhood.

Proposed new bridges connect areas near Scott's Addition and the Diamond that are severed by railroads and highways: a bridge connects Norfolk Street to Hamilton Street, a pedestrian bridge connects Mactavish to Rosedale [left], and a landscaped landmark bridge connects Leigh Street to the crescent park.

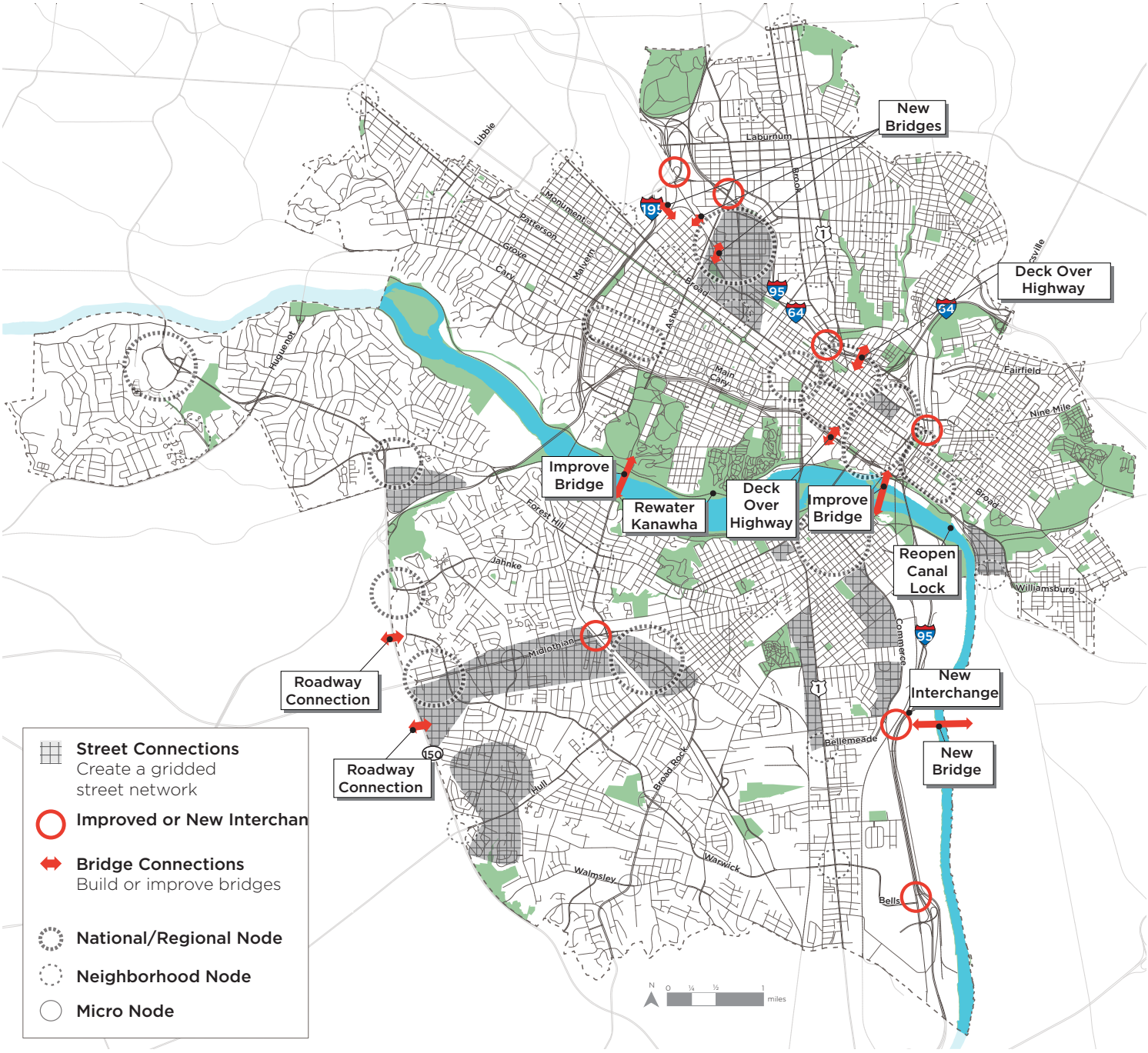


FIGURE 30 // **Connections, Interchanges, and Bridges Map**

Objective 9.3

Increase the miles of alleyways and improve existing alleyways to manage circulation.

a. Maintain and improve existing alleyways.

b. Encourage homeowners and developers to utilize and upgrade existing alleyways in their development site plans or create new alleyways as part of redevelopment efforts.

c. Expand the green alleyway program.

d. Create new alleyways.

e. Seek funding to maintain alleys via two potential methods: 1) lobby the General Assembly to change the funding structure of roadways to include funding maintenance of alleyways, and/or 2) pass an ordinance to assess fees to maintain alleyways.

Objective 9.4

Strengthen the street network by preventing superblocks and encouraging gridded street networks and two-way streets.

a. Update the subdivision ordinance to require new large developments to tie into existing streets and prohibit culdesacs to support the creation a gridded street network.

b. Seek to reduce culdesacs by connecting roads where possible; where roadway connections are not possible, seek to provide bike and pedestrian connections at a minimum to establish greater connectivity.

c. Where feasible, convert one-way streets to two-way streets in consultation with the City's Transportation Engineers, evaluating balancing the needs of various uses—sidewalks, on-street parking, bicycle infrastructure, and transit access.

Objective 9.5

Improve 80% of street pavement to a condition index of good or better.

a. Maintain the pavement condition inventory.

b. Develop and implement a plan to maintain roadways and also seek to reduce urban heat by investigating pavement options that reflect light (see Goal 17).

Alleyways serve critical functions in the city's street network by assisting with circulation and providing a location of back-of-house functions such as trash pick-up.

Objective 9.6

Implement parking strategies that effectively manage supply and demand of parking, as identified in the Parking Study Report, as shown in Figure 31, and improve the physical appearance of parking.

a. Discourage the creation of new surface parking lots along pedestrian-oriented and transit-accessible corridors (see Goal 4).

b. Develop parking lot and parking garage screening standards to safely and beautifully screen unsightly parking facilities from the street.

c. Standardize on-street parking by clearly marking no parking zones per current ordinance at intersections, curb cuts, and fire hydrants (see Parking Study).

d. Develop multi-use on-street parking programs that accommodate residents, visitors, customers, and employees at appropriate time intervals (see Parking Study).

e. Amend parking requirements in the Zoning Ordinance (see Parking Study).

f. Expand on-street fee-for-use parking to more parts of the city to encourage turn over (see Parking Study).

g. Periodically evaluate on-street fee-for-use parking to ensure time frames and fees are still appropriate (see Parking Study).

h. Universally enforce on-street parking regulations (see Parking Study).

i. Encourage property owners to consider shared parking spaces (see Parking Study).

j. Improve pedestrian infrastructure so pedestrians feel safe and comfortable walking from their parking spot to their destination (see Parking Study).

k. Develop strategic parking assets where feasible (see Parking Study).

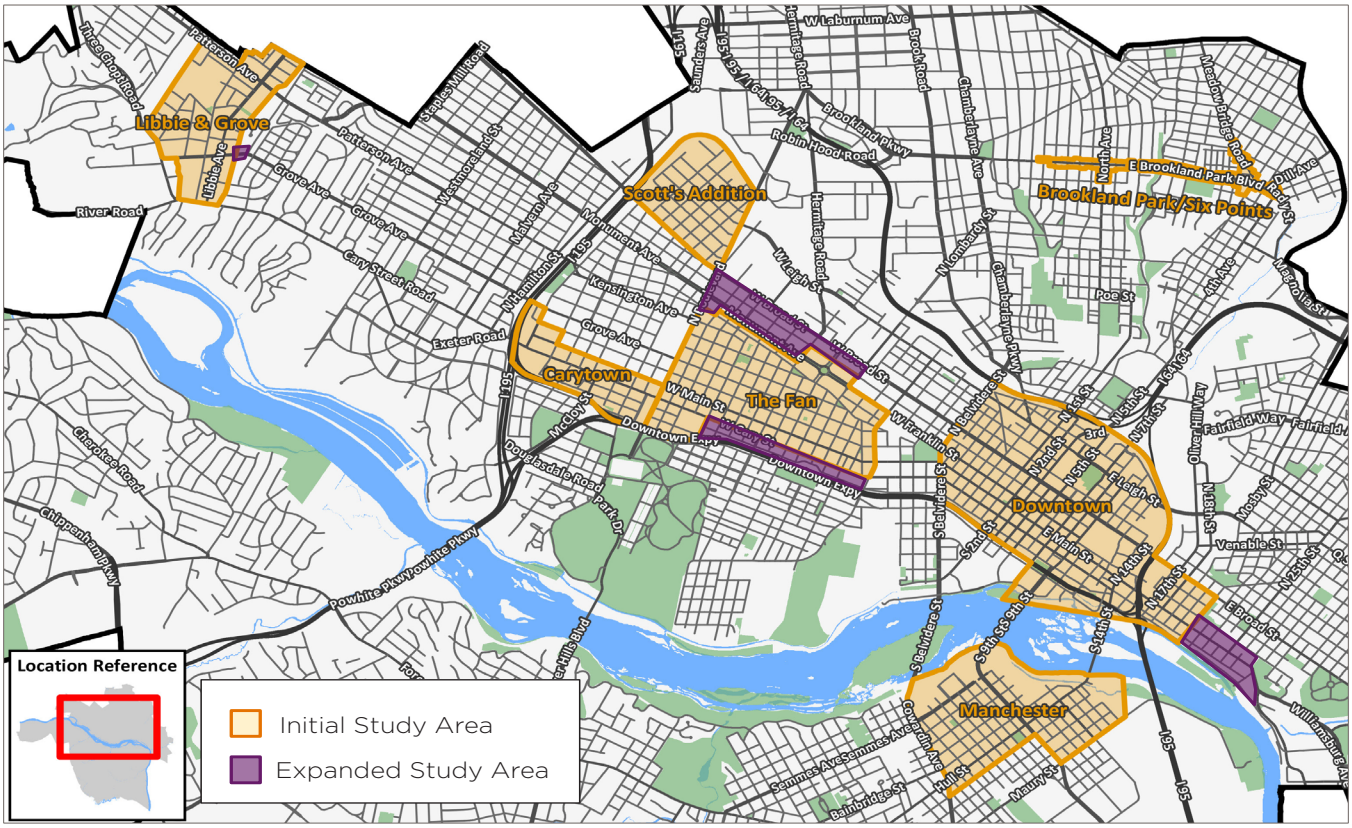


FIGURE 31 // **Parking Study Areas**
In 2018 and 2019, *Richmond 300* hosted three rounds of meetings for each of these seven study areas to discuss existing conditions analysis and develop parking recommendations for each area. These recommendations are listed in Objective 9.6 and outlined in the Parking Study Report (available in *Richmond 300* Supporting Materials). Although the Parking Study focused on these areas, the recommendations are intended to be transferable to other areas of the city.

Goal 10: Emerging Transportation Technologies

Incorporate emerging technology into the transportation network in ways that seek to reduce single-occupancy vehicle use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Existing Context

The transportation landscape is changing.
Ridesharing, bikesharing, autonomous vehicles, and other transportation innovations are changing how people move around cities. The exact effect of transportation innovations is not entirely known, but preliminarily, DPW is seeing an increase in demand for "curb space," meaning many different users are seeking to use the side of the road for various activities: Uber/Lyft loading zones, parking lanes, bike lanes, travel lanes, bus lanes, truck loading, valet parking stations, and more. There is limited curbside; therefore, stakeholders will need to weigh the various demands on this shared space and determine the best use and best price based upon demand on any given street. The objectives of Goal 10 of *Richmond 300* seek to make the City more nimble in responding to the changing transportation environment.

Objective 10.1

Expand and maintain the Richmond Signal System for better managed and safer transportation options.

a. Continue to implement technology that prioritizes traffic signal timing for walking, biking, and transit.

b. Capture and share movement data within the city to help people make transportation decisions.

c. Consider the deployment of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).

d. Collaborate with other jurisdictions to create regional ITS.

e. Leverage new and existing technologies to accommodate individuals with visual impairments.

Objective 10.2

Develop programs to manage new mobility and emerging shared transportation technologies.

a. Develop a new mobility policy to manage relationships with transportation network companies (TNCs) and other emerging programs.

b. Charge a fee for autonomous vehicles (AVs) and TNCs that drive without paying passengers.

c. Require AVs and TNCs to share data with the City to help shape future policy.

d. Develop programs to ensure equitable access to new mobility for individuals who are un-banked and/or do not have smart phones, and who are physically disabled.

e. Prioritize improvements to public transit, bike, and pedestrian infrastructure over the accommodation of AVs.

f. Create a policy to encourage car-sharing programs to locate in Richmond to help reduce car ownership rates.

g. Request that the General Assembly develop legislation outlining requirements for AVs, including making sure AVs can recognize people walking, biking, and of different skin tones.

Objective 10.3

Utilize technology to manage and monetize the curb to reduce vehicle miles traveled related to circling the block.

a. Inventory curb management data and evaluate curb use and then consider equitable pricing models to ensure space availability.

b. Create permitting process for existing and new mobility services, slow-moving vehicles (e.g., scooters, Segways, electric bicycles), and other users (commercial vehicles in loading zones) to access the curb.

c. Create a real-time, demand-based, on-street pricing program that guides vehicles to empty spots.

Objective 10.4

Increase the number of low-emission vehicles.

a. Support the expansion of the electric charging network for vehicles and bicycles on privately owned land.

b. Seek opportunities to install electric charging stations on publicly owned land, balancing the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users.

c. Shift the City's vehicle fleet to modes of transportation that are zero-emission, such as electric vehicles and electric bicycles.

CHAPTER 4

Diverse Economy

Vision: Richmond is home to a variety of businesses and industries that offer opportunities for quality employment and capital investment.

Richmond is a first choice location for businesses and investment because the city's transportation, housing, cultural, outdoor, commercial, and institutional amenities create a vibrant city. Richmonders of all income levels have opportunities for life-long learning and skill-building.

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Goal 11: Businesses & Jobs

Foster an environment that supports the growth of existing and new small, medium, and large businesses, focusing on Nodes, major corridors, and industrial centers.

Existing Context

Richmond does not live in a bubble.
Cities and counties across the country compete to attract businesses to their locality, oftentimes "poaching" companies from one place to another. Localities offer incentives and tax structures than help attract businesses. A strong economic development approach can help the City of Richmond remain competitive while also implementing economic opportunities to benefit all Richmonders. DED is developing an Economic Development Strategic Plan to equitability guide the growth of Richmond's economy while positioning Richmond to be competitive.

Job growth in Richmond lags population growth.
While Richmond's population growth rate from 2010 to 2019 was higher than the surrounding counties, job growth has not kept pace. Total employment in Richmond has grown modestly since 2010, but the number of jobs in 2019 is still below that of 2001 (171,000 jobs in 2019 compared with 184,000 in 2001).

Richmond's job growth has not kept pace with the suburbs.
Job growth in Henrico, Chesterfield, and Hanover has outpaced Richmond's job growth over the past two decades. Richmond lost nearly 10,000 jobs from 2001 to 2018 but the surrounding counties added 66,000 jobs. In 2018 and 2019, several companies announced new office locations in Richmond's urban core suggesting that companies are starting to move into more urban locations in order to attract talent; however, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, may have impacts on commercial office markets that are unknown.

Downtown is the job center for the City with 77,465 jobs, more than 53% of city-wide jobs. Downtown has many public sector jobs but private jobs growth was strong between 2010-2017. Private jobs have increased by 28%, or 11,105 positions in Downtown since 2010.

Racial inequities persist in the local and regional labor market.
Blacks are employed predominantly in low-wage occupations. White workers in the Richmond region are about three times as likely as Black workers to be employed in management occupations, which earn on average $128,000, the highest-paying job occupations (14.5% of white workers are in management position compared with 5.8% Black

workers). Moreover, Black workers are more likely to be employed in the lowest-paying occupations, which pay on average below $27,000. Reducing segregation and expanding opportunity for low-income earners and Blacks can expand economic opportunity for all of Richmond.

Federal, state, and local policies, and private industry practices have segregated Richmond over the past 100+ years.

These include everything from Urban Renewal to practices like redlining,[1] deed restrictions,[2] exclusionary zoning,[3] and sub-prime lending. These practices are not unique to Richmond and have happened across the nation. A study of segregation in Chicago found that if the city were less segregated, the City would see "$4.4 billion in additional income each year, a 30 percent lower homicide rate and 83,000 more bachelor's degrees."[4] The cost of segregation is high for all income earners. The City of Richmond, along with several non-profits, is intentionally seeking to reduce the concentration of poverty and expand economic opportunity. The strategies outlined in Goal 11 of this Plan seek to make Richmond more competitive in the regional and national marketplace and increase equity and opportunity for all Richmonders, but specifically low-income earners and Blacks.

[1] Redlining is a discriminatory practice by which insurance companies, banks, and others denied services to residents based on the racial or ethnic composition of their neighborhoods.

[2] Deed restrictions, which prohibited the sale of homes to buyers from certain racial and ethnic groups, primarily Blacks and Jews.

[3] Exclusionary zoning is the practice of using the Zoning Ordinance to intentionally exclude certain types of land uses from a given community. For example, an upper class community may use zoning to exclude multifamily housing in their neighborhood.

[4] The Cost of Segregation, Metropolitan Planning Council.

$84M = $1M

In 2020, $84 million of assessed land value yields $1 million in tax revenue for the City

Objective 11.1

Increase the areas of appropriately zoned land near various transportation modes and housing **to retain, create, and attract employers.**

a. Support rezonings in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan (see Goal 1).

b. Strategically acquire land for economic development within Nodes, specifically focusing on land banking near Priority Growth Nodes (see Goal 2). For example, Chesterfield and Henrico Counties acquired privately held land to spur the redevelopment of Regency Square, Virginia Center Commons, and Clover Leaf Mall.

c. Develop a Site-Readiness Program to identify and implement public and private investments to advance the redevelopment speed and attractiveness of these strategic properties near/within Nodes to attract target industries: 1) corporate headquarters and professional services, 2) life sciences and education, 3) financial services, 4) transportation and logistics, and 5) specialty beverages and foods.

d. Encourage the development of a variety of quality housing types to house employees across the economic spectrum (see Goal 14).

e. Support infrastructure projects with transportation options to move individuals from their homes to their jobs and also create job opportunities near where people live, specifically focused on low-income areas, low car-ownership areas, and areas along the high-injury network (see Goals 6-10).

f. Evaluate how existing economic development tools (Opportunity Zones, Enterprise Zones, CARE districts) align with Nodes, major corridors, and industrial centers, and make adjustments to those tools and/or create new ones to drive economic development, as shown in Figure 32.

g. Evaluate revisions to the City's Redevelopment and Conservation Areas and Rehabilitation Districts to facilitate expanded use of the City's Partial Tax Exemption Program, which was implemented to reduce or eliminate concentrations of blight, stimulate investment and encourage new construction and improvement of real property in areas designated by the City.

h. Implement Technology Zones in the study areas along Route 1, Hull Street, Belt Boulevard, Midlothian Turnpike, and other areas of the city, as applicable.

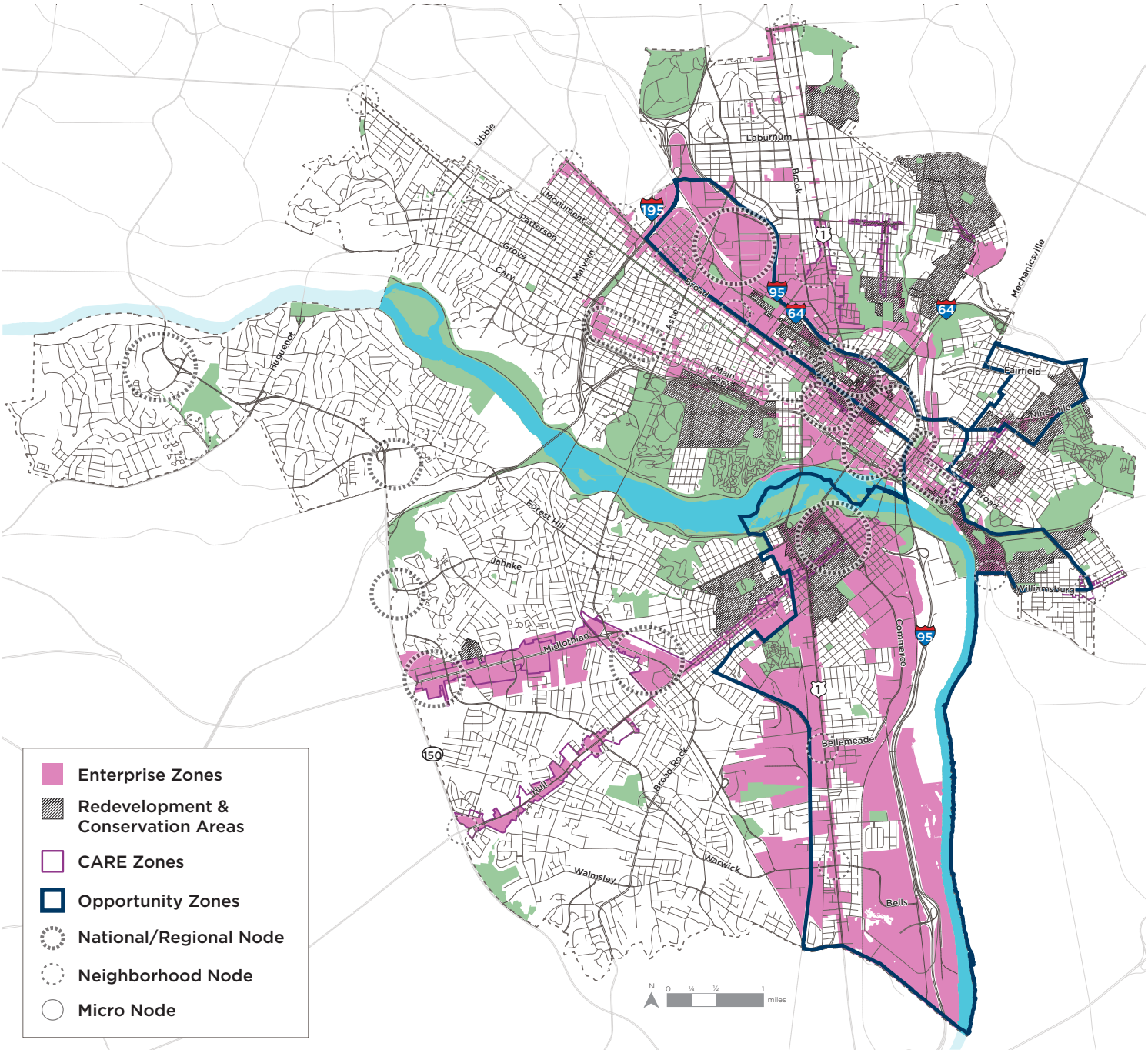


FIGURE 32 // **Economic Development Programs and Nodes**

Objective 11.2

Implement **equitable economic development strategies** to expand inclusivity and opportunity.

a. Develop equity scorecard to evaluate public-private development projects, including items such as ensuring residents within a community are first hired/considered for development projects.

b. Support the expansion of broadband internet so that all Richmonders have access to high-speed internet (see Goal 2).

c. For projects using economic development incentives, develop community benefit agreements, which could include items such as creating jobs, utilizing local workforce development agencies to assist with hiring local, creating public open space, supporting local businesses, meeting minority business hiring goals, creating low-income housing, and more.

d. Encourage a range of employment opportunities that provide on-the-job training and facilitate upward mobility through investment in workforce development initiatives and collaboration with employers to create a pipeline of employees for existing and future positions.

A start-up business in Church Hill in an adaptive reuse structure.

Objective 11.3

Increase the number and support the growth of **small businesses, start-ups, and women-owned and minority-owned businesses.**

a. Create a business guide to help new and small businesses navigate City incentive programs and permitting, building code, zoning, and licensing processes.

b. Institute policies and practices that facilitate business formation in the city.

c. Explore the creation of a small business program within DED dedicated to supporting the development, growth, and retention of small businesses, prioritizing business development by people of color, women, and those with low incomes.

d. Encourage the creation of new businesses and growth of small businesses by promoting and identifying smaller spaces (typically found along historic commercial corridors) for small businesses to start and grow.

e. Assist long-term businesses in redeveloping areas by providing them rehabilitation grants and/or loans, and tax relief as property taxes increase.

f. Partner with the Virginia Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity to reduce barriers to obtaining the "Small, Woman- and Minority-Owned Business" certification by offering support services and creating phased entry into the program based on years of operation.

g. Support the minority business development efforts managed by the Metropolitan Business League, Central Virginia African American Chamber of Commerce, Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Kinfolk Community Empowerment Center, and other organizations focused on minority business growth in Richmond.

Objective 11.4

Determine the acres of land needed and locations for **future industrial users.**

a. Examine zoning, parking ratios, and height limits for industrial zones to be accommodating to current needs, given that the needs of industrial users are shifting.

b. Develop industrial park design standards to ensure industrial areas have trees, green space, sidewalks, and other urban design elements.

c. Implement strategies to support the Richmond Marine Terminal and freight rail as economic development engines for the City.
   - Ensure truck access to the Richmond Marine Terminal is in alignment with Vision Zero objectives (see Goal 7).
   - Engage with the Commerce Road improvements projects, making sure that truck access is improved while also making sure pedestrians, cyclists, and transit-users are not forgotten, particularly to ensure workers have multiple transportation options to access industrial jobs (see Goal 8).

d. Capitalize on fiber-optic speed internet infrastructure being developed along I-95/I-64 by identifying land that could be used for data centers and identifying locations for tech businesses and jobs.

e. Provide environmental remediation programs and funding for industrial site assemblage to create development-ready sites.

Objective 11.5

Increase the number of jobs in Nodes by **branding and marketing the Nodes.**

a. Continue to support Venture Richmond as the Downtown Business Improvement District.

b. Create new Business Improvement Districts to help market Nodes.

c. Support existing and help establish new business associations in Nodes.

d. Develop marketing materials for Nodes that highlight the uniqueness of each Node, the forthcoming zoning and infrastructure improvements, and information on economic development incentives that are available in the area.

e. Develop marketing materials to attract target industries: 1) corporate headquarters and professional services, 2) life sciences and education, 3) financial services, 4) transportation and logistics, and 5) specialty beverages and foods.

Goal 12: Tourism

Develop tourism and attractions to further elevate Richmond's image and to continue to delight existing and future residents, employees, and visitors.

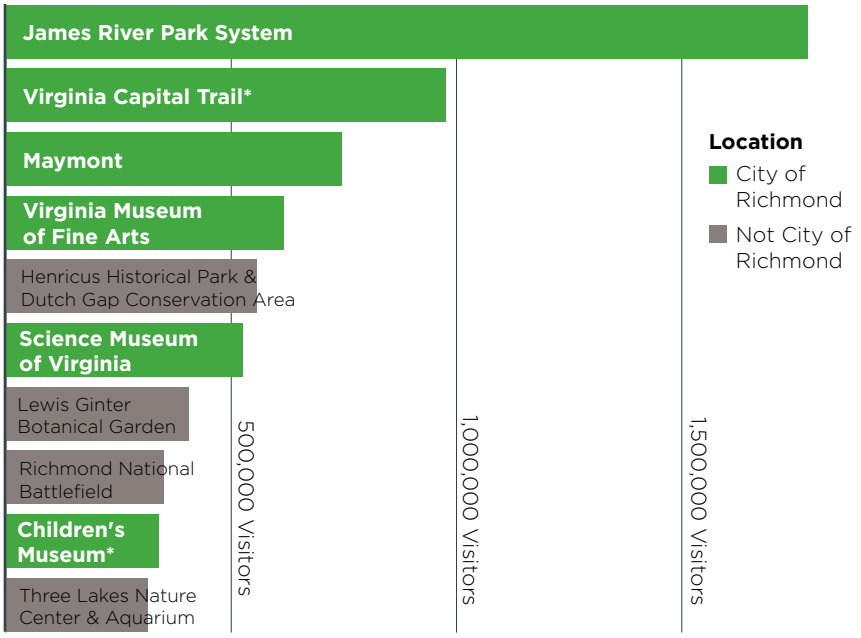
While you weren't looking, Richmond got cool.

– Frommer's

Existing Context

"While you weren't looking, Richmond got cool." – Frommer's
Richmond is a food and beer destination. Since the passage of SB 604 in 2012, which allowed breweries to serve beer without serving food, the Richmond Region has gone from two breweries to over 30. Richmond restaurants and bakeries have received national acclaim. While Richmond's 11% population growth since 2010 has created a larger market for local food establishments, the growth of the tourism industry in Richmond is bringing Richmond's "coolness" to a national stage. Richmond is routinely listed on national lists, most recently, #7 of Trip Advisor's Ten Top Destinations on the Rise in the U.S. and #7 on the Lonely Planet's 2018 Best in the U.S.

Richmond's attracts and diverse festivals attract millions of visitors.
Six of the top ten attractions in the Richmond Region are found in Richmond, as shown in Figure 33. The natural splendor and recreation opportunities on the James River makes it, by far, the most visited attraction in the Region. From flying dogs and paddleboards at Dominion River Rock to jazz at Maymont or food at the Second Street festival, there is an event for everyone in Richmond. The Folk Festival alone attracts over 200,000 people annually and Richmond hosts a variety of outdoor cultural events that add to the boom of tourism in the region.



** Virginia Capital Trail runs from Williamsburg to Richmond. The Children's Museum of Richmond has locations in Richmond, Chesterfield, and Henrico.*

FIGURE 33 // **Top Ten Attraction Attendance, FY 2018-19**
Source: Richmond Region Tourism: Impact of Tourism, 2018-19

Objective 12.1

Maintain, grow, and market **Richmond's tourism attractions.**

a. Fully implement the Riverfront Plan and the James River Park System Master Plan (see Goals 4 and 17).

b. Support heritage tourism and expand the number of tourism sites that tell stories that have not yet been shared.

c. Develop Nodes as destinations through creative place making and branding (see Goal 4).

d. Preserve and enhance Richmond's beauty and unique community character; natural, historic, and cultural resources; and public art (see Goals 3 and 4).

Objective 12.2

Host regional, national, and international events.

a. Implement the Richmond Region Tourism Master Plan.

b. Promote performance venues of varying sizes to attract acts and visitors.

c. Promote the region as a location for sports events, such as the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Bike Race and the Monument Avenue 10K.

Objective 12.3

Increase the **availability and options for lodging** in the city.

a. Encourage the development of hotel rooms in Nodes.

Objective 12.4

Improve **hospitality and visitor facilities and services.**

a. Expand wayfinding signage throughout the city connecting more of the city to visitors to Richmond.

b. Include accessible public restrooms throughout the city, including at City facilities and parks.

c. Support the increase of the multi-modal transportation network to ensure tourists and visitors can easily move around the city (see strategies in Equitable Transportation).

Goal 13: Anchor Institutions

Leverage institutions to strengthen job sectors and collaborate on land planning.

Existing Context

Six of Richmond's top 10 largest employers are government entities, as shown in Table 4. As the Capital of the Commonwealth of Virginia and home to VCU, Richmond is home to many local, state, and federal entities that employ tens of thousands of people who live throughout the region.

TABLE 4 // **Top 10 Largest Employers**

	Employer
1	Virginia Commonwealth University
2	VCU Health
3	Richmond Public Schools
4	City of Richmond
5	U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs
6	HCA Virginia Health System
7	University of Richmond
8	Federal Reserve Bank, Richmond
9	Philip Morris U.S.A., Inc.
10	MCV Physicians

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), 4th Quarter (October, November, December) 2017

Richmond's universities are major attractions for students, faculty, research, and culture. VCU, the largest university in Richmond, is ranked as the #1 public institution for fine arts in the country. According to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, in the 2017-2018 academic year, 85% of post-secondary students in Richmond were VCU students. As shown in Figure 34, VCU's student population increased by 29% (6,970 students) from '00–'01 to '17–'18 and on-campus students nearly doubled from 2,602 to 5,061. During that same period, the University of Richmond's student population decreased by 7% (302 students) and Virginia Union University's student population increased by 9% (131 students).

Richmond is the Capital of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

30% of the City's land is not taxable.
Real estate taxes are only collected on 70% of the City's total land area because 30% is owned by entities who do not pay property tax, such as government institutions and some non-profits. Furthermore, the City does not have land use authority over state-owned parcels, meaning the Commonwealth of Virginia does not have to follow the City's land use plan and Zoning Ordinance when developing state-owned parcels. Cities across the nation, like Boston, have payment-in-lieu-of-tax (PILOT) programs where large non-profit institutions, such as universities, give a payment to the City to cover some or all of the property taxes that institution would be paying if it were a for-profit entity.

