

## Historic Falls of the James Scenic River Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 12:00 pm

**Meeting Attendees:** Alex Dahm, Justin Doyle, Ralph Hambrick, Jim Hill, John Heerwald, Leighton Powell, Greg Velzy.

**Guests:** Kevin Vonck, Bryce Wilk, Jenn Clarke, Grace LeRose, Marianne Pitts, Shawna Shade,

Greg Velzy called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

Ralph Hambrick moved to approve the February 18, 2021 meeting minutes. Leighton Powell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Greg Velzy reported Tricia Pearsall and Anne Wright will be absent. Tricia Pearsall shared the meeting agenda in advance of the meeting.

Kevin Vonck, Acting Director of Planning and Development Review provided updates on riverfront development.

- Tredegar Street Improvements: Sidewalks planned along the north and south sides of Tredegar Street on the riverfront. Property owners have been engaged. Project is moving forward.
- Manchester Canal: Kevin Vonck and Maritza Pechin met. Restoration feasibility study discussed. Study has support from the Department of Public Utilities. Study to be capped at \$100,000, which shouldn't be a problem. Public access along the canal is important.
- Missing Link: Two proposals for constructing the Missing Link presented. Cantilevered proposal is/was the preferred option. Cantilevered option preferred because of railroad challenges, environmental impact, and user experience according to committee members.
- Proposed Capital Improvement Program: Tredegar Street is the only riverfront project funded in the proposed CIP.
- Texas Beach Pedestrian Tower/Bridge: Greg Velzy asked about funding for infrastructure improvements to the pedestrian tower/bridge at Texas Beach. Bryce Wilk reported no funding is available.
- Hull Street Streetscape Improvements: Justin Doyle inquired about Hull Street streetscape and Mayo Bridge rehabilitation. Alex Dandridge of Planning and Development Review met a team on site. No updates on Mayo Bridge rehabilitation.
- View that Named Richmond: Leighton Powell will follow up with Kevin regarding the View that Named Richmond. Zoning ordinance will likely be used to regulate future development within the viewshed.

Marianne Pitts of Planning and Development Review gave a presentation on Richmond 300.

- Plan available at [Richmond300.com](http://Richmond300.com) for a little while longer. Plan will live on [www.RVA.gov](http://www.RVA.gov) going forward. A pdf of Marianne Pitt's presentation is attached to the minutes.

- Planning process began in 2018. Working groups played a big role in creating plan. Public engaged throughout the planning process. City Council adopted the plan in December 2020. City Council working on amendments. At the beginning of implementation.
- New Office of Equitable Development responsible for implementing Richmond 300.
- Ralph Hambrick asked about greenways along the James River. Marianne responded that greenways are defined as an accessible 8'-wide pathway. Ralph expressed concern about paved 8'-wide pathways along the river.
- Alex Dahm inquired about rewatering the Kanawha Canal. Marianne is not sure who in City Hall is responsible. Grace LeRose replied that the Department of Public Utilities would be involved, likely Pat Bradley.

#### Vauxhall Island

- Greg Velzy reported the billboard on Vauxhall Island is down but has not been fully removed from the island, some of the metal framing is still there. John Sydnor of Enrichmond Foundation is aware. Conservation easement to be placed on the island. Remnants of the billboard will be removed in the near future.

#### Capital Region Land Conservancy

- Parker Agelasto was not present.

#### Virginia Scenic Rivers Program

- Virtual River Management Society Symposium is happening April 12 - 15, 2021 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m and registration is open. Ralph Hambrick and Parker Agelasto and Lynn Crump will be presenting. Nathan Burrell is doing 3 different presentations, one with Ralph H. Go to : <https://www.river-management.org/symposium-rms> - for registration, program information, etc.
- Leighton Powell reported both scenic river bills, Lower Rappahannock River and South River, passed during the 2021 session of the General Assembly.

#### BridgePark Foundation

- Jim Hill reported BridgePark is attempting to focus its mission. Greg Velzy asked about city involvement. Jim responded that meetings with Department of Public Works staff members have been held. Kevin Vonck met with Ted Elmore and Richard Souter and saw the model. They walked the Manchester Bridge.

#### Department of Public Utilities

- DPU's annual report for their integrated wastewater, stormwater, and combined sewer system will be out April 1st and will be posted on the RVAH2O.org website.
- Legislation was passed in 2020 that "politely asked DPU to speed up their efforts" to reduce the overflow volume from Richmond's combined sewer system. DPU has prepared a report and plan for the interim projects to be completed by 2027. DEQ will make this interim report public by July. In addition to this short-term interim plan, there is also a long-term plan and projects to come, with formal planning efforts starting in July of

this year. If this committee is interested, Grace will provide a presentation at next month's meeting.

- Grace invited committee members to the next RVAH2O meeting on March 30th at 1:00 pm. This will be a virtual meeting. Jenn sent a meeting invite link to be shared with committee members to Greg and Leighton.

#### Bryce Wilk's James River Park Springtime Update

- Huguenot Flatwater Universal Access Project-The project has been through several bids processes. They have received one that appears to be within the realm of possibility. If follow through happens work could possibly begin around the end of the summer.
- Wetlands Restoration Project - invasive plant removal and native habitat restoration work is continuing. Quotes for stream bank restoration will be solicited soon.
- The fulfilment of the Park Superintendent position may be impacted by the City's hiring freeze. Bryce is advocating, as best as he can, in his current role for this position to be filled.
- Volunteer projects are happening several times a week in the park. The City has increased the allowable number of volunteers to work on projects. Corporate volunteer groups are returning to work in the park recently.
- A bridge repair project is happening on the North Bank Trail. The trail has been re-routed around the project, which should be completed by the beginning of next week.

