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Special Council Meeting Monday, August 23

Reminder that Council will convene Monday at 4:00 P.M. to take up the public hearings originally scheduled for the August 17 meeting and deferred to this meeting. The agenda was published Thursday:

https://go.boarddocs.com/nc/raleigh/Board.nsf

You will be receiving information on joining the WebEx Events session on Monday; staff will be available to assist with log ins and joining the virtual City Council meeting.

INFORMATION:

City Partnership with Shaw University - Courageous Community Conversation Update
Staff Resource: Evan Raleigh, City Manager’s Office, 996-3070, evan.raleigh@raleighnc.gov

In late 2020, the City of Raleigh and the Shaw University Center for Racial and Social Justice entered into a partnership, supported by a $50,000 grant from the City, to support the “Courageous Community Conversations” initiative. The intent of the initiative is to produce a series of public listening sessions that will inform the creation of a plan to guide changes to current programs and develop new programs intended to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Raleigh.
After administering a survey which garnered more than 3,500 unique responses, the topics for each listening session have been established. The dates and times for the series of four sessions have also been set; the first session took place Thursday evening. Topics, dates, and times for each session are as follows:

- Thursday, August 19th @ 7 P.M. – Discrimination
- Saturday, August 28th @ 1 P.M. – Affordable Housing and Education
- Thursday, September 9th @ 7 P.M. – Access to Transportation and Employment Opportunities
- Saturday, September 18th @ 1 P.M. – Policing and Mental Health

Due to the pandemic, these sessions will be hosted virtually, and registration is required. You can register to participate in any of these sessions at the following link: https://crsj.org/conversations/

Oberlin Road Waterline Improvements - Construction Status Update

Staff Contact: Aaron Brower, Raleigh Water, 996-3469, aaron.brower@raleighnc.gov

Raleigh Water is continuing construction of an important waterline replacement project in the Oberlin Road area. The project is replacing approximately 6,000 linear feet (LF) of 12-inch cast iron waterline originally installed in the 1920s. The project will improve pressures and fire flow in the area and will also reduce the risk of infrastructure failure. Approximately 2,000 LF of aging and deteriorated sanitary sewer pipe is also being replaced with this project.

The City’s contractor needs to close the Wade Avenue eastbound (EB) and westbound (WB) ramps off Oberlin Road to install the new waterline. The EB ramp closure will begin Monday, August 23 and last for approximately two weeks. The WB ramp closure will follow and is projected to last for approximately five weeks. Detours will be in place to direct traffic.

After construction work is completed in the ramp areas, Oberlin Road will be closed between Wade Avenue and Fairview Road. This road closure is scheduled to last for approximately four months. Access will be maintained for local traffic.

Staff is communicating with residents and businesses in the area via email notification, social media, press release, and the project webpage. The entire project is scheduled to be complete in Spring 2022.

Proof of Vaccination to be Required for Most World of Bluegrass and IBMA Bluegrass Live! Events

Staff Resource: Mary Deifer, Convention and Performing Arts Ctrs., 996-8512, mary.deifer@raleighnc.gov

The City of Raleigh is excited to once again welcome back bluegrass this fall! This year, proof of vaccination will be required at all IBMA World of Bluegrass events that require registration or tickets. All indoor events will require masks as well, regardless of vaccination status. This includes:

- The IBMA Business Conference at the Raleigh Convention Center
- The IBMA Bluegrass Ramble showcase series
- The 32nd Annual IBMA Bluegrass Music Awards at the Duke Energy Center for Performing Arts
- Main stage performances at the Red Hat Amphitheater for IBMA Bluegrass Live! powered by PNC

More information and tickets are available at worldofbluegrass.org.

(No attachment)

Weekly Digest of Special Events

Staff Resource: Sarah Heinsohn, Special Events Office, 996-2200, sarah.heinsohn@raleighnc.gov

Included with the Update materials is the special events digest for the upcoming week.

(Attachment)

Council Member Follow Up Items

Follow Up from the June 15 City Council Meeting

Electronic Agenda Management System (BoardDocs) (Council Member Cox)

Staff Resource: Beth Stagner, Information Technology, 996-5485, beth.stagner@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting it was reported that various complaints have been received regarding functionality of the current electronic agenda management system (BoardDocs), including a lack of improvements to the software since the City implemented the system and other issues. Staff was asked to contact the software vendor regarding the status of the software. Included with the Update materials is a staff memorandum in response to the request.

(Attachment)
Follow Up from the July 6 City Council Meeting

**Deconstruction of Historic Structures for Materials Reuse (Mayor Baldwin)**

*Staff Resource: John Anagnost, Planning and Development, 996-2638, john.anagnost@raleighnc.gov*

During the meeting Mayor Baldwin referenced a recent opinion column that appeared in the *News & Observer* advocating for “deconstruction rather than demolition” of historic structures in order to preserve historic building materials.

Staff has conducted a preliminary review of the City’s options for instituting a program for this purpose. The results of the review show that a deconstruction program is not likely to be within the City’s legal authority to regulate land use and development. Additionally, market conditions in the Triangle region do not currently suggest that deconstruction would be economically sustainable if the City chose to incentivize significant private activity in this area. Staff recommends that information be provided to developers about existing private activities to encourage their use. A City-led program to support resale of deconstruction materials does not appear to be legally, administratively, nor economically feasible at this time. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum which provides additional context and information.