In 2017, real estate tax income accounted for 33% of the City's total budget.
Property tax is the single largest source of income for the City. These revenues are critical in providing vital services to city residents, such as public safety, infrastructure, and public education.

Richmond's anchor institutions provide stability and foster innovation.
VCU's investment in programs that spark innovation, like the da vinci Center and the Brandcenter, have built upon and expanded the entrepreneurial and artistic spirit of Richmond. UofR has programs, like the Bonner Center for Civic Engagement, which actively fosters life-long learning and civic engagement. VUU has established partnerships with RPS and the City to provide academic scholarships to 8th grade students. Beyond specific programs, anchor institutions employ thousand of people that support households across the city and educate the future business owners, thinkers, and leaders of the City.

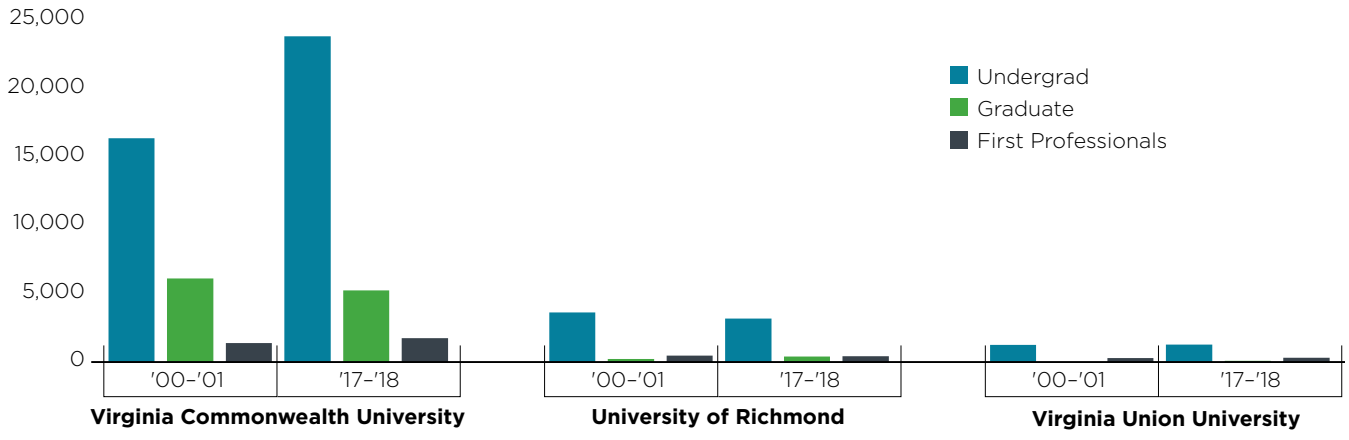


FIGURE 34 // **University Enrollment, '00-'01, '17-'18**
Source: State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. 2000-2001, 2017-2018

Objective 13.1

Create new and support existing **cooperative relationships between institutions and neighborhoods.**

a. Encourage higher education institutions to create neighborhood partnerships for the improvement of K–12 schools, public safety, neighborhood amenities, housing, and mentorship/apprentice programs.

b. Adapt the educational and skill training offered by local institutions to match the current and future needs of local companies.

Objective 13.2

Encourage institutional development and expansion through policy and **careful consideration of land resources.**

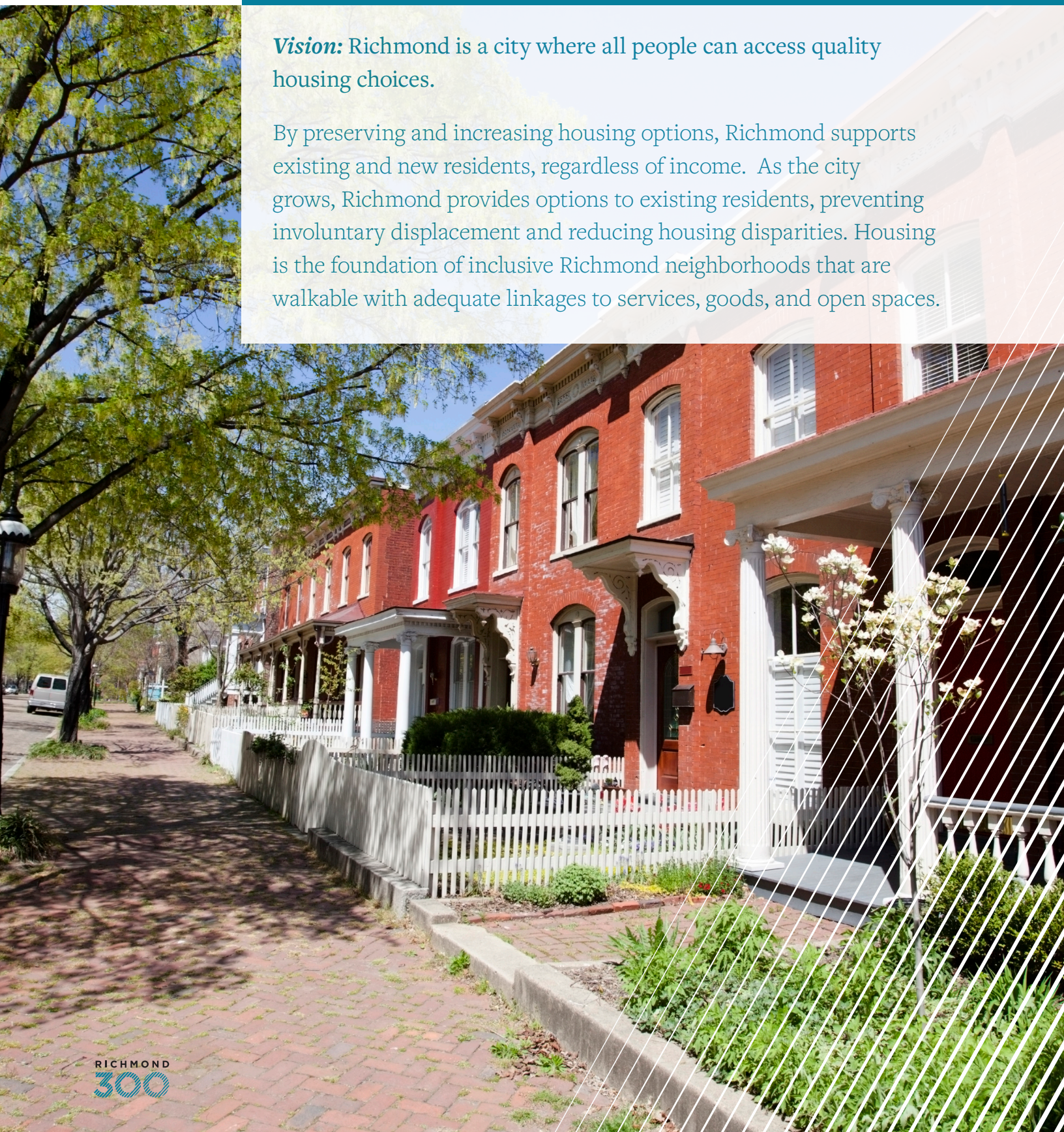
a. Work collaboratively with institutions to ensure that master plans for their campuses are presented to the Planning Commission for review.

b. Explore creation of a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) for institutions.

Richmond is home to three universities: Virginia Commonwealth University [top], Virginia Union University [middle], and University of Richmond [bottom].

CHAPTER 5

Inclusive Housing



Vision: Richmond is a city where all people can access quality housing choices.

By preserving and increasing housing options, Richmond supports existing and new residents, regardless of income. As the city grows, Richmond provides options to existing residents, preventing involuntary displacement and reducing housing disparities. Housing is the foundation of inclusive Richmond neighborhoods that are walkable with adequate linkages to services, goods, and open spaces.

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Goal 14: Housing

Preserve, expand, and create mixed income communities, by preserving existing housing units and developing new ones—both renter- and owner-occupied—throughout the city.

Existing Context

Richmond has not experienced this kind of residential growth since the late 1800s.

As shown in Figure 35, between 2000 and 2019, Richmond added 32,646 residents and its population grew by 17%. That 19-year growth rate is the highest absolute and highest growth rate in population since 1930 to 1950, when the city grew by over 47,381 residents or 26% and also annexed nearly 17 square miles, which accounted for 41% of the total land area in 1942. Richmond has not experienced this kind of population growth — a significant growth in residents over a 20-year period without also annexing land — since the late 1800s. Despite this significant growth in population since 2000, in 2019 many of Richmond's neighborhoods still had less population than in the 1970s and continued to have vacant houses and parcels.

$72,000

Households earning as high as $72,000 cannot afford to live in most of the Richmond region.

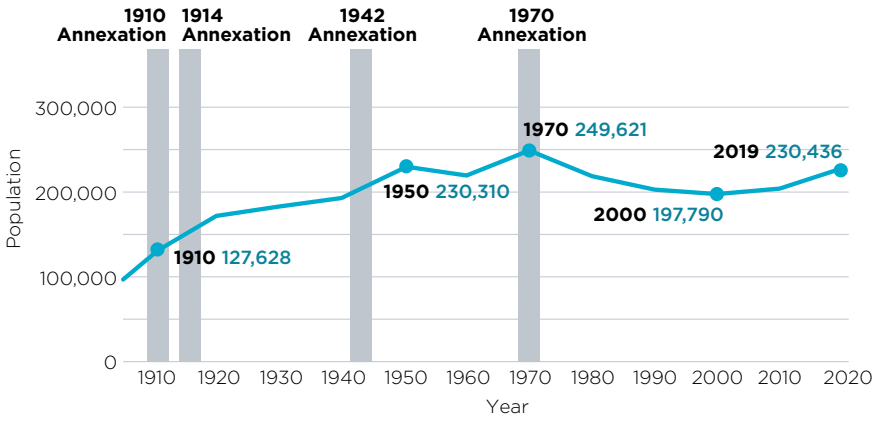


FIGURE 35 // **Historic Population**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: 1910, 1950, 1970, 2000 Censuses, 2019 Population Est.

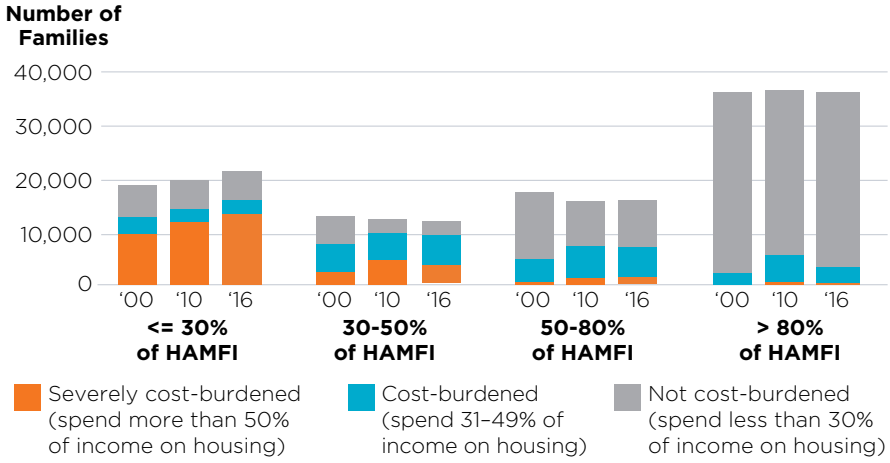
TABLE 5 // **Housing Sale Prices**

	2009			2018			Percent Change '09–'18
	Avg. price	vs. Region		Avg. Price	vs. Region		
Richmond	$ 159,000	$ (51,000)	-24%	$ 248,000	$ (13,290)	-5%	56%
Henrico	$ 211,250	$ 1,250	1%	$ 255,000	$ (6,290)	-2%	21%
Chesterfield	$ 215,000	$ 5,000	2%	$ 260,000	$ (1,290)	0%	21%
Hanover	$ 246,975	$ 36,975	18%	$ 302,125	$ 40,835	16%	22%
Ashland	$ 202,000	$ (8,000)	-4%	$ 251,250	$ (10,040)	-4%	24%
Region	$ 210,000			$ 261,290			24%

Source: Richmond MLS

Richmond's housing prices are catching up with the region. The increase in population since 2000 has generally been middle- and high-income earning households who are reinvesting in neighborhoods and bringing average housing prices into parity with the region. Average housing prices increased by 56% from 2009 to 2018, putting Richmond at the fastest price increase in the region. However, in 2009 Richmond's average housing price was 24% below the regional average, whereas in 2018 the average housing price was 5% below the regional average, as shown in Table 5.

Housing costs in Richmond have outpaced income growth for low- and very low-income households. From 2000 to 2016, the proportion of housing-cost-burdened households (spending more than 30% of income on housing) increased from 33 to 42%, as shown in Figure 36. In 2016, two-thirds of households earning less than 80 percent of the HUD area median family income (HAMFI) were housing cost-burdened; whereas, in 2000 half of households earning less than 80% of HAMFI were housing cost burdened. Given these



HAMFI = HUD Area Median Family Income

FIGURE 36 // **Housing Cost Burden by Household Income, 2000–2016**
Housing cost burden has increased across all income levels between 2000 and 2016 and decreased slightly in some income levels between 2010 to 2016.
Source: Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS): 2000, 2010, and 2010-2016

data, there is a substantial need for more housing for low income and very low-income households in Richmond and the Richmond region. The Partnership for Housing Affordability, a regional non-profit, authored a Richmond Regional Housing Framework Plan to develop strategies for all Richmond localities to create more affordable housing throughout the region.

Housing prices limit mobility and concentrate poverty.
According to the 2017 Market Value Analysis (MVA) by the Reinvestment Fund shown in Figure 37, households earning as high as $72,000 (120% of the Area Median Income [AMI]) can only afford to live in the lowest housing markets in the Richmond region; whereas, in comparable regions (such as Akron and Pittsburgh), moderate income households are able to afford housing in the middle housing markets as well as the low housing markets. This means that in Richmond low- and moderate-income households must live in concentrated pockets of poverty because affordable housing choices do not exist in middle and strong housing markets.

The MVA identifies nine housing market types.

A – High sales prices, higher percentage of recently built houses, primarily owner-occupied, low vacancy rates, low level of bank sales, few publicly-subsidized rental housing options, and the least dense across all categories.

B – Similar to "A" category, but with much higher levels of renter-occupied units (33% of households in the region), with higher vacancy rates than "A" but lower than the regional average. Also the highest density of all market types in the region.

C – More suburban in form than other market types, sales price above the regional average, primarily owner-occupied, few publicly-subsidized rental housing options, more bank sales than "A" and "B" market types.

D – Slightly below regional average in sales price, low rate of owner-occupied housing, low vacancy, and relatively high subsidized rental housing options.

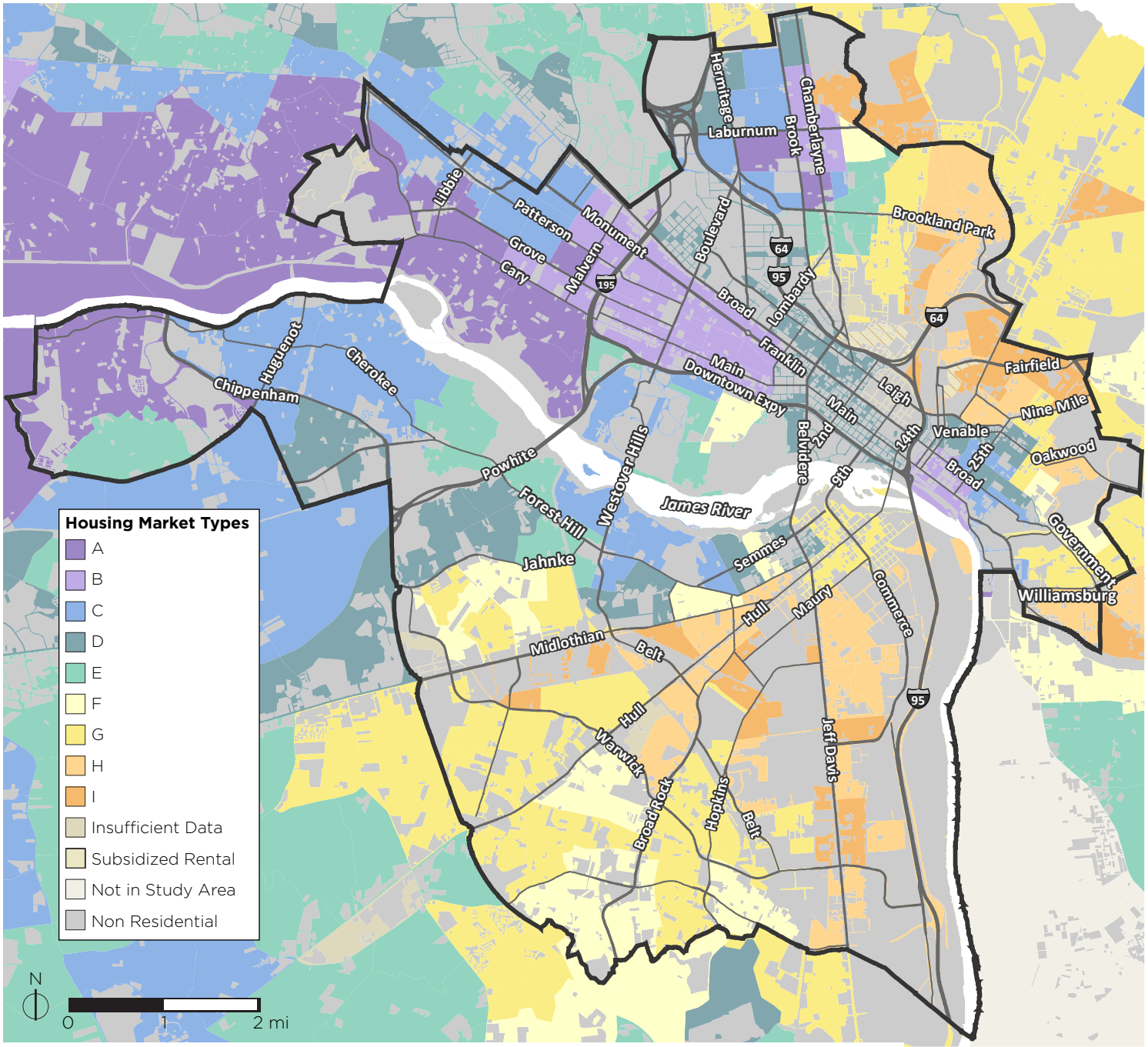
E – Below regional average in sales price, mainly owner-occupied, bank sales equal to the regional average, and low rates of vacancy.

F – About 2/3 of the regional average in sales price, with high percentage of bank sales, even split between owner- and renter-occupied households, high amount of publicly-subsidized rental housing options.

G – About 1/3 of the regional average in sales price, with high percentage of bank sales, slightly more owner-occupied than renter-occupied households, high vacancy rates, low amount of publicly-subsidized rental housing options.

H – Below 1/3 of the regional average in sales price, high percentage of bank sales, low permit activity, majority renter-occupied households, higher amount of publicly-subsidized rental housing options, high vacancy rate.

I – About 1/4 of the regional average in sales price, low permitting activity, majority renter-occupied households, high amount of publicly-subsidized rental housing options, low permitting activity.



	Number of Block Groups	Median Sales Price 2015-2016	Sales Price Variance	Percent Bank Sales	Owner Occupancy	Percent Subsidized Rental	Percent Vacant Residential	Housing Units per Acre	Residential Parcels Built 2008-up	Residential Parcels w/Permits 2015-2016
A	32	$ 501,292	0.39	2.6%	90.1%	0.4%	0.4%	1.9	5.9%	11.6%
B	23	$ 425,851	0.47	3.3%	32.9%	10.3%	1.5%	17.2	4.7%	5.0%
C	82	$ 274,479	0.34	5.5%	83.2%	3.4%	0.6%	3.2	2.7%	7.2%
D	53	$ 195,175	0.35	9.4%	28.8%	6.9%	1.2%	9.8	3.4%	5.7%
E	103	$ 182,686	0.32	13.3%	79.8%	2.7%	0.9%	2.8	2.6%	5.5%
F	30	$ 140,358	0.38	20.5%	48.4%	77.3%	1.8%	4.0	2.5%	4.0%
G	62	$ 117,611	0.39	29.1%	58.9%	6.5%	3.0%	4.2	2.7%	4.9%
H	31	$ 63,465	0.61	32.8%	41.0%	12.0%	8.5%	5.6	1.9%	3.7%
I	18	$ 53,597	0.60	37.3%	30.1%	88.9%	3.2%	7.2	2.0%	2.0%

FIGURE 37 // **Richmond Region Market Value Analysis, 2017**

Source: The Reinvestment Fund, 2017

Objective 14.1

Increase city-wide awareness of the importance of integrating housing at all income levels into every residential neighborhood so every household has housing choice throughout the city.

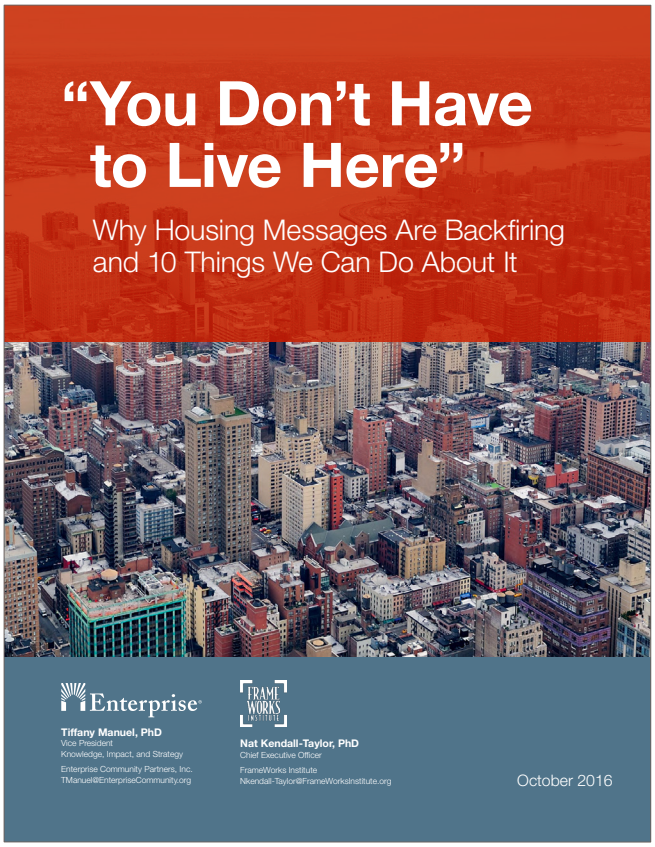
a. Develop and fund a housing policy educational program for newly elected officials and City staff involved in planning, housing, and community development activities.

b. Create a Richmond Housing Collaborative comprising of eight areas of influence, including housing thought leaders from City government, public housing administration and resident leaders, philanthropic and housing finance leaders, non-profit and for-profit housing development leaders, and housing advocacy leaders to discuss, innovate, create, test, and implement solutions to the City's housing needs.

c. Increase awareness and improve relationships with landlords regarding the Housing Choice Voucher program, particularly in areas within Nodes and a half mile of high-frequency transit stops, and highlight the new State Law (HB6 Virginia Fair Housing Law), which prevents landlords from discriminating against renters with Housing Choice Vouchers.

d. Create a center for homeownership that is a clearinghouse for information on City programs, grants, loans, and education, partnering with state agencies such as Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to increase homeownership, particularly among Black and Latino households.

e. Create an update to the MVA, use the updated analysis to compare changes in housing markets since the 2017 MVA, communicate how changes have impacted housing access, evaluate the effect of policies and programs on local housing markets and sub-markets, and develop new programs as markets change.



Campaigns like the one pictured here from Enterprise help unpack the language and communications messaging that has been used in the past and works to change the narrative about housing.

Objective 14.2

Ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time.

a. Create a minimum of 300 units of permanent supportive housing to house persons with special needs by 2024 in partnership with Virginia Supportive Housing and other local housing organizations.

b. Create a minimum of 250 new emergency shelter units to provide additional housing for persons experiencing homelessness by 2021.

c. Ensure that individuals and families facing eviction due to late- and/or non- payment of rent receive free legal assistance, one-time rental assistance, and personal finance education to prevent eviction.

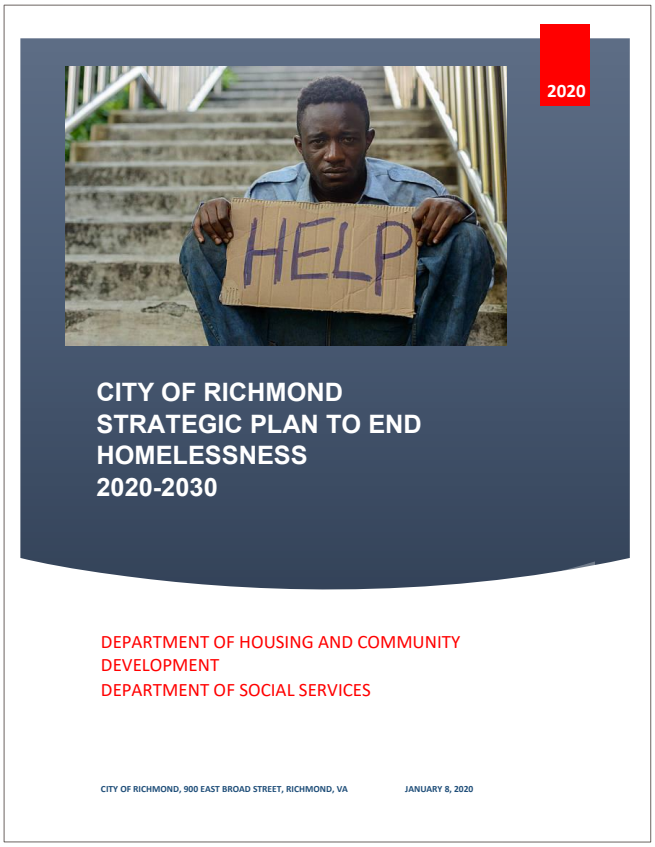
d. Amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow by right emergency shelter units and permanent supportive housing units in zoning districts where currently permitted by conditional use permits only.

e. Create siting criteria and program requirements for City-wide emergency housing facilities to include a maximum number of units permitted, the maximum travel distance permitted to public transit, on-site management, food services, social services, housing services, and facility security for both the residents and community.

f. Expand partnerships serving the homeless to provide small year-round emergency housing facilities for all homeless populations that include supportive services and food.

g. Amend zoning definitions related to services and facilities serving people experiencing homelessness (including group homes, lodging houses, and multi-family/permanent supportive housing) to support best and emerging practices as designated by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

h. Leverage the housing and funding expertise of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to increase permanent affordable housing to Richmonders exiting homelessness.



In January 2020, the City developed the Strategic Plan to End Homeless, which outlines a multi-sector approach to ensuring homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time.

i. Review City properties for suitability for conversion to emergency housing or services to meet the needs of Richmonders experiencing homelessness.

j. Develop a Memorandum of Understanding or other formal partnership agreement between the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care, the designated "Collaborative Applicant" (Homeward), and appropriate City stakeholders and our neighboring counties and cities to address the regional presence of persons experiencing homelessness.

Objective 14.3

Create 10,000 new affordable housing units for low- and very low-income households over the next 10 years.

a. Commit to providing a dedicated revenue source to annually fund the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and prioritize funding projects that provide housing to very low-income individuals and families, including supportive housing, within a half mile of high-frequency transit stops.

b. Amend the rehabilitation tax abatement program to provide incentives for for-profit developers to create mixed-income residential housing where at least 20% of the units are affordable to households earning less than 50% of the AMI.

c. Lobby the General Assembly to give Richmond powers under 15.2-2304, which allows localities to adopt mandatory inclusionary zoning programs.

d. Support new construction technologies that standardize housing design and construction to reduce the cost of building affordable housing.

Objective 14.4

Increase the number of **mixed-income communities along enhanced transit corridors.**

a. Prioritize the development review process for applications for mixed-income housing that includes 20% or more of the units at 50% AMI.

b. Incorporate mixed-income housing as an element of the small area plans identified in Goal 1 (see Goal 1).

c. Coordinate with GRTC to develop new station locations and routes where development is occurring to ensure mixed-income communities have access to transit to reach jobs, goods, and services (see Goal 8).

d. Create affordable housing tax-increment finance (TIF) zones for land within a half mile of Pulse stations and direct the future incremental tax revenues funds from the TIF to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund for funding mixed-income projects within the Pulse TIF zone; establish similar TIF zones along future enhanced transit corridors.

e. Lobby the VHDA to update the Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to encourage more Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) projects near transit in urban areas and in non-low-income areas, and require open space for children, and to review the regional distribution of LIHTC projects.

f. Create a database to monitor LIHTC projects to track expiring affordable housing and determine ways to preserve the affordability (possibly including programs to allow tenants to purchase units and programs allowing the City to purchase expiring projects), focusing on LIHTC projects within a half mile of high-frequency transit stops.

Objective 14.5

Encourage more housing types throughout the city and greater density along enhanced transit corridors and at Nodes (shown in Figure 38) by amending the Zoning Ordinance.

a. Rezone corridors and Nodes consistent with the Future Land Use Plan (see Goal 1).

b. As part of the Zoning Ordinance update, revise the Affordable Dwelling Unit density bonus process to make it easier to accomplish.

c. Update Zoning Ordinance to allow for accessory dwelling units by-right with form-based requirements in all residential zones.

d. Adapt obsolete City-owned buildings into affordable and market rate housing (see Goal 2).

e. Allow the development of middle housing (2- to 4-unit buildings) by-right within a half mile of high-frequency transit stops.

f. Explore expanding the Maggie Walker Community Land Trust scope to create small multi-family buildings (2- to 4-units) where one unit is owned by a low-income household and the other unit(s) are rented to low-income households with Housing Choice Vouchers.

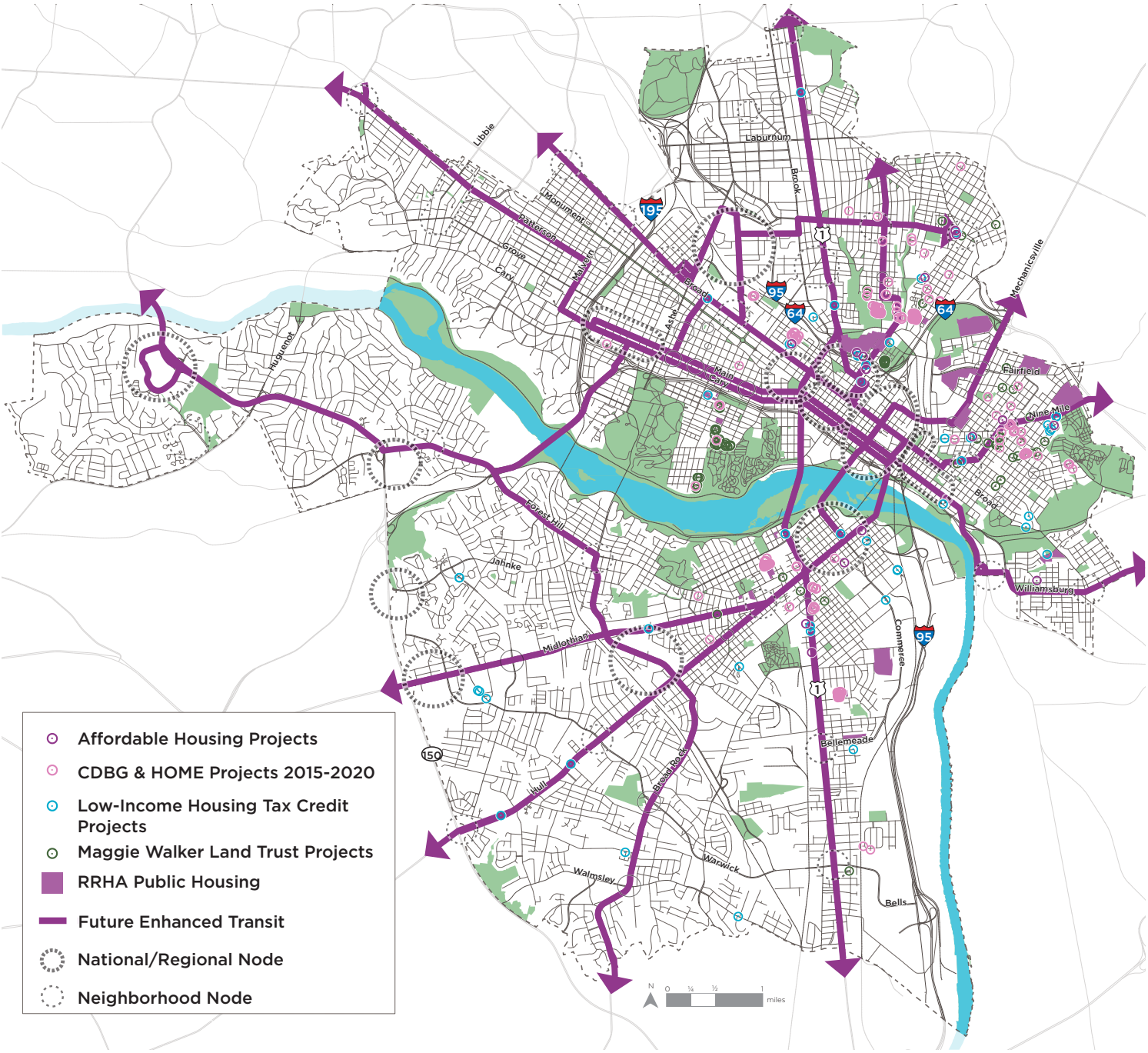


FIGURE 38 // **Existing Affordable Housing with Nodes and Enhanced Transit**

Objective 14.6

Transform Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) public housing properties into well-designed, walkable, mixed-use, mixed-income, transit-adjacent communities.

a. Identify revenue streams dedicated to the transformation of public housing into mixed-income residential neighborhoods.

b. Develop small area plans with inclusive community input (including existing RRHA residents) to plan for the redevelopment of mixed-income neighborhoods on public housing sites for 1) Gilpin Court, 2) Mosby South, 3) Creighton Court, 4) Mosby North, 5) Fairfield Court, 6) Whitcomb Court, and 7) Hillside Court.

c. Ensure that all RRHA residents have quality housing and choice by working with public housing residents to consider forming homeowner associations or cooperative housing corporations by rehabilitating and then purchasing their current housing for a nominal cost.

d. Partner with the RRHA to assist over-income public housing residents transition to market rate housing by providing wrap-around supportive services to increase confidence and financial security.

e. Partner with the RRHA and develop an agreement that integrates the City's and the RRHA's housing objectives into a comprehensive strategy to end poverty and to assist public housing residents build wealth.

