



Community Connectors Program



- Harrisonburg was selected in September 2023 to be the recipient of a Community Connectors Program grant through national nonprofit Smart Growth America and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- The community's team is led by the Northeast Neighborhood Association, Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project, Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance and the City government.





Rebuilding trust between Northeast Neighborhood residents and the City, repairing past harms, and reconnecting today's Northeast Neighborhood to the heart of the city are our most important goals.

We commit to prioritizing the needs, wants, and desires of Northeast Neighborhood community members as we scope potential future investments in the community.





Program components



Small Area Plan- Address community needs and engage the community on what the neighborhood should look like, while understanding the harm and loss resulting from Urban Renewal.



Facilitated Dialogue- Promote broader understanding, healing, and reconciliation by providing space for individuals to openly share and communicate their feelings and their history related to Urban Renewal.



Historical Research- Expand and better consolidate documentation of the impacts on the residents and business owners who were displaced from their homes and businesses by Urban Renewal



Community-led Demonstration Project- Empower the neighborhood to design a temporary change to Mason Street



HRHA Is Drafting Application For Planning Funds

Final Phase Will Be Completed At Meet Set For Tonight

The Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority is drafting its application to the Federal Urban Renewal Administration for an advance of redevelopment planning funds.

The Authority will meet tonight to complete final plans for the survey and planning application to the federal government. The proposed redevelopment would be in the area between North Main, East Rock, Broadway and Johnson Streets. These general boundaries were determined by the City Planning Commission after considerable study.

Purposes Are Cited

David S. Clark, City Planning Engineer, last night stated the purposes for which the HRH Authority was activated.

"Slums and blighted areas exist within the city," said Mr. Clark. "These prove detrimental to the health, welfare, safety and morals of the community."

"Such slums and blighted areas effect the financial stability of the city because of the excessive high cost in these areas of city service, such as crime, fire and accident prevention, and public health, welfare and safety, and because of the constantly diminishing tax revenues from the worn out structures and the unoccupied lands or 'dead' subdivisions within these areas."

Plans Necessary

"Elimination of these blighted areas, as well as the prevention thereof is of such importance to the residents of Harrisonburg that it becomes necessary for the city to make plans for and carry out the acquisition and clearance of these areas, the rearrangement of streets and utilities, the relocation of inhabitants of these areas, and the sale or lease of such cleared lands to private or public persons or bodies, associations or groups for redevelopment in accordance with an approved plan."

"The Virginia General Assembly has declared that the elimination of slums and blighted areas constitute a public purpose, for which public money may be spent and private property acquired. As a result of recommendations of the City Planning Commission, City Council has established as a part of the long-range or Master plan of the city a program of urban redevelopment and Urban Renewal. The purpose is to stop the deterioration of property within certain areas, including the prevention of future tendencies toward the recurrence of these conditions."

