



RICHMOND RISING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Steering Committee Meeting #4 | Summary

July 17, 2019

WELCOME & STATUS UPDATE

The project team welcomed the steering committee back for its fourth meeting on July 17, 2019 at Morris-Reeves Library. The project team gave a brief status update presentation and then the committee broke into small group discussion. The presentation provided a summary of the online public survey results. There were over 500 responses collected. Additionally, the revisions to the draft vision and goal statements were discussed. The bulk of the presentation focused on the preliminary strategies. Steering committee members were asked to complete a survey prior to the meeting. The purpose of the survey was to tell us if they agreed or disagreed with the strategy statements. Secondly, the survey asked respondents to prioritize the strategies as high, medium, and low. Discussion about the results provided the project team the understanding of how to revise the statements before sharing with the general public. Majority of the revisions include clarifying terminology, softening strong action verbs such as acquire or adopt, and provided examples for some of the recommendations.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

The steering committee split up into two small groups for the activity portion of the meeting. Unlike previous meetings, the groups did not rotate through a series of exercises. The activity was create to help the project team understand how to make the preliminary strategies more specific. If a strategy was geographically related, the project team asked the committee to identify where the strategy would be appropriate on the map. For an example, one questions asked what areas of the City could benefit from an overlay district. South A Street and Northwest 5th Street are just two examples of areas that could use stricter regulations for commercial design and streetscaping.

Some of the key takeaways from these discussions include:

- There is a need for roadway improvements along 9th Street at the railroad crossing near the Depot District.
- Just north of the Depot District is an area of disinvestment that could benefit from multi-family residential.
- The intersection of US 40 and West Eaton Pike was identified as a potential location for retail and dining.
- The undeveloped land to the east of Glen Miller Park should be protected and preserved as open space.
- General improvements are needed on the west side of the City.
- The Depot District needs an incentive to be progressive. Higher occupancy is warranted here.
- Investment is needed in downtown. Investment could include financial resources but also data/studies for development and redevelopment efforts.



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NEXT STEPS

The project team will revise the strategy statements based on steering committees review before sharing with the public. The geographic areas identified during the discussions will serve as the foundation for a focus area map. The next steering committee meeting will be held in mid-July. The bulk of this meeting will be focused on the former hospital site. The next public engagement opportunity will be held at the International Food Festival on August 31.