The Armstrong High School site was redeveloped into a mixed-income community by RRHA, including housing for very-low and low-income households.

Objective 14.7

Re-imagine the future of manufactured home parks.

a. Develop an action plan to revitalize the physical condition of the manufactured home parks into desirable tiny home communities.

b. Promote non-profit investment and cooperative ownership in existing manufactured home parks.

Objective 14.8

Develop inclusionary and equitable housing options for our gentrifying neighborhoods to **prevent involuntary displacement.**

a. Create a tax fund to help qualifying low-income residents remain in their homes as their assessments increase by involving the philanthropic community.

b. Fund home repair and energy efficiency programs to assist individuals with deferred maintenance (see Objective 14.9).

c. Create and fund new programs and coordinate existing programs that will reduce evictions, such as emergency rental assistance and tenant and landlord education and training.

d. Create and then fund an emergency rental and utility assistance program.

e. Support marketing efforts that encourage landlords to accept housing vouchers.

f. Reduce the impediments to fair housing choice by implementing the first-tier priorities outlined in the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice report (2017–2020), many of which directly align with the recommendations outlined in this Goal of *Richmond 300*.
   - Increase access to accessible housing
   - Decrease racial/ethnic disparities in access to opportunity
   - Decrease disproportionate housing needs among minority and low-income households
   - Expand fair housing capacity
   - Deconcentrate publicly-supported housing
   - Reduce concentrated areas of racial/ethnic poverty
   - Decrease residential segregation

Objective 14.9

Assist households that desire to **age in place in their neighborhoods.**

a. Track and report annually the funding that the City allocates to existing moderate- and low-income homeowners, and elderly homeowners to fix their homes.

b. Increase education/promotion of existing programs and expand programs to aid homeowners in implementing energy efficiency and stormwater upgrades, including establishing a Residential PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) Program (see Goal 15).

c. Continue to allocate Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) Investment Partnerships Program and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to non-profit affordable housing developers to create or preserve homeownership opportunities, especially in neighborhoods experiencing gentrification.

d. Analyze City-owned parcels that are located in neighborhoods that are conducive for low-income homeownership opportunities and transfer to the Maggie Walker Community Land Trust.

e. Coordinate and promote existing Green and Healthy Homes programs to address and promote the basic healthy homes principles of dry, clean, ventilated, free from pests and contaminants, well-maintained, and safe.

f. Partner with non-profits and philanthropic institutions to develop a grant program to assist low- and very low-income homeowners renovate their homes and to address building and property maintenance code violations.

g. Encourage and facilitate property tax relief for very-low and low-income seniors to allow them to stay in their neighborhoods.

h. Amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow accessory dwelling units in all residential zones to allow for in-law apartments.

i. Educate seniors about reverse mortgages to prevent seniors from agreeing to predatory agreements.

j. Encourage the creation of 55+ senior communities within a half more of high-frequency transit stops.

CHAPTER 6

Thriving Environment

Vision: Richmond is a sustainable and resilient city with healthy air, clean water, and a flourishing ecosystem.

Carbon emissions are low, air and water quality are high, and city-wide solid waste production is minimal. The City is positively adapting to the effects of a changing climate, with a built environment that enhances and protects natural assets, including the James River. All residents have equitable access to nature and a healthy community.

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Goal 15: Clean Air

Improve air quality within the city and the region, achieve a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions within the city by 2030, and achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions within the city by 2050 via RVAgreen 2050.

Existing Context

Richmond is in the midst of a global climate crisis.
Much of the built environment and the means by which people and goods get around contribute to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and release of other pollutants to the atmosphere. While urban form and residential density will not solve these problems alone, houses built at lower densities that require an automobile for most trips use more energy and, therefore, create more pollution overall, as compared to neighborhoods that are built including a dense mix of uses and do not require an automobile for most trips.

RVAgreen 2050 was launched in with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions within the city by 80% by 2050 and in 2020, this goal was increased to a 100% reduction by 2050.
The RVAgreen 2050 plan has not yet been developed, but will include ways to change the paradigm of how Richmonders get and use energy by transforming Richmond's energy system, guiding the city to more energy efficient buildings that save money for residents and businesses, and using cleaner and more reliable energy and transportation options that result in healthier air and a higher quality of life for our community. Goal 15 of *Richmond 300* focuses on reducing energy consumption and shifting our energy production to renewable sources.

Greenhouse gas emissions in Richmond come from a variety of sources.
In 2015 in Richmond, 40% of community GHG emissions were from commercial buildings, 24% from the transportation sector, 23% from residential buildings, and 11% from industrial facilities. In 2015, 50% of community GHG emissions resulted from the use of electricity, 24% from gasoline/diesel consumption and 22% from natural gas consumption. Overall energy consumption in Richmond actually decreased by 2% between 2008 and 2015. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, in 2016 in the Commonwealth of Virginia, 45.6% of GHG emissions came from the transportation sector.

Renewable energy is beginning to take shape in Richmond.
In 2017, Richmond achieved SolSmart Silver designation for its efforts to provide resources and reduce barriers to make it faster, easier, and less expensive for the community to go solar. While only accounting for

0.08% of the total energy supply, the production of solar energy has increased by nearly 450% between 2008 and 2015. Analysis by VCU's Center for Urban and Regional Analysis shows great potential for rooftop solar panels to produce up to 12% of the city's energy demand; however, this would require upgrades to our electricity distribution and energy storage infrastructure.

Streetlights account for a major demand in the use of power by the City of Richmond.
The Department of Public Utilities (DPU) owns and operates 37,000 streetlights, as well as an electric distribution utility that supports their operation. The electric utility system grid is co-located on poles with Dominion Energy, Verizon, and some other isolated Telecom providers (i.e., Fiber, Radio Frequency, etc.). DPU is currently in a pilot phase of examining LED technology and its effects on lighting levels, color rendering, power usage, and various electrical grid effect characteristics. DPU works closely with Richmond Police Department (RPD) in various environmental impact initiatives to enhance or promote a sense of greater public safety.

Objective 15.1
Reduce air pollution related to transportation.

a. Increase the number of Richmonders living in a development pattern that encourages density and reduces dependency on single-occupancy vehicles (see Goal 1, Goal 8, Goal 14).

b. Locate jobs near residents (see Goal 1, Goal 11).

c. Transition public and private vehicles to modes that do not emit greenhouse gas (see Goal 10).

d. Enforce the anti-idling policy for City vehicles.

e. Adopt a Council resolution to encourage idling reduction community-wide.

f. Increase use of mass and active transportation options (see Goal 8).

g. Continue to engage with the CMAQ Program's measures to improve air quality in the city.

Objective 15.2

Reduce air pollution related to City infrastructure and facilities.

a. Conduct an energy audit, publish grades for efficiency, and benchmark energy use for all City facilities.

b. Develop an energy management program for City government to include:

   i. Education programs for City procurement and capital project management staff on the provisions in City Council Resolution 2008-R152-2009-14 for green, high-performance building standards on City construction projects.

   ii. Specific reduction goals for municipal greenhouse gas emissions by sector.

   iii. A plan to retrofit all City buildings to improve efficiency.

   iv. Installation of renewable energy (solar, wind, hydro, geothermal) on City buildings and land (methane-capture at landfill and wastewater treatment plant).

   v. Identification of opportunities to reduce wastewater energy use.

   vi. The purchase off-site renewable energy to cover remaining City demand after deployment of on-site solar and energy efficiency initiatives, and other strategies as appropriate.

c. Convert streetlights to LED and/or solar.

d. Conduct study on local and upstream methane leakage from DPU operations.

e. Adopt a green building ordinance for municipal facilities.

Manchester streetlights are LED.

Objective 15.3
Reduce air pollution related to private buildings.

a. Engage local professional expertise to develop incentives and/or other components of a robust Green Building program that may include:
    i. Transitioning from natural gas to electric.
    ii. Changing the Zoning Ordinance to encourage developers to renovate buildings with deep energy retrofits and/or build new construction following green building guidelines by creating incentives such as reducing parking requirements or density bonus.
    iii. Upgrading energy efficiency of industrial facilities.
    iv. Transitioning buildings from fuel oil to all electric.
    v. Evaluating the potential of green development zones as permitted by state code.

b. Work with local providers to market energy retrofit programs for low-income individuals.

c. Encourage industrial facilities to use Combined Heat and Power to generate electricity and thermal energy.

d. Create a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (CPACE) program.

e. Advocate in the General Assembly for enabling legislation allowing jurisdictions to:
    i. Adopt residential PACE programs.
    ii. Require energy benchmarking and public disclosure, and adopt local ordinance requiring benchmarking by large privately owned buildings.
    iii. Adopt stricter energy efficiency requirements in their building codes.

f. Advocate in the General Assembly to amend the statewide uniform building code to require greater energy efficiency.

g. Review existing zoning and policy for impediments to renewable energy and revise them to reduce barriers.

h. Evaluate establishing incentives to encourage the installation of solar panels on private buildings, such as matching the state's 30% incentive.

i. Develop guide for high-performance / net zero energy new construction and historic retrofits to encourage green construction practices.

j. Evaluate creating legislation to require stronger energy-efficiency and green-building standards of developers requesting zoning variance and/or site plan approvals.

k. Develop a comprehensive 'green business' program, similar to that of Montgomery County, Maryland or the Loudoun County, Virginia Green Business Challenge.

Objective 15.4
Reduce the amount of waste going to landfills.

a. Develop and implement a multi-family and commercial recycling program.

b. Increase the number of public recycling bins and increase the frequency that recycling is collected.

c. Increase city-wide composting for residential, commercial, and industrial users by coordinating with private composting companies.

d. Create incentives for construction and demolition material recycling.

e. Create "pay-as-you-throw" program.

f. Demonstrate sustainable consumption, sustainable building practices, and zero-waste behaviors in the design and expansion of City operations.

g. Require new construction projects to provide areas for dumpsters, recycling ,and composting.

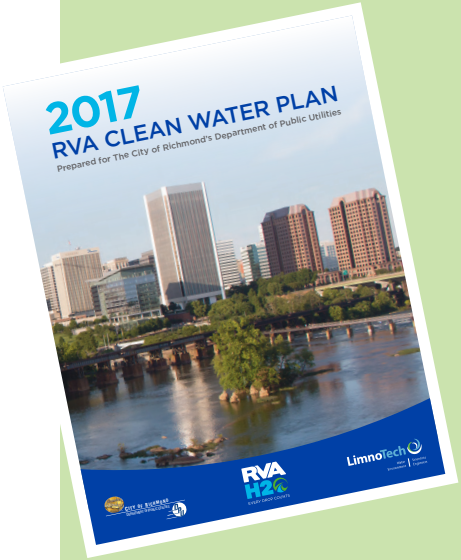
h. Advocate in the General Assembly for enabling legislation allowing cities to ban or tax plastic bags, single-use plastics, balloons, and Styrofoam.

i. Lobby the General Assembly to encourage bottle deposit to decrease litter, especially near the river.

j. Expand the City's Adopt-a-Street Program to include waterways, greenways, and bike lanes.

Goal 16: Clean Water

Improve local water quality and manage the built environment to enhance and protect natural assets such as the James River.



Existing Context

Clean water not only improves the natural environment that supports plant and animal life, but also improves human health, as the James River is the source of the city's drinking water.
Pollutants from impervious surface runoff and other pollutants that find their way into the James River degrade water quality. Goal 16 of *Richmond 300* includes recommendations that seek to improve the quality of the water in all of the city's waterways.

The James River's water quality is steadily improving.
The James River is a natural habitat, recreational destination, and the source for drinking water for the Richmond Metropolitan Region. The quality of the water in the James River affects habitats, recreation, and public health. In 2013, the City began an initiative called RVAH2O to focus on water quality and quantity issues within the city. Part of the initiative was the development of the *RVA Clean Water Plan*, which seeks to create one systematic approach to management of the city's water resources.

Similar to other older cities, Richmond is partially within a combined sewer system (CSS), meaning that sanitary sewage and stormwater are combined in one pipe system.
Approximately 32% of the city's land area is within the combined sewer area with 52% of the city's population. During major storms, the CSS can be overwhelmed, resulting in untreated sewage being released directly into the James River, as shown in Figure 39. There are 25 overflow points. The City and Commonwealth have invested close to $300 million since the 1980s to make improvements to the CSS infrastructure to reduce combined sewage overflow (CSO) events and are engaged in a $117 million effort to reduce these events further.

Green infrastructure improves water quality and reduces the amount of water runoff that enters the CSS, resulting in fewer CSO events.
Stormwater runoff, a major cause of water pollution in urban areas, carries trash, bacteria, heavy metals, and other pollutants from the urban landscape to waterways. Higher flows resulting from heavy rains also can cause erosion and flooding in streams, damaging habitat, property, and infrastructure. The City is actively installing green infrastructure, a cost-effective, resilient approach to managing rain event effects, using vegetation, soils, and other elements to manage water and create healthier urban environments. In 2020, the City kicked off a green infrastructure Master Planning process for three watersheds prioritized in the RVA Clean Water Plan: Shockoe, Gillies, and Manchester Canal.

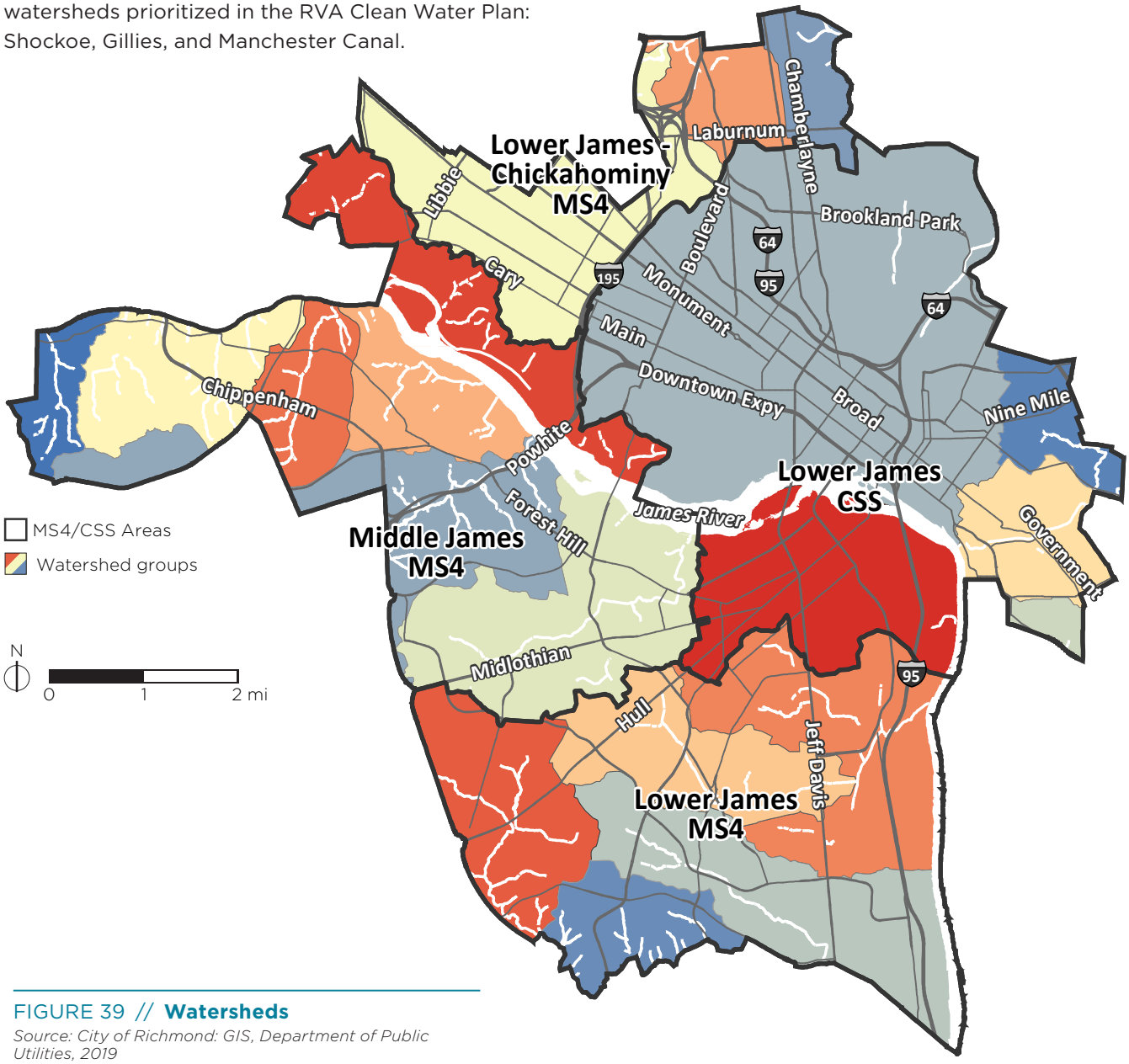


FIGURE 39 // **Watersheds**
Source: City of Richmond: GIS, Department of Public Utilities, 2019

Objective 16.1

Restore all streams into healthy riparian areas.

a. Reduce parking requirements and increase landscaping requirements particularly in industrial areas along the James River south of downtown (see Goal 4).

b. Replant stream buffers in riparian areas on City-owned property, and encourage private property owners to do same.

c. Prevent building in riparian areas.

d. Create watershed plans for each of the watersheds in the city, on both public and private land, including impervious reduction targets.

e. Implement the RVA Clean Water strategy to replace or restore 10 acres of riparian buffers according to state guidance.

f. Implement the RVA Clean Water strategy to restore 2,500 linear feet of stream.

g. Explore programs to daylight streams and de-culvert streams.

h. Implement strategies to reduce pollutants entering waterways (shown in Figure 40), such as encouraging the reduction of lawn chemicals and preventing debris from entering streams.

i. Identify brownfields for redevelopment and explore programs to incentivize redevelopment of the brownfields into appropriate uses.

j. Implement RVA Clean Water strategy to reduce contribution of pollutants to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4).

k. Implement RVA Clean Water strategy to construct Long-Term Control Plan projects.

l. Reduce litter in the city, by encouraging more trash/receptacles and more frequent cleaning/management of areas with a lot of litter, so the litter does not flow into city waterways.

Objective 16.2

Place an additional 100 acres under conservation easement, prioritizing conservation of land that creates connected green corridors.

a. Identify properties to acquire and set aside money to acquire the properties.

b. Implement RVA Clean Water strategy to place an additional 10 acres under conservation easement.

Objective 16.3

Reduce water consumption by 10% per capita.

a. Implement RVA Clean Water strategy to implement new water conservation technologies and promote water conservation efforts.

b. Encourage on-site graywater uses in public and private facilities.

c. Minimize drinking water waste through infrastructure improvements.

d. Encourage planting of drought-resistant species.

e. Adjust pricing to encourage conservation/utility bills reflective of use, and ensure there are programs to teach people about water conservation so that low-income families are not burdened with unexpectedly high bills.

f. Develop incentives for commercial/institutional water reduction.

g. Benchmark water usage in utility bills by comparing usage to average usage.

h. Benchmark water usage in all City facilities and develop plan to reduce consumption.

Objective 16.4

Increase green stormwater infrastructure throughout the city, prioritizing areas with a high heat vulnerability index score.

a. Explore creating incentives or requirements in zoning and development processes for green infrastructure on private property.

b. Identify opportunities for green infrastructure on public lands and rights-of-way; explore creating green infrastructure guidelines within the Better Streets manual.

c. Continue funding programs to plant trees and educate public on importance of trees.

d. Develop guidelines for use of porous paving materials for alley re-paving projects.

e. Market the City's stormwater credit program, and explore changes to the program to increase its use and encourage more landowners to plant vegetation that reduces the quantity and improves the quality of stormwater runoff.

f. Implement the RVA Clean Water plan strategy to install or retrofit green infrastructure draining 104 acres of impervious surfaces in the MS4.

g. Implement the RVA Clean Water strategy to install or retrofit green infrastructure draining 18 acres of impervious surfaces in the CSS.

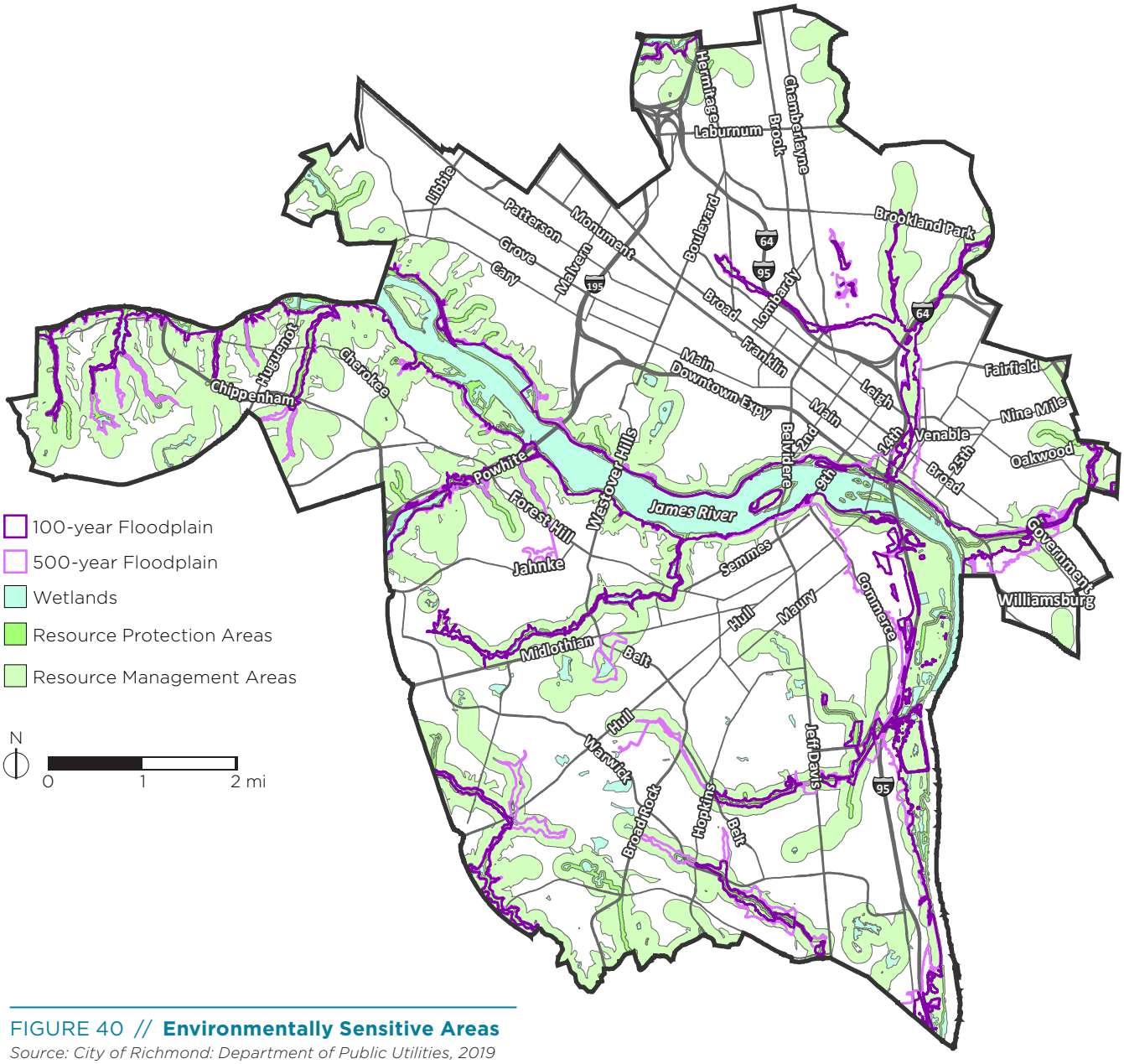


FIGURE 40 // **Environmentally Sensitive Areas**
Source: City of Richmond: Department of Public Utilities, 2019

Goal 17: Resilient & Healthy Communities

Positively adapt to the effects of a changing climate via RVAgreen 2050, and ensure that all residents have equitable access to nature and a healthy community.

Existing Context

The manner in which humans design and use land has significant effects on the natural environment and an individual's health.
The Science Museum of Virginia predicts that due to a changing climate, Richmond will experience more days over 95 degrees and more major rain events. Urban form, land use, and transportation systems have direct effects on public health, and can influence factors such as obesity, diabetes, and asthma rates, as well as overall fitness. The recommendations outlined in Goal 17 of this Plan seek to make Richmond more resilient and healthy with a focus on natural habitats, open space, parks, and agriculture. In addition to Goal 17, various sections of this Plan outline many recommendations that seek to improve the health of Richmonders; for example, Goals 1 and 4 describe strategies to create walkable neighborhoods and destinations, Goal 8 outlines recommendations to increase active transportation options, Goal 14 presents strategies for creating and improving quality housing, and Goals 15 and 16 provide recommendations for improving air and water quality.

Richmonders are vulnerable to urban heat.
Urban heat vulnerability is a term used to describe an area's conditions that make it more or less sensitive to heat. Currently, 21.5% of Richmonders live in census tracts designated as "highest" in terms of urban heat vulnerability, while 19.6% live in census tracts designated as "high." These areas correspond with some of the densest areas of the city and areas of the city with the highest poverty rates. As Richmond continues to experience longer and hotter heat waves, implementing strategies to make the city cooler will be increasingly critical to keep Richmonders healthy and our natural environment thriving.

Two in five Richmonders do not have easy access to quality food.
Based on 2015 data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 40% of Richmonders live in a food desert, meaning they live over a mile away from a full-service grocery store. Having access to quality food can decrease overweight and obesity rates, which are currently increasing.

The City of Richmond has sought to understand the factors that influence these concentrated areas with limited access and identify local solutions.
In 2011, the Mayor's Office appointed community advocates, academics, community leaders, business owners, and others to the Food Policy Taskforce, which was charged with providing recommendations on food policy and land use planning that would promote greater access to healthy foods. In 2014, the City conducted a Food Policy Analysis, which was used to inform a city-wide community engagement campaign conducted by the Richmond Food Justice Alliance (RFJA) in 2019. RFJA collaborated with a committed group of impacted residents to develop and implement the campaign. This 8-month effort allowed for individuals who experience food insecurity firsthand to identify the

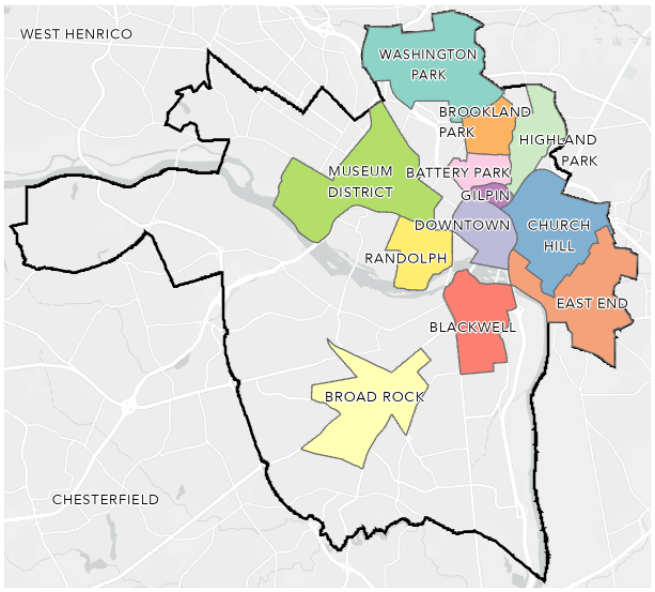
solutions that would benefit them and their families most. Relevant land use and city planning policies that were identified in the campaign are included in objective 17.4.

Access to open space and natural systems can decrease the risk of diseases like obesity and asthma and increase biodiversity and overall environmental health.

Asthma, diabetes, and obesity rates are higher in areas of concentrated poverty. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), asthma rates in adults living in the East End and the Southside, in areas of concentrated poverty, are double that of adults living in the West End (14% and 7%, respectively). Asthma rates are linked to pollution and poor housing conditions. Across the city, diabetes rates vary from less than 5% in the West End to over 20% in the East End and the Southside, which is higher than the highest state averages in the U.S. (West Virginia has the highest statewide diabetes rate at 15%). According the CDC, in 2014, 65.3% of Richmonders were considered overweight or obese, a 25% increase since 2011, when the rate was 52%.

The James River is rich and critical habitat for thousands of plant and animal species.

The James River Park System is biodiverse and hosts a rich array of species, 14 mammal species, 170 bird species, 10 frog species, 100 insect species, and more than 450 species of wildflowers, grasses, trees, shrubs, and wetland/aquatic plants. However, these plant communities are under stress from invasive species. The James River also serves as spawning ground for migratory fish, such as shad, herring, perch, and bass that swim from the ocean and the Chesapeake Bay to spawn at and above the James River Fall Zone.



Throughout the engagement process, RFJA [some members of RFJA are picture in the top photo] asked community members to self-identify the community they belong to, instead of staying strict to their current zip code or the name associated with a census tract. Note that the colored regions in the map [bottom image] are not representative of specific boundaries but instead represent a grouping of multiple areas with similar experiences under a common, recognizable name from that area. Therefore, the absence of neighborhood titles on the map does not mean they were ignored.

Objective 17.1

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, with a long-term goal of having all Richmonders within a 5-minute walk of a quality open space, as shown in Figure 41 and Figure 42.

a. Utilize the Maggie Walker Community Land Trust to create public open space.

b. Revise the Zoning Ordinance to include a green space/green amenity minimum (see Goal 4).

c. Engage residents (particularly traditionally under-represented communities), developers, government, technical experts, and other stakeholders in defining and encouraging excellence in design of public open and green space.

d. Develop a strategy for acquiring land for new parks and open spaces, and develop a Parks Master Plan (see Goal 2).

e. Implement strategies in Goal 8 to connect parks and increase access to parks.

f. Promote the Parklet Program, encourage the development of parklets throughout the City.

g. Rely on principles of crime prevention through environmental design rather than police presence to ensure park safety.

h. In designating and designing new parks, consider and mitigate potential negative effects, such as increased adjacent property values, cultural displacement, and increased regulation of public space.

i. Amend City ordinances to allow public access to school yards and playgrounds during non-school hours.

j. Create public-private partnerships to help the City maintain and manage high-quality parks, green infrastructure, and public open space.

k. Create dedicated funding for the creation and maintenance of new and existing parks, public open space, plazas, and greenways, such as 1) a bond referendum and/or 2) a neighborhood-based program where landowners and developers pay fees that will be used to create a park in their neighborhood.

l. Develop incentives to create publicly accessible open space as part of private development (see Goal 4).

