THE SPINE OF A LIVABLE COMMUNITY
Context within the DC Region
Suburbanization of Fairfax County’s Richmond Highway did not always result in the development of a healthy built environment.
Built Environment

Car dominated with limited public amenities
Sprawling development patterns have strained ecological systems.
Inadequate amount of open spaces and poor access.
Early Planning Efforts
Richmond Highway’s proposed BRT line, and projected to boost density, gives Fairfax County an opportunity to redefine what it means to be a “healthy suburb.”
Comp Plan Amendment

- A follow up to the VDRPT Study
- Plans for future transportation needs
- Plans for the denser development that would support the BRT system

[Map showing BRT station locations and development areas]
Richmond Highway’s **legacy and ecology** guided the County in **fostering healthier lifestyles** along a previously car-dominated corridor.
Land use to **support live/work relationships** that encourage walking
Grid of streets to **support multimodal transportation opportunities**
Interconnected parks and open spaces that promote health, leisure, and social connectedness.
Reconnection to natural systems to **promote** environmental and human health
Reconnection to natural systems to **promote** environmental and human health
Reconnection to legacy infrastructure to memorialize local heritages and narratives.
Unite the **community through convergence** in legacy and ecology sites
Current Progress & Momentum
LESSONS LEARNED
When seeking to apply healthy planning initiatives, incorporate the features and assets that celebrate the uniqueness of your community.
Don’t be constrained by tradition.
Change is incremental and needs to be coordinated.
Be flexible but always aim high. Don’t compromise on your primary goals.

(progress is a fight!)
DISCUSSION

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FOR MORE INFO ON RICHMOND HIGHWAY: