

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 5, 2021

CONTACT: Nina Sharma
646.706.1224
nsharma@greaterwashingtonpartnership.com

New Report Outlines Strategy to Enhance Inclusive Growth Outcomes for a New North-South Bus Rapid Transit Route in Richmond Area

Authored by the Greater Washington Partnership and informed by key regional leaders, the report outlines strategies for the City of Richmond, Chesterfield County, Henrico County and Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC) to explore and encourage inclusive growth along an expanded rapid-transit network.

Richmond, VA – Today, the Greater Washington Partnership released *Connecting the Richmond Region: From East-West to North-South*, a report that explores where a North-South Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route may operate, and how the region can proactively plan for and realize an inclusively growing corridor along the future rapid transit route. Building upon the existing East-West Pulse BRT, the report was developed with guidance and leadership from key regional leaders, including representatives from ChamberRVA, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, GRTC, PlanRVA, the Richmond Association of Realtors, Ernst & Young LLP technical support, and an advisory committee of local stakeholders from the public, private, and civil society sectors.

In 2018, the Richmond metropolitan region [revolutionized its transit network](#) with the launch of the East-West Pulse BRT route, a redesigned bus network, and greatly expanded service that both increased ridership and access to jobs and ensured a more reliable system that was critical to Richmond-area residents throughout the pandemic. The East-West Pulse BRT project took eight years from inception to completion. The new report lays the groundwork for the region's next big transit move in an effort to continue to build a more navigable and inclusive region.

“We must expand our high-quality rapid transit options throughout the region to build a more equitable and sustainable transportation system – but it is not enough,” **said Chet Parsons, Director of Transportation for PlanRVA.** “The recommendations in this report reinforce the priorities of ConnectRVA 2045, our long-range transportation plan, as it relates to high-frequency transit and the importance of considering future land use and development in addition to existing and planned infrastructure.”

The report provides recommendations for our elected officials on how to prioritize inclusive growth along a future North-South BRT corridor.



The recommendations encourage the City of Richmond, Chesterfield County, and Henrico County to focus on:

1. Enhancing Transit Service and Building Transit-Supportive Multimodal Transportation Infrastructure to prepare for a successful BRT along the chosen North-South Corridor
2. Preserving and Expanding Affordable Housing and Commercial Business Space along the chosen North-South BRT Corridor
3. Encouraging Transit-Supportive Land Uses along the chosen North-South BRT Corridor

“With the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the region should accelerate investments now in transformational transportation projects like a North-South BRT,” said **JB Holston, CEO of the Greater Washington Partnership**. “These projects must prioritize equity and inclusion as they consider their impact on the wider ecosystem. We hope this report helps jump-start those conversations for the North-South BRT.”

“Investing in our transit infrastructure is central to expanding economic and social opportunity to create more inclusive and vibrant communities,” said **Damian Klute, Ernst & Young LLP (EY) Richmond Office Managing Partner**. “EY is a proud member of the Greater Washington Partnership and we are excited to support the efforts to help shape the future of the Richmond region and uphold our firm’s purpose of building a better working world.”

GRTC plans to conduct a study in 2022 to determine the preferred North-South BRT alignment. The Greater Washington Partnership, along with the report’s project team and advisory committee, stand ready to partner with local, state, and federal leaders to deliver the BRT project and related investments in land use, sidewalks, bus stops, and affordable housing that are needed to create a more inclusive and better-connected Richmond region.

###

About the Greater Washington Partnership

The Greater Washington Partnership is a first-of-its-kind civic alliance of CEOs and leading organizations committed to making the Capital Region – from Baltimore to Richmond – one of the world’s best places to live, work and build a business. Working in collaboration with leaders across our communities, the Partnership connects and leverages the region’s extraordinary assets to advance inclusive, actionable solutions that strengthen the Capital Region as a leading global region and center for commerce and innovation.