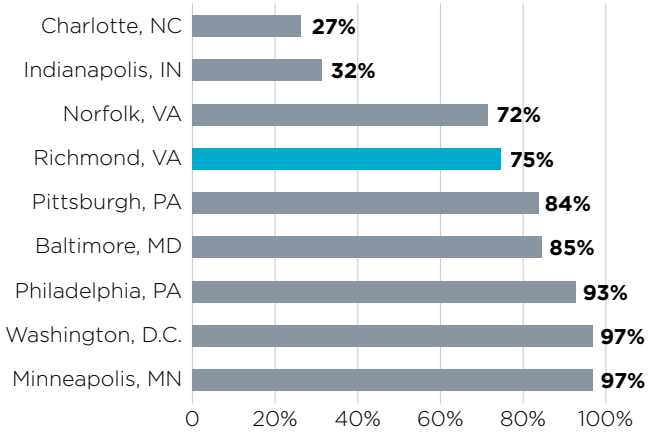


FIGURE 41 // **Percentage of Population within 10-minute Walk of Parks**

Source: City of Richmond, Trust for Public Land, 2017

75%

of Richmonders lived within a 10-minute walk of a park in 2017

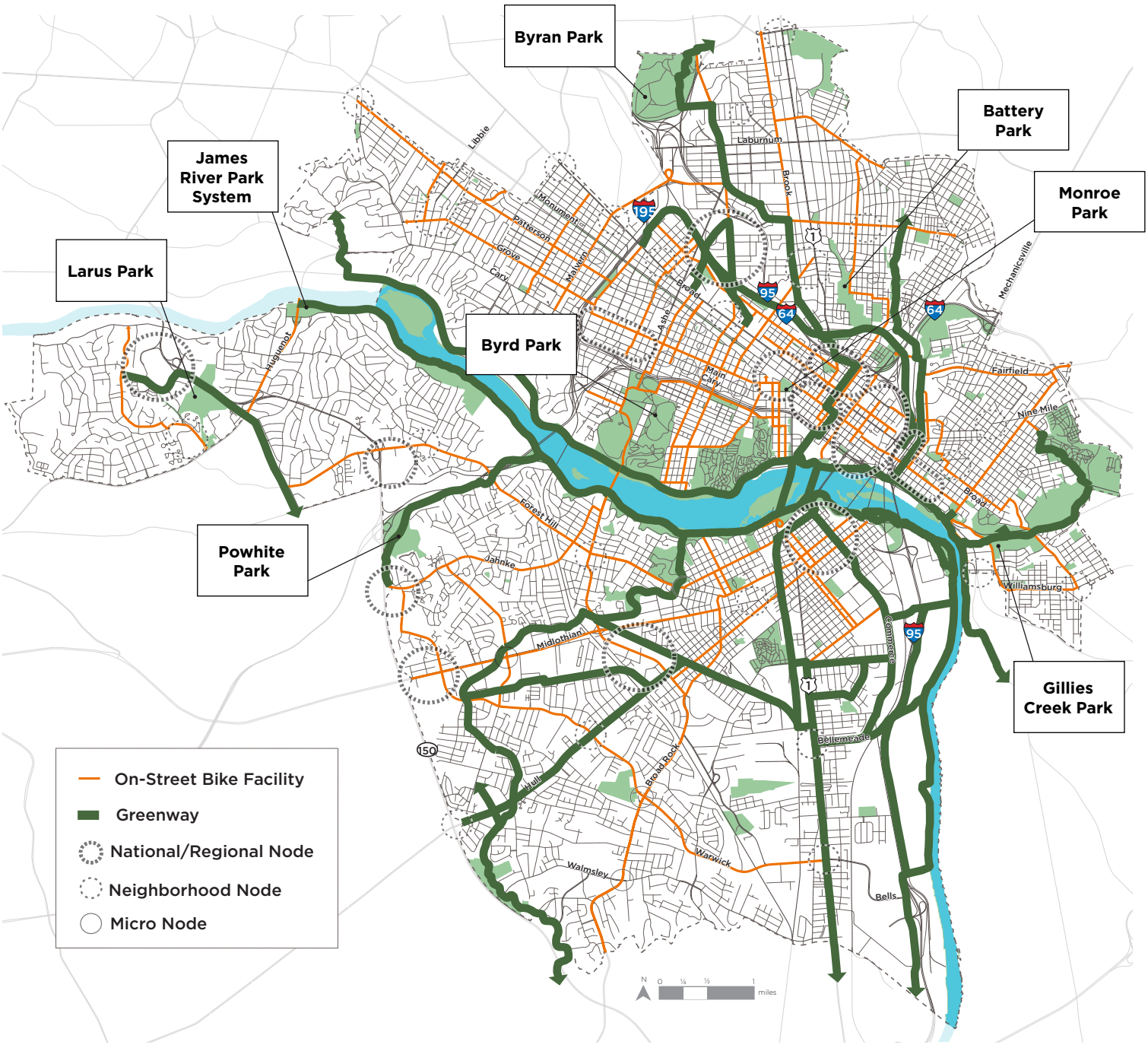


FIGURE 42 // **Parks, Greenways, and Bike Facilities Map**

Objective 17.2

Increase city-wide tree canopy from 42% to 60% (see Figure 43) 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.

a. Develop education and incentive programs to encourage private land owners to plant trees and care for existing trees.

b. Develop a tree management plan that provides specific guidance on tree planting, care, species options, and other strategies.

c. Develop an urban forest master plan.

d. Expand the Adopt-A-Tree program for community organizations to buy trees in bulk and commit to steward the trees.

e. Train neighborhood groups on how to manage trees.

f. Revise the Zoning Ordinance to increase the parking screening requirements and require a 10% tree canopy coverage of surface parking lots.

g. Explore incentives, programs, and requirements for new developments and additions to existing buildings to retain mature trees, replace lost trees, and plant more trees if none were there originally.

h. Implement RVA Clean Water strategy to increase tree canopy on City property by 5%.

i. Reinstate the Urban Forestry Commission.

j. Revise the subdivision ordinance to regulate neighborhoods to include street terraces.

k. Relocate overhead utilities to alleys or bury overhead utilities to accommodate mature canopy street tree planting.

l. Revise the Zoning Ordinance to plant trees during the redevelopment process, per the Code of Virginia 15.2-961.

42%

of Richmond is covered by tree canopy

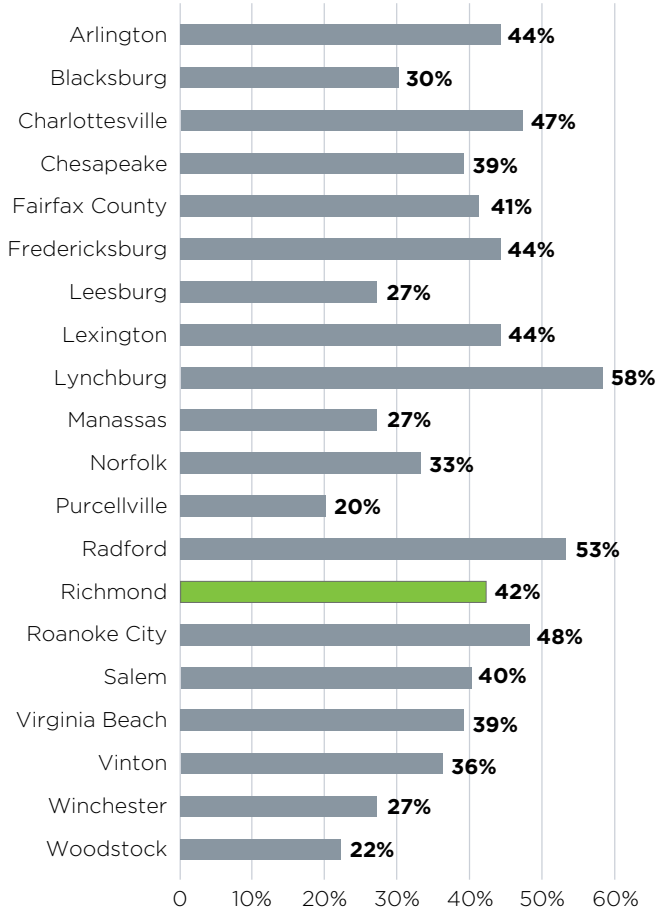


FIGURE 43 // **Comparison of Existing Urban Tree Canopy Coverage in Virginia Localities, 2010**

Source: McKee, Jennifer, A Report on the City of Richmond's Existing and Possible Urban Tree Canopy, Virginia Tech: 2010

Objective 17.3

Reduce urban heat, prioritizing areas with a high heat vulnerability index rating, as shown in Figure 44.

a. Encourage lighter-colored surfaces for roads and roofs to reflect sunlight.

b. Identify opportunities for green roofs on public facilities, and encourage green roofs in private development.

c. Design neighborhoods with a variation in building heights to encourage air circulation.

d. Encourage redevelopment of surface parking lots into mixed-use developments and/or park area, potentially taxing properties with parking lots as a primary use at a higher rate.

e. Increase the tree canopy and overall green spaces throughout the city (see related strategies in Goal 17).

f. Reduce parking minimums in the Zoning Ordinance.

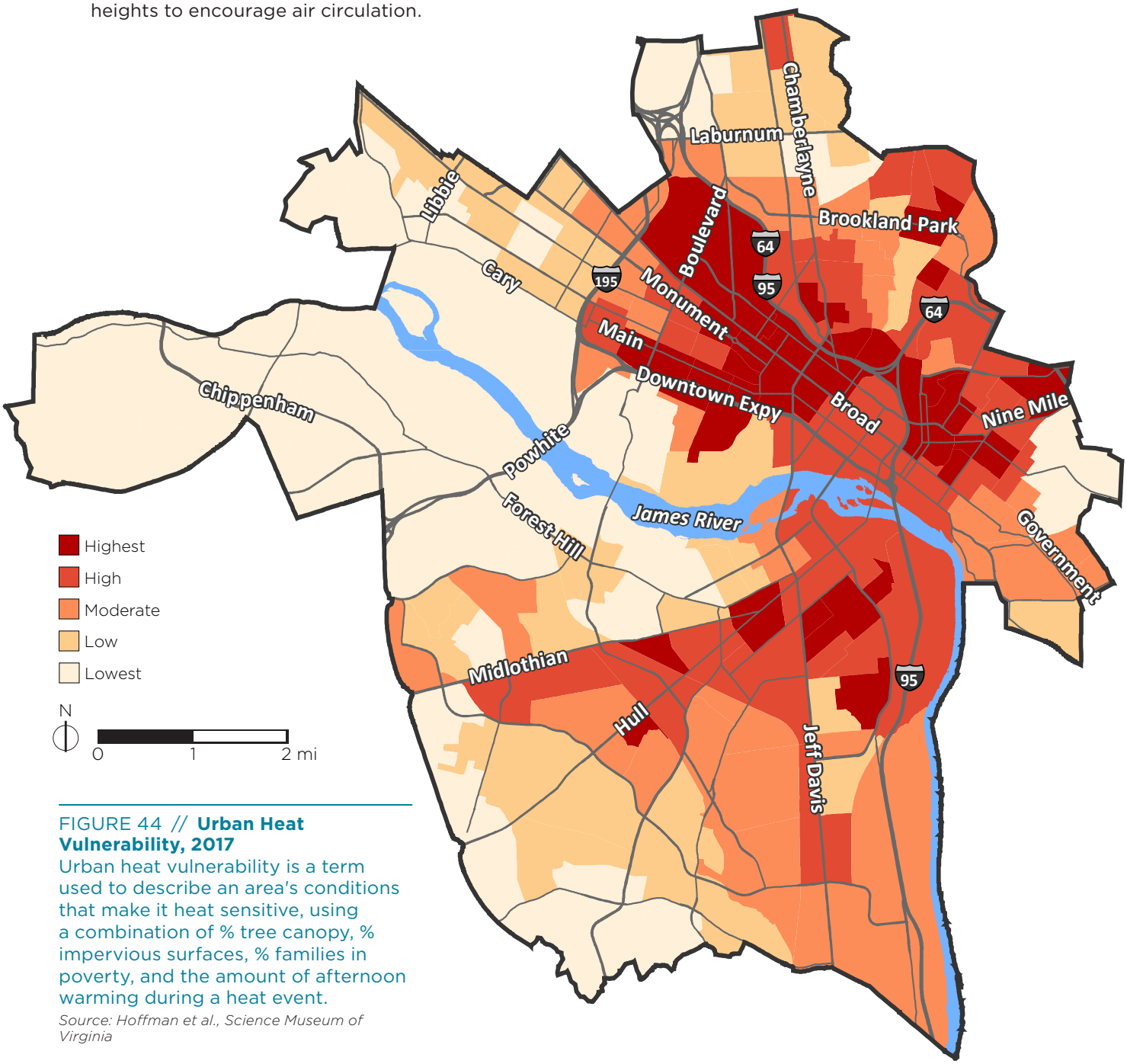


FIGURE 44 // **Urban Heat Vulnerability, 2017**
Urban heat vulnerability is a term used to describe an area's conditions that make it heat sensitive, using a combination of % tree canopy, % impervious surfaces, % families in poverty, and the amount of afternoon warming during a heat event.
Source: Hoffman et al., Science Museum of Virginia

Objective 17.4

Expand access to the local healthy food system, prioritizing residents in low-income areas.

a. Expand the community garden program by developing standards and guidelines for community gardens on public lands to ensure transparency, continuity of use, community benefit, and access to a water source.

b. Develop and promote content explaining where urban agriculture is permitted by right in the Zoning Ordinance and explore expanding where it is permitted as a by-right use.

c. Create opportunities for funding technical support, tools, and processes for all residents to participate in urban agriculture.

d. Attract healthy food retailers to low-income areas by increasing residential density and providing financial and technical support for retailer creation, expansion, remodeling, or equipment upgrades.

e. Expand where farmers' markets, grocery stores, and other healthy food retailers are permitted, especially in Nodes and along enhanced transit corridors.

f. Coordinate City resources, such as facilities, land, or infrastructure, to promote center processing and efficient distribution of regionally grown, healthy foods to Richmond Public Schools.

Grocery Store Market Analysis

CONTEXT

Richmond: Over the past several years, City staff have heard the desires of many residents to have a grocery locate in their neighborhood. For these residents, having access to a grocery store in their neighborhood provides easy access to high-quality food options that may not be available at convenience stores and very small independent groceries where the breadth of selection or overall prices are not as competitive as they are in other neighborhoods.

Market: The nature of the grocery business has changed over the past fifty years, more retail establishments (beyond the traditional grocery store) sell grocery items and grocery stores have continued to get larger (with the additional parking and delivery needs that come with the larger size). With traditional narrow margins, the market for grocery stores has transitioned to larger stores that service a larger trade area (with higher household incomes) and require more real

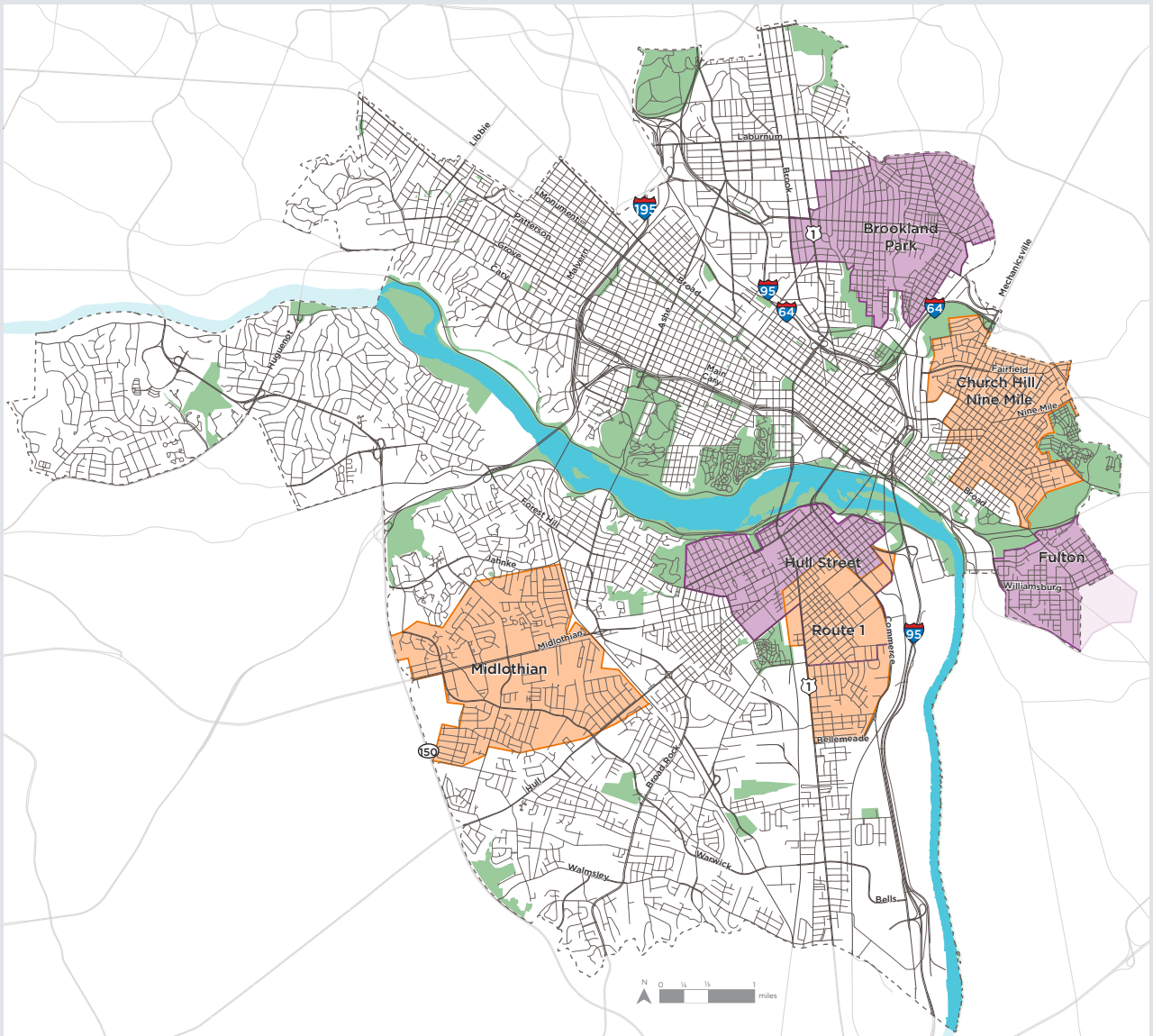


FIGURE 45 // **Trade Areas Studied in the Grocery Store Market Analysis**

estate than what many older areas of the city have available. While there are alternative models of grocery stores, e.g., member-owned food co-ops, the alternative models are also difficult to organize.

MARKET ANALYSIS

Purpose: The effort to locate grocery stores traditionally focuses on increasing supply in neighborhoods. However, at the beginning of the *Richmond 300* process, PDR hired VCU CURA to analyze six neighborhoods in Richmond and determine what market factors would need to change in order to attract a grocery store. Figure 45 shows the six neighborhoods and associated trade areas used in the analysis included in this analysis. The trade areas are for a local grocery store and also took into account traffic volumes on major roads. The full description of VCU CURA's research can be found in the *Richmond 300* Supporting Reports (under separate cover).

Findings: Food deserts usually exist because there is a lack of market demand to support a grocery store because the neighborhood is either low-density, low-income, or both.

VCU CURA found that traditional methods to reduce food deserts have not included policies related to attracting a new supply of housing units in the neighborhood to increase demand within the area for a grocery store. Traditional methods to reduce food deserts have included providing grants to incentivize grocers to open in food deserts, increasing participation in Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program (SNAP), increasing public transit and other transportation modes, increasing education about healthy food, and advocating for policy change at the state and federal levels.

VCU CURA's analyses estimated how many additional households earning the area median income would be required to economically support a small or large grocery store.[1] The analyses showed that four of six neighborhoods may support a small grocery store using the 2014 population estimate. An increase of 1,000 households earning the regional median household income would allow almost all trade areas to support a small grocery store. However, few operators of stores of that size exist in today's market, and most operators would want to see a larger market area than what may barely support one store. Although none of the neighborhoods in question could support a large grocery store with their 2014 populations, three neighborhoods currently had near 80% of the minimum potential demand. See Table 6 for a summary of the analyses.

While total number of households in some of these neighborhoods has increased between 2000 and 2017, none of the neighborhoods have regained the level of population they once had. For example, the Brookland Park Boulevard Area lost nearly half its population between 1970 and 2010 (population of 24,000 in 1970 and 13,000 in 2010). See Table 6 for a summary of the analyses.

Conclusion: Based on these analyses, in addition to the aforementioned traditional methods, policy makers should also consider encouraging the creation of more housing units within food deserts as another solution to reduce food deserts. That said, there are a couple of caveats: 1) the continuous change in how people buy food and the changing grocery market will continue to be challenge as the City develops policy and implements programs to expand food access; and 2) there are grocery stores just outside of the city limits that do affect the opportunities for grocery store location in Richmond as many of our neighborhoods (including these 6) are in relatively close proximity to grocery stores in neighboring communities that feature auto-oriented grocery stores.

Finally, with rare exceptions, following the traditional suburban model of grocery store trade area analysis will not work for Richmond. *Richmond 300* is about creating a specific identity for the city that is authentically Richmond. That will mean creating high-quality, accessible, and inclusive neighborhoods of sufficient population and household income to become attractive to the market.

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1 A small grocery store is assumed to be 25,000 square feet, the estimated size of an urban neighborhood supermarket. A large grocery store is assumed to be 44,094 square feet, the median gross leasable area of U.S. neighborhood supermarkets according to Dollars and Cents of Shopping Centers/The SCORE 2008 *(Urban Land Institute).*

TABLE 6 // **Grocery Store Market Analyses Findings**

	Support small grocery store?			Support large grocery store?		
	2014 Households	+1,000 Households	+5,000 Households	2014 Households	+1,000 Households	+5,000 Households
Brookland Park	Maybe 130% demand	Yes 160% demand	Yes 280% demand	No 80% demand	No 90% demand	Yes 160% demand
Church Hill/ Nine Mile	Maybe 130% demand	Yes 160% demand	Yes 280% demand	No 80% demand	No 90% demand	Yes 160% demand
Fulton	No 60% demand	No 90% demand	Yes 210% demand	No 30% demand	No 50% demand	Maybe 120% demand
Hull Street (including Manchester)	Maybe 100% demand	Maybe 130% demand	Yes 250% demand	No 60% demand	No 70% demand	Maybe 140% demand
Midlothian	Maybe 140% demand	Yes 170% demand	Yes 290% demand	No 80% demand	Maybe 100% demand	Yes 160% demand
Route 1 (South Richmond)	No 80% demand	No 110% demand	Yes 220% demand	No 40% demand	No 60% demand	Maybe 130% demand

Table Notes:

- 2014 Households is based on the 2010-2014 ACS 5-year Estimates. Additional households are assumed to earn the regional median household income of $59,677 (2010-2014 ACS 5-year Estimates)
- Percent demand means the amount of households that exist to meet the demand to support the grocery store. A demand of 80% means that there the trade area only has 80% of the households needed to support the grocery story. Usually grocers want to see a demand of at least 150% before moving into a market.

Objective 17.5

Reduce the effect from heavy rainfall events and sea level rise.

a. Request that the Federal Emergency Management Agency update the flood plain maps.

b. Encourage development in areas at lower risk of flooding.

c. Evaluate the transportation investments needed to create emergency egress from areas at risk of flooding.

d. Where possible, expand wetlands and other features that manage flooding identified in the RVA Clean Water Plan.

e. Conduct a sea-level-rise impact analysis to identify areas in Richmond that may be affected.

f. Reduce impervious surfaces (see Goal 16).

g. Identify opportunities for acquiring land in the Resource Management Areas (RMAs) and Resource Protection Areas (RPAs), shown in Figure 40, at high risk of flooding, as shown in Figure 46, to conserve, discourage development, and implement strategies to slow, spread, and infiltrate floodwater.

Objective 17.6

Increase the resiliency of infrastructure and community assets.

a. Bury power lines and locate key energy network assets to enhance grid resilience.

b. Establish assessment guidelines for public infrastructure that ensure resilience to current and future hazards.

c. Increase local renewable energy generation (see Goal 16).

d. Evaluate transportation networks to identify emergency routes and promote redundancy.

e. Develop micro-grids with on-site energy storage for critical public facilities.

f. Develop microgrid communities with on-site energy storage.

g. Support increased usage of energy storage technology, including small-scale storage systems in residential, commercial, and industrial buildings, vehicle-to-grid infrastructure, and larger stand-alone storage facilities where appropriate.

h. Identify community facilities to serve as resilience hubs and update systems to be more resilient.

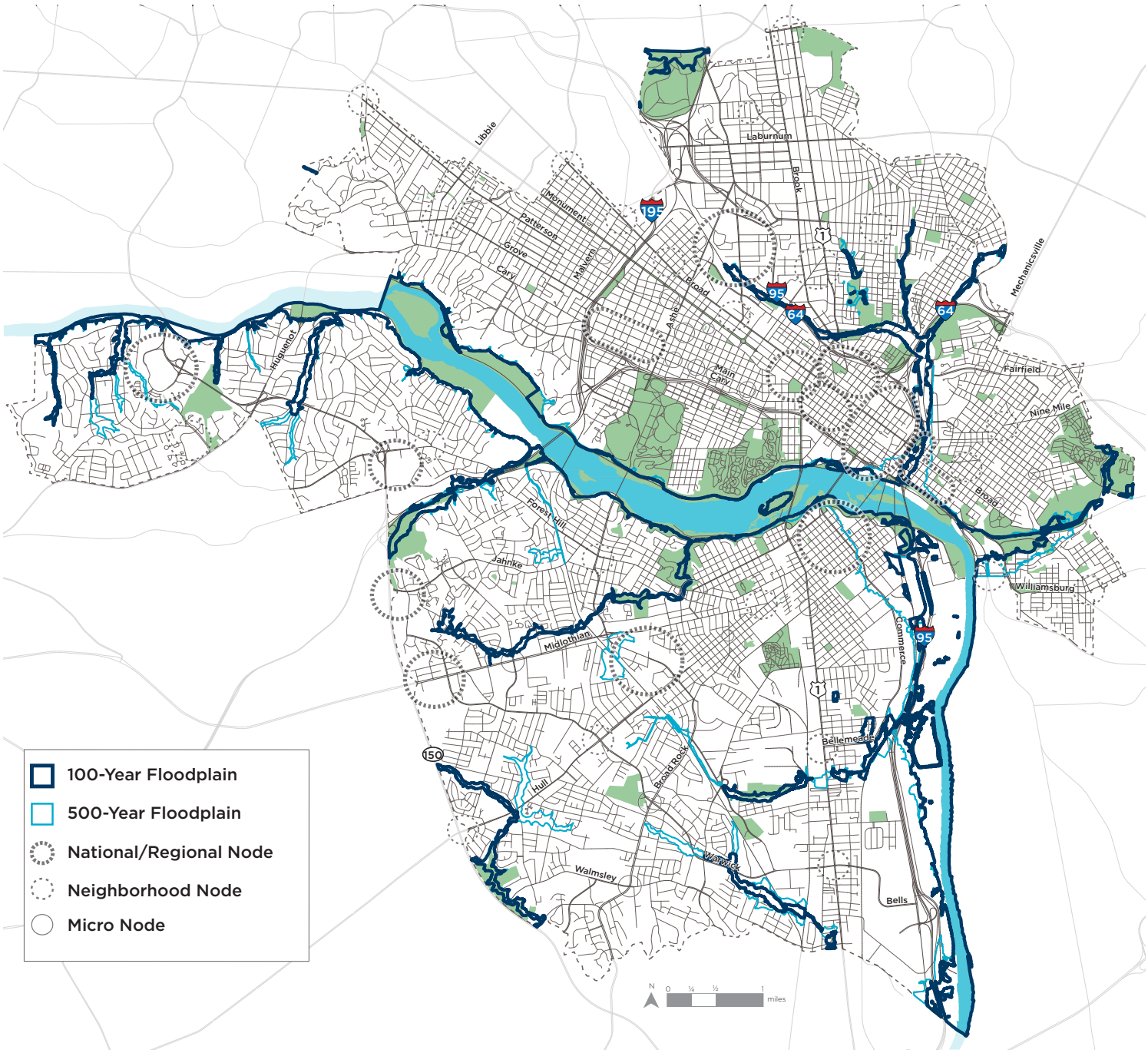


FIGURE 46 // **Floodplains with Nodes**

Source: Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) database, which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 2018

Objective 17.7

Increase and enhance biodiversity within Richmond.

a. Implement strategies in Equitable Transportation to connect parks via greenways that could also serve as animal habitat corridors, explore using RMAs and RPAs to create green ribbons through the city.

b. Increase the prevalence of native plant species and plants for healthy pollinator communities at public facilities and promote such planting on private lands.

c. Implement the RVA Clean Water strategy to use 80% native plants in new landscaping at public facilities by 2023.

d. Develop a strategy to integrate invasive plant management into existing city programs and reduce invasive plant coverage within the city.

e. Discourage use of pesticides and herbicides and encourage organic practices to improve and maintain soil health and healthy habitat and ecosystems.

f. Encourage use of bird-safe glass and other building materials and features that protect and enhance natural ecologies where appropriate.

g. Encourage bird houses, bat houses, and other structures that provide important and safe shelters for wildlife.

h. Revise the City's weed ordinance to allow for exemptions for native plant species and plants for healthy pollinator communities on private lands.

i. Convert large City-managed non-recreational mown areas, such as floodwall impoundment areas, to native community wildflower/pollinator species meadows, mown or bush-hogged once or twice each year.

Objective 17.8

Reduce light pollution.

a. Seek and develop strategies to achieve certification as an International Dark Sky Association International Dark Sky Community.

b. Install hooded light fixtures on public rights-of-way and buildings to reduce light pollution and reduce effect on nocturnal species.

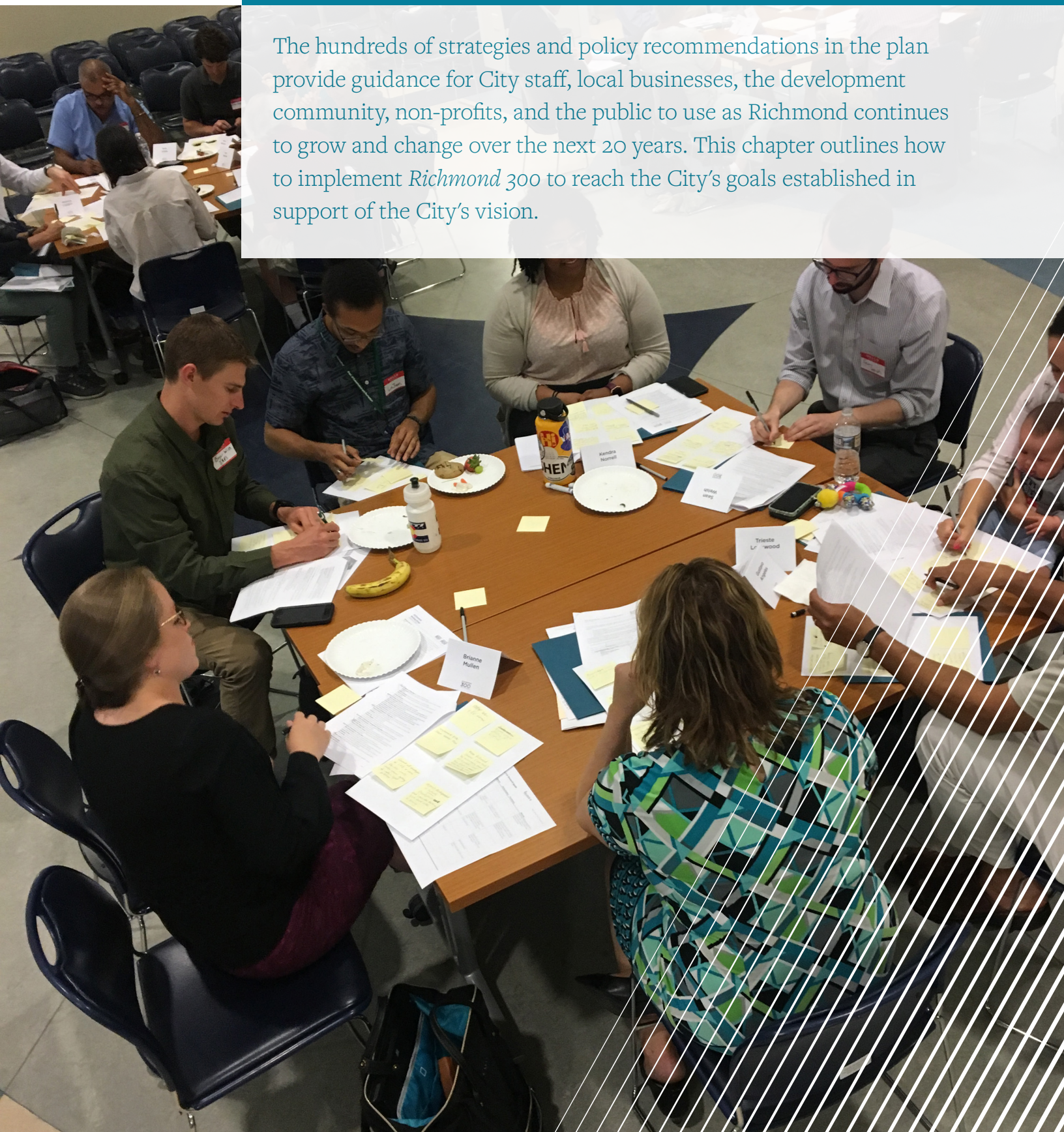
A blue heron descends into the James River.

