

Pamela S. Ulmer

From: noreply@harrisonburgva.gov on behalf of City of Harrisonburg, VA
<noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 6, 2025 8:26 PM
To: Michael E. Parks; Pamela S. Ulmer
Subject: Webform submission from: Agenda Comment Form

WARNING: External email. Be cautious when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Submitted on Wed, 08/06/2025 - 20:26

Submitted values are:

Name

Kelsey Reider

Type of Meeting

Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Upcoming Meeting

2025-08-12

Agenda Item Number

No agenda is currently posted on the page so an item number is not available

Comment

I oppose rezoning the downtown parcel The Links from R-3 to B-1C. This project has too many units and will negatively affect folks who already live downtown as well as anyone who visits downtown.

Would you like to be contacted by city staff?

Yes

If you would like to be contacted, please provide preferred contact information

reider.12@gmail.com

4197071635

Pamela S. Ulmer

From: Thanh Dang
Sent: Wednesday, August 6, 2025 3:00 PM
To: Pamela S. Ulmer
Cc: Adam Fletcher
Subject: Fw: The Link Public Comment

Hi Pam,
Would you please share this message with City Council, Ande, and Amy?
Thank you,

Thanh Dang, AICP | Deputy Director of Community Development
(540) 432-7700 | Thanh.Dang@HarrisonburgVA.gov

From: KD <kcdouglass10@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 6, 2025 2:19 PM
To: Thanh Dang <Thanh.Dang@harrisonburgva.gov>
Subject: The Link Public Comment

WARNING: External email. Be cautious when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear City Council Members,

I am unable to attend the August 12th meeting and want to express my opposition to this zoning change.

I am opposed to any housing that does not accommodate the greatest housing need in Harrisonburg: affordable housing for low wage-earners without whom the local economy would not flourish. This project first and foremost is about financial gain at the expense of

- a) community housing that meets the needs of a majority of Harrisonburg citizens and wage earners
- b) a downtown area that cannot accommodate such a structure and its population without jeopardizing the efforts over the last 30 years to make downtown an open, vibrant and welcoming space for all, and
- c) is detrimental to the environment by the addition of brick, mortar and pavement and the associated by-products to a downtown area that, if redeveloped, that should align with a project that reflects environmental awareness and purpose.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Kate

--
Kate Douglass (she/her/hers)

M.A. International Development and Global Health
RPCV Panama 2010-2012
(929)431-9585

Pamela S. Ulmer

From: Thanh Dang
Sent: Wednesday, August 6, 2025 1:12 PM
To: Pamela S. Ulmer
Cc: Adam Fletcher
Subject: Fw: The Link Public Comment

Hi Pam,
Would you please share this message with City Council, Ande, and Amy?
Thank you,

Thanh Dang, AICP | Deputy Director of Community Development
(540) 432-7700 | Thanh.Dang@HarrisonburgVA.gov

From: LAURA DOUGLASS <lbouglass@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 6, 2025 10:34 AM
To: Thanh Dang <Thanh.Dang@harrisonburgva.gov>
Subject: The Link Public Comment

WARNING: External email. Be cautious when clicking on links or opening attachments.

To: City Council Members
From: Laura Douglass
Re: Proposed Zoning Changes for The Link

I am unable to attend the August 12th meeting and want to express my opposition to this zoning change for the following reasons:

1. The magnitude of this structure and related parking area and access to these spaces will impact the traffic flow throughout downtown and the neighborhoods surrounding it. The "monster" will feed on all paths that lead to it in countless ways. The Link will not exist in a bubble.
2. The magnitude of this structure and related parking area does not align with existing structures. It would be overwhelming and dominate the downtown space.
3. I am opposed to any housing that does not accommodate the greatest housing need in Harrisonburg: affordable housing for low wage-earners without whom the local economy would not flourish. This project first and foremost is about financial gain at the expense of a) community housing that meets the needs of a majority of Harrisonburg citizens and wage earners b) a downtown area that cannot accommodate such a structure and its population without jeopardizing the efforts over the last 30 years to make downtown an open, vibrant and welcoming space for all, and c) is detrimental to the environment by the addition of brick, mortar and pavement and the associated by-products to a downtown area that, if redeveloped, that should align with a project that reflects environmental awareness and purpose.