*(Attachment)*

Follow Up from the August 17 City Council Meeting

**Big Ideas Award Program - Downtown Listening Session (Mayor Baldwin)**

*Staff Resource: Mary Vigue, Budget & Management Services, 996-4270, mary.vigue@raleighnc.gov*

At the May 11 Listening Session on Reopening Downtown, Mayor Baldwin requested the Big Ideas award be expanded to focus on ideas for downtown Raleigh. Two ideas received recognition during the August 17 City Council meeting: 1) the installation of interactive kid-friendly public art, and 2) the creation of a scavenger hunt/mobile tour of downtown.

At the conclusion of the recognition, Council requested staff to provide a full list of ideas that were submitted. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum in response to the request.

*(Attachment)*

**Public Comment - Blue Ridge Road Widening Project - Authorization for Condemnation (Mayor Baldwin)**

*Staff Resources: Dustin Kornegay, Planning and Development, 996-4265, dustin.kornegay@raleighnc.gov
Kenneth Ritchie, Engineering Services, 996-4112, kenneth.ritchie@raleighnc.gov*

During the public comment portion of the meeting, property owner Randall N. Robertson Jr. (2724 Townedge Court) requested Council to defer the authorization for condemnation which appeared earlier in the meeting under the Consent Agenda. Council requested an update from staff on the status of the Blue Ridge Road Widening Project and the list of condemnations. A summary of interaction and discussions with the property owners as well as next steps is included with the *Update* materials; additional documentation and maps are also included.

*(Attachments)*
Weekly Events Digest
Friday, August 20 – Thursday, August 26

City of Raleigh Office of Emergency Management and Special Events
specialevents@raleighnc.gov | (919) 996-2200 | raleighnc.gov/special-events-office

Permitted Special Events

**Fayetteville Plaza – Micro Soccer**
City Plaza
Friday, August 20 through Monday, September 6
Event Times: 9:00am - 10:00pm daily (times for special programs vary)
Associated Road Closures: No roads will be closed for the event. The off-street, east-side portion of City Plaza will be used through 9-7-21.

**Finley Frenzy Youth Triathlon**
Baileywick Road & Lead Mine Road
Sunday, August 22
Event Time: 8:00am - 10:30am
Associated Road Closures: Note that all roads one block in each direction will be detoured during the event, and see below for roads that will be closed from 7:50am until 10:30am:

- Baileywick Road between Baileywick Elementary School and Harvest Oaks Drive
- Harvest Oaks Drive between Baileywick Road and Lead Mine Road
- Lead Mine Road between Harvest Oaks Drive and Lead Mine Road entrance to A.E. Finley YMCA

**Black Flea Market**
Raleigh Union Station Plaza
Sunday, August 22
Event Time: 1:00pm - 5:00pm
Associated Road Closures: No roads will be closed for the event. Union Station Plaza will be used from 11:00am until 7:00pm.

Other Upcoming Events

**GoGreen – A City of Raleigh Sustainability Event**
Saturday, August 21
Chapel at Dorothea Dix Park

**Raleigh Rocks at Moore Square**
Saturday, August 21
Moore Square

**Historic Raleigh Trolley Food Tour**
Saturday, August 21
Starts at Mordecai Historic Park

**Alanis Morissette with Special Guest Garbage**
Sunday, August 22
Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek

**Moore Square Market**
Sunday, August 22
Moore Square
Acorn Live Music Series – Josh Daniel  
Sunday, August 22  
Chapel at Dorothea Dix Park

Raleigh Rockers Breakdancing in Moore Square  
Wednesday, August 25  
Moore Square

Jazz in the Square  
Thursday, August 26  
Moore Square

Public Resources

**Pilot Text Alert Program**: Sometimes spontaneous events happen downtown and in other areas that could affect local businesses. If you’d like to receive notifications when those events happen, including unpermitted ones, sign up for text alerts.

**Event Feedback Form**: Tell us what you think about Raleigh events! We welcome citizen and participant feedback and encourage you to provide comments or concerns about any events regulated by the Office of Emergency Management and Special Events. We will use this helpful information in future planning.

**Road Closure and Road Race Map**: A resource providing current information on street closures in Raleigh.

**Online Events Calendar**: View all currently scheduled events that impact City streets, public plazas, and Dorothea Dix Park.
Council Member Follow Up
During the June 15 City Council meeting, Council Member Cox requested information regarding the BoardDocs electronic agenda management system, indicating that he has received feedback that the system is cumbersome, lacks search capabilities, and the software has not been improved since the City implemented the system in 2016.

Soon after our implementation, Diligent Corporation acquired the BoardDocs platform from Emerald Data Solutions to help focus on their advancement of the public sector’s evolving governance needs. In recent years, Diligent has embarked on a mission to bring a next generation platform to market that provides the capabilities their clients have grown to love with the latest technology and experiences their clients expect. Community by Diligent is that platform.

With a strategic direction focused on Community, Diligent has not made/will not make any major updates to the BoardDocs platform outside of general performance and bug fix updates. Currently, Diligent is investing most of their development resources into the new Community platform (see attachment). Diligent has been actively developing this new platform over the last 18 months. With over 2,500 clients using BoardDocs for a wide range of functions in the marketplace, Diligent has decided to release Community in phases. Community is currently available and being used by several small to mid-sized public sector clients. Diligent anticipates releasing Community with a more advanced set of features that will be ready for clients such as Raleigh by Spring 2022. Additionally, Diligent is also working on migration tools and professional services packages to assist clients in a seamless transition to Community. In preliminary discussions with Diligent, they anticipate licensing cost increases with the adoption of this platform.
Once the City is contacted by the software vendor (Diligent) regarding the new product availability, City staff and the IT department will work with the vendor to determine a potential migration to the Community product following evaluation of cost, features, and technological issues.
Many local governments are relying on paper-bound processes or outdated technologies that no longer meet the needs of today’s digital age. As a consequence, they are facing serious governance gaps, struggling with poor meeting efficiency, issues with inclusion, transparency and security, and lack of access to real-time information. Community by Diligent, alongside forward-thinking public leaders, addresses these pressing governance gaps.