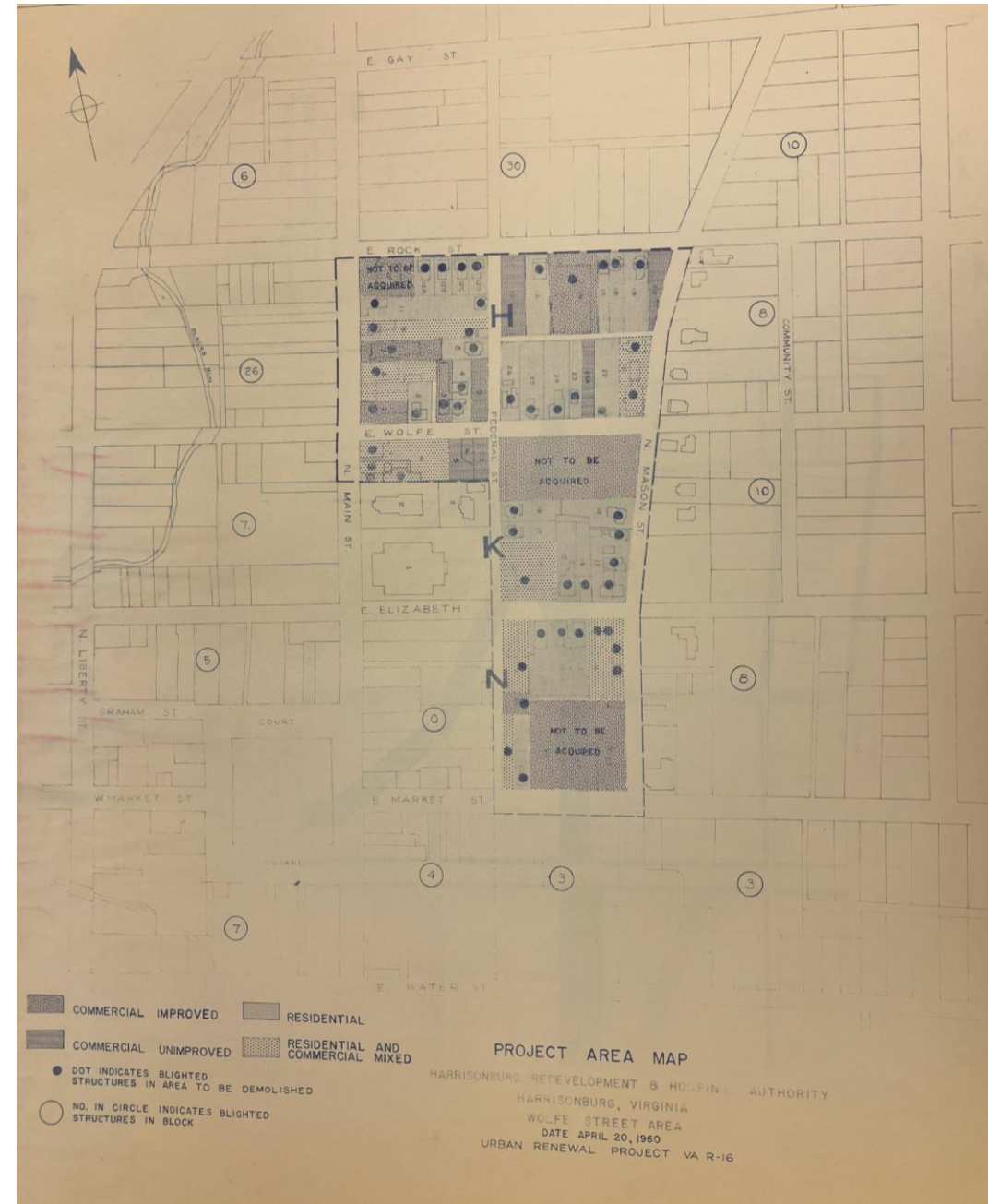
Action Under Code

"The creation and activation of the Harrisonburg Authority in accordance with Title 36 of the Code of Virginia, assures the City that the Urban Redevelopment phases of its master plan will be carried out properly and, in so doing, the Authority will be acting as an arm of the city government for

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June 19, 1956
Blight is defined