#### JROC Report - Greg Velzy

- JROC just held annual elections; Matt Rosenberg is the newly elected President. Greg is the new Vice President.
- Greg shared his appreciation for the hard work and dedication to JROC and the park of the Past President, [Katie Lemmert](#).

Greg shared with the group the recent passing of Dr. Charles Price, an influential person in placing the conservation easements on the James River Park System, among other notable achievements in other areas of the city.

#### FOJRP Report - Shawna Shade

- The group is in the process of hiring its first Executive Director.
- Another order of 1000 copies of "A Photographic Journey through the JRPS" has been made and they are available for purchase.

#### Additional Comments

- Greg thanked Marianne Pitts for attending the meeting.
- Leighton requested each member save the virtual meeting link for this meeting to use in each future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm.

**Next Public Meeting: April 15, 2021**

Meetings begin at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of Richmond City Hall or on Zoom. Meetings are scheduled for the THIRD Thursday of each month. All meetings are open to the public. If you are not now receiving e-mail meeting notices and wish to receive them, please provide your name and e-mail address to [velzyg@verizon.net](mailto:velzyg@verizon.net). If you would like to be removed from the list, so indicate at the above e-mail address.

City of Richmond Department of Planning and Development Review

# Falls of the James Scenic River Advisory Committee



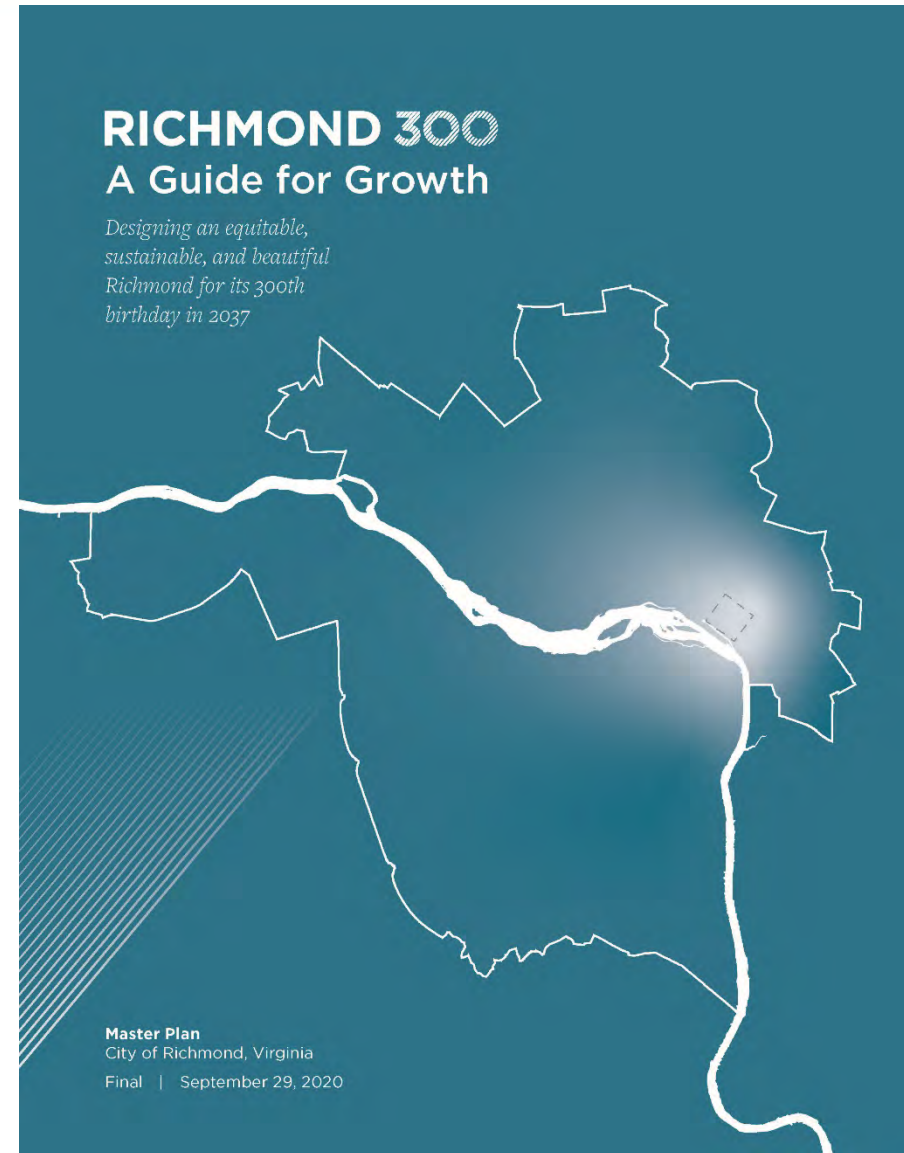
*March 17, 2020*

# Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth

[www.richmond300.com](http://www.richmond300.com)

<https://www.rva.gov/planning-development-review/master-plan>

- Executive Summary
- Entire Plan
- Supporting Reports
- Future Land Use Map (Arc-GIS Online)



# Process



**1<sup>st</sup> Advisory Council Meeting**  
January 2018



**Community Consultation #1: Visioning and Big Ideas**  
September – October 2018



**Working Groups: Creating the Maps and Strategies**  
March – July 2019



**Community Consultation #2: Review Maps and Strategies**  
September –

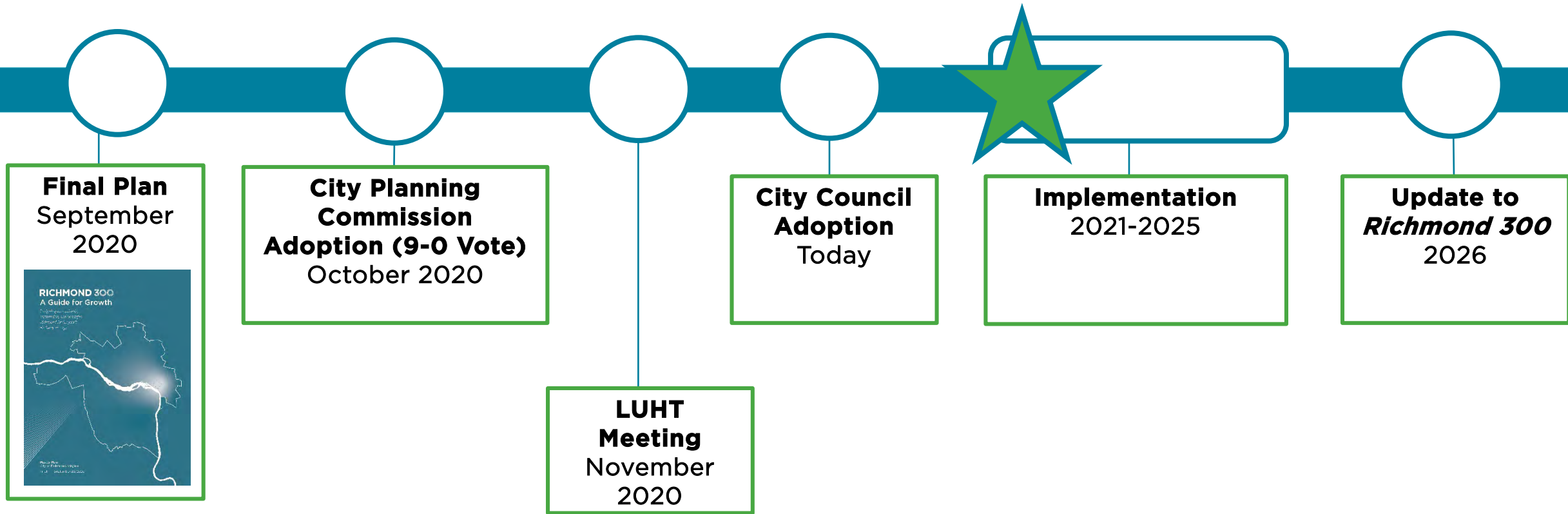


**Community Consultation #3: Review Draft Plan**  
June-July 2020



**Advisory Council Approves Pre-Final Plan**  
(Vote: 19-0-2)  
September 2020

# Process (Cont.)





# 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.**

# 1 City-Wide Vision



**3 Maps**  
to guide Richmond's growth

## Nodes Map

Depicts the places where people and jobs are located and the convergence of many uses and multiple modes of transportation.

## Future Land Use Map

Depicts how an area should look and feel in the future; not necessarily what the area is like today.

## Future Connections Map

Depicts infrastructure improvements needed to support the envisioned development pattern.

