



Town of Remington

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A Brief Summation of Studies and Plans for the Town of Remington

September 9, 2022

Introduction

The Town of Remington is looking to the future and is in the process of considering a number of options that will involve roads/transportation, storm drainage, attracting/retaining businesses, safety, protection of private property rights, and, possibly increase property values, among other things.

Population growth along with increased demand for services and livability issues in the region as a whole are a given. From 2010 to 2022, the Fauquier population grew from 65,440 to 72,962 (or more than 10 percent, [Fauquier County, Virginia Population 2022 \(worldpopulationreview.com\)](https://worldpopulationreview.com/us/population/fauquier-county-virginia-2022/)). The source of this growth is undoubtedly the expansion of the District of Columbia Metropolitan Region. Being more distant than other towns or cities in Fauquier County from the DC Metro Area, Remington has not yet experienced similar growth but a short drive paints a very real picture. Housing starts, business construction and other activities in nearby areas show that increased population growth and demands are expected in the near future. For this reason and others, we are looking to be proactive in addressing future concerns.

After assuming office in 2021, Mayor Polk initiated a plan to “revitalize” the town and make the historic district a “destination.”

He wants to change the way traffic moves through downtown, making the area more inviting to visitors and businesses. He wants to ensure residents can walk their kids to school safely and walk to downtown from their homes. And he wants to capitalize on a newly opened park, the county-owned Rector Tract on the Rappahannock River, to invite visitors into town after a day on the water. (Ferrell, Coy, Remington mayor wants to usher in a new era of prosperity, Fauquier Times, Nov. 2, 2021.)

The Mayor’s revitalization concept has not been endorsed by all Members of the Council.

In addition to these ideas, the Town Council has been presented with other plans and options. Although there are a number of things the Town can take on, many of these issues are beyond the scope of the Town of Remington and will require cooperation and coordination with County, State and National agencies/departments.

The following sections briefly list and explain efforts underway to address and improve conditions in Town.

“Remington Walks”

On April 21, 2017, the Remington Community Partnership in collaboration with the Piedmont Environmental Council, issued a report entitled “Remington Walks.” There were 7 goals of this project (verbatim, **bold** in the original):

1. Gather community input on issues and priorities related to walkability, parks, trails and active living.
2. Create a vision for a **connected network** of parks, trails and sidewalks.
3. Position the community to support the development and **implementation of that vision**.
4. Identify who will take ownership for **implementation and maintenance**.
5. Improve **safety** for pedestrians, bicycle riders and drivers.
6. Improve **river access**. Encourage respect and appreciation for the river.
7. Create more places for Remington residents to **play, connect and hang out** together.

Among its “Ideas for Remington,” the project suggested the creation/modifications of pedestrian, road and park areas (sidewalks, trails and streetscape improvements), “transition” zones, gateway and town center updates and play areas.

GAP Evaluation

On June 3, 2022, the Growth and Accessibility Planning (GAP) Technical Assistance Program released their “Pedestrian Infrastructure and Traffic Calming Evaluation.” Among the topics evaluated were traffic volume on Main and James Madison (Bus 15) Streets. In addition to considering bikeways, pedestrian access/safety measures and additional signage, the report made recommendations for achieving a “one-way alternate” with Main and Madison Streets. The report noted that a one-way Main Street “(c)reates space for full width travel lane and parking without yielding currently between parked cars...(which) could accommodate wider sidewalks and/or bike facility with one-side-parking.”

The report also cautioned about truck turns limiting corners and crossing options as well as trucks encroaching on opposing lanes to facilitate the turn onto JM-15.

Existing Conditions and One-Way Circulation Technical Memorandum (Toole Engineering Feasibility Study)

On June 13, 2022, a memo was issued as part of the focus on revitalizing the Town into a destination. The memorandum focused on identifying

location-specific traffic calming measures and on/off-road multimodal improvements between M.M. Pierce Elementary School ..., and the Rappahannock River Bridge.

It is noteworthy that there is an existing alternate truck route via Route 28/Kelly Ford Bridge.

The report also considered the prospect of leaving Main Street as a two-way road or splitting traffic on a one-way main street with an opposite direction one-way street on Madison Street. In its “Conclusion for One Way Feasibility,” the evaluation stated:

Based on this analysis, the one-way circulation approach is not feasible without significant changes to existing truck travel patterns and would make it more difficult to achieve the other project goals of improved pedestrian access. (p. 25)

This report was revised and resubmitted on August 9, 2022 reiterating the non-feasibility of the one-way alternative due to the current level of large truck traffic through Main Street and noting that the one-way idea is not supporting the objective of “improved pedestrian comfort and safety” in the downtown area.

CDBG

In late-August 2022, the Town applied for a Community Development Block Grant (department of Housing and Urban Development). Among the purposes of this grant is to allow the Town to continue efforts to launch the “Revitalization for a Destination” program through additional planning, community engagement and program development activities. The proposed planning project builds off of existing pedestrian enhancement plans, namely the 2017 “Remington Walks” plan and the 2022 Town of Remington Pedestrian Infrastructure and Traffic Calming Evaluation Report.

Last, the Town has been informed that VDOT is in the process of considering repaving many secondary roads in the Town. Before that is to commence, the Town is also in the process of seeking a drainage study to address water run-off issues. Failure to address storm drainage issues may very well adversely affect our roads and future plans.

The Town Council and Mayor are seeking community input on these issues as well as other related matters that citizens may wish to raise.

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