Community by Diligent enables local government leaders and clerks to achieve excellence in modern governance. It supports responsiveness to their constituencies through an integrated set of technologies, insights, and processes. Building on Diligent’s deep experience in offering digital governance solutions to corporate boards, Community by Diligent provides local governments with the same streamlined approach to modern governance, but tailored to the specific needs of councils.

Community by Diligent is a responsive design, “mobile first” digital solution that enables boards and councils to drive workflows in a predictable and transparent manner, encouraging engagement and making the decision making process more effective.

For constituents, this means that not only are all current and past meeting documents available anytime from anywhere, but live, fully inclusive meeting participation is now possible.

Efficiency
The ability to drive the workflow in a predictable and transparent manner encourages responsiveness and makes the board process more effective. Leverage a fully secure, digital and streamlined process for meetings, including agenda management, document collation with status updates, and publication of final meeting materials and minutes.

Transparency
Ensure full public visibility, from any device, into current and past board materials for all community members, including public notifications on updates and a full search capability.

Inclusion
Community by Diligent’s ADA compliant, multi-platform mobile capability encourages accessibility and participation for the whole community.

To learn more about Community by Diligent, contact us today:
Call: 800-407-0141   •   Email: Community@diligent.com   •   Visit: www.diligent.com/community
At the July 6, 2021 City Council meeting, Mayor Baldwin requested information about deconstruction of buildings as an alternative to demolition. This memo contains preliminary findings from staff research into this topic in several areas, including:

- Local legal authority
- Regulation versus incentive
- Scope of applicable deconstruction activities
- Level of City oversight and/or control
- Market conditions for deconstruction and sale of reuse materials
- Impacts on other development factors

**Recommendations**

There are several risks that indicate that a deconstruction ordinance and/or program are not feasible at this time. The notable risks are:

- The City does not likely have the statutory authority to require deconstruction for reuse as part of its permitting authority.
- The current market demand for recovered materials in the Triangle Region and other nearby markets does not appear to be great enough to warrant an investment of resources toward materials storage and processing.
- The number and quality of potentially eligible properties may not be sufficient to sustain a market for reuse materials even if adequate demand were demonstrated.
- Deconstruction typically requires more time and money than demolition. The additional costs from deconstruction are not likely to be made up by reselling the materials or claiming a tax deduction for donating them.

With these factors in mind, staff has concluded that the most effective effort for the City at this time is to provide developers with information about how to pursue deconstruction and salvage. This could be accomplished through a resource guide developed by Historic Preservation and Communications staff along with promotional efforts through existing department channels.

The resource guide would direct interested parties to local and regional businesses that purchase or sell salvaged construction materials. The resource guide will be developed and will be available to the public by the end of calendar year 2021.
Local Legal Authority

North Carolina general statutes grant local jurisdictions the authority to issue permits and enforce permitting requirements for a variety of development activities, including demolition. There are some restrictions on the magnitude of activities for which a local jurisdiction may require a permit. Specifically, permits cannot be required for work that falls below a minimum monetary value or relates to narrow portions of the State Building Code.

However, the authority to incorporate deconstruction requirements into the demolition permit process has not been expressly delegated to the City by the state. The City may inspect the demolition site to ensure that hazardous materials are disposed of properly as well as to confirm that the site no longer contains structures or debris which may pose a safety risk. The permitting authority does not explicitly extend to controlling what happens to materials after construction is complete.

Separately, the Raleigh Historic Development Commission (RHDC) has express authority to delay demolition of locally designated historic resources. Processes are already in place for RHDC to review demolition permits in coordination with the Planning and Development department. Like the general permitting authority, the City’s statutory historic preservation authority does not specifically identify deconstruction and materials salvage as an allowed use of its planning and zoning powers. Based on this review, the City does not have a clear legal foundation for a deconstruction ordinance.

Regulation, Incentives, Scope, and Markets

The above section describes the lack of a legal basis for requiring deconstruction as part of the demolition permitting process. Alternatively, some municipalities have pursued deconstruction through incentivization rather than legal mandate. The primary means of incenting deconstruction appears to be through the creation of a reliable market for reuse materials. Deconstructing a building requires greater care than demolition, which increases the time and expense of redevelopment. This added cost can be offset if the deconstructed materials can be resold.

Two organizations in Baltimore, Brick and Board and Details Deconstruction, resell materials recovered from deconstruction. The Scrap Exchange in Durham operates in a similar manner, though it has other products as well. Organizations of this nature can provide a dependable market for developers to sell recovered materials. In doing so, they may also serve as storage and processing facilities. Over time, this type of market-making activity can become a source of information about which materials have the greatest demand for resale and the costs associated with processing.

The City could support the establishment of materials resellers through grants. The City itself could also engage in this activity. In either case, City staff may serve as a resource for evaluating the historic significance of recovered materials. This type of activity is a major undertaking for a local government and would likely require a sustained investment to be successful. If the local demand for reuse materials is insufficient to drive deconstruction activity, such an initiative can ultimately fail regardless of the resources applied.

Another consideration for the scope of deconstruction initiatives is the degree of certification desired. While all construction activities required proper training to ensure safety, deconstruction for finished material reuse may also call for specialized skills and expertise. Recovering materials entails protecting them from substantial damage during deconstruction.
For historic preservation purposes, deconstruction should include an ability to identify historically original and significant materials.