**5 Topic Visions**  
with goals, objectives, and strategies



**HIGH-QUALITY PLACES**



**EQUITABLE TRANSPORTATION**



**DIVERSE ECONOMY**



**INCLUSIVE HOUSING**

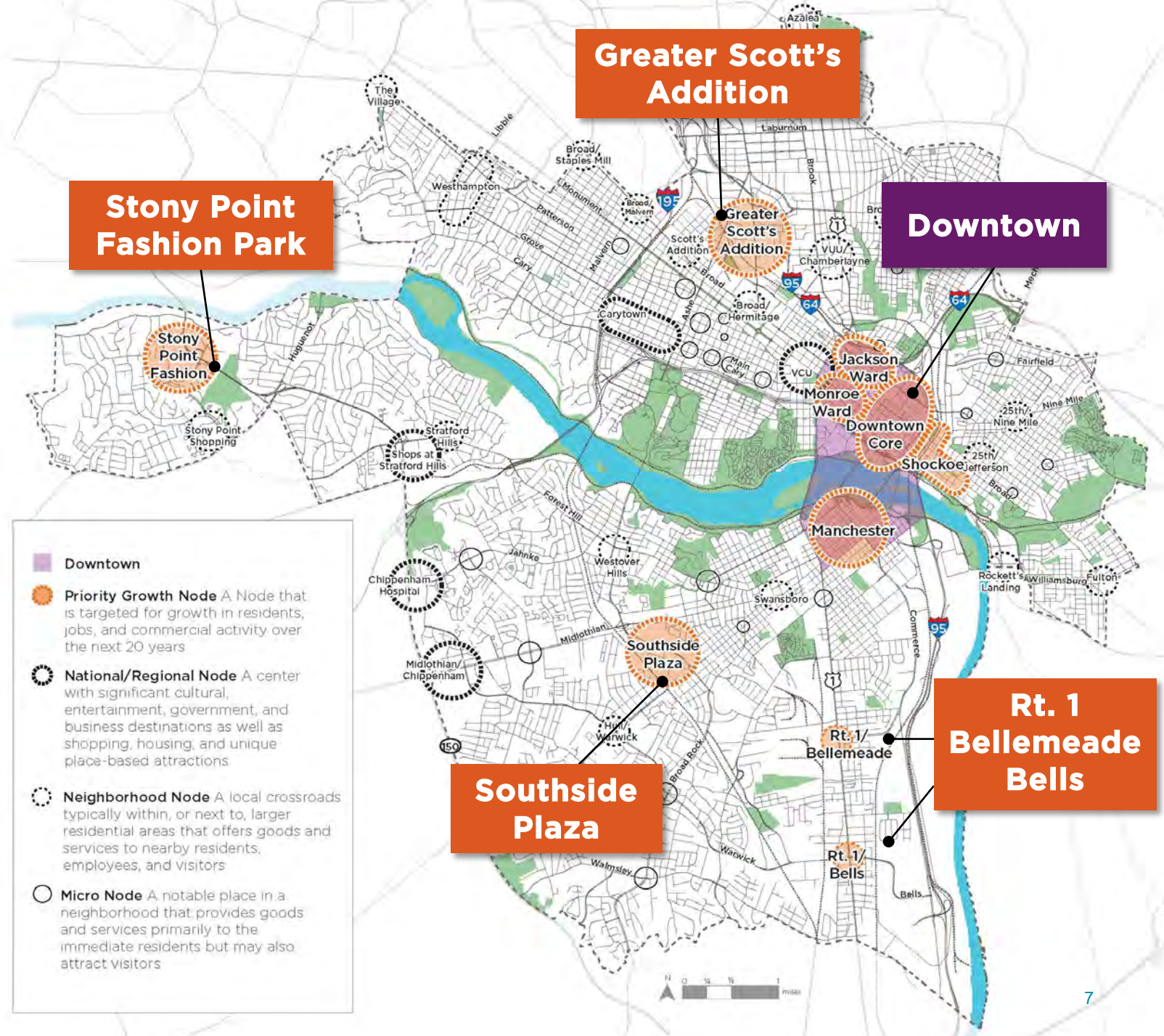


**THRIVING ENVIRONMENT**

# Nodes

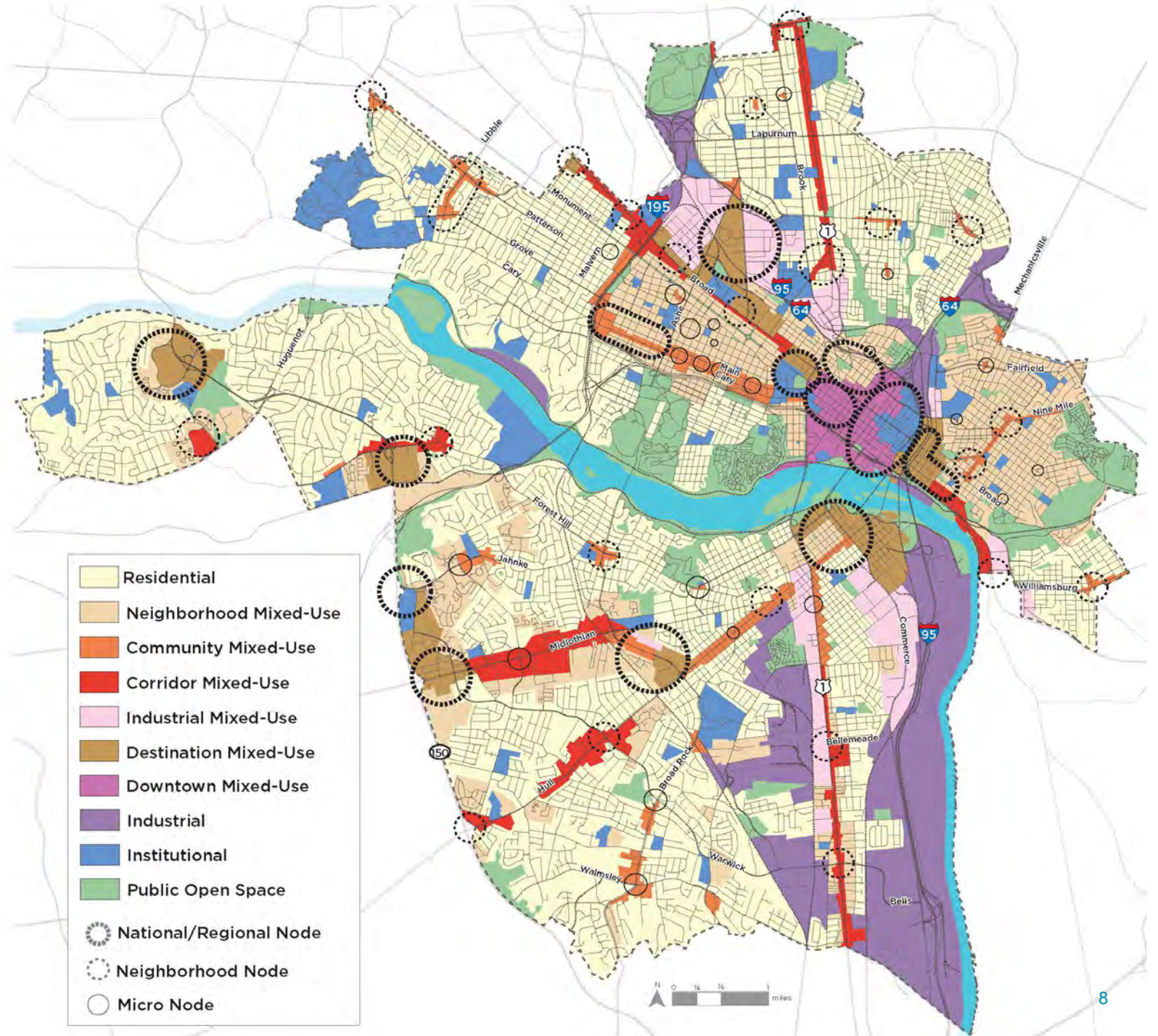
Nodes are places where people and jobs are today and may be in the future. Nodes are the convergence of many uses and multiple modes of transportation.