April 20, 1960
Blighted properties mapped











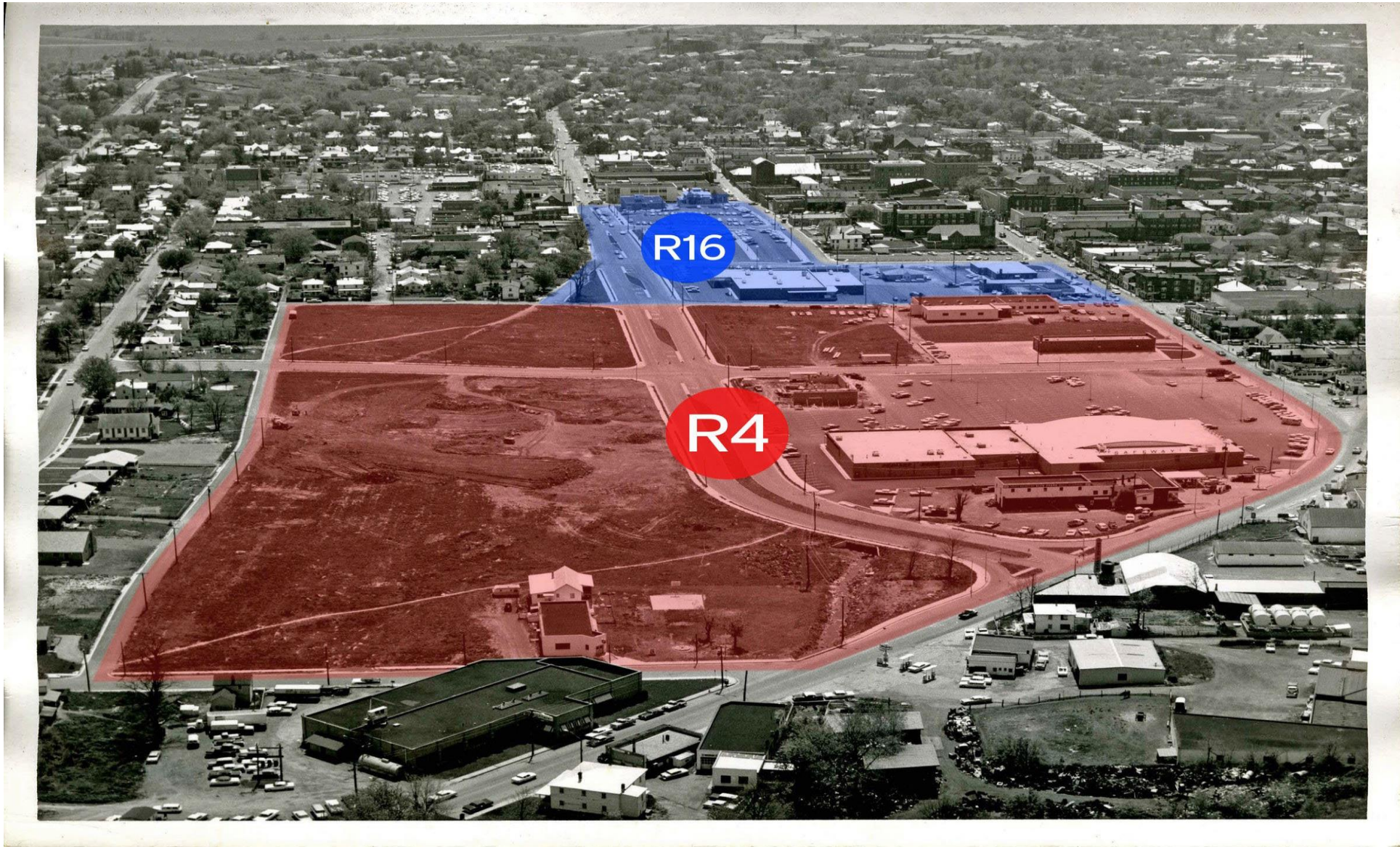
1937



2022



HARRISONBURG | VA
FRIENDLY BY NATURE



[The Legacy of Harrisonburg Urban Renewal \(WMRA.ORG\)](http://WMRA.ORG)

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Outreach Events

Neighborhood Pop-Ups: July-September 2024

- First Baptist Church Yard Sale
- National Night Out
- African American Festival