There does not appear to be a business operating in Raleigh at present with a primary focus on resale of deconstructed and salvaged building materials. Habitat for Humanity of Wake County operates three ReStores. These stores typically receive donated construction materials and sell them for a discount compared to similar new materials. This model is not a strong indicator that a market exists for purchase of salvaged materials or that prices paid for materials would support deconstruction.

**Impact on Other Development Factors**

The application of incentives or regulations for deconstruction, along with the scope of those initiatives, can affect the economic conditions for redevelopment. Deconstruction is more resource intensive than demolition. A review of generalized estimates for the cost of demolition and deconstruction indicate that deconstruction will cost about 50% more in many cases. The cost to demolish a single-family house is estimated to be $5 to $10 per square foot, putting the cost range for demolition of a 2,000 square foot house at $10,000 to $20,000.

Deconstruction for a similar house is estimated to be as much as $30,000. Deconstruction also extends the time required by a week or more. Some deconstruction costs can be recouped through resale, but this is not likely to fully offset the additional cost. In some cases, property owners can seek tax deductions for donating whole materials. It is important to note that selling materials often removes them from eligibility for tax deduction.

To receive the maximum benefit from tax deductions, a property owner or developer must have a certain level of income. To offset the increased cost of deconstruction, a homeowner would likely need to claim deductions for more than $30,000 of value from donated reuse materials. Additionally, absent a reuse ordinance, an appraiser may need to be hired to determine if the value of the deconstruction materials justifies the extra cost.

The additional cost of deconstruction will be passed on to the final user of the property. For residential projects, that means the buyer or renter. Delays in new construction to await deconstruction can also occupy time that firms and workers could be dedicating to other projects. Overall, deconstruction can increase the cost of housing in markets where demand is high, there is a deficit in supply, and the pool of skilled labor is limited.
At City Council’s May 11 Listening Session on Reopening Downtown, Mayor Baldwin requested the Big Ideas award be expanded to focus on ideas for downtown Raleigh. Two ideas received recognition at the August 17, 2021 City Council meeting: the installation of interactive kid-friendly public art and the creation of a scavenger hunt/mobile tour of downtown. At the conclusion of the recognition, Mayor Baldwin requested a full list of ideas that were submitted. Please find a comprehensive list of submissions outlined below.

Employee Idea Submissions

In addition to the idea that received recognition – a scavenger hunt/mobile tour of downtown – the following employee submissions were received for consideration. Submitters’ responses when asked to describe their ideas are included below.

Create a temporary outdoor and/or indoor Instagram museum. Visit the following links as a reference: https://www.wired.com/story/selfie-factories-instagram-museum/ https://richgirlsmuseum.com/

"Selfie Stations" Selfie Stations are becoming a popular trend. Who doesn't want to snap a picture to post to IG or Tiktok? What a great way to entertain yourself while waiting for a table. My idea is to set up selfie stations throughout downtown Raleigh in collaboration with the downtown businesses. Each participating business can set up "Instagram room/area" either indoors or outdoors that their patrons can take multiple "snaps" of themselves and tag their geo location. They should set up this area for a limited time. By providing a time limit this will create a demand to go visit the business to capture a selfie!!! Selfie stations can be rented from snapbar. Also, local schools can assist with the backdrops and the submittals from the recent Raleigh Arts and News submissions can also be used if business want help with set up or in public outdoor areas. What parents, grandparents doesn't want to go and see their children's art displayed? Selfies are very popular with all age groups. This idea would increase the number of patrons, provides free marketing for downtown Raleigh, creates a inviting social scene that's trendy, spotlight local artisans, as well as cut cost down for businesses to create backgrounds due to schools and local artist and most of all its low cost. * Guidelines can be provided to schools on specific requirements for background art.*

Food trucks were a critical part of the dining out experience during the height of the pandemic. They allowed individuals and families to try something new or just get a break from cooking, and were a way to support local businesses. As restaurants open back up fully, there is a risk this support could diminish and these entrepreneurs see their businesses fail. There is an opportunity for the City of Raleigh to both support these food trucks and revitalize downtown.

Bring the food truck festival to fayetteville st again. Let food trucks set up on fayetteville st and open it up to the public to enjoy.

A downtown Raleigh Passport - local businesses / museums / and parks would have stamps for patrons who visit. Visiting X amount of places and collecting X amount of stamps will qualify participants for discounts on X or other incentives. Can have a social media component as well. Some stamps are free / others are obtained by purchasing something from a business. Citizens can qualify for incentives by obtaining only free stamps in addition to paid.

The breezeway between City Plaza and Wilmington Street is an underused area that gathers trash and creates an opportunity for illicit activity. Cleanup of dog and/or human waste is a frequent issue throughout Downtown Raleigh. The breezeway consists of a sloped, paved walkway and landscaped bed with year-round greenery that makes it difficult to keep clean without trampling the plants. A caged area contains electrical and other utilities, and the concrete space between it and the landscaped bed is a particular pain point used frequently as an outdoor restroom. Downtown Raleigh in general is woefully underserved with dog areas, and it shows by the amount of waste appearing on sidewalks and in tree pits. For these reasons I propose taking this "wasted space" and turning it into a small enclosed dog run/park, open 24 hours. Rather than chain link we may want to consider matching the painted wrought iron bars that already exist on one side. Artificial turf specially designed for pets could replace the landscaped area, and since it slopes down toward Wilmington Street, it should make periodic powerwashing and cleaning easier if an innovative collection area/drain is installed at the east end. There should also be a trash/recycling unit added to manage potential of increased litter.