**Priority Growth Nodes** are places the city is encouraging the most growth over the next 20 years.



# Future Land Use

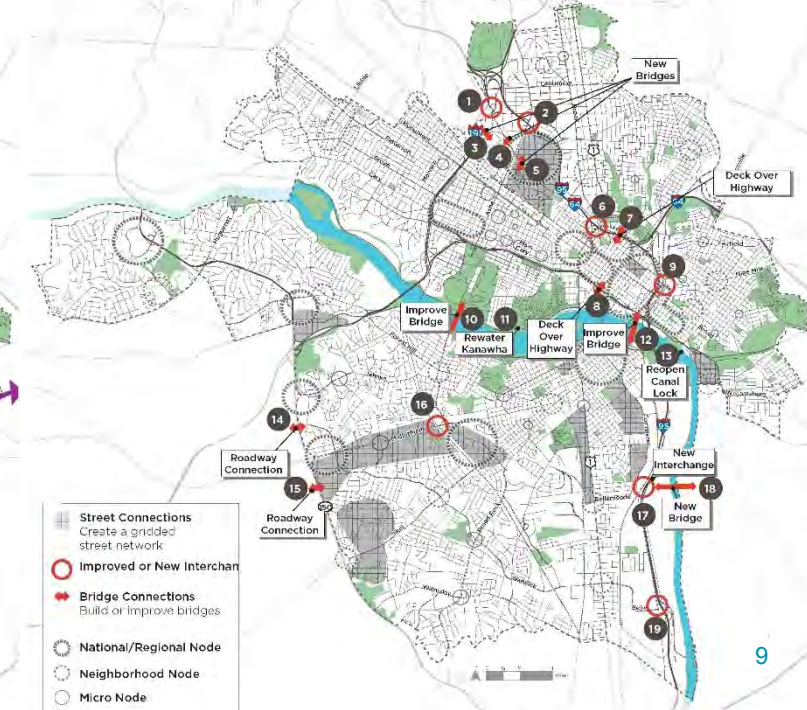
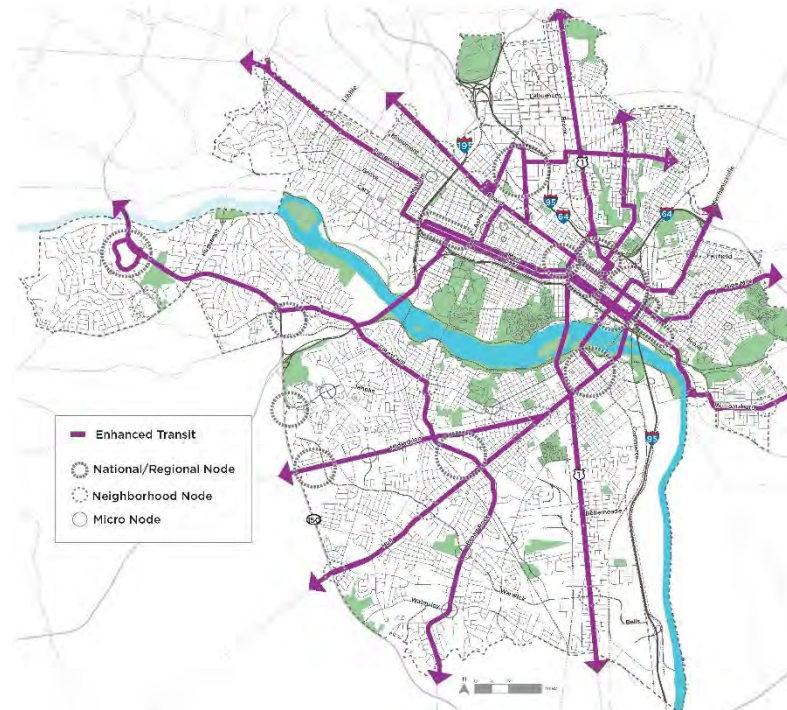
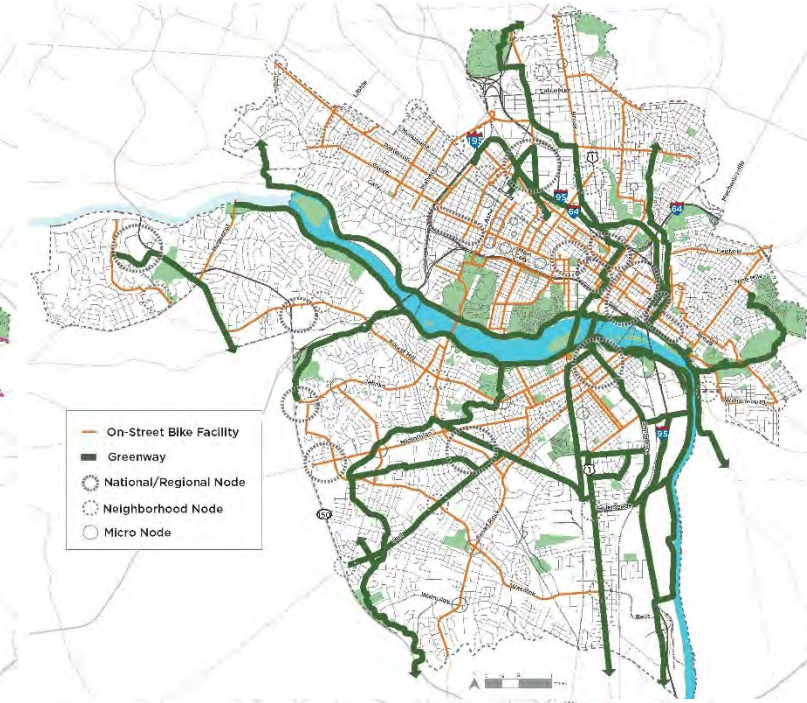
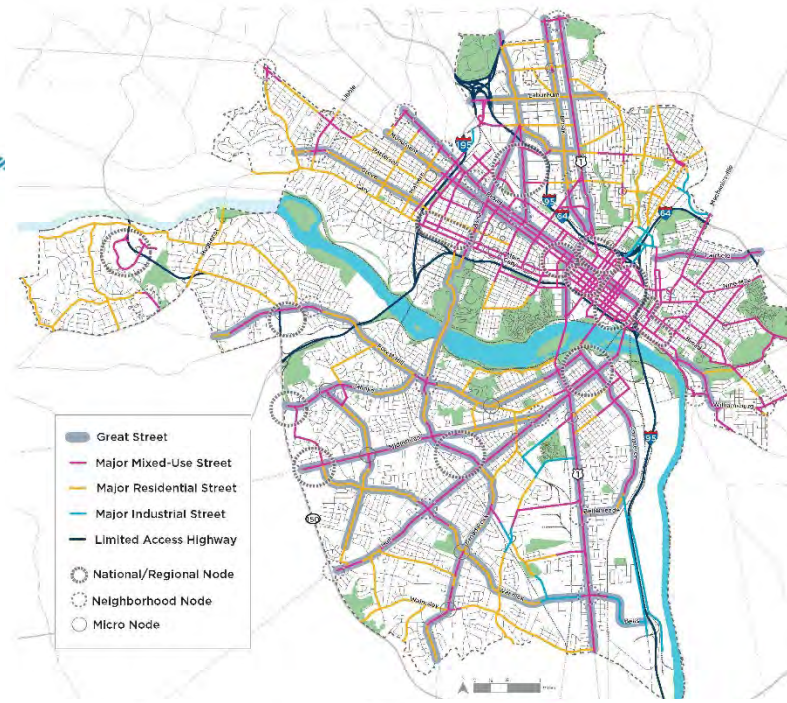
Future land use designations are visionary and include language about how the area should look and feel in the future, but do not specify what an owner can or cannot legally do with their property.