RICHMOND 300

CHAPTER 7

Implementation

The hundreds of strategies and policy recommendations in the plan provide guidance for City staff, local businesses, the development community, non-profits, and the public to use as Richmond continues to grow and change over the next 20 years. This chapter outlines how to implement *Richmond 300* to reach the City's goals established in support of the City's vision.



Implementation Approach

This 200+ page document outlines one city-wide vision, five topic visions, 17 goals, 73 objectives, and 415 strategies. The expansive nature of the Master Plan, touching on a myriad topics shaping Richmond's growth, can make it difficult to implement.

The sheer breadth and length of any comprehensive plan can make it difficult to execute; therefore, *Richmond 300* outlines six Big Moves to deliberately advance over the next 5 years, several metrics for the City to track, and an annual reporting system to document progress.

- **Metrics.** Key benchmarks for the City to track as it implements the Master Plan.
- **Big Moves.** Wide-reaching initiatives that touch many goals of the plan that will set Richmond on track to reach its vision for 2037.
- **Reporting.** Annual reporting will help implement the plan and communicate the progress with other City departments and with the general public.

Metrics

The metrics are not tied to specifics goals in the plan but rather are benchmarks to see how the city is changing over time.

Oftentimes, metrics shift due to trends outside of the City's control; therefore, it is problematic to tie metric movement directly to City actions. New data for the metrics should be gathered every other year and shared in the annual report.

TABLE 7 // **Metrics**

Metric	Desired Trend	Baseline Statistic	Baseline Year	Data Source	Data Notes
Total population	Increase	230,436	2019	Census	Census, 2019 Population Estimates
Total Jobs	Increase	204,125	2020	Census	ESRI Business Analyst Online, Business Summary
% population in poverty	Decrease	21.9%	2018	Census	2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates (Table S1701) 47,857 (+/- 6,758) / 219,006 (+/- 1,770)
% population with a high-school degree	Increase	85.1%	2018	Census	2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates (Table S1501) 137,195 (+/- 3,294) high school graduate or higher / 161,126 (+/- 274) population 25 years and over
% of population with a post-secondary degree	Increase	41.9%	2018	Census	2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates (Table S1501) 67,516 (+/- 3,246) bachelor's degree or higher / 161,126 (+/- 274) population 25 years and over
Median income (adjusted for inflation using 2019 as baseline for inflation)	Increase	$61,937	2018	Census	2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates (Table S1901) $61,937 (+/- 94)
City-wide WalkScore	Increase	52	2020	WalkScore	WalkScore.com
% population living within 1/2 mile of high-frequency transit*	Increase	51.7%	2014-2018	Census, GRTC	ESRI Business Analyst Online, 2014-2018 ACS 5-Year Estimates 115,800 (+/- 2,720) / 223,787
% of jobs within 1/2 mile of high-frequency transit*	Increase	77.7%	2020	Census, GRTC	ESRI Business Analyst Online, Business Summary 158,644 / 204,125
# of deaths and severe injuries due to transportation crashes	Decrease	193	2019	VDOT	VDOT Crash Data
Miles of bike lanes	Increase	49	2020	City	DPW

Metric	Desired Trend	Baseline Statistic	Baseline Year	Data Source	Data Notes
Miles of sidewalks	Increase	836	2020	City	DPW
% of workers who drive alone to work	Decrease	71.7%	2018	Census	2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates (Table B08006) 83,742 (+/- 4,230) / 116,812 (+/- 3,875) Workers 16 years and over
% of workers who bike, walk, take transit to work	Increase	14.0%	2018	Census	2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates (Table B08006) 7,441 (+/- 2,017) + 3,734 (+/- 1,601) + 5,160 (+/- 1,216) / 116,812 (+/- 3,875) Workers 16 years and over
% of homes occupied by a homeowner	Increase	42.1%	2018	Census	2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates (Table S2502) 38,430 (+/- 2,235) / 91,359 (+/- 1,702)
% of Blacks who are homeowners	Increase	31.4%	2018	Census	2018 ACS 1-Year Estimates (Table S2502) 11,825 (+/- 1,504) / 37,649 (+/- 1,988)
% population that is housing-cost burdened (housing >= 30% of income)	Decrease	41.4%	2013-2017	HUD, CHAS	CHAS (2013-2017 ACS) 17,790 + 19,130 / 89,240
% population in poverty that are housing-cost burdened	Decrease	74.8%	2013-2017	HUD	CHAS (2013-2017 ACS) 15,990 / 21,370
Annual per capita greenhouse gas emissions (metric tons of CO_2)	Decrease	11.81	2018	City	
Daily per capita residential water usage (gallons)	Decrease	34.12	FY19	City	DPU, FY19, Multi-Family Usage + Residential Usage / 2019 Population / 365
% of population living within a 10-minute walk of a park	Increase	78%		parkscore.org	
% of urban tree canopy	Increase	42%	2010	Virginia Tech	McKee, Jennifer, *A Report on the City of Richmond's Existing and Possible Urban Tree Canopy*, Virginia Tech: 2010

** High-frequency transit = transit that arrives at least every 15 minutes*

Big Moves

The six Big Moves intentionally seek to expand equity, increase the sustainability of our city, and beautify our city.

The Big Moves

Re-Write the Zoning Ordinance: Direct growth to appropriate areas while maintaining existing neighborhoods as well as creating new authentic neighborhoods adjacent to enhanced transit.

Re-Imagine Priority Growth Nodes: Target growth in jobs and population to Downtown, Greater Scott's Addition, Route 1 Corridor, Southside Plaza, and Stony Point Fashion Park.

Expand Housing Opportunities: Encourage the development of housing options throughout the city to expand the geography of opportunity by de-concentrating poverty.

Provide Greenways & Parks for All: Develop parks and greenways so that by 2037 100% of Richmonders live within a 10-minute walk of a park.

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.

Realign City Facilities: Improve City buildings (schools, libraries, fire stations, police stations, etc.) to provide better services in efficient, shared-use, accessible facilities to better match and serve the growing city.

Because these moves are wide-reaching, there are several strategies throughout *Richmond 300* that relate to each Big Move. If the City can advance each of the Big Moves over the next 5 years, Richmond will be well on its way to realize its 20-year vision.

Each Big Move description in this Chapter includes:

- **Big Move name**
- **Description**
- **Key benefits**
- **Description** of how the Big Move advances equity, sustainability, and beauty
- **Alignment with *Richmond 300*** goals and objectives
- **Actions** that may be implemented to further the Big Move
- **Type of actions:**

  Legislative: actions that result in a new ordinance for City Council to adopt

  Planning: actions that result in plans to guide future work

  Advocacy: actions that require the City and other organizations to advocate the state or federal government for funding or legislative changes

  Administrative: actions that City staff can undertake as part of their regular duties

  Capital Improvement Project (CIP): actions that require City funding to create a new park, infrastructure, building, or any other physical asset the City will own

- **Time Frame** for implementation is shown using the City's Fiscal Year (FY) which runs July to June:

  FY22 = July 2021–June 2022
  FY23 = July 2022–June 2023
  FY24 = July 2023–June 2024
  FY25 = July 2024–June 2025
  FY26 = July 2025–June 2026

Big Move | **Re-Write the Zoning Ordinance**

Direct growth to appropriate areas while maintaining existing neighborhoods as well as creating new authentic neighborhoods adjacent to enhanced transit.

Description

Re-writing the Zoning Ordinance means developing new zoning category descriptions for the entire city and then mapping the new zoning categories to every parcel in the city. The re-write of the Zoning Ordinance is a 3- to 5-year process. The last comprehensive re-write was in the mid-19702

The Zoning Ordinance is a legal document that outlines what property owners may build on their land and how the building and site must be designed. The current Zoning Ordinance was primarily written in 1976, but has been amended over the past several decades. Many of the objectives in *Richmond 300* have strategies that suggest revisions to the Zoning Ordinance.

Key Benefits

- **Move from Euclidean to Form-Based:** The current Zoning Ordinance is predominantly a Euclidean approach to zoning, meaning uses are separated into distinct districts with limited mixing of uses. Over the past few years, the City has developed zoning districts that allow a mix of uses within the same district but also require certain form elements (such as windows and doors that open to the street and buildings built to the sidewalk). The re-write of the Zoning Ordinance will likely include a further look at using more form-based elements.
- **Prepare for Opportunity:** By rezoning the city, Richmond can prepare certain areas for anticipated development, such as the Priority Growth Nodes and industrial areas, to retain, attract, and grow companies to employ new and existing Richmonders. Additionally, directing growth into the corridors and Nodes will allow the City to retain the character of older existing neighborhoods.
- **Rethink the B-3 District:** Predominantly found along major streets in South Richmond, the B-3 zoning district is a district that promotes the development of car-oriented commercial buildings. The B-3 zoning district has been flagged by City Council and City Planning Commission for review to improve the form and function of the buildings in those commercial areas.
- **Improve Health, Resiliency, and Access:** By re-writing the Zoning Ordinances in accordance with the Future Land Use Map, the City will align land use and transportation planning to create compact and mixed Nodes connected by walkable neighborhoods and corridors. Increasing walkability and access to non-car transportation modes has various benefits, such as improving public health, increasing resiliency in response to the existing climate emergency, and expanding ease of access by bringing homes, jobs, retail, and services closer together.
- **Expand Options:** The re-write of the Zoning Ordinance should include examining residential zoning districts to make sure they provide many housing options at various price points throughout the city; this will help further the Big Move related to housing.

Vision Alignment

Equity: A new Zoning Ordinance has the potential to expand opportunities for all Richmonders, regardless of race or income, to live in more parts of the city by expanding the types of housing allowed to be developed by-right throughout the city. A new Zoning Ordinance has the potential to identify key industry clusters for employment opportunities at various pay scales and located within multi-modal transportation networks.

Sustainability: Land use patterns are major determinants in reducing greenhouse gas emissions related to transportation. A new Zoning Ordinance has the potential to support multi-modal land use, creating neighborhoods and destinations that are easily accessible by foot, bike, and transit. A new Zoning Ordinance can also include language to make on-site renewable energy production by-right, increase open space and/or permeability requirements, and require other measures to protect and enhance the natural environment.

Beauty: A new Zoning Ordinance should include measures to preserve the authentic character of Richmond's older neighborhoods and to create new neighborhoods with design elements that create a distinctive city. These measure could include form-based elements such as massing and fenestration requirements, as well as open space and yard requirements to create a walkable, engaging built environment.

Goal Alignment

Each of the five topic areas contain many recommendations that refer to specific elements to consider when rewriting the Zoning Ordinance, just some of the objectives are highlighted below.

High-Quality Places: Objective 1.1 calls for rezoning the city in accordance with the Future Land Use Plan in order to establish a city of complete neighborhoods that have access to Nodes connected by major corridors in a gridded street network. Objective 4.1 calls for various recommendations to create and preserve high-quality, distinctive, and well-designed neighborhoods and Nodes throughout the city. Objective 4.3 calls for reviewing the Zoning Ordinance to change open space requirements and definitions.

Equitable Transportation: Objective 6.1 calls for increasing the number of residents and jobs at Nodes and along enhanced transit corridors in a land development pattern that supports multi-modal transportation options.

Diverse Economy: Objective 11.1 calls for increasing the areas of appropriately zoned land near various transportation modes and housing to retain, create, and attract employers.

Inclusive Housing: Objective 14.5 calls for encouraging more housing types throughout the city and greater density along enhanced transit corridors and at Nodes by amending the Zoning Ordinance.

Thriving Environment: Objective 15.1 calls for reducing air pollution related to transport by developing in patterns that reduce dependency on single-occupancy vehicles. Objective 15.3 calls for revising the Zoning Ordinance to reduce any impediments to installing renewable energy on buildings. Objective 16.4 calls for exploring incentives or requirements in the Zoning Ordinance that encourage the creation of green infrastructure on private property.

Action Steps

Actions May Include	Type	R300 Reference	Lead*	Time Frame
B-3 Rezoning: Per Council Ordinance, amend the B-3 Zoning District.	Legislative	Goal 1	PDR	FY22
Pulse Rezoning: Rezone the remaining Priority Stations Areas that have not yet been rezoned as identified in the Pulse Corridor Plan: Allison Station Area and Main Street Station Area.	Legislative	Goal 1	PDR	FY22
RFP and Contracting: Develop and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant team to assist the City in re-writing the Zoning Ordinance.	Administrative	Goal 1	PDR	FY22
Zoning Rewrite: With community input, develop new zoning categories that achieve the goals set forth in *Richmond 300* and then map the categories to all the parcels across the city.	Planning	Goal 1	PDR	FY22-FY25
Zoning Ordinance Adoption: Adopt the new Zoning Ordinance and Map as the official Zoning Ordinance for the City of Richmond.	Legislative	Goal 1	PDR	FY26

** see Acronym list for definition of acronyms*

Big Move | **Re-Imagine Priority Growth Nodes**

Target growth in jobs and population to Downtown, Greater Scott's Addition, Route 1 Corridor, Southside Plaza, and Stony Point Fashion Park.

Description

People want to go to great places. The Priority Growth Nodes are places in Richmond that can be elevated to become even greater places than they are in 2020. Over the next 20 years, not all of Richmond will experience population and job growth, but these Nodes are the places where the City is targeting the greatest growth in jobs and population.

Key Benefits

- **Open for Business:** Signals to the business attraction community that there are locations in the city where they can locate and expand.
- **Create New Neighborhoods:** Identifies new areas for increased residential growth with housing at various income levels by creating entirely new neighborhoods.
- **Promote Smart Growth:** Create neighborhoods for the next 100 years that improve environmental conditions by focusing on creating amazing destinations with housing and jobs that are walkable and accessible by foot, bike, and transit, and by encouraging the reuse and rehabilitation of historic structures.
- **Accessible New Services:** Targeting these areas for new public buildings, parks, and businesses increases access to new amenities within Richmond for existing residents in adjacent neighborhoods.

Vision Alignment

Equity: The Priority Growth Nodes are distributed throughout the city to ensure all Richmonders have access to the goods, services, jobs, and open spaces that are envisioned at these Nodes. All the Nodes (per Goal 14) provide housing options at various price points (including low- and very low-income households), tenure (ownership and rental), and size. The Priority Growth Nodes are targeted for employment growth that includes low-skill, as well as high-skill positions (per Goal 11) and will have multi-modal access (per Goals 6 and 8). The Priority Growth Node model seeks to provide housing, jobs, and services at strategic locations in the city, thereby increasing access to employment, housing, and services for all Richmonders, but being intentional not to leave out low-income households from the housing and jobs provided at the Nodes.

Sustainability: By focusing growth at these Priority Growth Nodes, the City is advancing sustainability goals by clustering development in a way that supports multi-modal transportation and directs growth to brownfields and areas poised for redevelopment, rather than greenfields at the edge of the city that are not easy to integrate into existing transportation and service infrastructure.

Beauty: Focusing attention on these five Priority Growth Nodes presents an opportunity to target investment to create attractive places with parks, public art, amenities, and features that create authentic places that help enhance and elevate Richmond beauty.

Goal Alignment

All of the goals in *Richmond 300* refer to Nodes:

High-Quality Places: These strategies create activity centers at Nodes by supporting housing, employment, services, City facilities ,and parks; preserving historic structures and sites, establishing a strong urban design character; and creating inclusive engagement processes.

Equitable Transportation: These strategies connect the Nodes with a transportation network that prioritizes the movement of people over the movement of vehicles to connect the Nodes to one another and adjacent neighborhoods by foot, bike, bus, and car.

Diverse Economy: These strategies target industries to establish/expand in and near Nodes, to incorporate tourism, and to leverage relationships with anchor institutions to create jobs.

Inclusive Housing: These strategies create and preserve housing in and near Nodes for all income levels, but particularly for low- and very low-income levels.

Thriving Environment: These strategies preserve and enhance an environment that has clean air and clean water, offers access to public open space connected by greenways, and increases Richmond's climate resiliency.

Action Steps

Actions May Include	Type	R300 Goal	Lead*	Time Frame
DOWNTOWN: DOWNTOWN CORE				
Coliseum Plan: Develop the Coliseum Area Framework Plan with community engagement.	Planning	Goal 1	PDR	FY22
Coliseum Redevelopment: Create and issue a RFP for the Coliseum area using the guidance from the Coliseum Area Framework Plan to reposition City-owned assets into revenue-generating properties.	Administrative Legislative	Goal 1 Goal 2	PDR	FY23-FY26
Highway Capping: Examine process to sell the air-rights above the Downtown Expressway between Canal, Byrd, 6th, and 7th Streets.	Administrative	Goal 9	PDR	FY22
Two-Way Streets: Continue to convert streets from one-way to two-way as appropriate.	Infrastructure	Goal 9	DPW	FY22-26
Life Sciences Cluster: Market and expand growth opportunities for life science-focused businesses and supporting entities clustered near VA Bio+Tech Park and VCU Health.	Administrative	Goal 11	DED	FY22-26
Downtown Marketing & Services: Continue to market Downtown as a the cultural, business, government, and recreation destination of the Richmond Region and support cleaning, event, and placemaking services throughout Downtown.	Administrative	Goal 4 Goal 11	Venture Richmond	FY22-26
Riverfront Plan: Continue to implement the Phase 1 recommendations outlined in the Riverfront Plan to improve access from Downtown to the James River.	CIP	Goal 4 Goal 17	PDR	FY22-26+
Non-Car Connectivity: Improve non-car connectivity by encouraging urban design that promotes walking, continuing to improve transit access, and developing on-street bike facilities and greenways to Jackson Ward, the Riverfront (per the Riverfront Plan), Church Hill, and other areas.	CIP	Goal 4 Goal 8 Goal 17	DPW	FY22-26

Actions May Include	Type	R300 Goal	Lead*	Time Frame
DOWNTOWN: MONROE WARD				
Transit: Increase frequency and hours of the #5 bus route that runs along Cary and Main Streets.	Operations	Goal 8	GRTC	FY22
Bike Facilities: Build bike lanes on 1st, 2nd, and/or 3rd Streets.	CIP	Goal 8	DPW	FY23-24
Grace Street: Convert Grace Street from 4th Street to Belvidere Street into a two-way street.	Infrastructure	Goal 9	DPW	FY23-24
Marketing: Promote Monroe Ward as a prime location to attract and grow target industries in corporate headquarters, professional services, and financial services.	Administration	Goal 11	DED	FY22-26
Greenway: Develop the Ashland to Petersburg Trail through Monroe Ward.	CIP	Goal 8 Goal 17	DPW	FY22-26
Parks: Identify key parcels for creation of pocket parks.	Administrative	Goal 17	PDR	FY22
DOWNTOWN: JACKSON WARD				
Highway Deck Study: Commence a planning study to analyze the feasibility of building a park, roads, and buildings over I-95 and I-64, reconnecting Jackson Ward and North Jackson Ward.	Planning	Goal 8 Goal 9 Goal 17	PDR	FY23-24
Business Growth: Increase the number and support the growth of minority-owned businesses.	Administrative	Goal 11	DED	FY22-26+
Historic and Cultural Attractions: Maintain, grow, and market historic attractions, such as the Black History Museum and Maggie L. Walker's Home.	Administrative	Goal 13	Venture Richmond	FY22-26
Gilpin Court Transformation: Develop a plan with existing community input to include Gilpin Court and vacant land in North Jackson Ward to transform the neighborhood into a mixed-use, mixed-income, walkable, and transit-adjacent community that provides both housing and jobs for residents.	Planning	Goal 1 Goal 14	RRHA [w/ PDR, DED, HCD]	FY22-23
DOWNTOWN: SHOCKOE				
Rezoning: Rezone the Shockoe area in alignment with the Future Land Use Map to allow appropriate growth while also protecting and enhancing significant historic sites.	Legislation	Goal 1	PDR	FY22
Small Area Plan: Complete and adopt the Shockoe Small Area Plan (which is under development) as an element of *Richmond 300*.	Planning	Goal 1	PDR	FY22
Archeology: Adopt an archaeological ordinance to provide guidance to public and private land owners in conducting and managing archaeological discoveries.	Legislation	Goal 3	PDR	FY22

Actions May Include	Type	R300 Goal	Lead*	Time Frame
Memorialization: Continue efforts to commemorate, memorialize, and interpret sites of historical and cultural significance in Shockoe. Advocate for additional state and federal funding to fund commemoration efforts.	Advocacy CIP	Goal 3	Shockoe Alliance	FY22-26+
High-Speed Rail: Advocate for the creation of a high-speed rail station at Main Street Station to further Main Street Station's position as the regional mass transit hub with the convergence of rail, BRT, regional bus, and GRTC local bus routes.	Advocacy	Goal 8	City	FY22-26+
DOWNTOWN: MANCHESTER				
Corridor Plan: Develop a corridor plan for Commerce Road with recommendations on how to transform the road into a Great Street with amenities such as buildings addressing the street, a greenway (the Ashland to Petersburg Trail), street trees, underground utilities, lighting, and other amenities and encourage redevelopment and business growth.	Planning	Goal 1 Goal 8 Goal 9	PDR	FY22-23
Rezone: Rezone areas of Manchester in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan to allow residential development in the Industrial Mixed-Use areas that do not currently allow residential uses.	Legislation	Goal 1 Goal 14	PDR	FY23
Design: Implement design standards to create a high-quality, well-designed urban realm, including elements such as street lights and exploring the creation of signature public art.	CIP	Goal 4	PDR	FY22-26+
Riverfront Plan: Implement the Phase 1 recommendations identified in the Riverfront Plan for Manchester.	CIP	Goal 4 Goal 17	PDR	FY22-26+
Ped/Bike Infrastructure: Improve pedestrian and bike infrastructure to/from this Node, specifically improving Manchester Canal, developing rails-to-trails greenways connecting to South Richmond, and developing the Ashland to Petersburg Trail. Advocate for state and federal funding for the canal and trails.	CIP Advocacy	Goal 8 Goal 17	DPW	FY22-26+
Transit Alignment: With community input, develop a preferred alignment for a North-South BRT line through Manchester, either along Cowardin or along Hull Street, and then traveling down Midlothian, Hull, or Route 1.	Planning	Goal 8	GRTC	FY23
Mayo Bridge: Develop and implement the plan for rehabilitating/replacing the Mayo Bridge that incorporates pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.	CIP	Goal 9	DPW	FY24-26+

Actions May Include	Type	R300 Goal	Lead*	Time Frame
GREATER SCOTT'S ADDITION				
Rezoning: Rezone Greater Scott's Addition in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan.	Legislation	Goal 1	PDR	FY22
Request for Proposals: Issue a RFP to redevelop the City-owned land between N. Ashe Boulevard and Hermitage Road using the Greater Scott's Addition Framework Plan and including elements such as crescent park and low-income housing, breaking up super blocks to create a street grid incorporating features that support walking, biking, and transit such as engaging architecture, public space, sidewalks, street trees, buildings built to the street, and street furniture.	Administrative	Goal 2 Goal4 Goal 8 Goal 9 Goal 14 Goal 17	DED	FY23
Great Streets: Transform N. Ashe Boulevard and Hermitage Road into Great Streets, featuring buildings addressing the street, underground utilities, street trees, lighting, enhanced transit, and other amenities.	CIP	Goal 9 Goal 17	DPW	FY24-26+
Bridge Feasibility: Increase connectivity and access among neighborhoods in Greater Scott's Addition by creating new bridges from Leigh Street to the Diamond, Mactavish Street to Rosedale Avenue, and Norfolk to Hamilton Street.	Planning	Goal 9	DPW	FY23-25
Marketing: Market Greater Scott's addition to grow, retain, and attract businesses in the target industries.	Administrative	Goal 11	DED	FY23-26+
Green Infrastructure: As part of the redevelopment of the Diamond site, develop a district-wide green infrastructure system to reduce flow of stormwater into the CSS, reduce the heat-island effect, and increase the tree canopy, among other benefits.	CIP	Goal 17	DPU	FY23-26+
Housing: As part of the redevelopment of the Diamond site, create more housing, rental and ownership, at various price points, including units for low-income households.	Administrative	Goal 14	HCD	FY23-26+
Park Creation: As part of the redevelopment of the Diamond site, develop a series of parks, including the signature crescent park, and investigate a funding source for park creation and maintenance, such as a bond or a special park district assessment to fund more parks in the area.	CIP	Goal 17	PRCF	FY23-26+

Actions May Include	Type	R300 Goal	Lead*	Time Frame
ROUTE 1 & BELLEMEADE				
Corridor Plan: Develop a corridor plan for Route 1 with recommendations on how to transform the road into a Great Street with amenities such as buildings addressing the street, a greenway (the Ashland to Petersburg Trail), street trees, underground utilities, lighting, and other amenities and encourage redevelopment and business growth.	Planning	Goal 1 Goal 8 Goal 9	PDR	FY22-23
Rezone: Prioritize the rezoning of this Node to align with the Future Land Use Plan to encourage the residential development and economic revitalization of the corridor in a building form that improves the pedestrian environment.	Legislation	Goal 1 Goal 11 Goal 14	PDR	FY23-24
Greenway: Develop the Ashland to Petersburg Trail and provide enhanced transit along Route 1.	CIP	Goal 4 Goal 8 Goal 17	DPW	FY23-26+
Transit Alignment: With community input, develop a preferred alignment for a North-South BRT line through Manchester, either along Cowardin or along Hull Street, and then traveling down Midlothian, Hull, or Route 1.	Planning	Goal 8	GRTC	FY23
Incentives: Explore the creation of a Technology Zone and other new economic development incentives to encourage the economic revitalization of the Route 1 corridor.	Legislative	Goal 11	DED	FY22-23
Quality Homes: Develop programs that permit homeowners to remain in their homes, in high-quality structures to limit the involuntary displacement of residents in the surrounding single-family neighborhoods.	Administrative	Goal 14	HCD	FY22-26+
New Park: Transfer city-owned property to PRCF to develop a park within a 10-minute walk of this Node and host community planning sessions to develop ideas for the park design.	Legislative CIP	Goal 2 Goal 17	PRCF	FY22-24
ROUTE 1/BELLS				
Corridor Plan: Develop a corridor plan for Route 1 with recommendations on how to transform the road into a Great Street with amenities such as buildings addressing the street, a greenway (the Ashland to Petersburg Trail), street trees, lighting, and other amenities and encourage redevelopment and business growth.	Planning	Goal 1 Goal 8 Goal 9	PDR	FY22-23
Rezone: Prioritize the rezoning of this Node to align with the Future Land Use Plan to encourage the residential development and economic revitalization of the corridor in a building form that improves the pedestrian environment.	Legislation	Goal 1 Goal 11 Goal 14	PDR	FY23-24

Actions May Include	Type	R300 Goal	Lead*	Time Frame
Greenway: Develop the Ashland to Petersburg Trail and provide enhanced transit along Route 1.	CIP	Goal 4 Goal 8 Goal 17	DPW	FY22-25+
Transit Alignment: With community input, develop a preferred alignment for a North-South BRT line through Manchester, either along Cowardin or along Hull Street, and then traveling down Midlothian, Hull, or Route 1.	Planning	Goal 8	GRTC	FY22
Incentives: Explore the creation of a Technology Zone and other new economic development incentives to encourage the economic revitalization of the Route 1 corridor.	Legislative	Goal 11	DED	FY22-23
Quality Homes: Develop programs that allow homeowners to remain in their homes in high-quality structures to limit the involuntary displacement of residents in the surrounding single-family neighborhoods.	Administrative	Goal 14	HCD	FY22-26+
New Park: Identify land within a 5-minute walk of this Node for a new park, transfer land to PRCF ownership, and host community planning sessions to develop ideas for the park design.	Legislative CIP	Goal 2 Goal 17	PRCF	FY22-25
SOUTHSIDE PLAZA AREA				
Small Area Plan: Develop a Small Area Plan with community input for the Southside Plaza area that provides details on the opportunities for redevelopment and a system of public open space, greenways, and streets to improve connectivity.	Planning	Goal 1	PDR	FY22
Rezone: Rezone the Southside Plaza area in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan.	Legislation	Goal 1	PDR	FY23
Catalyst: Acquire land to catalyze the redevelopment of the Southside Plaza Area.	CIP	Goal 2	DED	FY22-24
Greenway: Build the James River Branch Trail on abandoned CSX right-of-way and connect adjacent neighborhoods to the trail.	CIP	Goal 8 Goal 17	DPW	FY23-24
Transit Alignment: With community input, develop a preferred alignment for a North-South BRT line through Manchester, either along Cowardin or along Hull Street, and then traveling down Midlothian, Hull, or Route 1.	Planning	Goal 8	GRTC	FY23
Great Streets: Transform Belt Boulevard and Hull Street into Great Streets featuring buildings addressing the street, underground utilities, street trees, lighting, enhanced transit, and other amenities.	CIP	Gaol 4 Goal 9	DPW	FY24-26+
New Park: Identify land within a 10-minute walk of this Node for a new park, transfer land to PRCF ownership, and host community planning sessions to develop ideas for the park design.	Legislative CIP	Goal 2 Goal 17	PRCF	FY22-25

Actions May Include	Type	R300 Goal	Lead*	Time Frame
STONY POINT FASHION PARK				
Small Area Plan: Develop a Small Area Plan with community input for the Stony Point Fashion Park that provides details on the opportunities for redevelopment and a system of public open space, greenways, and streets to improve connectivity.	Planning	Goal 1	PDR	FY22
Rezone: Rezone the Stony Point Fashion Park area in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan.	Legislation	Goal 1	PDR	FY23
Greenway: Build greenways and connect adjacent neighborhoods to the greenways.	CIP	Goal 8 Goal 17	DPW	FY23-24
Transit Expansion: Once enough demand exists, expand transit service to reach Stony Point Fashion Park.	Administrative	Goal 8	GRTC	FY23
Target Industries: Consider marketing this area for business creation and attraction, targeting corporate headquarters and professional services.	Administrative	Goal 11	DED	FY22-26+
Housing: As part of the Small Area Plan, identify areas for more housing, rental and ownership, at various price points, including units for low-income households.	Administrative	Goal 14	HCD	FY23-26+
New Park: Identify land within the Stony Point Fashion Park area for a new park, transfer land to PRCF ownership, and host community planning sessions to develop ideas for the park design.	Legislative CIP	Goal 2 Goal 17	PRCF	FY22-25

** see Acronym list for definition of acronyms*

Big Move | **Expand Housing Opportunities**

Encourage the development of housing options throughout the city to expand the geography of opportunity by de-concentrating poverty.

Description

Richmond offers many housing options; however, the city is intensely segregated by socio-economic status and race. This Big Move seeks to elevate the importance of creating more housing opportunities in more parts of the city for all income earners.

Key Benefits

- **Expand the Geography of Opportunity.** In 2017, the Reinvestment Fund found that very large portions of the city were entirely unavailable to people earning up to 120% of the AMI because the housing costs were too high in those areas. Expanding housing opportunities for all income earners by encouraging the development of housing options throughout the city will expand the areas where people of various income levels can live and give them more opportunities to live near work and other amenities.
- **Improve Health Outcomes.** Having a solid roof over your head and a safe place to sleep is a basic need. Quality housing is essential in improving health outcomes for all ages. Too many low-income Richmonders, who are disproportionately Black or Latino, live in poor quality housing that is expensive for their limited budgets and may be hazardous to their health. Expanding the number of quality housing units that are affordable to lower-income households is essential in narrowing the health disparities in Richmond.
- **Provide Housing for a Growing City Population.** Creating more housing opportunities throughout the city helps provide homes for a growing population. An increase in residents in Richmond helps create demand for services, such as grocery stores and pharmacies. As of 2019, Richmond has still not reached 249,621 population it had in 1970, after the Chesterfield annexation; nor is the city as dense as it was in 1950, when the density was 5,800 people/square mile compared to 4,032 people/square mile in 2018 in the same 1950-city footprint.

Vision Alignment

Equity: Equal access to quality housing, regardless of race, income, and sexual orientation, is essential to creating a Richmond where all people thrive in high-quality neighborhoods.

Sustainability: A significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions come from energy use from buildings. Improving existing housing stock to improve energy efficiency and ensuring new homes are built using efficient and energy-saving methods will help reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions related to buildings.

Beauty: The design, form, and architecture of houses and multi-family housing can shape beautiful places within Richmond to create distinctive neighborhoods and communities that make Richmonders proud. Beyond the form of the actual structures, the yards, plazas, and open spaces created within and near housing create environments that not only beautify our city but also create opportunities for recreation and healthy living.