An indoor heated and cooled Dog Park/sitting facility

A promoted night or weekend for the debut of the Fayetteville Street newsrack artwork. (the art installation date has not been set, however we are anticipating installation late July)

Stop giving parking ticket

I recently relocated from Miami, FL and something they do down there once a month (last Friday of the month) is something called Critical Mass. It’s basically a bicyclist meet up that would start at 7pm and get police escorted throughout the city for anywhere between a 7-14 mile round trip loop. Participation would be in the thousands and even locate celebrities and government officials would join the ride.

Alive after 5 concert once a week/month at the end of Fayetteville St.

I believe the City of Raleigh could hold a City of Oaks Street Chalk Art Contest along/on Fayetteville Street/sidewalk. The contest would include closing Fayetteville Street for vehicle traffic for a day and having participants draw/decorate with chalk art within predetermined-
sized squares along the sidewalk and street. A theme can be introduced and participants can be divided up by divisions based on age, skill level, etc., with the divisions spanning the entire street. Judges and prizes can be included to select and award best street chalk art design. Food trucks, vendors and sales tents can be allowed to set up and be accessible by attendees. An hourly raffle of prizes could be offered throughout the day and an awards ceremony would conclude the event.

The Return of Fayetteville Street Mall: One Night Only. From 1977 to 2006 Fayetteville Street was closed to vehicle traffic. The street is often shut down for parades and special events. I propose an event mirroring the reopening of the city with the reopening of Fayetteville Street. Close the street off to traffic and encourage local shoppers and tourists to treat the space a pedestrian mall again.

I propose the City hosts a special event that is a combination of Radwood and a skateboarding competition. Radwood is a gathering of people who are fans of popular culture and consumer products from the 1980s and 1990s, particularly cars and clothes (www.radwood.com). The event could involve cars lining Fayetteville Street with a temporary skatepark constructed in City Plaza or the parking lots in front of the Duke Energy Center.

Create an Artist Live/Work Program with new and existing construction. Details of an existing program can be found at http://www.bostonplans.org/housing/artist-live-work-program/artist-live-work-housing-overview. This has been a successful model and benefitted the different communities of Boston. I have personal experience of how these Live/Work programs impacted artists and their communities from working with some of the artists when I was a gallery director in Boston.

I would like to see the installation of a temporary interactive art and play structure at Moore Square. Swings, see saws, etc.

Hold a basketball tournament on Fayetteville St.

Have a volunteer day to clean up rivers and streams, for example the bridge over New Burn at the Neuse river is clogged with debris and logs it would take some work but the city has the equipment to get it done.

Have a Fiesta Latina/Carnivale and other cultural parties. Block off the plaza on Fayetteville st, and invite appropriate bands for the specific party.

A Fashion week with raleigh based fashion artist and businesses. A week with fashion displayed on Fayetteville st, ending with a weekend fashion show directly on the plaza on Fayetteville st

Hold a classic car show downtown. Block off the plaza on Fayetteville st and allow classic car owners to set up their car to be looked at and talked about.

Movie night. Set up screens and speakers on different streets downtown, block off the streets and invite vendors to set up and provide food and drinks. Play different movies on the screens and allow the public to come down and watch. They can even bring their lawn chairs to sit in. Maybe let the movie theaters set it up and promote it.

Hold a karaoke and/trivia event downtown. block off Fayetteville st and hold various trivia and karaoke events.

Have an art competition that allows artist to place their art throughout the downtown. The winner would be given a monetary reward. It would be placed on streets, inside restaurants, building walls, and buses. The City would create a map that people could follow to view the art. At the end of a 2-3 week time period, the city would have an online voting platform that would allow individuals to vote on the best piece or pieces. This would be similar to Grand Rapids, MI ArtPrize contest, but instead of using the whole City as a public art gallery, only use the downtown area. https://www.artprize.org/

Two additional ideas were submitted by employees who did not wish to be formally recognized.

Downtown Raleigh Restaurant Passport. For every restaurant you visit, you would get a stamp or sticker in your "passport." If you visit enough different restaurants, you would get some sort of recognition/reward that shows you support downtown. The passport could even be divided into parts of the City where you get a different reward for each area (ex. Fayetteville St., Glenwood South, etc.)

Community participation in a paint by number public art mural. The City would commission an artist to create a large paint by number mural, which could be temporary or permanent. Community members would then be invited to come out and contribute to the artwork by painting in one of the numbered spaces. It could be a theme "Raleigh on the Rise" to go with our budget, or another inspiring theme. There could be sign-ups and/or spacing requirements implemented to keep the event safe.
Community Idea Submissions

In addition to the idea that received recognition – the installation of interactive kid-friendly public art – the following community submissions were received for consideration. Submitters’ responses when asked to describe their ideas are included below.

### Transportation

**Physically separated bike lanes AND better public transportation.**

Safer protected bike lanes!

Better public transit, physically separated bike lanes, and a focus on walkability instead of drivability. If that means park and ride into downtown I’ll take it. By limiting car presence using temporary barriers to create physically separated bike lanes and roads as pedestrian walkways it amplifies pedestrian presence creating great economic benefit as evidenced in other cities that have tried this. Businesses could add bicycle racks to encourage bicyclists and scooter riders to shop at their establishments. Better night lighting would facilitate pedestrian access as sometimes it gets quite dark. Removal of street parking means people stay longer and shop more and fewer accidents happen. Tickets for street parking would exist a source of revenue for the city.

A huge problem with downtown is the how disconnected Fayetteville street and Glenwood are from a pedestrian perspective. Visitors to our city go to Glenwood and stay there. If we created a form of transportation that was also a point of interest, the growth of Glenwood could expand into other districts—starting with Fayetteville street. The “sky rider” at the fair is a perfect proof of concept. It literally goes no where and people happily pay for a ride over the fairgrounds. Let’s take this ski lift concept and let it actually serve a purpose—while also making some cash for the city. I suggest, creating a stop at the Capitol grounds and having it travel to the center of Glenwood ave.

