



October 2, 2015

City of Richmond
Urban Design Committee
900 East Broad Street
Room 510
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: Response to UDC/Planning Commission Comments from September 9, 2015 PC Meeting Minutes

UDC/PC Comment #2: *That the BRT planning team investigates utilizing Governor Street as opposed to N. 14th Street to make the connection to E. Main Street.*

Applicant Response: Governor Street currently is in active use as a state access-only road on which authorized state vehicles traverse for business purposes and which is utilized for permanent state parking. The proposal to utilize Governor Street for the BRT project was presented to the Virginia Department of General Services (DGS). DGS did not support this proposal for government security reasons. A letter explaining their concerns was sent to the UDC on September 8, 2015.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Letter from the Department of General Services.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of General Services

Richard F. Silwoski, P.E.
Director

Joseph F. Damico
Deputy Director

September 8, 2015

1100 Bank Street
Suite 420
Richmond, Virginia 23219
Voice (804) 786-3311
FAX (804) 371-8306

City of Richmond
Planning & Development Review
Urban Design Committee, Chairman
900 E. Broad Street, Room 511
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please accept this letter in response to the outcome of your meeting on August 20, 2015, recommending that the Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC) consider realignment of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route from 14th Street to Governor Street.

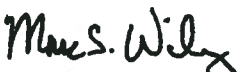
As was submitted by GRTC for consideration at the August 20, 2015 meeting, their current plan uses 14th St. to turn south from Broad St. in order to connect with Main St. to continue to further stops south and east. A change from the current plan to instead use Governor St. for southward access is troublesome to the state.

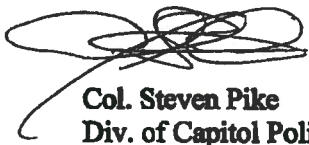
First, the realignment of the BRT route to Governor Street would pose a security to sensitive state facilities.

Second, Governor St. is actively used as a state access-only road on which authorized state vehicles traverse for business purposes and utilize for permanent parking. The location of the BRT route along Governor St. would force the relocation of current parking in order to accommodate bus lanes due to the road's relative narrowness (as compared to 14th St.). These parking spots serve a critical function of providing close and secure parking access for some of the state's top officials and, as such, would result in a shortage of available parking to meet current state demand.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,


First Sgt. Marc S. Wiley
Virginia State Police


Col. Steven Pike
Div. of Capitol Police


Joseph F. Damico
DGS Deputy Director