Goal Alignment

High-Quality Places: The High-Quality Places section of the plan includes recommendations related to creating mixed-income communities and urban design strategies to shape how open space is designed. All Richmonders deserves to live in great neighborhoods.

Equitable Transportation: The Equitable Transportation section has strategies related to expanding transit options and improving bike and pedestrian infrastructure in lower-income areas in order to increase access for non-car households.

Diverse Economy: The Diverse Economy section has strategies related to ensuring there are housing options at various price points for the employees of future companies that may grow or move to Richmond. When looking to grow and relocate, companies look at the local housing market to make sure their employees (at various pay scales) can find quality housing that meets their needs.

Inclusive Housing: The Inclusive Housing section of this plan includes nine objectives and over 50 strategies to meet the Inclusive Housing vision, "Richmond is a city where all people can access quality housing choices."

Thriving Environment: Goals 14, 15, and 16 speak to the importance of access to clean air, clean water, and healthy and resilient communities to create housing and neighborhoods that are healthy by-design.

Action Steps

Actions May Include	Type	R300 Reference	Lead*	Time Frame
Officials & Staff Education: Develop and fund a housing policy educational program for newly elected officials and City staff involved in planning, housing, and community development activities.	Administrative	14.1.a	HCD	FY22
Richmond Housing Collaborative: Create a Richmond Housing Collaborative comprising of eight areas of influence including housing thought leaders from City government, public housing administration and resident leaders, philanthropic and housing finance leaders, non-profit and for-profit housing development leaders, and housing advocacy leaders to discuss, innovate, create, test, and implement solutions to the City's housing needs.	Administrative	14.1.b	HCD	FY22
Housing Choice Awareness: Increase awareness and improve relationships with landlords regarding the Housing Choice Voucher program, particularly in areas within Nodes and a 1/2 mile of high-frequency transit stops, and highlight the new State Law (HB6 Virginia Fair Housing Law), which prevents landlords from discriminating against renters with Housing Choice Vouchers.	Administrative	14.1.c	HCD	FY22
Homeownership: Create a center for homeownership that is a clearinghouse for information on City programs, grants, loans, and education, partnering with state agencies, such as VHDA and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, to increase homeownership particularly among Black and Latino households.	Administrative	14.1.d	HCD	FY23
MVA Update: Create an update to the MVA and use the updated analysis to compare changes in housing markets since the 2017 MVA to communicate how changes have impacted housing access, to evaluate the effect of policies and programs on local housing markets and sub-markets, and to develop new programs as markets change.	Planning	14.1.e	RMHF	FY23

** see Acronym list for definition of acronyms*

Big Move | **Provide Greenways & Parks for All**

Develop parks and greenways so that by 2037 100% of Richmonders live within a 10-minute walk of a park.

Description

Create a parks system that is easily accessible by all Richmonders and connected by a greenway network.

Key Benefits

- **Reduce the Heat-Island Effect:** Richmond's heat-island effect is more pronounced in areas of high poverty because there are not many parks, a lot of pavement, and a thin tree canopy.
- **Manage Rainfall:** Green space manages rainfall and reduces the amount of rainwater that flows into the City's drainage and sewage systems.
- **Improve Health Outcomes:** Proximity to a park and greenway system can help reduce chronic conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, and obesity.
- **Anchor New and Existing Neighborhoods:** Parks and greenway systems create a gathering place in communities and can serve as catalysts to spur private investment in the city.
- **Increase Resiliency to a Changing Climate:** Vegetation sequesters carbon dioxide, which helps reduce the total amount of emissions in the city and a network of greenways encourages biking and walking, instead of driving, thereby potentially reducing per capita carbon emissions.
- **Expand Transportation Options:** Greenways provide a safe, dedicated route for non-vehicle users to travel. Greenways support active transportation which help increase physical activity and can potentially improve public health outcomes. Greenways also support non-vehicle modes of transportation, which in turn may decrease vehicle use and therefore, decrease greenhouse gas emissions related to vehicle use.

Vision Alignment

Equity: According to life expectation analysis conducted by the VCU Center for Society and Health, life expectation in areas of concentrated poverty is 20 years less than in wealthy areas. Areas of concentrated poverty are also more likely to be extremely hot during extreme heat days because those areas lack trees and parks, and have a lot of pavement, according to the Science Museum of Virginia. Increasing access to parks, focusing first on areas of poverty, can help improve the health outcomes of low-income Richmonders and support a more equitable built environment.

Sustainability: As mentioned in the key benefits section, parks offer many environmental benefits that increase the City's ability to adapt to a changing climate. Parks help manage rainfall during rain events, cool down the temperature by creating micro-climates and provide habitats for flora and fauna, among many other benefits. Expanding public green space helps the city meet its vision to create a more resilient and healthy city.

Beauty: Landmark parks, such as the James River Park System, Byrd Park, and Jefferson Park, are lush, beautiful environments for Richmonders to experience nature. Parks, trees, and vegetation help beautify Richmond and should be preserved and enhanced.

Goal Alignment

High-Quality Places: Creating great public parks and green space is a fundamental element in establishing high-quality neighborhoods and Nodes throughout the city. The High-Quality Places section of the plan refers to parks and greenways in several parts, most notability in objectives to reach Goal 1 and Goal 4.

Equitable Transportation: Connecting parks with greenways is a core component of Goal 8 within the Equitable Transportation section, which focuses on expanding the non-car transportation network.

Diverse Economy: Parks, greenways, and recreation spaces are key drivers in Richmond's tourism economy (see Goal 12). A robust parks system can also help retain, grow, and attract businesses within Richmond as parks help attract employees to live and work in the city (see Goal 11).

Inclusive Housing: Oftentimes, after parks are developed in areas that have lacked green space, property values increase and there is the potential for existing residents to be displaced. At the same time, access to a park is essential for low-income communities to help improve their health outcomes. Therefore, the Inclusive Housing section of the plan has several strategies to preserve and expand housing for lower-income households and there is also a Big Move related to housing.

Thriving Environment: A system of parks and greenways is essential in reaching the clean air (Goal 15), clean water (Goal 16), and resilient and healthy community (Goal 17) goals listed in the Thriving Environment section.

Action Steps

Actions May Include	Type	R300 Reference	Lead*	Time Frame
Zoning Ordinance: Revise the Zoning Ordinance to include a green space/green amenity minimum; see the Zoning Ordinance Big Move.	Legislative	Goal 4 Goal 17	PDR	FY 22-27
Land Acquisition and Planning: Develop a strategy for acquiring land for new parks and open spaces, and a Parks Master Plan that includes 1) engaging residents (particularly traditionally under-represented communities), developers, government, technical experts, and other stakeholders in defining and encouraging excellence in design of public open and green space; 2) considering and mitigating potential negative effects of new park space, such as increased adjacent property values, cultural displacement, and increased regulation of public space; and 3) creating public-private partnerships to help the City maintain and manage high-quality parks, green infrastructure, and public open space.	Administrative Planning	Goal 2 Goal 17	PRCF [w/ PDR]	FY22-25
Land Trust: Utilize the Maggie Walker Community Land Trust to create public open space.	Administrative	Goal 17	PRCF	FY22-26+
Connections: Implement strategies in Goal 8 to connect parks and increase access to parks.	CIP	Goal 8 Goal 17	DPW	FY22-26+
Parklets: Promote the Parklet Program and encourage the development of parklets throughout the City.	Administrative	Goal 17	PDR	FY22-26+
School Yards: Amend City ordinances to allow public access to school yards and playgrounds during non-school hours.	Legislative	Goal 17	PRCF (RPS)	FY23-24
Maintenance: Create dedicated funding for the creation and maintenance of new and existing parks, public open space, plazas, and greenways, such as 1) a bond referendum and/or 2) a neighborhood-based program where landowners and developers pay parkland dedication fees that will be used to create a park in their neighborhood.	Legislative	Goal 17	PRCF	FY23-26

** see Acronym list for definition of acronyms*

Big Move | **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.

Description

In the 1950s, the Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike (now I-95/I-64) was built through Jackson Ward, cutting the neighborhood in half and destroying over 900 buildings. The main project of this Big Move is to cap the highway and build a park, buildings, and roads on top of the highway in an effort to heal the wound caused by the highway construction.

Key Benefits

- **One Neighborhood:** Jackson Ward and North Jackson Ward feel like two entirely different places, but capping the highway will make them feel as one.
- **Improve Access:** Connections to North Jackson Ward are limited today. It is difficult to get in and out of the area. Adding another street connection over the highway will make it easier to get to North Jackson Ward from Downtown by walking, biking, bus, or car.
- **Placemaking:** A park and buildings on top of the highway have the opportunity for distinctive architecture and public art that highlight Jackson Ward's history and also serve as a gateway to Richmond.

Vision Alignment

Equity: In the 1950s, Jackson Ward, a thriving Black neighborhood, was broken apart with the creation of I-95/I-64. In capping the highway and increasing access to North Jackson Ward, this Big Move seeks to reconcile the past by re-knitting the community.

Sustainability: The chasm created by I-95/I-64 deeply divides two sections of the city, making it difficult to connect the two sides of Jackson Ward. By decking the highway and creating another street connection, the area will become more connected and make it easier to traverse by foot, bike, bus, or car. The bridge park can also reduce the heat island effect by introducing trees and other vegetation.

Beauty: The I-95/I-64 highway is not particularly beautiful from within the city, nor does it offer a nice view of the city for drivers and passengers on the highway itself. By capping the highway at this prominent location, the City will have the opportunity to design and showcase a beautiful destination.

Goal Alignment

Several strategies within the Equitable Transportation section of *Richmond 300* seek to reconnect Richmond, such as capping the Downtown Expressway, building a bridge over the tracks from Leigh Street to the Diamond Site, and general recommendations about creating street grids to encourage walking and increase access. A move such as capping the I-95/I-64 highway at Jackson Ward aligns with the primary sections of the plan.

High-Quality Places: Goals 1, 4, and 5 speak to creating complete neighborhoods, designing a distinctive city, and implementing inclusive planning engagement strategies.

Equitable Transportation: Goal 9 is about seeking to creating more transportation connections throughout Richmond, including strategies such as decking I-95/I-64 to reconnect Jackson Ward.

Diverse Economy: Improving transportation infrastructure that improves the movement of people and goods throughout Richmond helps to support a growing economy.

Inclusive Housing: Large infrastructure investments in neighborhoods can increase property values and lead to involuntary displacement; however, it is important to improve access to North Jackson Ward,

which was disconnected from the rest of the city when the highway was constructed. Therefore, the strategies in the Inclusive Housing section of the plan seek to continue to provide housing opportunities for low- and very low-income households in redeveloping neighborhoods.

Thriving Environment: Increasing access to greenspace, which a bridge park would create, directly aligns with many of the strategies in the Thriving Environment section, as well as the Parks and Greenways Big Move.

Action Steps

Actions May Include	Type	R300 Reference	Lead*	Time Frame
Feasibility Study: Develop a feasibility study with community input to create a schematic plan for the bridge park, roadways, and buildings on top of the capped highway.	Planning	Goal 5 Goal 9	DPW	FY23
Funding: Investigate federal and state funding mechanisms to assist in financing this infrastructure program.	Planning	Goal 9	DPW	FY23
Gilpin Court Transformation: As part of the Gilpin Redevelopment Plan (see Nodes Big Move), plan for multi-modal connections across I-95/I-64 and to adjoining neighborhoods.	Planning	Goal 1 Goal 8 Goal 9 Goal 14	RRHA [w/ PDR, DED, HCD]	FY22-23

** see Acronym list for definition of acronyms*

Big Move | **Realign City Facilities**

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

Description

As the city grows, there will be new residents living in new areas of the city and filling out existing neighborhoods. This growth will likely lead to new demand in City services and require City facilities to move, expand, close, or co-locate. Cities across the country are creating innovative strategies to co-locate city facilities and better serve residents, such as adding clinics to fire stations and reexamining how public libraries deliver of all kinds of information in various formats (not just books).

Key Benefits

- **Efficiently Manage City Resources.** The City has finite resources to manage its facilities and provide services to residents. By aligning City facilities to explore shared-use and consolidation, the City can improve how it efficiently delivers services.
- **Energy Management.** Given its purchasing power and number of facilities, the City is well-positioned to provide on-site renewable energy and also improve building by applying energy retrofits across its portfolio.
- **Nodal Focus.** By locating customer-serving facilities near/within Nodes, the City will be anchoring key locations within Richmond communities with public facilities and also providing services at locations that are accessible via multiple modes of transportation.

Vision Alignment

Equity: Co-locating and consolidating City services within communities of great need can help increase access to services that provide critical care and support to low- and very low-income families and thereby attempt to increase equity. For instance, the Health District has placed clinics within RRHA facilities in order to provide direct care to some of Richmond's most vulnerable populations.

Sustainability: Locating customer-facing City services near/within Nodes helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with transportation by supporting non-car transportation modes. Also, City facilities can help showcase green building features, such as the DPU facility on Commerce Road, which includes many examples of green infrastructure.

Beauty: Oftentimes, City facilities not only provide critical services to communities, but also serve as beautiful landmarks that anchor a neighborhood and create a distinctive place through architecture and site design.

Goal Alignment

High-Quality Places: Goal 2 of the Plan has three objectives related to city facilities, land, and infrastructure.

Equitable Transportation: The Goals in this section seek to align transportation infrastructure with land use planning using a nodal network. Any customer-facing City facilities should endeavor to locate near/within the Nodes so that customers have multiple transportation options to reach services.

Diverse Economy: The City has the opportunity to strategically acquire property to spur economic development. For example, Henrico and Chesterfield purchased defunct malls to reposition them for redevelopment.

Inclusive Housing: The City can use City-owned land to create more housing that is affordable to low-income and very low-income households and seek to meet the *Richmond 300* Inclusive Housing vision.

Thriving Environment: City-owned buildings and land are opportunities for energy retrofits and green infrastructure to further Goals 15 and 16, as well as locations for new parks, urban agriculture, and resiliency hubs to further Goal 17.

Action Steps

Actions May Include	Type	R300 Reference	Lead*	Time Frame
Facilities Inventory: Develop and maintain a facility assessment inventory of all City-owned facilities.	Administrative	Goal 2	DPW	FY23-26+
Police and Fire: Analyze police precincts and fire stations within the context of the Future Land Use Plan and determine whether there are needs for creating, relocating, and/or closing police and fire stations to align with population projections and meet minimum response times.	Planning	Goal 1 Goal 2	PDR [w/ RFD, RPD	FY23-24
Schools: Develop a schools facility master plan based within the context of the Future Land Use Plan to determine whether there are needs for creating, relocating, and/or closing schools to align with population projections. Explore the creation of a new school in the Downtown area.	Planning	Goal 1 Goal 2	RPS [w/ PDR]	FY23-24
Parks: Develop a parks and community facilities master plan based within the context of the Future Land Use Plan that seeks to ensure all Richmonders to live within a 10-minute walk of a park.	Planning	Goal 1 Goal 2 Goal 17	PRCF [PDR]	FY23-24
Libraries: Finish implementing the Libraries Master Plan by renovating the Main Library, and then explore creating a new Libraries Master Plan to plan facilities improvements for the next generation of library users and incorporating other community-serving services.	Planning	Goal 1 Goal 2	RPL	FY23-24
Energy Retrofits: Implement programs to improve the energy efficiency of City-owned buildings.	CIP	Goal 2 Goal 15	DPU, DPW	FY23-26+
Infrastructure Planning: During small area planning and other development efforts, coordinate across departments to plan for any infrastructure improvements necessary to support the development and redevelopment at Nodes.	Planning	Goal 1 Goal 2	PDR [w/ DPU, DPW]	FY22-26+

** see Acronym list for definition of acronyms*

Reporting

Ever year PDR staff should create a *Richmond 300* Annual Report, post the Annual Report on its website, and present the Annual Report to the City Planning Commission and City Council. The Annual Report may include the following sections:

- **Metrics:** Updated every other year, this section includes new statistics for the metrics described at the beginning of each this chapter.
- **Big Moves:** A summary of the actions that have transpired to advance each Big Move since the last Annual Report was published. The actions may include, but are not limited to, the action steps outlined in this chapter.
- **Other Goals:** A summary of any other actions undertaken in an effort to advance any of the 17 Goals outlined in Chapters 2 through 6 of *Richmond 300* that have transpired since the last Annual Report was published.
- The Annual Report for the 2024-25 Fiscal Year should include a plan for updating *Richmond 300*. Per State Code, Master Plan should be updated every 5 years.

Since *Richmond 300* touches on many topics that are not directly under the purview of PDR and many of the goals outlined in *Richmond 300* will require cross-departmental collaboration, as well as collaboration with outside groups, the Annual Report may include descriptions of actions undertaken by groups other than PDR.

RICHMOND 300

Appendices

A. Acronyms and Glossary

B. Creating the *Richmond 300* Plan

C. Nodes Descriptions

Appendix A

Acronyms Definitions

Term	Definition
ACS	American Community Survey
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADT	Average daily traffic
AMI	Area median income
AV	Autonomous vehicle
BRT	Bus rapid transit
CAR	Commission of Architectural Review
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant program
CHP	Combined Heat and Power
CIP	Capital Improvement Program
CMAQ	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality
CPACE	Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy
CSO	Combined sewage overflow
CSS	Combined sewer system
CURA	Center for Urban and Regional Analysis at Virginia Commonwealth University
DED	Department of Economic Development
DPU	Department of Public Utilities
DPW	Department of Public Works
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GRTC	Greater Richmond Transit Company
HAMFI	HUD Area Median Family Income
HCD	Housing and Community Development
HOME	Housing Opportunities Made Equal
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
ITS	Intelligent Transportation Systems
LIHTC	Low-Income Housing Tax Credit
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
MVA	Market Value Analysis
NPS	National Park Service
PACE	Property Assessed Clean Energy
PDR	Department of Planning and Development Review
PILOT	Payment-in-lieu of taxes
QAP	Qualified Allocation Plan
RFJA	Richmond Food Justice Alliance

Term	Definition
RIC	Richmond International Airport
RMA	Resource Management Area as defined by the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, which includes all Resource Protection Areas plus the 100-year floodplain, soils that erode easily, steep slopes, non-tidal wetlands, 500-foot separation from Resource Protection Area and 600-foot separation from streams
RPA	Resource Protection Area as defined by the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, which includes land next to water bodies and land, that if developed, may worsen water quality of water bodies; includes tidal wetlands, non-tidal wetlands, water bodies that flow continuously (i.e., rivers and streams), tidal shores, other land that should be protected to improve water quality, and land within a 100-foot strip next to all previously listed areas
RPD	Richmond Police Department
RPL	Richmond Public Library
RRHA	Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority
SUP	Special Use Permit - allows for an applicant to receive approval for a development that does not conform to the existing zoning district
TDM	Transportation Demand Management
TIF	Tax increment finance
TNC	Transportation Network Companies (Uber, Lyft)
TOD	Transit-Oriented Development
VCU	Virginia Commonwealth University
VDOT	Virginia Department of Transportation
VHDA	Virginia Housing Development Authority

Glossary

Term	Definition
Blighted property	Land that is dilapidated, unsafe, and/or in unsightly condition
Brownfield	A former industrial or commercial site where future use is affected by real or perceived environmental contamination
Built Environment	Consists of buildings, parks, roads, infrastructure, and other physical parts that set the stage for human activity within a city; the human-made space in which people live, work, and recreate on a daily basis
Carbon Neutrality	Achieving net zero carbon dioxide emissions by balancing carbon emissions with carbon removal or simply eliminating carbon emissions altogether
Commercial	Retail and business uses such as shops, convenience stores, big box stores, and restaurants
Duplex	(2-family): one building housing two "families" in two separate units that are on top of one another or next to each other
Enclosure	The ratio of height to width; good sense of enclosure means that the height of the buildings is in proportion to the width of the intervening public space
Euclidean zoning	Single-use zoning by specific and uniform geographical division
Floodplains	The 100-year floodplain represents areas that have a 1% chance of flooding in a given year, or once every 100 years. The 500-year floodplain represents areas that have a 0.02% chance of flooding in a given year, or once every 500 years.

Term	Definition
Food desert	An area that has limited access to affordable and nutritious food from grocery stores or vegetable shops
Government	Uses that are owned or operated by a government agency such as the Commonwealth of Virginia, the City of Richmond, or the federal government. These include facilities such as police and fire stations, libraries, and City Hall
Graywater	The relatively clean wastewater from baths, sinks, washing machines, and other kitchen appliances
Greenway	A greenway is a universally accessible paved path that is a minimum of 8-feet wide and intended for non-vehicle users. Examples of greenways in Richmond are the Canon Creek Greenway and the Virginia Capital Trail. Greenways are sometimes also referred to as shared use-paths.
Heat island effect	An urban area that is significantly warmer than its surrounding rural areas due to urban elements such as buildings, roads and pavements, and lack of vegetation
Heat vulnerability index	A measure of how likely a person is to be injured or harmed during periods of hot weather, especially young children and older adults
Impervious surface	Describes paved areas because when it rains, the rain water that falls on the roofs of the buildings, roads, parking lots, and sidewalks does not immediately seep into the ground, but runs off the paved surfaces
Industrial	Industrial uses such as factories, processing facilities, manufacturing facilities, and warehouses
Institutional	Institutions such as universities, private schools, museums, theaters, and places of worship, which are typically not-for-profit organizations.
ITS	Intelligent Transportation Systems
JRPS	James River Park System
Landscape	All of the visible features of an area of countryside, land or street, often considered in terms of their aesthetic appeal
Light pollution	The presence of anthropogenic and artificial light in the night environment, inhibiting the observation of stars and planets
Mixed-use	A building or parcel with more than one use. Refers to either a building with different uses in it (such as a store, restaurant, or office on the ground floor with residences above), or to a parcel of land with more than one use on it
Multi-family	One building with three or more dwelling units in it that are either condominiums (each unit is owned individually) or apartments (each unit is rented and the entire building is owned by one entity)
Multi-use trails	Multi-use trails are not shown on this map. Multi-trails are very important recreation routes in the city and should be expanded and maintained, but Richmond 300 does not include them on these maps. A multi-use trail is a single track or natural surface trail that is open to one or more user groups. In Richmond multi-use trail users groups are hikers and bikers, but elsewhere user groups might include horses, ATV's etc.
Non-vehicle users	Non-vehicle users are pedestrians, joggers, cyclists, rollerbladers, skateboarders, wheelchair users, people pushing strollers, and other users that are not using a vehicle for transportation.
Office(s)	General office space for medical, professional, and research and development business
Placemaking	An approach to planning, design, and organization of public spaces that capitalizes on an area's assets; the goal is to create quality public spaces with strong character that encourages health and equity

Term	Definition
Priority streets	A designation that applies most to corner properties and requires the same form-based considerations which apply to principal streets (the highest order street fronting a parcel) to be applied to these other streets as well. This helps in a situation where a building is at the intersection of two major roads. Typically only one road would be the principal street requiring special treatment as outlined in the Zoning Ordinance. This requires that both roads receive special treatment in order to improve the design and function of the new development.
Public and Open Space	Publicly-owned land that has City parks or other types of open space such as cemeteries
Public Realm	Includes all exterior places, linkages, and built form elements that are physically and/or visually accessible regardless of ownership; defined as any publicly-owned streets, right-of-ways, parks, publicly-accessible open spaces, and any public and civic buildings and facilities
Rezoning	Refers to completely changing a parcel's zoning designation to a different one, or a conditional rezoning where the City places conditions on the zoning change such as limiting the height of the building or requiring certain improvements on- or off-site; the conditions cannot lessen the requirements of an existing zoning district
Riparian area	The interface between land and a river or stream
Setback	The distance from the property line in which building is prohibited
Single-family	Detached houses and attached rowhouses with one "family" per house
Transit-oriented development	Walkable development served by frequent transit with a mix of housing, retail, and employment choices designed to allow people to live and work with less or no dependence on a personal car
Tree canopy	The layer of leaves, branches, and stems of trees that cover the ground when viewed from above
Urban design	The process of creating the public realm through the artful arrangement of buildings and site elements as cities grow and change; successful urban designs create meaningful spaces that foster positive social interaction, cultural advancement, and civic identity
Vacant	Parcels of land that are not developed
Wetland	Land that is saturated in water, either permanently or seasonally and are important for the following reasons: they absorb water during rain and therefore help reduce flooding; help clean pollutants out of water; allow water to slowly seep into the ground and replenish groundwater; and are habitats for many different types of animals

Appendix B

Creating the *Richmond 300* Plan

The process to update the plan was a city-wide conversation about change, focusing on where we have been, where we are now, and where we want to be in 20 years. Because every Richmonder should have a say in how the city grows, the Master Plan was developed with extensive community input. Several groups were established to help shape the content of *Richmond 300*.

Richmond 300 Groups

Technical Team

The Technical Team was comprised of staff from multiple City departments and quasi-City entities. The Technical Team provided input on technical planning, development, transportation, and myriad issues and provided input on interim work products. This team played a critical role in integrating existing City plans and polices, collecting baseline conditions data, and providing input to shape interim work products.

Advisory Council

The Advisory Council is an ad hoc sub-committee of the City Planning Commission established by City Planning Commission Resolution 2016-70 to "(1) assist in shaping and reviewing the content of the New Master Plan, (2) help build awareness of the New Master Plan, and (3) encourage community participation in the New Master Plan update process." The Advisory Council adopted By-Laws to guide the groups.

Selection Process: In July 2017, the City released a call for applicants to the Advisory Council. PDR received 153 on-time applications to serve on the Advisory Council and an additional 21 applications after the application deadline, which were not considered. PDR originally envisioned creating an Advisory Council of no more than 15 members; 13 of which would be selected from an open call and 2 would be City Planning Commission members. However, after receiving such a large amount of qualified applicants, PDR increased the group to 21 members. The Advisory Council members were selected by 2 City Planning Commission members, the Director of PDR, and the Mayor's Office.

Diversity: PDR sought to assemble a diverse Advisory Council by including individuals with expertise in planning, real estate, architecture, historic preservation, urban design, and law, as well as community members who are not necessarily in "typical" urban planning fields. Some members routinely work with PDR and have intimate knowledge of the Zoning Ordinance and the 2001 Master Plan; whereas other members do not. The

Advisory Council includes a mix of ages and ethnic/race groups, as well as people who live and work in all nine City Council districts. More than half of the members have lived in many parts of the city throughout their lives; while several members are new to Richmond.

Working Groups

The Working Groups were topic-specific sub-committees of the Advisory Council that were charged with creating the initial recommendations for *Richmond 300*, which were vetted and amended by the community-at-large during Community Consultation #2. The Working Groups met from March to July 2019 with 297 people attending 15 meetings over the five month period - many people attended multiple meetings for a total of 693 meeting visits. Each Working Group was co-chaired by members of the Advisory Council and the Technical Team and included At-Large, Technical Team, and Advisory Council members as well. At-Large Members were any members of the public who filled out the Working Group Interest Form. The Working Groups included policy experts, advocates, and individuals generally interested in the topic.

Process

Phase 1: Define the Plan (May 2016 to September 2018)

During the first phase of the *Richmond 300* process, PDR set the stage for getting the plan started by kicking of the following tasks:

- Developing and vetting the process to create the new Master Plan update
- Developing a brand identity and establishing a web presence (website and social media accounts)
- Issuing Requests for Proposals to hire consultants for engagement and parking
- Meeting with City staff, elected officials, stakeholder groups, Council Districts, City Council, and City Planning Commission and attending 90 meetings with over 2,400 attendees total
- Establishing the 21-member Advisory Council (received 173 applications)
- Collecting existing data and developing reports
- Collecting parking data and hosting Parking Meetings #1
- **Key documents created during this phase:** Demographics, Housing and Land Use Analysis, and Urban Design Typology Analysis, Insights Report; and Map Books for each Council District

Phase 2: Develop the Plan (September 2018 to February 2020)

During the second phase, the Richmond community and PDR staff developed the draft content of the Master Plan, by completing these tasks:

- Outlining a city-wide vision and big ideas to reach that vision during Community Consultation #1: Visioning, which included reaching 1,558 people (at 40 existing community meetings and 7 open houses), and collecting 1,030 survey responses [September–October 2018]
- Reviewing preliminary parking policy recommendations during Parking Meetings #2, which were attended by 426 people and sharing a survey which garnered 800 responses [November 2018]
- Developing a vision for the city in 2037 and outlining key goals
- Defining policy recommendations for each of the key goals during 15 working group meetings that had 693 total attendees [January-July 2019]
- Reviewing the draft content and providing comments during Community Consultation #2: Recommendations, which included reaching 2,014 (at 62 existing meetings, 21 sharing sessions and 7 forums), collecting 1,015 survey responses, collecting 612 comments on draft maps and strategies, and receiving 20 letters and emails [September–November 2019]
- Hosting 2 meetings focused on the Greater Scott's Addition area with 170 attendees and collecting 1,148 survey responses to 2 surveys [June 2019 – February 2020]
- Writing the draft *Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth* document [December 2019–June2020]
- Releasing the Draft *Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth* Master Plan [September 2020]
- Releasing Parking Study [June 2020]
- **Key Documents from this phase:** Parking Study, Community Consultation #1 Report, Community Consultation #2 Report, Draft *Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth* Master Plan

Phase 3: Refine & Adopt the Plan (March 2020 to December 2020)

During the third phase, PDR finalized the plan:

- Discussing final edits and plan implementation during Community Consultation #3: Draft Plan, which reached 1,187 people (at 23 existing meetings and 16 summits) and receiving 1,137 comments on the Draft Plan and 90 letters and emails [June–July 2020]
- Hosting 2 meetings focused on the Coliseum area with 215 attendees and collecting 997 survey responses to 2 surveys [June – July 2020]
- Reviewing and reconciling all comments received on the draft plan [July–September 2020]
- Releasing the Pre-Final and Final *Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth* Master Plan [September 2020]
- Presenting the final *Richmond 300* plan to City Planning Commission and City Council for adoption [September-December 2020]
- **Key Documents from this phase:** Pre-Final *Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth* Master Plan, Final *Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth* Master Plan

Phase 4: Implement the Plan (2021-2026)

During the fourth phase, City staff, elected officials, and the community at-large will implement the plan by:

- Publishing the City Council-adopted Plan [December 2020]
- Implementing recommendations outlined in the Plan [2021-2026]
- Annually reviewing work toward implementing recommendations [2021-2026]
- Updating the Plan five years after adoption [2026]
- **Key Documents from this phase:** Annual Reports

Appendix C

Nodes

Nodes are places in Richmond where people and jobs are today and continue to grow into the future. Nodes are the places of convergence of many uses and include offices, shopping, housing, and/or public gathering places as well as access to multiple modes of transportation.

Nodes are important places in Richmond and deserve special attention in the Master Plan to ensure that land use planning, transportation planning, and public policy align to make thriving crossroads in Richmond's communities. The Nodes are places in Richmond that can either 1) accommodate additional growth in jobs and population or 2) are major activity centers today and should be preserved/enhanced. The Nodes Map, as shown in Figure 10, depicts the location and scale of each Node:

Regional/National Node: A center with significant cultural, entertainment, government, and business destinations as well as shopping, housing, and unique place-based attractions.

Neighborhood Node: A local crossroads typically within or next to larger residential areas that offers goods and services to nearby residents, employees, and visitors.

Micro Node: A notable place within a neighborhood that generally provides goods and services to the immediate residents but may attract visitors.

The Nodes map also highlights the **Priority Growth Nodes** where the City is encouraging the most significant growth in population and development over the next 20 years. This section of the Plan includes descriptions for the Nodes designated as primary growth areas.

Chapter 1 of the Plan includes descriptions for the Nodes designated as Priority Growth Nodes. Descriptions for all the Regional/National Nodes and the Neighborhood Nodes are found in this Appendix. Micro Nodes are not described in detail in the Plan, but are called out on the Node Map because the Micro Nodes provide mixed-use destinations within primarily residential areas and help create a unique sense of place within many of Richmond's historic urban neighborhoods. Micro Nodes are a model for future development as new neighborhoods emerge.