**Lift (or bury) S Dawson street 1-2 stories high similar to how an exterior subway system functions above nyc and Chicago streets. S Dawson street and S McDowell are highways that run through the heart of downtown. They are dangerous to pedestrians and disconnect downtown districts. At the same time, they are crucial for automobile travel and allow for cars to quickly pass through—often without even stopping. A majority of drivers on these streets are passing through at high speeds and always will be, no matter what the speed limit is or what the light sequence is, it’s just a result of their destination not being downtown. And for the few that are using S Dawson street to access downtown, they can just as easily exit at peace street or at the other end of town, at mlk/western and still access the main grid. This then allows for districts to merge into each other, increases walkability for pedestrians downtown, and creates new real estate to improve upon the city. I admit, it’s a little bit unrealistic, but S Dawson and S McDowell are going to become nightmares if something isn’t put into motion to solve this growing problem.**

**Close Fayetteville street to automobile traffic. During a normal summer (which ends up being half the year in NC) there is some festival or event nearly every weekend in downtown, closing Fayetteville and parts of cross streets. The Dine Out Downtown events have been a taste of what it could be like to have a space for people to gather and for more exciting storefronts.**

### Programs

DTR Alliance can kick off Raleigh “passports” - physical or online. Online passports can be advertised online. Physical passports can be stored in stands downtown in places like Glenwood South, warehouse district, Fayetteville St, and Moore Sq. Partner with downtown restaurants and stores where participants get a stamp for visiting and buying something at the designated locations. Can also include free sites where participants get a stamp for simply take a picture that they were there. This could be the capital building, governors mansion, Moore/Nash Square, etc. when participants get a certain amount (or all) of the stamps, they win a prize – and bragging rights.

There needs to be better mapping of the area and what’s around. Maybe some type of app with an interactive map? Maybe there’s something already like this and I don’t know. But I think that could be key to getting people down there.

I’d like to see some sort of system for food waste from restaurants in Downtown Raleigh. With the number of local, high end restaurants in Raleigh, and the number of homeless and hungry people you pass on the side walk on the way to them, something needs to be done. Restaurants throw out nearly 85% of unused food (https://blog.lovett.com/why-restaurants-must-throw-away-food-what-to-do-about-it/). I’d like to see a system put into place to collect unused food that would otherwise be wasted, and then distribute this food to the Downtown Raleigh community.

Let’s close Fayetteville street again and build small points of interest at the center of each block. Similar in size to Happy & Hale, Square Burger, or the small structures between the new We Work/Glenwood buildings. The problem with Fayetteville street is there are too many government buildings and banks that clear out after 5. These guys aren’t going anywhere and create dead zones between the few bars and restaurants that come alive at night. We need to expand into the street, just like we’ve seen with the “eat downtown” campaign that temporarily closed Glenwood and Fayetteville. However, anyone who grew up here remembers how difficult it was to get across town when Fayetteville was a fully closed mall. What I’m suggesting is only closing the street in the North and South direction, allowing the cross streets to still exist for transportation and parking. Creating individual blocks of activity allowing visitors to start at the capitol and make their way down Fayetteville street through varying blocks of urban parks.

Make Fayetteville street pedestrian only like it use to be

Turn Fayetteville Street back into a walking mall with points for rideshare pick up and drop off along the way and do what Savannah, GA does and allow for people to have open containers through various districts of the City with outlying park and rides so people can either take a bus to downtown that normally wouldn’t come downtown and make it affordable to get to and from downtown as well as limiting direct vehicle traffic on weekends to the area. Partner with larger corporations that are already downtown or are coming downtown to sponsor everything anything downtown.

Following our experience during COVID, there is an opportunity to create permanent outdoor dining zones possibly with pedestrian malls. The NC climate is generally cooperative with this concept.
Manager's Update
August 20, 2021

Central Focal Point / Gathering Space

The city needs a downtown Ferris wheel. I believe that there is sufficient undeveloped downtown space (perhaps in use as a parking lot) which could support a sustainable, large wheel. The "Paris Wheel" at Place de la Concorde) is 60 meters (195 feet) high. We could do that (but need to be cautious about East-West orientation due to prevailing winds).

A light show projected onto a landmark or other building. I've seen one in San Antonio and have heard of others (e.g., Boston, Chicago). If there is a nice outdoor space for visitors and families to sit and watch, they could make an event out of it.

Interactive art - Illuminate was great last year, it was fun and different and an easy way to walk around downtown. Keep the murals coming! I'm a runner and my friends and I love running around downtown Raleigh and discovering the different murals. It definitely takes your mind off the run and the miles magically add up.

More events in Dix park loved when Wanderlust was there in April 2018 and seeing thousands of people doing yoga in the field. Water bottle filling stations have throughout downtown and along the greenways to not only promote a greener city, but also promote good health and hydration.

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I would like to see neighborhood community gardens implemented. Many folks that live in apartments have small container gardens, and I have talked with a few neighbors that would like more room to grow other produce but are limited by not having yard space. When I envision it, I think about adding small plots to already existing neighborhood parks or metro parks. Gardens could also be added on empty lots or at schools depending on what land is available in certain areas. Gardens that are accessible via the greenway, bus routes, bike lanes, or are easily walkable would provide a greater benefit to more community members.

Additional parklets and play structure. A downtown brewery or container grouping of food and beverage (similar to Portland) that opens to Green space would also be great. Downtown carousels and other amenities are also great!

