

RICHMOND HIGHWAY'S

EQUITABLE
DEVELOPMENT
SCORECARD

from Virginia Community Voice



INTRODUCTION



The Equitable Development Scorecard is a tool developed by neighbors on Richmond’s Southside. The scorecard is used to hold developers and the City of Richmond accountable to community priorities for development.



Within the scorecard are six sections, each with approximately 10 indicators of a thriving community.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

EQUITABLE JOBS ACCESS

NEIGHBORHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE, MAINTENANCE, & RESILIENCY



FOOD ACCESS & SECURITY

HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

SAFETY

A development is scored by neighbors and other stakeholders through a collective review process. The score is used to start a conversation with the developer about how to bring the new development back into alignment with community priorities.



This scorecard is specific to the Richmond Highway Corridor as neighbors there have provided specific input leading to the development of this tool.



For the purposes of this scoring tool, developments are referred to as “projects.” A project is evaluated with the following criteria:

EXCELLENT = 4 Points mean the project met the criteria very well.

GOOD = 3 Points mean the project met the criteria well.

POOR = 2 Points mean the project met the criteria but not well.

NO = 1 Point means the project did not meet the criteria at all.

I DON'T KNOW = 0 Points means I don't know or I don't have enough information.



*Our goal is to push developers to think more holistically and inclusively about what they are building in our community. We ask that you **score each section** and if it doesn't apply to the development, please enter zero. In the notes box, you can share your dreams for what this development could look like if it did address this section well.*



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CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME

EMAIL

ZIP CODE

COMMUNITY ROLE IN RICHMOND'S SOUTHSIDE

- Resident Business Owner Nonprofit, Church, or Community Leader
 Other

Project Information

PROJECT NAME

LOCATION OF PROJECT

WHY DO YOU CARE ABOUT THIS PROJECT?

Richmond Highway's Equitable Development

TOTAL SCORE

The pre totals for each focus area are added together for a final score. These provide a numbered ranking system that would allow neighbors and the VACV staff to help determine the equity, inclusion, and beneficial impact of developments and proposals in the Richmond Highway neighborhoods.

Proposals with the highest scores in the excellent section should be given priority support for development and partnership. Proposals and developments in the good range

have room for improvement, but could face either support or disapproval. Proposals ranked as "good" can resubmit or have their scores changed. Poorly ranked proposals should prepare for neighbor disapproval and backlash. Maybe proposals should not be developed or approved by neighborhood associations or council. Proposals with the highest score in the NO column should be prepared to face organized opposition to the development.

Section One

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SECTION SCORE

Section Two

FOOD ACCESS & SECURITY

SECTION SCORE

Section Three

SAFETY

SECTION SCORE

Section Four

EQUITABLE JOBS ACCESS

SECTION SCORE

Section Five

HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

SECTION SCORE

Section Six

NEIGHBORHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE & RESILIENCY

SECTION SCORE

PROJECT NAME

LOCATION

Section One

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGEMENT SCORE

QUESTIONS	EXCELLENT	GOOD	POOR	NO	DON'T KNOW
	4	3	2	1	0
1 Neighbors were engaged before the development process began. <i>i.e. Not as a requirement of the Special Use Permit process.</i>					
2 Neighbors were engaged at least 6 months into the development process.					
3 Neighbors are given power in the decision making process.					
4 Neighbors were engaged in the idea stages of the development and shaped the process.					
5 The development proposal outlines ways they will engage the community on an ongoing basis.					
6 The developer is transparent about outcomes and intentions.					
7 The developer or the city had completed targeted in-person events.					
8 The developer has demonstrated accountability for community-engaged requests.					
9 The project was initiated by community members or neighbors themselves.					
10 The developer or the city has made a concerted effort to engage and educate neighbors about the proposed development and the processes around it.					
11 The developer or business has other developments throughout Richmond Highway Corridor that have been generally well-received.					
12 The developer provided neighbors the footprint and/or a visual design of the plan prior to development.					
13 The proposal matches the neighbors' vision of their community or even enhances the neighbors' ideals.					

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Do you wish to clarify any answers or have additional comments related to this section?

PROJECT NAME

LOCATION

Section Two

FOOD ACCESS & SECURITY

FOOD ACCESS SCORE

QUESTIONS	EXCELLENT	GOOD	POOR	NO	DON'T KNOW
	4	3	2	1	0
14 The proposal centers equitable access to food.					
15 The proposal promotes a grocery store or supermarket on Richmond Highway.					
16 If developed the business would sell what the neighbors determine to be affordable food products for grocery stores or restaurants.					
17 The food business is owned by a person of color (POC or non-white person). <i>Priority is given to entrepreneurs of color to address the inequities caused by systemic racism, but all developers who care about the community are welcome to work to develop a food business.</i>					
18 The proposal reuses vacant land for farm stands or markets.					
19 The proposal promotes the sale of fresh and locally grown, organic produce or goods.					
20 The development is a culturally appropriate restaurant that speaks to the culture of the neighborhood. <i>Potential & current residents feel comfortable walking into the restaurant.</i>					
21 The proposal would promote food entrepreneurship for people living in the area. <i>A community commercial kitchen or a food business hoping to hire from the neighborhood.</i>					
22 The proposal supports the development of community gardens or neighborhood grown foods.					
23 The project would help to maintain community gardens or development of them on vacant lots or dwelling units.					
24 The proposal is neighbor-led and initiated, or owned by someone from the neighborhood.					
25 The development would improve walkability and accessibility of the neighborhood because it centers food.					
26 The proposal highlights fellowship of neighbors through the use of food.					

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Do you wish to clarify any answers or have additional comments related to this section?