# Future Connections

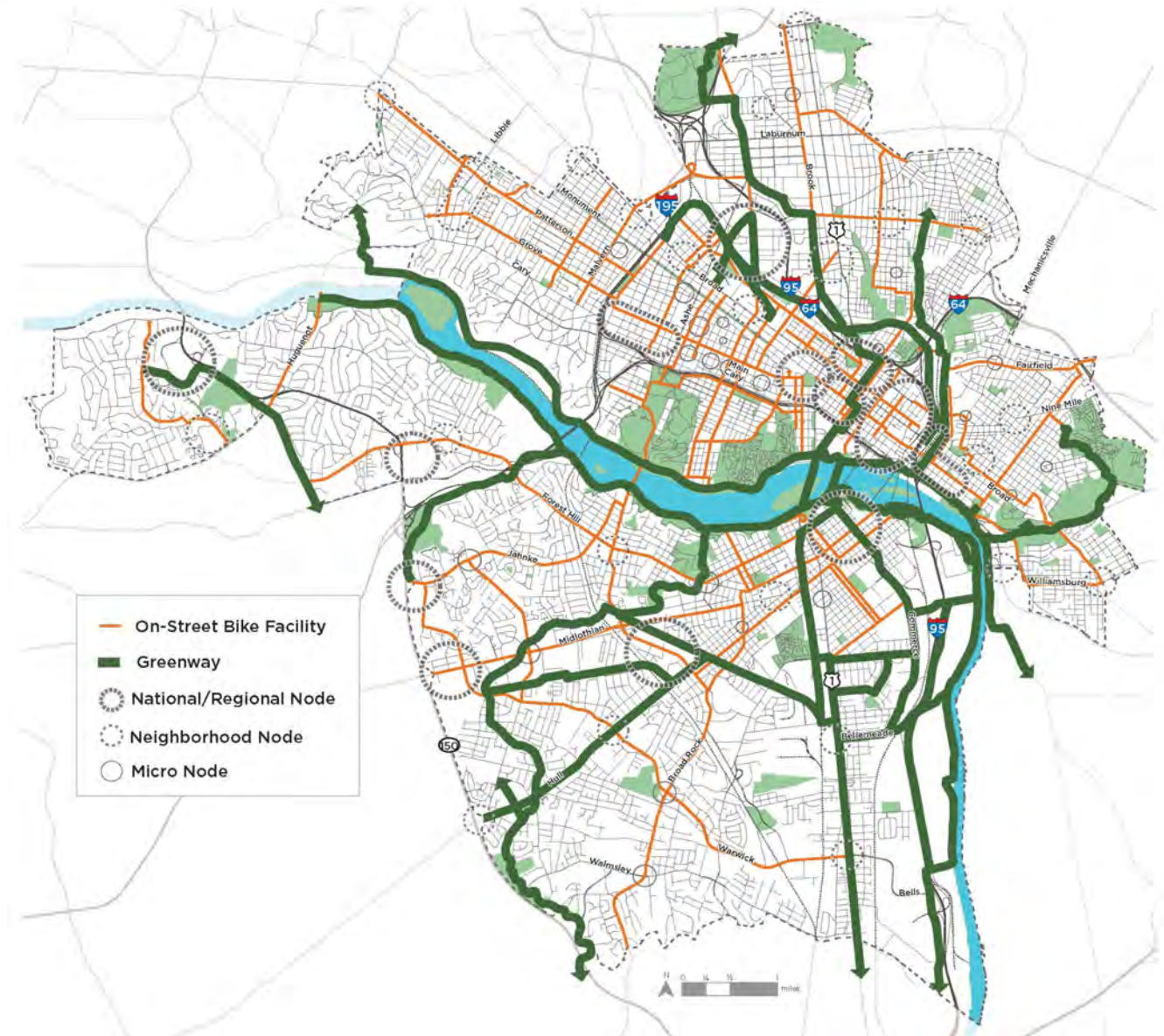
The Future Connections provide equitable access to and among Nodes.