PRIORITY GROWTH NODES

See Chapter 1 for descriptions of the Priority Growth Nodes and Chapter 7 for implementation steps related to these Nodes

Downtown. As the regional center of employment, the Capital of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the home to a major state university and hospital system, the Downtown Area contains five sub-Nodes:

- Downtown Core
- Jackson Ward
- Monroe Ward
- Shockoe
- Manchester

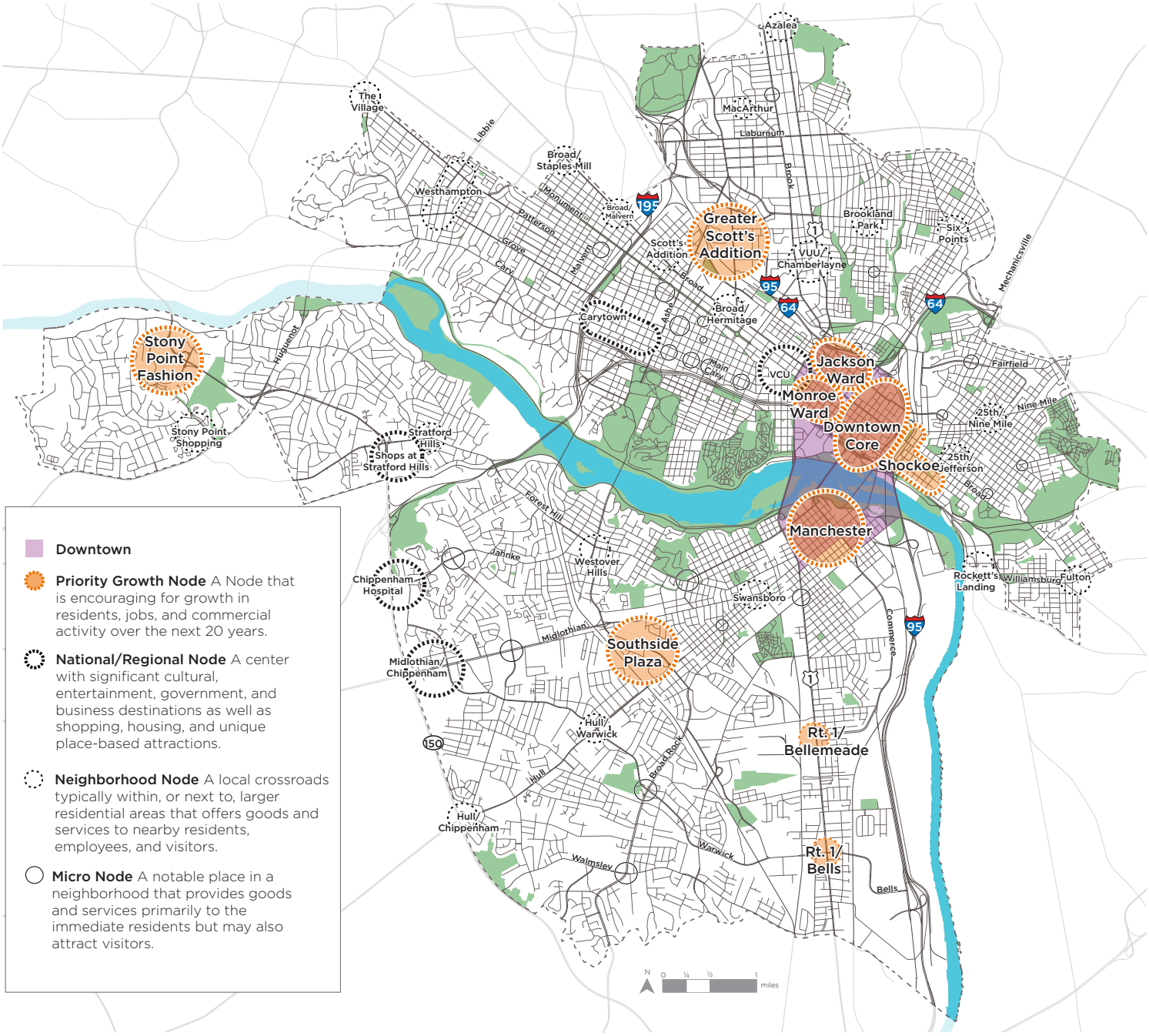
Greater Scott's Addition

Route 1/Bellemeade Rd

Route 1/Bells Rd

Southside Plaza

Stony Point Fashion Park



Nodes Map

Nodes are places in Richmond that can either 1) accommodate additional growth in jobs and population or 2) where major activity existing today and should be preserved/enhanced.

South Richmond — Western Nodes

Stony Point Shopping

Type: Neighborhood Node

Vision: The Stony Point Shopping Node currently consists of a suburban shopping center, a suburban office park, both multi- and single-family dwellings, and a park. In the future, this Node can function as the walkable, village center for the Bon Air and Huguenot neighborhoods in Richmond and Chesterfield County by continuing to support a mix of uses in a more pedestrian-friendly and transit-ready environment. This mixed-use Node will continue to be a neighborhood shopping destination with a unique mix of restaurants, retail, neighborhood services, and entertainment options. New development or the redevelopment of the existing suburban commercial and office development would be enhanced by encouraging a more urban form with buildings that are closer to the street and parking located in the rear in shared lots, and the inclusion of some residential units. The inclusion of green space and unique landscaping incorporated into developments will continue to be a character defining feature of this Node. Pedestrian and bicycle connections throughout the Node, across Huguenot Road, and to Larus Park should be improved. Transit service should continue to be improved to provide access to more destinations and improved bus stop amenities.

Growth Potential: Medium – The surface parking lots and underdeveloped strip commercial can be redeveloped to provide a mix of uses including residential.

Primary Next Steps

- Rezone the Corridor Mixed-Use and Neighborhood Mixed-Use areas of this Node in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan to allow for a mix of uses and increased residential density by-right. (see Goal 1 and Goal 14)
- Implement design standards to create a high-quality and well-designed neighborhood Node with extensive green space incorporated in developments and explore the creation of signature public art in a central gathering space. (see Goal 4 and Goal 17)
- Improve pedestrian and bike infrastructure to/from this Node – specifically improving connections to Larus Park, the James River, and Stony Point Fashion Park, in coordination with Chesterfield County, across and along Huguenot Road. (see Goal 4 and Goal 8)
- Expand transit service to this Node and improve bus stop amenities. (Goal 8)

Shops at Stratford Hills

Type: Regional Node

Vision: The Shops at Stratford Hills Node consists of two large commercial shopping centers which are dominated by big box retailers and parking and strip commercial along Forest Hill Avenue. While residents value the presence of large anchor establishments, in the future, this Node can be the walkable, mixed-use neighborhood center for Stratford Hills by incorporating a diverse mix of uses including unique shopping, service, and entertainment establishments and residential units. The existing suburban-style development patterns focus around large parking lots that in the future could be redeveloped into a more urban, gridded pattern with buildings that address the street. In addition to improved connections within the Node, Forest Hill Avenue needs to be improved to reduce vehicle and pedestrian conflicts and improve pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access to the Node. New development should have a cohesive plan, high quality design and include street trees and other open space. Any new development in the areas to the south and east of the Node which are designated Neighborhood Mixed-Use should complement the design of the Node and be connected by both streets and sidewalks.

Growth Potential: Medium – The surface parking lots and underdeveloped strip commercial can be redeveloped to provide a mix of uses including residential.

Primary Next Steps

- Rezone this Node in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan to allow for a mix of uses and increased residential density by-right. (see Goal 1 and Goal 14)
- Implement design standards to create a high-quality and well-designed regional Node with green space and street trees incorporated in developments and explore the creation of signature public art in a central gathering space. (see Goal 4 and Goal 17)
- Incorporate a gridded street network as a part of the cohesive redevelopment of this Node. (See Goal 9)
- Improve pedestrian and bike infrastructure to/from this Node – specifically improving connections into the residential neighborhoods and along Forest Hill Avenue.(see Goal 4 and Goal 8)
- Implement high-frequency transit along Forest Hill Avenue (see Goal 8)

Stratford Hills

Type: Neighborhood Node

Vision: Currently, the Stratford Hills Node consists of two strip commercial centers on the north and south sides of Forest Hill Avenue, strip commercial along Forest Hill Avenue, multi-family dwellings including a 13-story condominium tower, and parking lots adjacent to wooded residential neighborhoods. Additionally, this Node is situated near entrances to the James River Park System; and in the future, the connections to the Park should be improved. In 2037, the parking lots and dated commercial structures can be redeveloped into a walkable mixed-use community center that continues to include unique local restaurants, retail, and neighborhood services catering to the surrounding neighborhood and to differentiate this Node while also incorporating multi-family residential units. Additional auto-related uses on the Forest Hill corridor should be discouraged. Future development should encourage high-quality design and an urban form with medium-scale buildings that are located closer to the street with parking located in the rear in shared lots. There is the potential for additional larger multi-family and mixed-use development to complement the Hathaway Towers. Enhancements are needed to improve the safety of pedestrians and bicyclist along Forest Hill Avenue and access to the Node from the surrounding neighborhoods. The existing transit should be supported and enhanced with more frequent routes and improved access to and amenities at the transit stops.

Growth Potential: Medium – The surface parking lots and underdeveloped strip commercial can be redeveloped to provide a mix of uses including residential.

Primary Next Steps

- Rezone this Node in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan to allow for a mix of uses and increased residential density by-right and discourages auto-related uses and suburban strip commercial development form. (see Goal 1 and Goal 14)
- Implement design standards to create a high-quality and well-designed neighborhood Node that includes creative solutions for transitions between varying intensities of building types and land uses. (see Goal 4)
- Improve pedestrian and bike infrastructure to/from this Node – specifically improving connections into the residential neighborhoods, along Forest Hill Avenue, and to the James River.(see Goal 4 and Goal 8)
- Implement high-frequency transit along Forest Hill Avenue and connect riders to the bus stops along Forest Hill by providing increased pedestrian connections from the residential neighborhoods (see Goal 8)

Stratford Hills Conceptual Site Plan

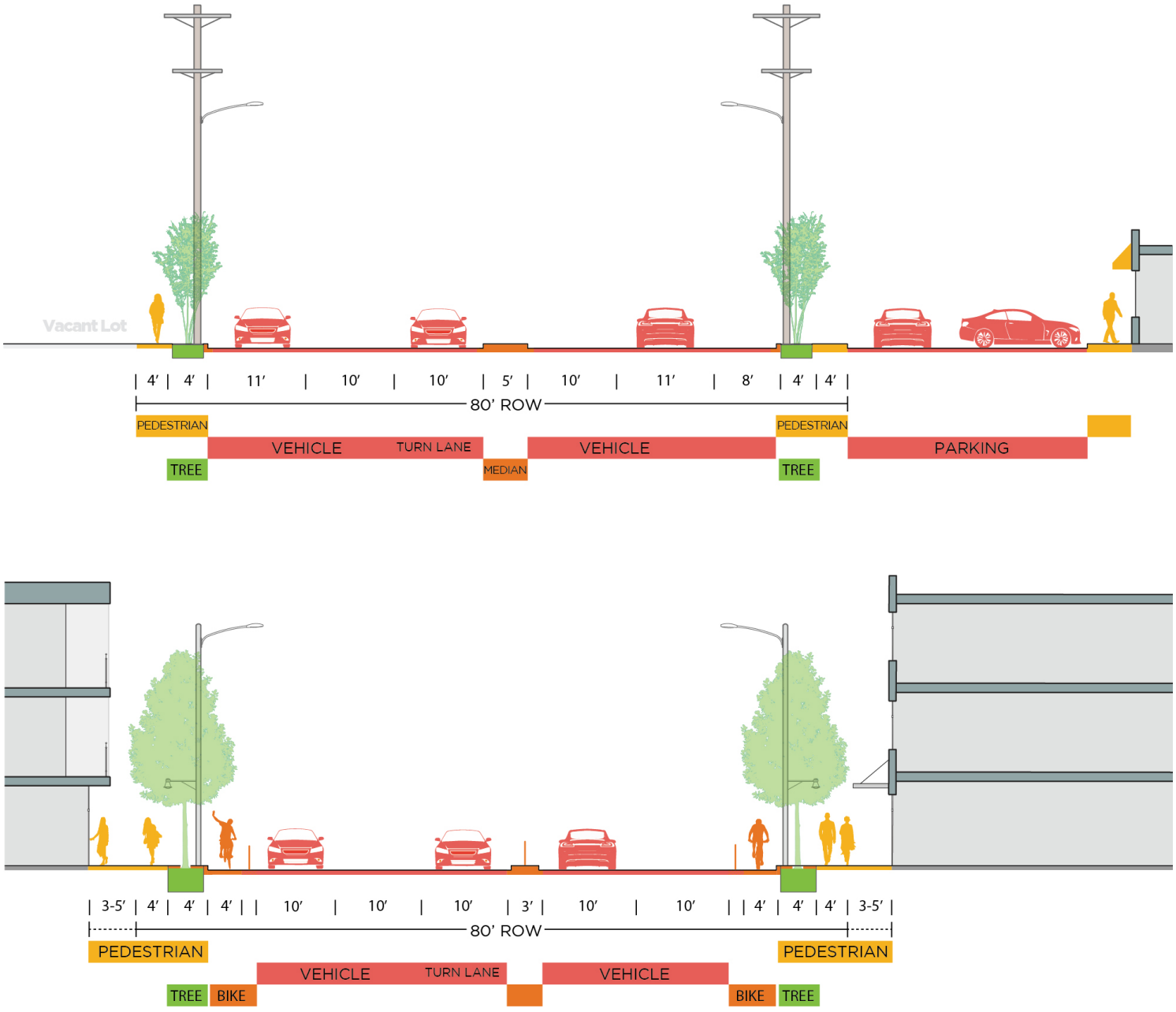
South Richmond — Central Nodes

Westover Hills

Type: Neighborhood Node

Vision: Westover Hills has a village-like quality with small retail, services, and restaurant offerings that serve primarily the surrounding neighborhoods, but does attract outside visitors. Over the next twenty years, the Westover Hills Node could be enhanced by 1) discouraging suburban development pattern (where buildings are pushed back with parking in front of them) and encouraging urban form with buildings that are closer to the street and parking located in the rear in shared lots, and 2) utilizing a Complete Streets approach to street design to ensure pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users are adequately and safely accommodated

Westover Hills Conceptual Site Plan



Westover Hills Potential Street Section Transformation
By bringing buildings just up to the sidewalk, leaving 3 to 5 feet for extra sidewalk space and/or outdoor seating, [as shown in the bottom section], the Forest Hill street section can transform from feeling like a suburban-strip commercial intersection [top] to an urban village intersection [bottom].

in the public right-of-way. Additionally, the four corners of the Westover Hills/Forest Hill intersection can be improved by bring buildings to the corner and introducing landmark public art.

Growth Potential: Low - while this is an important neighborhood Node in this area of the city and there are parcels that could be redeveloped and improve the walkability and placemaking of this Node, the overall growth potential, as compared to other Nodes city-wide, is low.

Primary Next Steps

- Rezone the area to allow for residential uses by-right in the mixed-use area (see Goal 1 and Goal 14)
- Implement design standards to create a high-quality and well-designed neighborhood Node and explore the creation of signature public art (see Goal 4 and Goal 17)
- Improve pedestrian, bike, and transit infrastructure to/from this Node (see Goal 4 and Goal 8)
- Implement high-frequency transit along Forest Hill Avenue and Westover Hills Boulevard (see Goal 8)

Chippenham Hospital

Type: National/Regional Node

Vision: The Chippenham Hospital Node is currently a job center anchored by HCA Healthcare Chippenham Hospital. Additionally, there are many different housing options provided in the area including new and older single-family homes, townhomes, and low-scale multi-family residential communities. This Node will continue to provide high quality jobs associated with the hospital and medical office-related uses. Additionally, the older multi-family residential communities can be redeveloped into higher density, mixed-use neighborhoods. The redesign of these communities should emphasize walkable, well-connected communities with well-designed buildings, a street grid, sidewalks, and street trees. New commercial uses incorporated into the mixed-use communities and along Jahnke Road should serve both the residential population and hospital employees and visitors. As this Node is located partially in Chesterfield County, connections to the County especially the adjacent Boulder's Office Park should be improved. Additionally, connections into Powhite Park should be improved to increase accessibility to the park from the adjacent residential neighborhoods.

Growth Potential: Medium – The older low-density, multi-family developments can be redeveloped with a mix of uses, higher residential densities and a mix of housing types.

Primary Next Steps

- Rezone the Destination Mixed-Use and Neighborhood Mixed-Use areas of this Node in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan to allow for a mix of uses and increased residential density by-right. (see Goal 1 and Goal 14)
- Rezone the Institutional areas of this Node in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan to require a master plan to be reviewed by Planning Commission for changes to the HCA Healthcare Chippenham Hospital campus. (Goal 13)
- Improve pedestrian and bike infrastructure to/from this Node – specifically improving connections into the residential neighborhoods, along Jahnke Road and Hioaks Road, and to Powhite Park. (see Goal 4 and Goal 8)
- Connect Powhite Park to other City and regional parks through a system of greenways. (Goal 8 and Goal 17)
- Improve connections into Chesterfield County by extending Carnation Street under Chippenham Parkway to connect to Boulder's Parkway in Chesterfield County. (see Goal 9)

Midlothian/Chippenham

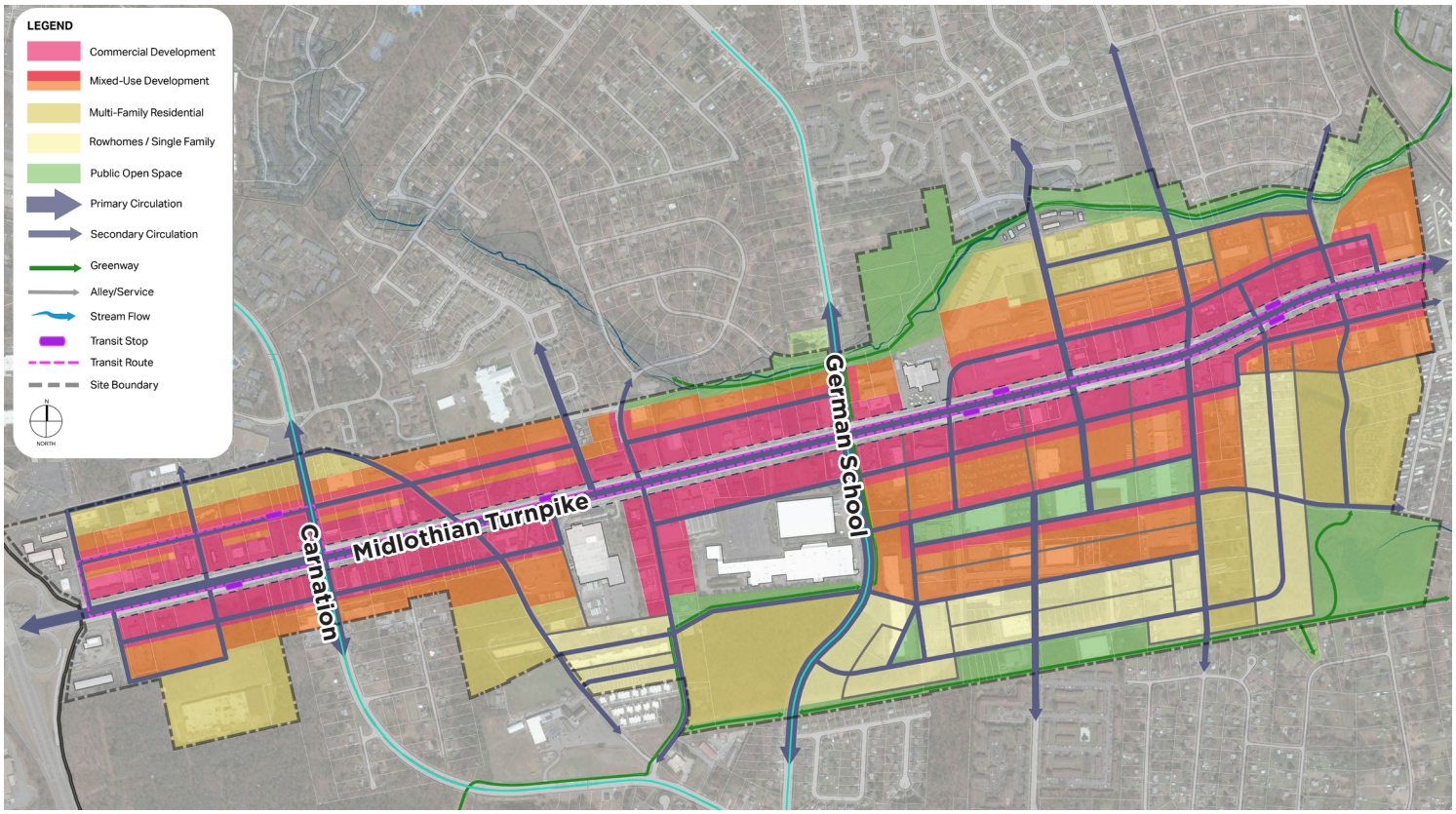
Type: National/Regional Node

Vision: The Node at Midlothian Turnpike and Chippenham Parkway serves as a gateway into the city of Richmond from Chesterfield County. Currently, this Node is developed with strip commercial, hotels, and a large off-track betting facility with a large surface parking lot. In 2037, this Node could become a walkable, village center that connects to the Stonebridge development in Chesterfield County and has its own unique identity as an attractive gateway into the city. The existing parking lots and undeveloped land at the southern edge can be redeveloped into a mixed-use community that includes a mix of housing types at varying affordability levels and community serving commercial uses. The scale of development should complement the surrounding neighborhoods and could include taller, signature buildings that serve to distinguish this Node. The development pattern should create a walkable environment by introducing a street grid to break up the larger parcels along Midlothian Turnpike and encouraging urban form with buildings that are closer to the street and parking located in the rear in shared lots. Enhancements are needed to improve the safety of pedestrians and bicyclist along Midlothian Turnpike at the intersection with Chippenham Parkway. Additional access into the Node from the county should be created by creating new streets.

Growth Potential: High – The existing parking lots and undeveloped land at the southern edge can be redeveloped into a mixed-use community that includes a mix of housing types at varying affordability levels and community serving commercial uses.

Primary Next Steps

- Rezone this Node in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan to allow for a mix of uses and increased residential density by-right and discourages auto-related uses and suburban strip commercial development form (see Goal 1 and Goal 14)



Midlothian Conceptual Plan

- Create an identity to differentiate this Node through branding and creative placemaking (see Goals 1 and 4)
- Incorporate a gridded street network as a part of the cohesive redevelopment of this Node (see Goal 9)
- Improve pedestrian and bike infrastructure to/from this Node – specifically improving connections along Midlothian Turnpike into Chesterfield County and to the Southside Community Center (see Goal 4 and Goal 8)
- Improve connections into Chesterfield County by creating new streets under Chippenham Parkway to the Stonebridge development in Chesterfield County (see Goal 9)
- Implement high-frequency transit along Midlothian Turnpike (see Goal 8)

Swansboro

Type: Neighborhood Node

Vision: Centered at a truly unique intersection of Midlothian Turnpike, Hull Street, and Clopton Street; the Swansboro Node contains a mix of historic commercial storefronts, warehouses, and suburban form commercial buildings surrounded by diverse residential neighborhoods. In the future, the empty historic storefronts will be rehabilitated and filled with neighborhood-serving businesses. On the vacant parcels, 2-to-3 story, mixed-use, infill development should occur in a building form similar to the historic structures that maintains the existing streetwall. The character of the surrounding residential neighborhoods should be preserved with investments targeted to programs that allow homeowners to remain in their homes in high-quality structures and traffic calming measures to slow vehicles on the residential streets. Open space opportunities should be considered, even in the form of smaller pocket parks or plazas, where the opportunity presents themselves, such as at the triangle formed by Hull Street and Midlothian Turnpike. Investments should be made to improve the pedestrian experience by planting street trees and expanding sidewalks.

Growth Potential: Medium - The vacant lots and underdeveloped strip commercial can be redeveloped to provide a mix of uses including residential units.

Primary Next Steps

- Prioritize the rezoning of the B-3 zoned parcels along Hull Street in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan to encourage the economic revitalization of the corridor in a building form that improves the pedestrian environment (Goal 1 and Goal 11).
- Encourage the redevelopment of vacant structures while preserving the historic urban fabric (Goal 1, Goal 3).
- Explore designation as a National Register Historic District (Goal 3).
- Use the interesting grids and angles to create dynamic architecture (Goal 4).
- Improve pedestrian, bike, and transit infrastructure to/from this Node – specifically including streetscape improvements of street trees, wider sidewalks, and pedestrian amenities along the corridors and providing high frequency transit along Midlothian Turnpike and Hull Street (see Goal 4, Goal 8, and Goal 17).
- Explore the creative opportunities for developing open space for a neighborhood gathering location including the development of a pocket park or parklets (see Goal 4 and Goal 17).
- Implement high-frequency transit along Midlothian Turnpike and Hull Street (see Goal 8).

Swansboro Conceptual Plan

South Richmond – Eastern Nodes

Hull/Warwick

Type: Neighborhood Node

Vision: The Node at Hull Street and Warwick Road is currently developed with small, single-use commercial structures and strip commercial centers supporting drugstores, small markets and auto-related businesses. The surrounding residential neighborhoods are composed of a mix of housing stock including single-family homes, a large apartment complex, and a manufactured home park. In the future, this Node can serve as a strong entrance into the city and function as a town and family entertainment center with mixed-use developments to include residential units and neighborhood serving commercial uses. Future development should encourage high-quality design and an urban form with medium-scale buildings that are located closer to the street with parking located in the rear in shared lots. The intersection of Hull Street and Warwick Road should be anchored on each corner by mixed-use buildings that are designed to enhance the "nodal" feeling of the area. Housing options at varying affordability levels should be provided throughout the Node by supporting and improving the existing housing stock and encouraging the construction of new housing units. Creative open space opportunities should be considered including in the form of smaller pocket parks or plazas. Pedestrian safety improvements including adequate sidewalks and lighting should be prioritized to improve the pedestrian experience.

Growth Potential: Medium – There is large parcel in the southeast quadrant of the Warwick intersection that is almost entirely forested that can be developed as a significant mixed-use development to define the corner.

Conceptual Images for Town and Family Entertainment Center at Hull and Warwick

Source: Hull Street Corridor Revitalization Plan, January 2013

Additionally, many parcels are currently underdeveloped with significant surface parking lots which can be redeveloped.

Primary Next Steps

- Prioritize the rezoning of the B-3 and OS zoned parcels along Hull Street in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan to encourage the economic revitalization of the corridor in a building form that improves the pedestrian environment. (Goal 1 and Goal 11)
- Support existing residents by developing programs that allow homeowners to remain in their homes in high-quality structures and improving the quality of housing in the existing manufactured home parks (Goal 14)
- Improve pedestrian, bike, and transit infrastructure to/from this Node – specifically including streetscape improvements of street trees, wider sidewalks, and lighting along the corridors and providing high frequency transit along Hull Street. (see Goal 4, Goal 8, and Goal 17)
- Explore the creative opportunities for developing open space for a neighborhood gathering location including the development of a pocket park or a village green along Hull Street (see Goal 4 and Goal 17)

Hull/Chippenham

Type: Neighborhood Node

Vision: At the edge of the city, the Node at Hull Street and Chippenham Parkway is developed with a large strip commercial center, smaller commercial buildings on Hull Street, low-density multi-family apartment complexes, the new Cardinal Middle School, and surrounding single-family neighborhoods. This Node will attract both city and county residents by providing neighborhood serving commercial and housing at varying affordability levels in a more urban form. New development should include the redevelopment of the parking lots along both sides of Hull Street with medium-scale buildings built closer to the street and parking located in the rear in shared lots. Additionally, the low-density multi-family residential communities can be redeveloped into higher-density, mixed-use neighborhoods. The redesign of these communities should emphasize creating walkable, well-connected communities with well-designed buildings, a street grid, sidewalks, and street trees. Improving pedestrian safety should be prioritized especially connections to the new school. The creation of new open space and improved connections to Pocosham Park should be explored to provide additional access to open space for residents of this community.

Growth Potential: Medium – There is development opportunity at Chippenham Mall Shopping Center, either in the form of redevelopment, or existing large parking lots. The existing multi-family may be redeveloped a mix of housing types at varying affordability levels and community-serving commercial uses. Many parcels in the area are environmentally constrained due to the presence of Pocosham Creek.

Primary Next Steps

- Prioritize the rezoning of the B-2 and B-3 zoned parcels along Hull Street in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan to encourage the economic revitalization of the corridor and the inclusion of residential units in a building form that improves the pedestrian environment. (Goal 1, Goal 11, and Goal 14)
- Improve pedestrian, bike, and transit infrastructure to/from this Node – specifically including streetscape improvements of street trees, wider sidewalks, and lighting along the corridors and providing high frequency transit along Hull Street. (see Goal 4, Goal 8, and Goal 17)
- Incorporate a gridded street network as a part of the cohesive redevelopment of this Node (see Goal 9)
- Improve connections to Pocosham Park through the implementation of the Pocosham Greenway (Goal 8 and Goal 17)

West End Nodes

The Village

Type: Neighborhood Node

Vision: The Village is currently a suburban strip commercial district with many retail and office destinations; however in the future, to support a more walkable, bikeable, and transit-ready environment, new developments at the Village adopt a traditional "village center" feel with buildings at least 2-to-3 stories tall, located closer to the street and with parking lots behind the buildings, and pedestrian and bike infrastructure. New development should consider the addition of some residential units. The Community Mixed-Use future land use designation at The Village allows for medium-scale mixed-use development, which is in harmony with the surrounding residential neighborhoods and supports high-frequency transit.

Growth Potential: Low – since most of the land at this Node is in Henrico County, there is not much development opportunity within the City

Primary Next Steps
Since the majority of The Village is in Henrico County, all planning should occur in close collaboration with Henrico:

- Rezone The Village to allow for residential uses and increase height maximums (current B-2 prohibits buildings taller than 35 feet) (see Goal 1 and Goal 14)
- Implement design standards to create a high-quality and well-designed neighborhood Node and explore the creation of signature public art at this gateway (see Goal 4)
- Improve pedestrian and bike infrastructure through The Village and specifically from The Village to Bandy Park (see Goal 4, Goal 8, and Goal 17)
- Implement high-frequency transit along Patterson Avenue with a transit stop at Patterson Avenue and Three Chopt Road (see Goal 8)

Broad/Staples Mill

Type: Neighborhood Node

Vision: The area around the intersection of W. Broad Street and Staples Mill Road capitalizes on its proximity to Willow Lawn, Scott's Addition, Libbie Mill, and the Pulse BRT Staples Mill Station to redevelop under-developed parcels into a walkable Node with new, denser, mixed-use buildings, and streetscape improvements along Broad transform Broad Street into a truly Great Street. The Destination Mixed-Use future land use designation at intersection of Broad and Staples Mill encourages the development of landmark buildings that identify this area as a major gateway into the city. The Corridor Mixed-Use future land use designations encourages the development of buildings that address the street and support a walkable environment along Broad Street.

Growth Potential: Medium – There are several large parcels with surface parking lots and low-slung buildings that could be redeveloped to capitalize on the proximity to high-frequency transit by providing employment and housing.

Primary Next Steps
Since a portion of this area is in Henrico County, all of the next steps should occur in close collaboration with Henrico:

- Rezone the area to allow for residential uses and increase height maximums (current B-3 promotes single-use suburban strip commercial development, not transit-oriented development) (see Goal 1 and Goal 14)
- Implement design standards to create a high-quality and well-designed neighborhood Node and explore the creation of signature public art and/or open space at this gateway (see Goal 4 and Goal 17)
- Improve pedestrian and bike infrastructure to/from the Pulse BRT Staples Mill Station (see Goal 4 and Goal 8)
- Improve W. Broad Street to transform it into a Great Street by creating a bus-only lane, widening sidewalks, burying power lines, enhanced landscape, and requiring buildings to address the street (see Goal 1, Goal 4, and Goal 9)

Westhampton

Type: Neighborhood Node

Vision: The Node that stretches from Libbie and Grove to Libbie and Patterson provides retail and services to nearby residents and attracts visitors from across the region to its businesses. Over time, a few underdeveloped parcels redevelop in a matter that complements and enhances the existing village-scale

feel of the area. The Community Mixed-Use future land use designation permits the creation of additional residential units and business, while also ensuring that new buildings are an appropriate scale the existing commercial buildings and promote walkability by placing vehicular access to the rear of the building. The intersection of Libbie and Patterson should be carefully planned and redeveloped to support and increase access to the high-frequency transit planned for Patterson Avenue.

Growth Potential: Low – While this is an important neighborhood Node in this area of the city, aside from the redevelopment of a handful parcels, this Node will not significantly change over the next 20 years

Primary Next Steps

- Rezone the area to allow for residential uses by-right in the Community Mixed-use area and retain a maximum height of three stories (see Goal 1 and Goal 14).
- Implement design standards to create a high-quality and well-designed neighborhood Node that is consistent with the village-feel of the area, and explore the creation of signature public art (see Goal 4 and Goal 17).
- Improve pedestrian and bike infrastructure to/from this Node (see Goal 4 and Goal 8).
- Implement high-frequency transit along Patterson Avenue with a transit stop at Patterson Avenue and Libbie (see Goal 8).