Small Area Plan Community Meeting- November 9

Virtual Community Meeting- December 9

Community Survey- January 2025

Design Charette- February 15 at 11am

Mason Street Corridor Design Meeting- March 13

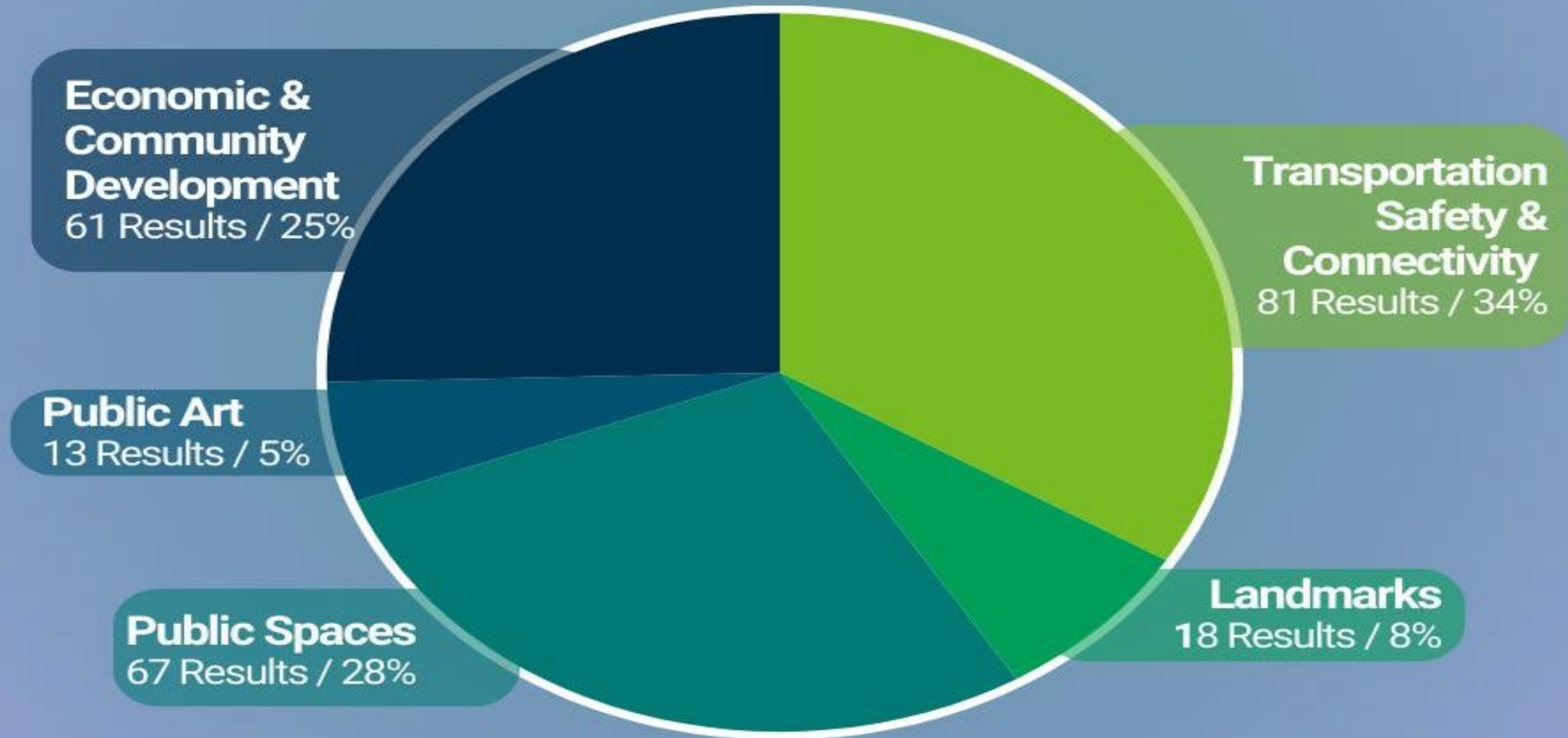


What We've Heard So Far

- Celebrating Community Identity
- Preserving Cultural Heritage
- Addressing Past Harms
- Promoting Economic Opportunities
- Enhancing Public Spaces



Engagement Results





Involvement Opportunities



Small Area Plan- Address community needs and engage the community on what the neighborhood should look like, while understanding the harm and loss resulting from Urban Renewal.

- A survey to help shape the vision for the neighborhood is now available at:

<https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/community-connectors>

- The key community input event to shape the Small Area Plan is February 15 at 11am at the Lucy Simms Center. Lunch will be served. Attendees will be entered to win a gift card for attending.