PROJECT NAME

LOCATION

Section Three

SAFETY

SAFETY SCORE

QUESTIONS	EXCELLENT	GOOD	POOR	NO	DON'T KNOW
	4	3	2	1	0
27 The proposal has a plan to improve streetscaping where the development will occur. <i>Streetscaping includes sidewalks, lighting, traffic patterns, and greening.</i>					
28 The developer can show how and where their development plans tie to Richmond's Vision Zero plan.					
29 Bilingual alert system that lets neighbors know through their phones what type of security issue are affecting the southside in real time.					
30 Pathways to mental health supports and social work for Southside neighbors are increased through this proposal.					
31 The developer or business owner participates in community based meetings, neighborhood watch events, and National Night Out events to promote neighborhood relationship building and overall security.					
32 Developer works to improve the streetscape to slow down fast moving traffic. <i>Using medians, pinchpoints, chicanes, speed humps, improving greening and art, etc.</i>					
33 The project partners with local pedestrian safety advocates to ensure the safety and accessibility of all pedestrians in the community.					
34 Transportation planners or transportation plans associated with the project are appropriate with the development pattern and have engaged neighbors.					
35 The developer has shown due diligence to maintain their buildings, green spaces, offices, business, or right of way.					

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Do you wish to clarify any answers or have additional comments related to this section?

PROJECT NAME

LOCATION

Section Four

EQUITABLE JOBS ACCESS

EQUITABLE JOBS ACCESS SCORE

QUESTIONS	EXCELLENT	GOOD	POOR	NO	DON'T KNOW
	4	3	2	1	0
36 The development and/or business owner intends to hire from within the neighborhood.					
37 The development would like to hire and train young people.					
38 The developer and/or business owner intends to hire and train Disabled folks, and pay them a living wage.					
39 The development can hire people who are immigrants or who speak Spanish, including those with ITIN numbers and protected statuses.					
40 The jobs that are created hire at a living wage with benefits and the right to unionize.					
41 The developer hires neighbors who are re-entering the workforce after incarceration.					
42 The project partners with workforce development or training programs to work to hire from within the neighborhood.					
43 If the developer or project uses short term work, priority is given to locals for contracts.					
44 The jobs that are available are not solely low wage jobs, but also provide opportunity for long-term employment and advancement.					

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Do you wish to clarify any answers or have additional comments related to this section?

PROJECT NAME

LOCATION

Section Five

HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD SCORE

QUESTIONS	EXCELLENT	GOOD	POOR	NO	DON'T KNOW
	4	3	2	1	0
45 Housing developments and businesses are well maintained.					
46 The housing development is appropriately designed to fit in with the surrounding neighborhood.					
47 The housing development is designated as affordable or preserves affordable housing for people who make 50% of Area Median Income.					
48 The development ensures they will not displace current residents.					
49 The rent will not increase on properties that can be redeveloped.					
50 The builder will be responsible for providing housing with fair rent that tenants can pay. They are responsible that the owners of the buildings do not abuse the tenants.					
51 The development is consistent with the vision of the neighbors.					
52 The project commits to low eviction rates and will engage with the Eviction Diversion Program.					
53 The project commits to homeownership or wealth building for POC in the neighborhood.					
54 The project is initiated from developers, non-profits, or owners that are neighbors or community members.					
55 The project redevelops vacant lots or vacant dwellings.					
56 Housing units will improve the infrastructure of the neighborhood, thereby improving the overall walkability.					
57 Developments proposed improve the quality and accessibility of the amenities in the neighborhood.					
58 The developer that has previous units built in the Corridor, they have a record of demonstrated accountability in maintaining their properties.					
59 The developers with previous units built in the Corridor, has eviction rates that remain low or only evict for "just cause."					

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Do you wish to clarify any answers or have additional comments related to this section?

PROJECT NAME

LOCATION

Section Six

NEIGHBORHOOD

INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE & RESILIENCY

BEAUTIFICATION SCORE

QUESTIONS	EXCELLENT	GOOD	POOR	NO	DON'T KNOW
	4	3	2	1	0
60 The development improves and appropriately addresses current drainage to ensure there is no flooding in a roadway, alleyway, or walkway.					
61 The developer shares the results of their environmental assessment and research to prove their development will at minimum not increase heat in Southside and at best reduce Southside's heat island.					
62 The developer has plans to work with current and future residents to establish a homeowners group to address maintenance concerns, but is not burdensome or punitive like a Homeowners Association (HOA).					
63 The development includes greening with planned maintenance of green space. <i>e.g. Low maintenance trees.</i>					
64 The development improves the heat resiliency in the neighborhood by planting the right trees*, creating designated green space, or reducing the use of pavement, building energy efficient homes, or ensuring efficient HVAC systems for health and safety. <i>e.g. Trees whose roots do not break and disturb sidewalks, that are native to Virginia, with a maintenance plan.</i>					
65 The development plans to improve the sidewalks, pavement, alleyways, and roadways near the development.					
66 The proposal includes street art, like murals, statues, or designs that come from neighbors.					
67 With previous developments, the developer has improved or maintained the project well.					
68 The development improves a designated brownfield or industrial area, making it more welcoming and safe for neighbors to enjoy.					

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Do you wish to clarify any answers or have additional comments related to this section?



ABOUT US



VISION

Our vision is a Commonwealth where decisions are made equitably.



MISSION

Our mission is to equip neighbors in marginalized communities to realize their vision for their neighborhoods, & prepare institutions to respond effectively.



*To learn more about our organization,
please visit our website —*

VACOMMUNITYVOICE.ORG



*To fill out and submit this scorecard to
our organization electronically, please visit*
VACOMMUNITYVOICE.ORG/SCORECARD