Broad/Malvern

Type: Neighborhood Node

Vision: This Node is no longer a "dead spot" between Scott's Addition and Willow Lawn; but rather a place with multi-family residential options mixed with retail and offices. New development supports walkable, bikeable, and transit-ready environment to support a new Pulse BRT Station at Malvern and Broad.

Growth Potential: Medium – There are several large parcels with surface parking lots and buildings that could be redeveloped to capitalize on the proximity to high-frequency transit by providing employment and housing.

Primary Next Steps

- Rezone the area to allow for residential uses by-right in the Corridor Mixed-Use area (see Goal 1 and Goal 14).
- Engage with GRTC to discuss the next steps to develop an infill station at Broad and Malvern (Goal 8).

Near West End Nodes

Carytown

Type: Regional/National Node

Vision: The Carytown Node is a lively mixed-use neighborhood that is home to Richmond's premier shopping destination. The establishments in Carytown include an eclectic mix of local and national retail, dining, entertainment, and service uses anchored by the historic Byrd Theater to the east and multiple grocery stores to the west. The retail corridor is surrounded by diverse residential neighborhoods which include a variety housing stock. In 2037, Carytown will continue to be a successful, walkable, mixed-use destination. Additional residential units at a range of affordability levels can be developed through compatible infill development and developing 2 to 3 stories of residential above existing commercial structures. New development should be compatible with the existing historic structures, and efforts should be made to preserve the existing

historic fabric. Though Carytown currently is a walkable Node, the movement of people not cars should be further prioritized by limiting vehicular access to Cary Street, whether permanently or temporarily, while accommodating other modes of transportation. Pedestrian amenities including street trees and larger sidewalks should be included on Cary Street and into the surrounding residential communities. Opportunities to create new open space and improve existing spaces including the Grayland Tot Lot should be realized.

Growth Potential: Medium – New development is limited to existing parking lots and the redeveloping single- and two-story structures into taller structures.

Primary Next Steps

- Rezone the area to allow for residential uses and increase height maximums (current B-3 promotes single-use suburban strip commercial development, not transit-oriented development, and UB prohibits buildings taller than 28 feet) (Goal 1 and Goal 14).
- Explore the opportunity for permanent or temporary street closure of Cary Street in Carytown to limit use to bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and retail use (Goal 8).
- Implement design standards to create a high-quality and well-designed neighborhood Node while preserving the existing historic fabric and explore the creation of signature public art (Goal 3, Goal 4).
- Improve pedestrian, bike, and transit infrastructure to/from this Node – specifically including streetscape improvements of street trees, wider sidewalks, and lighting into the surrounding neighborhoods including into Carytown South and City Stadium neighborhoods and across I-195 and providing high frequency transit along Cary Street and Ellwood Avenue (Goal 4, Goal 8, and Goal 17).
- Explore the creative opportunities for developing open space for a neighborhood gathering location including the development of a pocket park or parklets (Goal 4 and Goal 17).
- Implement the recommendations of the Parking Study (Goal 9)
- Consider creating a Business Improvement District for Carytown (Goal 11)

Scott's Addition

Type: Regional/National Node

Vision: Scott's Addition continues its evolution as a mixed-use neighborhood by adding more residential, office, entertainment, and "maker" uses. The area adds neighborhood amenities, such as a park or parklets, sidewalks, street trees, and other features that enhance the public realm. Scott's Addition is better connected to the West and North by new bridges and is served by high-frequency transit. W. Broad Street and Arthur Ashe Boulevard transform into a pair of high-quality urban avenues that are safe to cross, while becoming a destination in their own right for residential, office, retail and compatible entertainment uses.

Growth Potential: Medium/High — There are still several surface parking lots and buildings that could be redeveloped

Primary Next Steps

- Explore incentives and programs to encourage private developers to create more publicly-accessible greenspace on their properties (Goal 4).
- Improve pedestrian, bike, and transit infrastructure to/from this Node — specifically including a greenway around the perimeter of Scott's Addition and streetscape improvements of street trees, wider sidewalks, and lighting (Goal 4, Goal 8, and Goal 17).
- Provide high-frequency transit along Arthur Ashe Boulevard and into Scott's Addition (Goal 8).
- Implement the recommendations to improve circulation within Scott's Addition found in the Scott's Addition Circulation Study (Goal 9).

Proposed Bike Infrastructure and Circulation for Scott's Addition

Source: Scott's Addition Planning Study to Improve Circulation and Implement Multimodal, Vision Zero, and Complete Streets Concepts, July 2019

Scott's Addition Conceptual Aerial
A greenway and neighborhood park add public green space to Scott's Addition

- Build a pedestrian bridge from Mactavish to Rosedale and a car/bike/transit/pedestrian bridge from Norfolk to Hamilton (Goal 9).
- Implement the recommendations of the Parking Study (Goal 9).
- Consider creating a Business Improvement District for Scott's Addition (Goal 11).
- Develop at pocket park at Cutshaw and a larger park within Scott's Addition (Goal 17).

Broad/Hermitage

Type: Regional/National Node

Vision: Building off its excellent access to high-frequency transit with the Pulse Rapid Transit Allison Station, the Broad/Hermitage is known as the Alison District, a dense, compact, transit-oriented mixed-use development anchored by a reconnected street grid. Major redevelopment around the Allison Station breaks up superblocks by introducing a street grid, developing a series of parks connected by greenways, and creating a walkable environment with high-density, mixed-use buildings on the north side of W. Broad Street; medium-density, mixed-use buildings infill the south side of W. Broad Street.

As redevelopment proceeds, an infill Pulse station at Lombardy Street facilitates transit connections and access to jobs, daily shopping, and homes at the Lombardy Street and W. Broad Street intersection. Redevelopment occurs on sites with auto-oriented uses and deep setbacks that currently disrupt the historic pattern of the street-oriented commercial corridor. Historic building stock is preserved and adapted for reuse. New development provides adequate buffers to residential neighborhoods. W. Broad Street transforms into a high-quality Great Street that is safe to cross, while becoming a destination in its own right for residential, office, retail and compatible entertainment uses.

Broad/Hermitage Conceptual Aerial
A greenway and series of parks add public green space to the Broad/Hermitage area

Growth Potential: Medium/High — There are still several surface parking lots and buildings that could be redeveloped.

Primary Next Steps

- Rezone the Broad/Hermitage area to align with the Future Land Use Map. (Goal 1)
- Work with Sauer Properties to develop an urban form master plan. Take advantage of the large concentration of single-owner redevelopment properties north of W. Broad Street and work together towards a high-density, urban form. (Goal 1, Goal 4)
- Introduce a street grid north of W. Broad Street using Complete Streets guidelines. Continue Clay Street from DMV Drive to Lombardy Street, Marshall Street from DMV Drive to Bowe Street, Meadow Street from Clay Street to Leigh Street, and Allison Street to Clay Street as redevelopment occurs. (Goal 9)
- Improve north-south crossings of A. Broad Street for pedestrians and cyclists in the general vicinity of Hermitage and Lombardy Streets and explore the creation of an east-west bike route between Belvidere Street and Boulevard. (Goal 8)
- Prioritize the segment of W. Broad Street from Lombardy Street to Boulevard for streetscape improvements to transform W. Broad Street a Great Street. (Goal 9)
- Build a landscaped bridge from W. Leigh Street to the Diamond Site and eliminate the at-grade crossing at Hermitage and the railroad tracks in order to increase safety and accommodate the DC to Richmond Southeast High Speed Rail. (Goal 9)
- Work with the Commonwealth to retain state employees and improve existing development, including looking at opportunities for repurposing large amounts of surface parking at the DMV Headquarters and the fleet facility on W. Leigh. (Goal 1, Goal 11)

VCU/Monroe Park

Type: Regional/National Node

Vision: VCU/Monroe Park continues to provide shopping, dining, and housing for students and neighborhood residents alike. VCU is a major job center and nexus of activity with services and cultural attractions for the region. The intersection of Belvidere and W. Broad Streets becomes a signature intersection with new development complementing the VCU Institute for Contemporary Art with prominent architecture. A new high-frequency transit line runs down Belvidere with a stop at Belvidere and W. Broad Street. VCU's campus evolves as VCU continues to modernize its buildings. W. Broad Street and Belvidere transform into a high quality urban avenues that are safe to cross, while becoming destinations in their own right for residential, office, retail and compatible entertainment uses.

Growth Potential: Low — While there are some opportunities for VCU to redevelop its buildings and land; there are not many.

Primary Next Steps

- Continue to improve pedestrian, bike, and transit infrastructure to/from this Node – specifically connecting to the Monroe Park campus east across Belvidere to Monroe Ward (Goal 4, Goal 8, and Goal 17)
- Provide high-frequency transit along down Route 1 with a major stop at Broad and Belvidere (Goal 8)
- Continue to reinforce the gridded street network by reducing superblocks and maintaining connectivity (Goal 9)
- Explore a PILOT program for large non-profit institutions in the city (Goal 13)

A portion of VCU's Master Plan showing the Monroe Park Campus
source: One VCU Master Plan

North Richmond Nodes

Azalea

Type: Neighborhood Node

Vision: The Azalea Node is located on the border with Henrico County and is centered at the intersection of Azalea and Chamberlayne Avenues. Today the area consists of auto-oriented businesses such as gas stations, banks, and fast food restaurants, surrounded by residential neighborhoods to the south. In the future, the area can be transformed into a mixed-use area with a more urban form and a higher image quality as a major gateway into the city of Richmond. While there is not a lot of vacant land, the presence of auto-oriented businesses with large parking lots provides the opportunity for ample redevelopment. New development should be between 2 and 5 stories in height and have buildings that face the street with parking in the rear. Improved streetscapes with wider sidewalks and more trees will enhance the look and feel of the area, and improved transit, bicycle, and pedestrian access will make the area safer and more accessible to all.

Growth Potential: Medium – Many of the existing businesses uses sit on large parcels with more space devoted to parking than to buildings. Redevelopment of these structures provide an excellent opportunity to add more commercial and residential uses while overhauling the character of this Node.

Primary Next Steps

- Rezone the Corridor Mixed-Use areas of this Node along Azalea Avenue, which is currently zoned "B-2 Community Business District", in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan to allow for a mix of uses and increased residential density by-right (see Goal 1 and Goal 14).
- Implement high-frequency transit along Brook Road and Chamberlayne Avenue (see Goal 8).

Potential Transformation of MacArthur
A new building could potentially fill in across the street from the existing stores and restaurants across the street.

- Improve pedestrian and bike infrastructure to/from this Node – specifically improving the streetscapes of Azalea Avenue, Brook Road, and Chamberlayne Avenue (see Goal 4 and Goal 8).
- Implement design standards to create a high-quality and well-designed neighborhood Node and explore the creation of signature public art (see Goal 4 and Goal 17).

MacArthur

Type: Neighborhood Node

Vision: The MacArthur Node is a small and cherished commercial area embedded within the Bellevue neighborhood in Northside, located along MacArthur Avenue. Currently and in the future, the Node provides commercial uses within walking distance to the surrounding community at a scale and intensity that is compatible with the residential neighborhood which surrounds it. Existing structures are between 1 and 2 stories in height, and future development should be between 2 and 4 stories in height. There are currently no vacant parcels within the commercial area of the Node, but there are opportunities for redevelopment as there are several parcels that have either an excess of parking or a form and character that does not enhance the overall neighborhood commercial corridor. For instance, the apartment court on the west side of MacArthur Avenue could be redeveloped into a mixed-use structure that fronts the street and has parking underground.

Growth Potential: Low – There are opportunities for redevelopment of underutilized parcels which should be at a scale and intensity that is compatible with the existing commercial corridor and surrounding residential neighborhood.

Primary Next Steps

- Rezone this Node, the commercial portion of which along MacArthur Avenue is zoned "B-1 Neighborhood Business District" in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan to allow for a mix of uses and increased

Redeveloped Façades on Brookland Park Boulevard

Source: Brookland Park Boulevard Revitalization Plan, February 2013

residential density by-right and discourages auto-related uses and suburban strip commercial development form. (see Goal 1 and Goal 14)

- Implement design standards to ensure a high-quality and well-designed neighborhood Node and explore the creation of signature public art (see Goal 4)
- Improve pedestrian and bike infrastructure to/from this Node, including providing bike parking. (see Goal 4 and Goal 8)

Brookland Park

Type: Regional/National Node

Vision: Today Historic Brookland Park Boulevard is home to some local businesses that receive customers from all over the city; however, many storefronts are vacant and dilapidated. Brookland Park was developed when streetcars ran up North Avenue. In 2037, Brookland Park Boulevard will continue to feature long-term businesses, but as the adjacent residential neighborhoods continue to regain population, the empty storefronts will fill with neighborhood-serving businesses. Street landscaping will grow and new public art will recognize the unique character of this commercial corridor.

Growth Potential: Low — While there are empty parcels and storefronts, this Node will not see a significant proportion of the City's growth over the next 20 years

Primary Next Steps

- Encourage the redevelopment of vacant structures (Goal 1, Goal 3).
- Explore the creation of signature public art (Goal 4).
- Develop wayfinding and parking signage (Goal 4).

Potential Transformation of Six Points
Architecture firm, HKS, led a process to create a schematic plan for a building in Six Points. HKS created the plan through a robust community engagement process for a unique live/work building that is envisioned to incubate local businesses on the first floor and provide mixed-income housing above.
Source: re-imagining benefield, a plan for a property in Highland Park, HKS Architects, 2019

- Implement Parking Study recommendations (Goal 9).
- Assist long-term businesses in redeveloping areas by providing them rehabilitation grants and/or loans, and tax relief as property taxes increase (Goal 11).
- Support the Brookland Park Area Business Association in creating marketing and promotional materials (Goal 11).

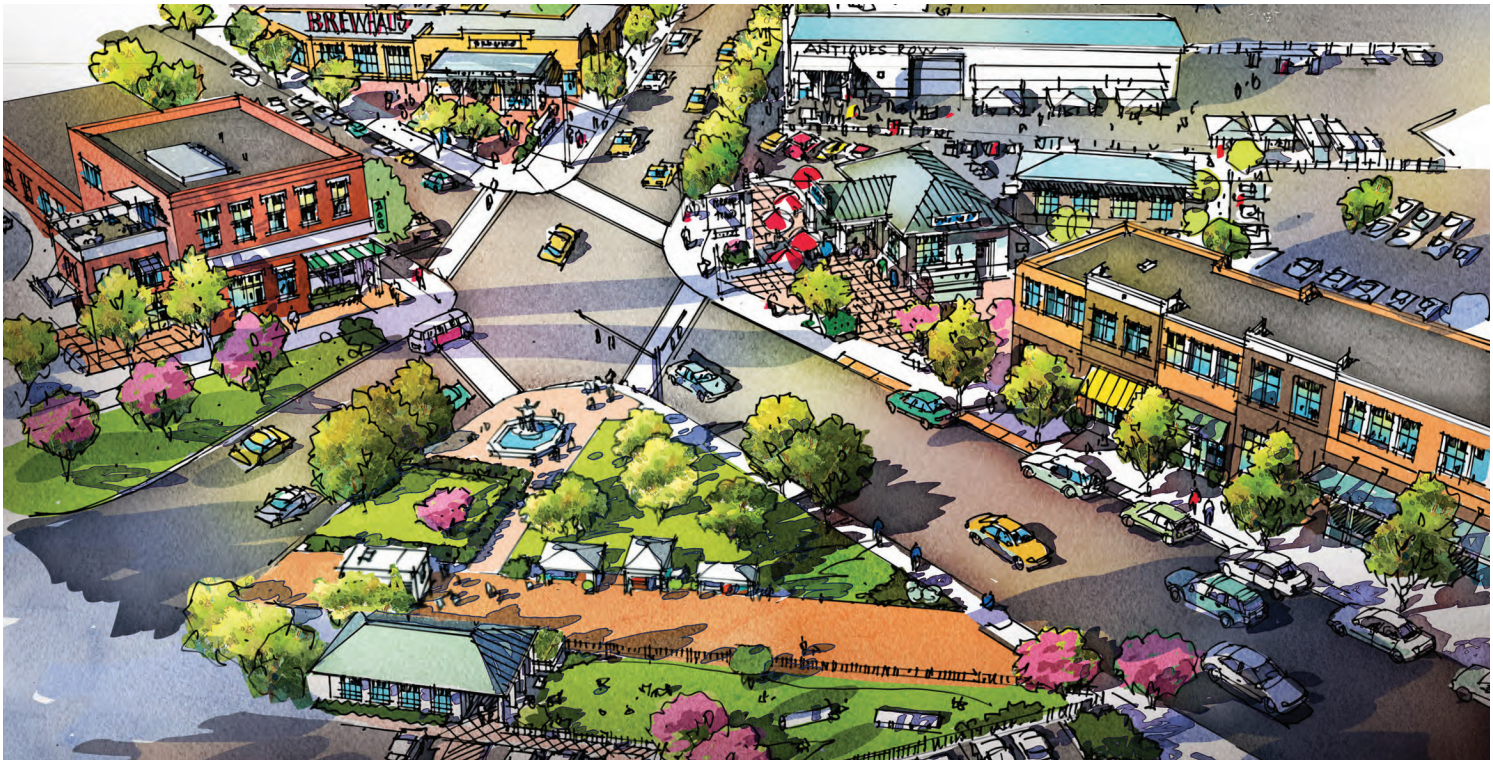
Six Points

Type: Neighborhood Node

Vision: The Six Points Node is centered on a unique six-way intersection that was recently improved with a roundabout and landscaping. Small-scale, neighborhood commercial uses are located at the intersection and extend up Meadowbridge Road. The expansive Highland Park residential neighborhood surrounds this commercial area. In the future, this area can be a more enlivened community center with more neighborhood services and residential uses, better connectivity to and around the area, and more placemaking and public art amenities that focus on the history and cultural assets of the area. Future development should be between 2 and 4 stories and be sensitive to the surrounding residential neighborhood which exists in close proximity. The Hotchkiss Community Center and associated recreational assets can be better linked and incorporated to the activity of this Node.

Growth Potential: Low – The commercial area of the Node is relatively constrained and there are few vacant parcels. There are, however, several parcels that are underutilized and could be redeveloped into a building form and use that more closely fits with the vision of the area.

Primary Next Steps



Potential Transformation of Lombardy and Chamberlayne
The City adopted the VUU/Chamberlayne Neighborhood Plan to guide development. In 2019, the City rezoned this area of town to align with the Plan to encourage walkable urban development in the Lombardy/Chamberlayne area..
Source: rVUU/chamberlayne Neighborhood Plan, 2015

- Rezone the Community Mixed-Use areas of this Node at the intersection and along Meadowbridge Road in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan to allow for a mix of uses and increased residential density by-right (see Goal 1 and Goal 14).
- Improve pedestrian and bike infrastructure to/from this Node – specifically examining the feasibility of bicycle facilities (such as a bike lane) along Brookland Park Boulevard from this Node west to Chamberlayne Avenue (see Goal 4 and Goal 8).
- Implement design standards to create a high-quality and well-designed neighborhood Node and explore the creation of signature public art (see Goal 4 and Goal 17).
- Foster the unique identity of this Node through branding and creative placemaking (see Goals 1 and 4).

VUU/Chamberlayne

Type: Neighborhood Node

Vision: The VUU/Chamberlayne Node is centered at a unique V-shaped intersection of Chamberlayne Avenue and N. Lombardy Street. Commercial uses line both streets with surrounding residential neighborhoods. Virginia Union University exists to the southwest of the Node along N. Lombardy Street. Many of the commercial uses are auto-oriented with parking lots either in the front or side of the buildings. Commercial uses along N. Lombardy Street are more present along the street, but many are older car service businesses, some of which no longer appear to be operating.

The VUU/Chamberlayne Neighborhood Plan (2015) established a future vision for this Node through extensive community input: “Lombardy between Brook and Chamberlayne is an ideal location for a pedestrian-friendly retail and shopping district. Today, an overabundance of automobile- oriented uses, parking lots, and vacant buildings discourage the development of a strong connection between the surrounding neighborhoods and the commercial area. Lombardy and adjacent streets should be changed to

allow on-street parking, streetscaping, pedestrian lighting and signage. Curb cuts should be reduced to better control vehicular movement, and parking areas should be created behind buildings and in public lots. New commercial buildings with storefronts can be located along Lombardy, and selected historic buildings can be reused for shops and restaurants. The focus of the district will be a new public square at the intersection of Lombardy and Overbrook that will feature attractive landscaping and public art."

In addition to the established vision, *Richmond 300* envisions a future of this Node that is served by enhanced transit along Brook Road and Chamberlayne Avenue, improved bicycle facilities that make biking to and from the Node safer and easier, and roadway design improvements that see the pleasant, boulevard character of Brook Road and Chamberlayne Avenue to the north of the Node extended further south through the area and towards Downtown.

Growth Potential: Medium – Though the parcels are relatively small in size, the commercial area within this Node is fairly large in total. There are some vacant parcels and many parcels are underutilized because they are only 1-story in height or have an abundance of surface parking on them. Future development should be between 2 and 5 stories with sensitive design consideration where parcels abut residential neighborhoods.

Primary Next Steps

- Improve pedestrian and bike infrastructure to/from this Node – specifically examining the feasibility of bicycle facilities (such as a bike lane) along Chamberlayne Avenue (see Goal 4 and Goal 8).
- Construct the Ashland to Petersburg Trail which is proposed to be located along Brook Road and will serve as a bicycle/pedestrian connection between Ashland and Petersburg running through Richmond (see Goal 9).
- Improve the streetscape and extend the boulevard character of Chamberlayne Avenue and Brook Road further south through this Node (See Goal 4 and Goal 9).
- Implement design standards to create a high-quality and well-designed neighborhood Node and explore the creation of signature public art (see Goal 4 and Goal 17).
- Implement high-frequency transit along Brook Road and Chamberlayne Avenue (see Goal 8).

East End Nodes

25th and Nine Mile

Type: Neighborhood Node

Vision: The intersection of N. 25th Street and Nine Mile Road is located at the center of the East End, consisting of commercial and institutional uses. The long-envisioned grocery store has been realized in the form of the Market at the 25th which is located on formerly-vacant land on the north side of the intersection. Improvements to the intersection in the form of a new roundabout have been recently completed. Institutional uses that help anchor the Node, which are in addition to the commercial uses along N. 25th Street and Nine Mile Road, include the East End Library, the J. Sargent Reynolds Culinary School, and the Richmond Community Hospital run by Bon Secours.

In the future, this Node can be an even better version of itself, continuing to serve the commercial and civic needs of East End residents. Its location at the center of East End can be a bridge between the neighborhoods to the north and the Union Hill and Church Hill neighborhoods to the south. Vacant parcels that exist along the commercial corridor are developed into mixed-use and commercial uses that front the street. Underutilized parcels with non-historic structures and parking lots fronting the street are redeveloped. Vacant residentially-zoned parcels within proximity to the intersection of 25th and Nine Mile are developed into residential uses

that are complementary to the existing residential neighborhood and increase the population of the area to help support future commercial uses in the area.

Growth Potential: Medium – Vacant parcels, including an entire block between Nine Mile Road and T Street, as well as underutilized parcels with one-story structures offer an opportunity for mixed-use and commercial development in the future.

Primary Next Steps

- Rezone the Community Mixed-Use areas of this Node along N. 25th Street and Nine Mile Road, which are currently zoned "B-2 Community Business District", in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan to allow for a mix of uses and increased residential density by-right (see Goal 1 and Goal 14).
- Implement design standards to create a high-quality and well-designed neighborhood Node and explore the creation of signature public art (see Goal 4 and Goal 17).
- Implement high-frequency transit along N. 25th Street and Nine Mile Road (see Goal 8).
- Improve pedestrian and bike infrastructure to/from this Node – specifically improving the streetscape along Nine Mile Road to tie in more seamlessly with the existing streetscape along N. 25th Street (see Goal 4 and Goal 8).

Jefferson, Marshall & 25th

Type: Neighborhood Node

Vision: The intersection of N. 25th Street and Jefferson Avenue is located between the Union Hill and Church Hill neighborhoods and provides a mix of commercial, residential, and institutional uses. In the future the Node is strengthened by new development on vacant parcels, increased connectivity, and re-imagined institutional and park uses. While the Node is mainly built-out and its historic properties are protected by local Old & Historic Districts, there is opportunity for infill development on vacant parcels. New development should be in keeping with the existing character of the area. Because the properties along N. 25th Street and Jefferson Avenue are a mix of commercial and residential uses, care should be taken to preserve the continuity of existing blocks. The City of Richmond's East District Center, which is located on the east side of the 25th/Jefferson intersection, is an opportunity to leverage future development while continuing to provide public services. The small, triangular park at Jefferson/Clay/23rd is improved using sustainable practices in a manner consistent with neighborhood open space goals.

Growth Potential: Low – Infill development opportunities existing at vacant parcels, most of which are located along either Jefferson Avenue or N. 25th Street. Future development complements the historic neighborhood.

Primary Next Steps

- Rezone the Community Mixed-Use areas of this Node along N. 25th Street and Jefferson Avenue in alignment with the Future Land Use Plan to allow for a mix of uses and increased residential density by-right. (see Goal 1 and Goal 14)
- Implement design standards to create a high-quality and well-designed neighborhood Node and explore the creation of signature public art (see Goal 4 and Goal 17).
- Implement high-frequency transit along Jefferson Avenue and N. 25th Street. (see Goal 8)

Potential Transformation of Fulton

Fulton

Type: Neighborhood Node

Vision: Today Fulton is a place that people pass through rather than come to. In 2037, Fulton is a neighborhood destination featuring buildings built to the sidewalk, unique public art, a high-frequency transit line connecting to the airport, and a mix of uses, including mixed-income housing. Fulton's walkable environment and connections to a robust open space network make it an attractive gateway to the city. The character of the surrounding single-family neighborhoods is preserved with programs that allow homeowners to live in high-quality homes and programs that increase homeownership opportunities.

Growth Potential: Medium — While this Node has great transformation potential, it will not experience as much growth as the priority growth Nodes.

Primary Next Steps

- Rezone the Fulton Node in accordance with the Future Land Use Map to allow a mix of uses and incorporate form-based requirements (Goal 1).
- Explore the creation of signature public art at this gateway (Goal 4).
- Improve pedestrian and bike infrastructure through Fulton (Goal 4, Goal 8, Goal 17).
- Implement high-frequency transit along Williamsburg Road to the airport with a transit stop at Government Road and Williamsburg Road (Goal 8).

Rocketts Landing

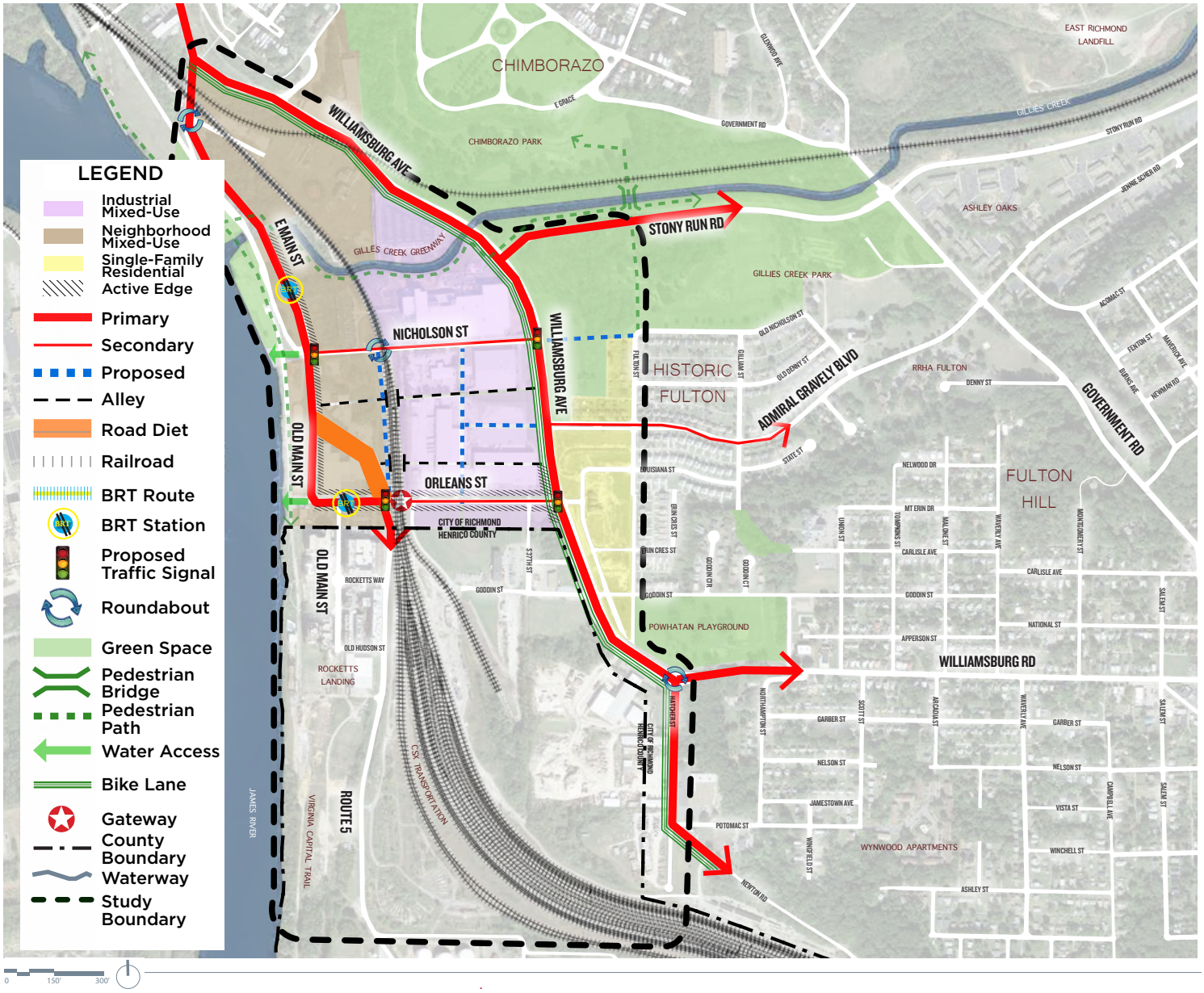
Type: Neighborhood Node

Vision: The Pulse Bus Rapid Transit Station at Rocketts Land is a dense, walkable destination for workers, residents, and visitors. The underdeveloped land north of the station is redeveloped to provide amenities to adjacent residents and visitors to the James River. Residents of Greater Fulton easily access the terminus station via Orleans Street which has become a major mixed-use area featuring active ground floor uses and a walkable environment. The Virginia Capital Trail is enhanced by the Gillies Creek Greenway that connects through Gillies Park and up into Church Hill. The character of single-family neighborhoods east of Williamsburg Avenue is preserved with programs that allow homeowners to live in high-quality homes and programs that increase homeownership opportunities. The history of Historic Fulton is shared and honored at the Historic Fulton Memorial Park at the base of Powhatan Hill.

Growth Potential: Medium — There is potential for redevelopment of underutilized industrial land.

Primary Next Steps
Since this Node is at the boundary with Henrico County, coordinate the next steps with Henrico County, where appropriate:

- Rezone land near in/this Node to align with the Future Land Use Map (Goal 1)
- Redevelop the Fulton Gas Works site and preserve the historic gasometer and the Fulton Works building. Continue the brownfield clean-up on this DPU-owned site to prepare it for higher and better uses once regulatory items have been addressed, such as environmental remediation and Section 106 review for historic resources. (Goal 2)
- Improve public art in this section of the Corridor, such as at the Dock & E. Main Streets roundabout, the CSX overpass at Orleans Street, or other locations as they become available. (Goal 4)
- Require developers to improve the streetscape of Orleans Street as parcels redevelop. (Goal 4)
- Improve pedestrian and bike connectivity through the area, specifically, construct the Gillies Creek Greenway, investigate installing a pedestrian bridge over the Norfolk-Southern at-grade rail line and Gillies Creek that connects Fulton Street to the bottom of Chimborazo Park., and install paths connecting Fulton Hill to Historic Fulton . (Goal 8, Goal 9, Goal 17)
- Recreate a street grid in the industrial area. Add new roads as development occurs in the block bound by the CSX railroad, Williamsburg Avenue, Nicholson Street, and Orleans Street. (Goal 9)
- Improve the former Lehigh Cement Property as per the Riverfront Plan (Goal 17)
- Implement high-frequency transit from the Rocketts Landing Station and along Orleans Street to Williamsburg Road to the airport (Goal 8)
- Develop the Fulton Memorial Park at the base of Powhatan Hill (Goal 17)



Rocketts Landing Station Area Plan

As part of the Pulse Corridor Plan, the City hosted a series of workshops with the Greater Fulton Community to create a Station Area Plan for the Rocketts Landing Pulse BRT Station.

Source: Pulse Corridor Plan, 2017

RICHMOND PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW
PDR