

Richmond Connects Steering Committee MEETING SUMMARY

July 26, 2022 | 10:00 am to 12:00 pm | ZOOM

Attendees

Kelli Rowan, OETM

Chenice Brown, OETM Community Outreach Specialist

Dironna Moore Clarke, OETM

Atiba Muse, OETM

Brandon King, OETM

Crystal Lowery, OETM

John Everett, OETM

Jakob Helmboldt, Dept. of Public Works, Pedestrian and Trails Coordinator

MS Khara, Dept. of Public Works

Aaron Bond, Dept. of Planning

Mike Sawyer, Dept. of Public Works

Amy Robins, 5th District City Council Liaison

Councilmember Andreas Addison

Michelle Peters, Dept. of Housing and Community Development

Sam Sink, GRTC

Jessica Dimmick, EPR

Vlad Gavrilovic, EPR

Paul Trapp, Timmons Group

Thomas Ruff, Timmons Group

Aaron Weinstock, Renaissance Planning Group

MEETING SUMMARY

Kelli Rowan provided a copy of the meeting presentation and a secondary slide deck with information on the needs analysis methods to the Steering Committee in advance of this meeting. This summary documents the key points of discussion, action items, and next steps.

The Meeting Presentation is available at: https://www.canva.com/design/DAFHdywQGPg/5h4Koue4V-E3NHLKIN-DTA/view?utm_content=DAFHdywQGPg&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=viewer

The secondary slide deck with information on the needs analysis methods is available at: https://www.canva.com/design/DAFHb-rDkMc/VATFyrwLEhXxtNAzmawa0w/edit?utm_content=DAFHb-rDkMc&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton

Project and Schedule Update

At the May 24th meeting, the Steering Committee reviewed the draft plans for the needs analysis and community engagement and discussed preparations for Public Engagement Phase 1.

The Richmond Connects team is now beginning the computational needs analysis, and the public survey is now underway.

At the next Steering Committee meeting, scheduled for September 27th, the Committee will review the draft raw needs maps and survey responses.

Update on Public Engagement

Jessica Dimmick provided an update on the public engagement. Currently, we are in the middle of the first of five phases of public engagement for Richmond Connects. Information on the public engagement effort is provided in the meeting presentation. The Steering Committee reviewed the number of responses received to date, examples of what the responses are



saying, the events that the engagement team has participated in, demographic statistics of respondents, and plans for remaining engagements events in this first phase.

The Richmond Connects team requests that Committee members promote the survey through their communication and outreach channels through August 15th, at which point the team will incorporate the responses into the needs analysis.












The team also welcomes suggestions on specific neighborhoods, areas, or places where the outreach team should focus on door-to-door canvassing in the last weeks of this first phase of engagement.

The Richmond Connects team will have a table at two locations for National Night Out on Tuesday August 2, 2022 – the Satellite Restaurant in South Side and the Northside Outreach Center on Meadow Bridge Road. Amy Robins asked if there are small flyers that the Council office can hand out at the other National Night Out events that they will be attending. Chenice Brown will connect with Amy to provide flyers that are already printed.

Amy also asked the Richmond Connects team to reach out to The Virginia Home in Byrd Park. The Virginia Home is a long term care facility for people with irreversible disabilities. Many of the residents are senior citizens. They had reached out to request information. Amy asked the team to reach out to meet with them. Megan Portelos is the contact at megan.portelos@thevirginiahome.org.

Needs Analysis Update

Kelli Rowan provided a refresher on the needs analysis framework and walked through an illustrative hypothetical example of the bicycle needs analysis to demonstrate how the various individual simple metrics will be overlaid and combined to identify top tier needs. The ultimate outcome of the needs analysis will be 11 integrated needs maps – one for each Investment Need Category.

Investment need categories	Equity Factors	
Pedestrian 	1 Improve access to housing, jobs, services, recreation, and education, addressing remaining inequities created by redlining.	6 Equitably increase the safety and comfort of cyclists and pedestrians, connecting communities of concern to opportunities.
Bike 	2 Reconnect and revitalize communities to address inequities created by the highway system's dissection of neighborhoods.	7 Improve reliability of transit and other non-car services to increase access and remove barriers to opportunities for communities of concern.
Transit 	3 Improve neighborhood connectivity and revitalize the fabric of the communities negatively impacted by urban renewal.	8 Prioritize the needs of socially vulnerable users and address climate and environmental equity as identified in RVAGreen 2050.
Freight 	4 Improve access to housing, jobs, services, and education to address the isolation of low-income inner ring suburbs where families are pushed.	9 Prioritize densely populated areas of communities of concern including communities of color, low-income communities, senior and limited mobility populations, families traveling with children, and at-risk youth.
Land Use 	5 Address gaps in the multimodal network and utilize new planning tools to improve safety and accessibility deficiencies stemming from traditional car-centric planning.	10 Focus on improving climate resiliency for the most impacted communities.
Safety 		
Connectivity 		
Maintenance 		
Economic Development 		
Technology 		
Sustainability 		

In the hypothetical example that Kelli showed, there were two areas that rose to the top as Tier 1 needs. In the actual need maps, it is expected there will be many more than just two Tier 1 needs that arise.

The Committee discussed how the maps will be made available to the public. The Richmond Connects team is working on developing an interactive online platform for viewing the maps that allows the user to toggle various metrics on and off.

The Committee discussed how metrics will be revisited in future years to be able to see progress over time. The final Richmond Connects Plan could identify a shorter list of metrics to evaluate periodically in the future to track progress. This would be a shorter list of metrics than what the team is currently analyzing for the full needs assessment.

The Richmond Connects Scenario Plan will also provide information looking forward to the longer term future to anticipate what the transportation system performance would look like under different investment scenarios.

More information on how the Richmond Connects team is identifying the needs for each Investment Need Category and identifying highlighted areas for each Equity Factor is available in the Needs Assessment Framework Overview slide deck at

NEXT STEPS

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Promote the survey at www.RVAconnects.com	All Steering Committee members	Now through August 15, 2022
Share suggestions on specific neighborhoods or other locations to canvas for input on what needs to be improved	All Steering Committee members	ASAP
Review the Needs Assessment Framework Overview slide deck and provide questions and comments (optional), available at: https://www.canva.com/design/DAFHb-rDkMc/VATFyrwLEhXxtNAZmawa0w/edit?utm_content=D AFHb-rDkMc&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton	All Steering Committee members	ASAP

NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Steering Committee is scheduled for Tuesday September 27th, 2022, at 10:00 AM.