A nice large, creative water fountain display where a good part of it children (& adults!) can splash in the water (interactive), and with brick/cement/rock benching built-in around maybe w/ some stadium seating; that also includes a grassy area on the same grounds for play & picnics. An even bigger bonus would be a playground by it w/ creative landscape natural play features. (Center City/LeBauer Park in downtown Greensboro, NC & several parks downtown in Nashville, TN for references)

I would like to see more water features. Many major cities are positioned next to bodies of water that we don't have the luxury of having. I think the splash pad in Moore Square is a great example of bringing in water elements that are intriguing and interesting. Another examples are the fountains in Savannah. From my understanding there are some natural water paths in the city that have been migrated or changed. I would be curious to see these unearthed and restored.

I lived in Arcata, California and they had the absolute best farmers market every Saturday morning. It was the thing to do in town. An organic or pesticide free farmers market with a live band on the square every weekend of our growing season. We need to bring organic farming to the forefront. It's impossible to find anything organic at the fair grounds market or even in most supermarkets for that matter. (Mostly old looking and grown in Mexico). A live band playing in the center of the square and they also had hand truck food carts in the center. Then all the farmers set up around the sidewalk of the square. Arcata is a great resource and I am sure they would help us get established. I am happy to reach out to them and find out how they work and what mistakes they have made.

Salt Lake City used to do this big vendor markets downtown where there would be live music on a big stage, and tons of vendors around for you to walk through and shop homemade things! The Fire Dept would usually have a truck there and let kids sit in it for a photo with a firefighter and the police dept would hand out badges to kids and take photos too. They'd also have tables setup for people to be able to sit at and have lunch. Then at night it would turn into dancing and drinks for adults and they have a side pickup spot for Uber and Lyft drivers to pull up easy to drive people home safely. They would do it once a month and it was awesome!
g. Regarding being a Green City: Plant native trees and lush plants throughout the city and leave them alone. Maybe create committees that will be responsible for weeding them but let them grow, apparently they're good for reducing Carbon Emissions. Imagine looking everywhere and seeing lush greens. -- Plant vertical gardens on the outside of parking garages, cover the concrete with green plants. Also, have a monthly, first Saturday pm city clean up that would end with an event?

h. Raleigh turns 230 years old next year, can we have an intentional year to prepare for our jubilee?

i. Would love to see cultural and diverse programs that celebrate our community as well as food vendors and local businesses to support our community.

Transform the area into city/town/village from another country for a period of time (say a month) — bring in live music. Jazz, Blues, classic rock. Invite local artists to create art displays, local sculptors to create art installations, invite local musicians and artists. Something like art and wine festivals.

Would love to see cultural and diverse programs that celebrate our community as well as food vendors and local businesses to support our community.

Having spaces like Moore Square that can change and adapt are incredible ways to get folks downtown, but I also think we need to think about how to get diverse communities downtown in a way that channels all of that economic power back into historically-marginalized communities AND creates an engaging, inspiring, and empathy-building opportunity for attendees. Raleigh is surrounded by culturally-diverse pockets and communities — when you ask where the best place to get Indian food is in Raleigh, the common refrain is, “Cary” — but it is difficult for these business owners to come to downtown Raleigh because of the cost of local real estate. My idea is to connect downtown restaurants and chefs with culturally-diverse chefs from outside of the Downtown Raleigh community to host a “culture share” weekend. Spaces like Moore Square can be outfitted with family tables for nightly “concerts in the park” where attendees can try something new, invited to set up crowd provocations, photo opportunities, and information spaces towards a “passport” by attending every different “culture share” event and, if someone fills up their passport, they’ll be able to use it toward discounts at downtown businesses.

Other

Affordable and midrange housing and formed “third spaces”.

Add more retail and shopping areas

Stop tearing down old buildings

I’d love to see more buildings being rehabilitated and restored to bring more local business downtown. Many of those buildings could have first floor business and upper floor apartments or short term rentals for that mixed living feeling to bring more of the community feel downtown.

More native species of flowers, trees, and other plants. For example, instead of planting crepe myrtle, plant dogwood trees. These could be implemented especially in low-income and minority areas.

More gardens and plants around downtown
Replace all ornamental landscaping downtown with edible landscaping. Work with schools K-college to caretake the edible landscaping. Allow the public to pick/eat freely as they walk; harvest edible landscaping to sell at Moore square market on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

A Collegiate class, polyurethane, 400m public track (2-3 in various locations in Wake County)

Please construct a free public-access 400m track for runners and walkers. All the local schools have closed public access (boo!) and the local running community is large & active. The fabulous greenway system in the area is a draw for outdoor enthusiasts, but Raleigh is sorely lacking in a public track!! It can also be a great place to host some local track meets and the Sir Walter Raleigh mile events.

400m running track free to the public

Fifteen additional ideas were submitted by community members who did not wish to be formally recognized.

Take the bike rack fence away from the governors mansion. The fence is useless and it gives visitors the impression that there might be more riots, which isn’t true. It’s a serious negative stigma that conservative boomers outside of DTR still have... people are still hesitant to go downtown because things like boarded building and fenced public spaces. This is the face of our state government on a well-trafficked road through downtown. It looks like trash and it’s completely ineffective, considering the other 3 sides of the property are completely exposed.

I would like a lightrail that connects downtown Raleigh to the surrounding areas.

It would be great to see beautiful flower beds and pots throughout downtown. It’s a wonderful downtown, but there’s a lot of cement.

Get the garbage and recycling bins off the street.