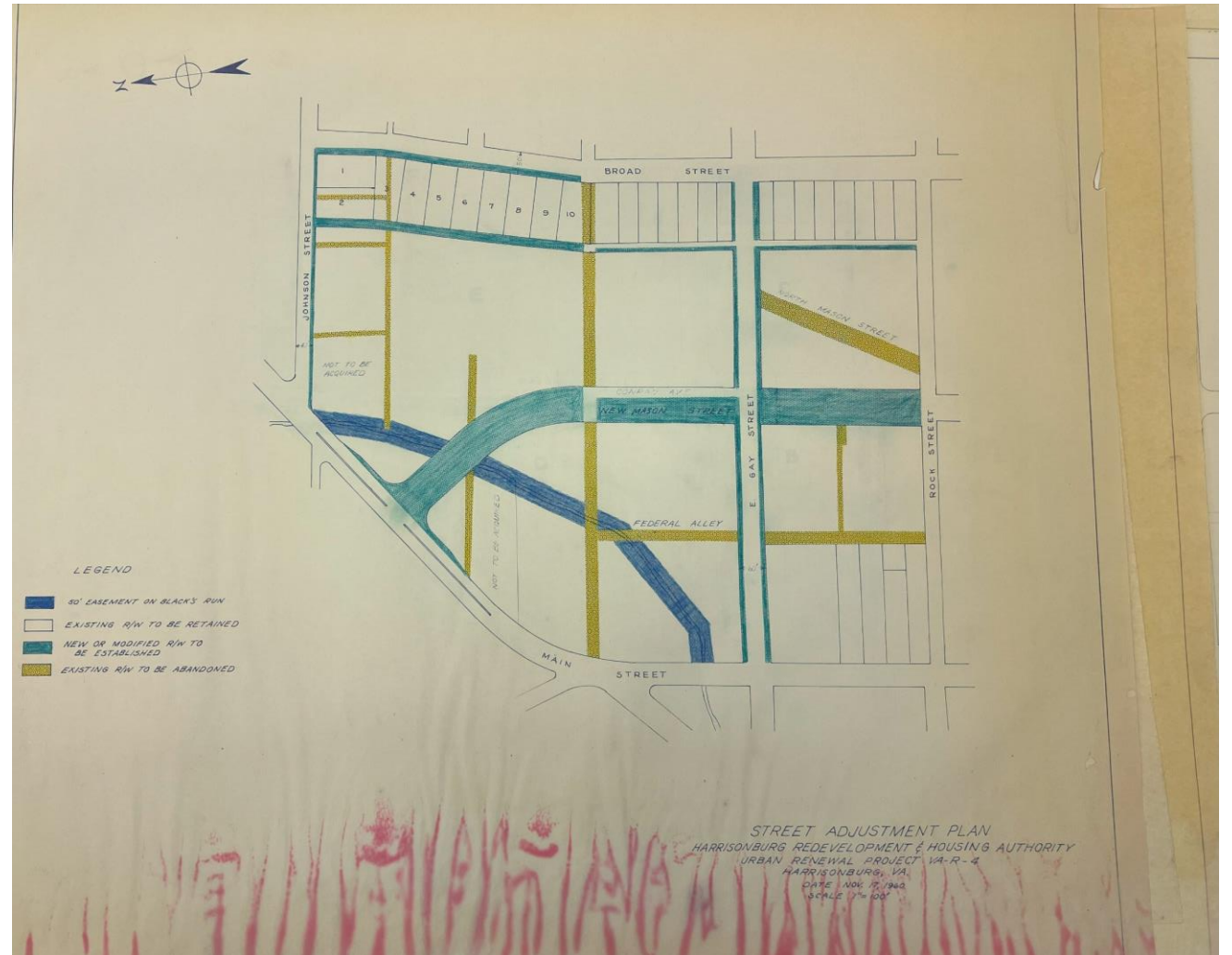


Involvement Opportunities



Community-led Demonstration Project- Empower the neighborhood to design a temporary change to Mason Street

- The community event to develop the design will be held in the evening on March 13





Other Project Elements



Facilitated Dialogue- Promote broader understanding, healing, and reconciliation by providing space for individuals to openly share and communicate their feelings and their history related to Urban Renewal.



Other Project Elements



Historical Research- Expand and better consolidate documentation of the impacts on the residents and business owners who were displaced from their homes and businesses by Urban Renewal



Questions?