- Great Streets
- Street Typologies
- Bike Facilities
- Greenways
- Enhanced Transit
- Street Grids
- Bridges
- Interchanges



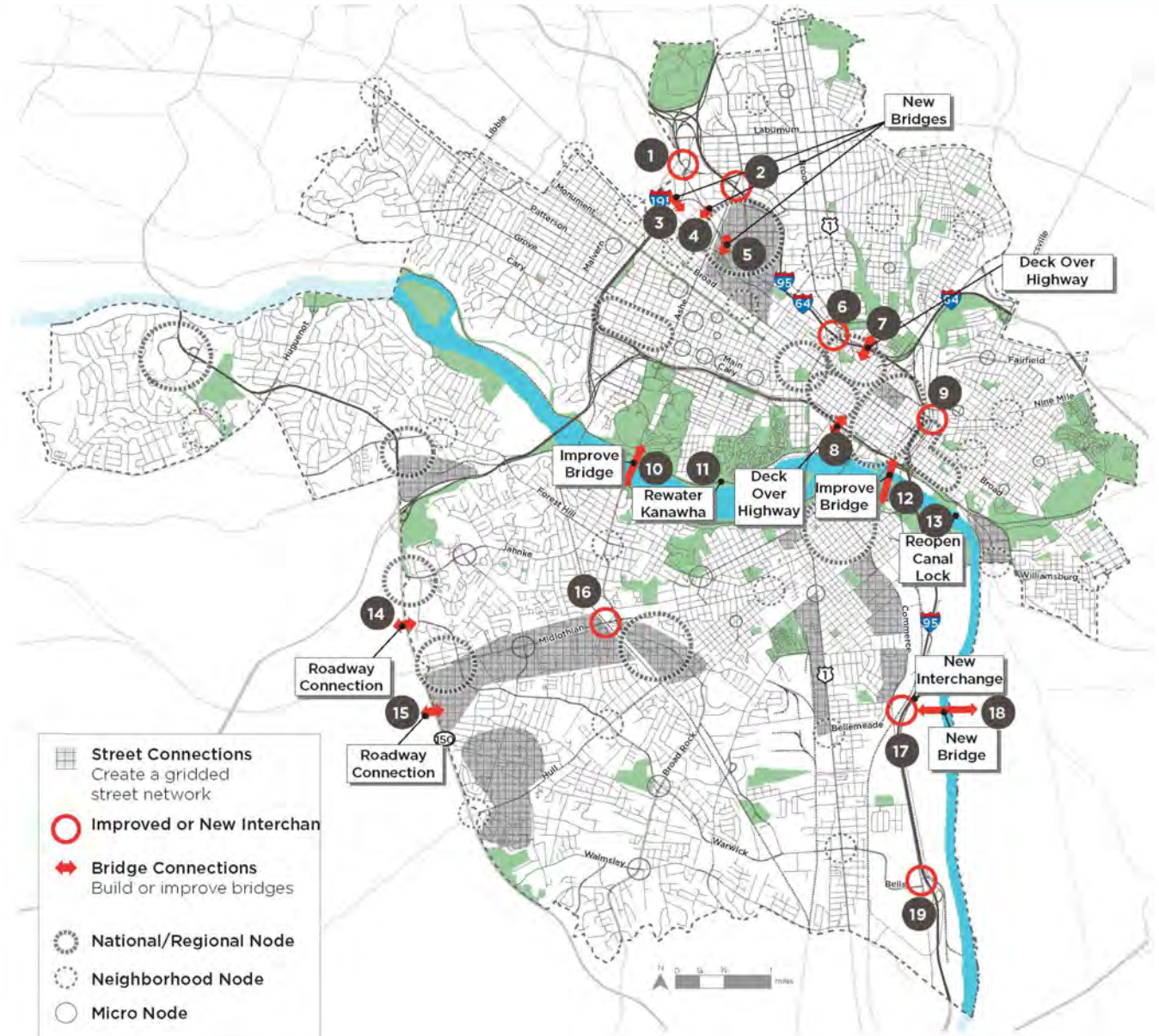
# Future Connections

A greenway is a universally accessible paved path that is a minimum of 8-foot wide and intended for non-vehicle users



# Future Connections

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 or 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.



# 17 Goals, 70 Objectives, 413 Strategies

## High-Quality Places



- 1: Complete Neighborhoods
- 2: City-Owned Assets
- 3: Historic Preservation
- 4: Urban Design
- 5: Planning Engagement

## Equitable Transportation



- 6: Land Use & Transportation
- 7: Vision Zero
- 8: Non-Car Network
- 9: Streets, Bridges & Connections
- 10: New Technology

## Diverse Economy



- 11: Jobs & Businesses
- 12: Tourism
- 13: Anchor Institutions

## Inclusive Housing



- 14: Housing

## Thriving Environment



- 15: Clean Air
- 16: Clean Water
- 17: Resilient & Healthy Communities



# Richmond 300 and the James River

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## High Quality Places:

Objective 4.3 Increase neighborhood access to, and through, a well-designed network of open spaces.

- Require any new development along the river and canals to provide for public access and activated ground levels (see Goal 2 and Goal 15).
- Reserve appropriate riverfront and canal-facing sites for public amenities and river-related development such as boating services, picnics, etc.
- Work with other stakeholders to improve, restore, and maintain the historical canal system
- Implement the Richmond Riverfront Plan and the James River Park Master Plan.

## Diverse Economy:

Objective 12.1 Maintain, grow, and market Richmond's tourism attractions.

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

## Equitable Transportation

Objective 8.2 Increase the miles of greenways in an interconnected, regional network.

## Thriving Environment

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.

- Objective 17.1 Increase the percentage of Richmonders within a 10-minute walk of quality open space to 100%
- Objective 17.7 Increase and enhance biodiversity within Richmond.
  - Develop a strategy to integrate invasive plant management into existing city programs and reduce invasive plant coverage within the city.

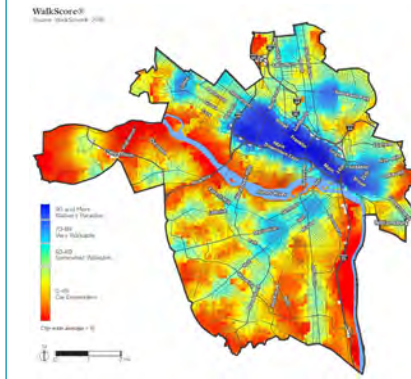
# Implementation of *Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth*

## Advance the Six Big Moves

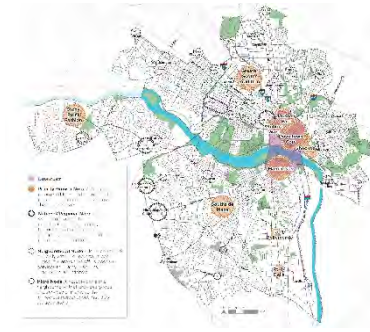
See Chapter 7 of *R300* which includes priority next steps of each Big Move. Each Big Move description includes:

- Big Move name
- Description
- Key benefits
- Description of how the Big Move advances equity, sustainability, and beauty
- Alignment with *R300* goals and objectives
- Actions that may be implemented to further the Big Move

### Re-Write the Zoning Ordinance



### Re-Imagine Priority Growth Nodes



### Expand Housing Opportunities



### Provide Greenways & Parks for All



### Reconnect the City

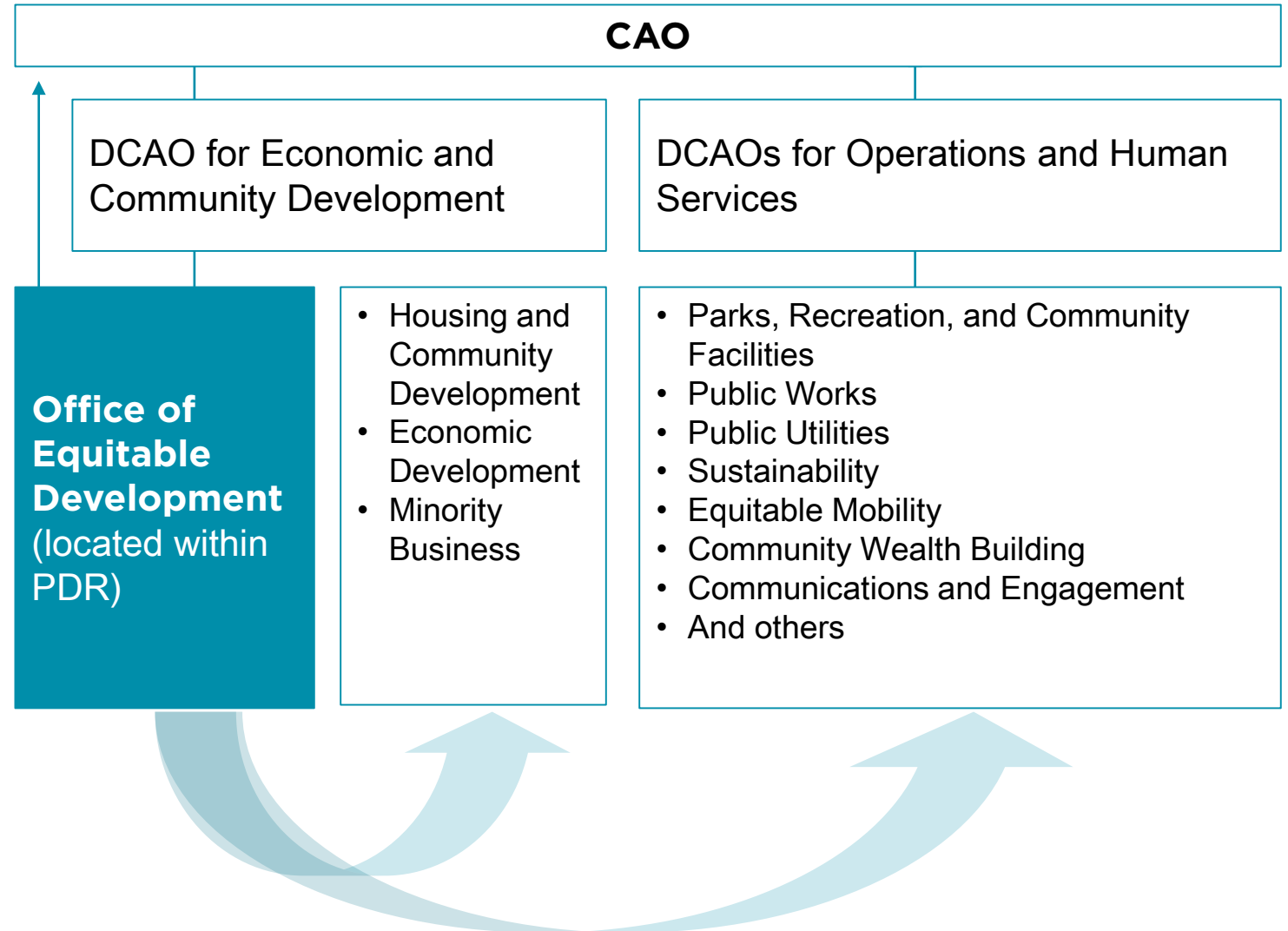


### Realign City Facilities



# Office of Equitable Development

- Reports to CAO and DCAO for Economic and Community Development
- Sits within PDR
- Matrix structure, reaching across departments to coordinate internal efforts on topics related to **advancing the equitable development of the city**
- Coordinates and develops community engagement
- Seeks to leverage partnerships to implement *Richmond 300* with external entities like RRHA, Plan RVA, EDA, foundations, non-profits, and others



Thank you!

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