Live music, food/beer festivals, outdoor fitness classes, adult sports leagues (i.e. kickball, disc golf pop up), 5k or other races, themed bar crawl

Before our situation becomes more dire, we should consider a big idea solution like this: https://www.businessinsider.com/austin-homeless-tiny-homes-village-community-first-photos-2019-10?op=1

Have more buskers on the sidewalks to enliven spaces and fill downtown with music.

Roller rink on Fayetteville

- More free fitness classes in common areas. Hosted by gyms, entrepreneurs, studios
- Some kind of unique food crawl (Somerville, MA does a hot dog crawl) there are 10 or so participating restaurants that all have their funky take on the menu item. You get a stamp card and can go around to the various places and try their creation! Could do some kind of portion of the proceeds goes to a local charity
- Set up multiple community fridge or pantry or both. Residents and local government/businesses nearby can help keep it stocked. Support the local community who may be hungry. Unable to provide for their families. You could have businesses downtown take turns - whether it’s a month or a week - financially and/or physically supporting the upkeep

Movies at red hat amphitheater or other downtown venues

More activities, bowling, arcades, movies, go karts, golf

A wheel to ride

Solutions for homelessness

A train festival

I’ve worked in downtown Raleigh for 20+ years. The First Friday was always a hit/plus! Live music on Friday/Saturday
The following information below is provided in response to public comments raised at the August 17, 2021 City Council Meeting by property owner Randall N. Robertson Jr. of 2724 Townedge Ct. concerning the Blue Ridge Road Widening Project.

**Blue Ridge Rd. Widening Project Public Engagement**

The following details the public engagement timeline on this project:

- November 2017 - Project survey notifications mailed out
- July 12, 2018 - 25% Public Meeting- Robertsons attended
- May 20, 2019 - 65% Public Meeting – Robertsons attended
- June 11, 2019 - CAC meeting – ES Project Manager attended
- July 2019 - Council Presentation made by ES
- July 2020 - Project update postcard mailed to public
- August 2021 – Project update postcard mailed to public

**Owner Communication History**

The following details staff communications with the owner on this project:

- June 4, 2021- Real Estate (RE) staff makes contact with Robertsons providing project and offer information and opportunity for site visit. Easements needed are of minimal impact.
- June 23 to July 19, 2021 - RE staff and Robertsons communicate to address concerns and Robertsons were notified of timeline to seek condemnation authority
- July 20, 2021- Robertsons sent list of requested project information including full construction plan set.
• July 21, 2021 - RE staff met on site with Robertsons to discuss concerns
• August 10 to August 16, 2021- RE staff and Engineering Services Project Manager continue to answer questions from Robertsons and informed them again of condemnation authority timeline.

Response to Project Design Concerns

Regarding the safety, drainage and privacy concerns raised by the Robertson’s in an email to City Council on August 13, 2021 and reiterated during public comment at the August 17, 2021 City Council meeting, staff appreciate that the proposed improvements are a change to the frontage of this property and have worked with the contracted design firm to provide a design that promotes multi-modal safety, effectively captures runoff from the proposed corridor improvements and adds to the character/context of this corridor. The planned improvements along the corridor do include a multi-use path along the south side of Blue Ridge Road, and thus the Robertson’s property, which places the improvements closer to the property than exist today and slightly higher than the existing grade along their frontage to ensure that runoff is directed appropriately back toward the street.

The design has limited the grade change to the extent possible along the property frontage, but given the property is below the existing grade of road the existing brick wall along the property frontage will not obscure the view of the property to the extent it does today. With this grade change, the slope tie back from the proposed improvements does slope down from the back of the proposed multi-use path and while slightly steeper at 2:1 than the preferred 3:1, this slope has been flattened to the extent possible so not to impact the structural integrity of the brick all along the property frontage. With the width of the proposed multi-use path which provides the ability for people to pass each other without having to step off the path, staff does not consider the down slope to create a safety issue for users.

The design team is continuing to coordinate with and respond to the Robertsons and commit to this continued coordination to try and resolve any issues to the fullest extent possible.

As the impacts to the Robertson’s property were minor and their concerns were with the greater scope of the overall project, staff feels that they have had adequate time to consider and respond to the offers presented to them for their impacts and that the project and acquisition should not be further delayed.
Attachments:

- Robertson Easement Exhibit
- Property Views of 2724 Townedge Court
- Public Meeting Map of Improvements at 2724 Townedge Court
Aerial View of 2724 Townedge Court

Street View of 2724 Townedge Court (looking east along Blue Ridge Road)
## Tables of Metes and Bounds
### Permanent Slope Easement #1

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CITY OF RALEIGH

BLUE RIDGE ROAD WIDENING
FROM DURALEIGH RD TO CRABTREE VALLEY AVE
ROLL 3 OF 4

PRELIMINARY PLANS
DO NOT USE FOR CONSTRUCTION

LEGEND

BUILDINGS
EXISTING RIGHT-OF-WAY
PROPOSED RIGHT-OF-WAY
PROPOSED EASEMENTS
EXISTING ROADWAY
EXISTING ROADWAY TO BE REMOVED
EXISTING ROADWAY TO BE RESURFACED
PROPOSED ROADWAY / GREENWAY
PROPOSED STRUCTURES, ISLANDS, CURB & GUTTER, AND SIDEWALK
EXISTING STRUCTURES, ISLANDS, CURB & GUTTER, TO BE RETAINED
EXISTING STRUCTURES, ISLANDS, CURB & GUTTER, TO BE REMOVED
LANDSCAPED MEDIAN
PROPERTY LINES
PROPOSED STREET TREE
PRESENT ADT
FUTURE ADT
PROPOSED TRANSIT STOP
EXISTING TRANSIT STOP
PROPOSED/EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL

TYPICAL SECTION 2