



RICHMOND RISING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Steering Committee Meeting #6 | Summary

October 24, 2019

WELCOME & STATUS UPDATE

The project team welcomed the steering committee back to their final meeting on October 24, 2019 at Roscoe's Tap Room and Coffee Bar. There were 7 people in attendance. Since this meeting was the final steering committee gathering, the bulk of the time spent together was a presentation given by the project team. The presentation was intended to provide an update on the sub-area plan for the undeveloped land on US 27, review the planning process to-date, and outline the draft plan organization.

The project team started by thanking the steering committee for their continued participation throughout the planning process. Their engagement and feedback was a critical part of completing the draft *Richmond Rising: Community Action Plan*.

Since the steering committee last met, the status of the sub-area plan for the undeveloped land on US 27 has changed. Due to the incomplete environmental study, the sub-area plan has been paused. The tasks completed to-date including the existing site conditions, public engagement, and preliminary site concepts will still be incorporated into the comprehensive plan. The only difference is the final recommendations will come together once the environmental piece is done. As of now, the timeframe for completion is unknown.

PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW

The Richmond Rising: Community Action Plan was accomplished over a 12 month planning process. Over the course of the year, the steering committee gather 6 times for meetings. The project team showed an illustrative timeline explaining that even when the steering committee didn't meet, they were still working to keep things moving. October was especially a busy month. Not only did the steering committee meeting but the project team held small group work session with the council and plan commission members. The last week of October and into the first week of November will be the final review time period for City staff and all other committees.

The communication and engagement plan held strong throughout the planning process. The project website was intended to be the clearinghouse for all things related to the plan. In addition to the steering committee, council, and plan commission involvement, nearly 75 stakeholders and 10 cultural review committee members were invited to participate. Over the course of the process, 70 people attended the public meetings and over 715 people responded to the online surveys.

PLAN ORGANIZATION

- In an effort to orientate the steering committee to the draft plan prior to reviewing it, the project team walked through the organization. The *Richmond Rising: Community Action Plan* is organized around the fundamental theme of building. Building, or even rebuilding, does not



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require a fresh start, or even a blank slate. Instead, building can be a state of continued improvement, allowing a focus on strengthening foundational elements so that new, innovative additions can be developed and supported. Because of this the four chapters include the Introduction, Laying the Foundation, Establishing the Framework, and Following the Blueprint.

- Chapter 1 Introduction: This chapter explains the Richmond Rising movement, the four planning elements, and the public engagement efforts. The four planning elements include GROW Richmond, CONNECT Richmond, PROTECT Richmond, and CELEBRATE Richmond.
- Chapter 2 Laying the Foundation: Just like building a house, before drafting recommendations, the project team and community has to have a solid understanding of past planning efforts, current trends and related challenges. This chapter outlines the 6 key challenges Richmond is or will be facing in the future. These challenges serve as the conclusion statements for the full existing conditions report found in the appendix.
- Chapter 3 Establishing the Framework: Some might say this is the most important chapter, it is home to the vision, goals, objectives, and program/projects. These elements are organized into two parts; the Regulatory Framework and the Reinvestment Framework.
- Chapter 4 Following the Blueprint: The previous chapter outlines an exhaustive list of projects or programs and identifies a priority ranking for each. The top priorities are called Critical Path Strategies. These strategies are further explained in Chapter 4. Each strategy has one page dedicated to outlining the related goal statements, action steps, parties to involve, and estimated timeframe and cost for implementation.

NEXT STEPS

The project team reminded the group of the importance of sitting down to read the draft plan and provide comments. The steering committee will have one last review period before entering into the adoption process. It is anticipated that the draft plan will be submitted to Plan Commission on November 11.