Sincerely,

Laura Douglass
Harrisonburg City Resident since 1991

Pamela S. Ulmer

From: Pamela S. Ulmer
Sent: Wednesday, August 6, 2025 9:56 AM
To: Pamela S. Ulmer
Subject: FW: The Link Public Comment

From: Christopher Tipton <catipton@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 6, 2025 9:18 AM
To: Thanh Dang <Thanh.Dang@harrisonburgva.gov>
Subject: The Link Public Comment

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Aloha Thanh Dang,

Below is a copy of an email I sent to city council members' individual email addresses. I'm sending it you also so that it is included for next Tuesday's meeting.

Aloha Harrisonburg City Council,

I will be unable to attend your upcoming meeting on 12 AUG 2025. Thus I am submitting my testimony regarding the rezoning for the Link Project in this email.

I urge you to perform the rezoning to allow this project to proceed. You will surely hear opposition from current residents at Tuesday's meeting. Please allow me to speak for those in support who cannot have a voice - future residents who would live in this property.

These families and students would benefit from living in a property that does not force each of them to own a personal vehicle. They would reap the benefit of living in a walkable and bikeable neighborhood, with kids from elementary school all the way through JMU being within walking or biking distance of their classrooms. Nearly all development on the south side of I-64 has been car-dependent, resulting in more and more traffic as each new resident adds to the congestion. Projects such as the Link, with its medium-density and centralized location, provide residents with an alternative to using a personal car; this is the only way to reduce traffic.

The Link is not just apartments. In a glaring omission, the opposition's flyer makes no mention of the retail space on the ground level. Such mixed-use properties used to be the norm, not the exception. These stores will not only benefit those who will call the Link home but also those who currently enjoy visiting downtown.

When the opposition has run out of rational arguments, they inevitably land on the excuse of "character". "Character" is just another way of saying "I don't want things to change." But locking cities into a single design or style via zoning is the recent exception in our history, not the rule. If we truly want our downtown to thrive, we must undo these restrictive zoning rules.

Regards,

Pamela S. Ulmer

From: noreply@harrisonburgva.gov on behalf of City of Harrisonburg, VA
<noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 4, 2025 12:56 PM
To: Michael E. Parks; Pamela S. Ulmer
Subject: Webform submission from: Agenda Comment Form

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Submitted on Mon, 08/04/2025 - 12:55

Submitted values are:

Name

Bernd Kausler

Type of Meeting

Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Upcoming Meeting

2025-08-12

Agenda Item Number

Rezoning – 435, 445, 457, 473, 483 & 495 South Main Street and 282, 288, 294 & 298 South Liberty St (R-3 to B-1C) (The Link)

Comment

Dear members of the city council

We are residents at 540 S Mason Street and we are writing you to strongly oppose the proposed changes to the rezoning of 435, 445, 457, 473, 483 & 495 South Main Street and 282, 288, 294 & 298 South Liberty St (R-3 to B-1C) in order for a new development to be built

We are asking you to vote "No" on the rezoning of the Lindsay Funeral Home property from R-3 to B-1C.

A 6-story, 265-unit building with up to 760 bedrooms at the gateway to downtown would overwhelm our infrastructure, clog already narrow streets like Paul, Grattan, and West View, and erode the historic charm that makes Harrisonburg's Old Town and downtown so special.

It seems perfectly obvious that the proposed parking is insufficient, with just 335–360 spots for potentially 760 residents—putting undue strain on surrounding neighborhoods and local businesses. Having lived in Old Town for 18 years, claims that most residents won't own cars are unrealistic and dismissive of our concerns and experience.

Rezoning to accommodate this outsized project would set a dangerous precedent that favors short-term profit over long-term, community-centered planning. It would absolutely ruin downtown as a livable

space.

We support smart, sustainable growth—but it must fit the scale, spirit, and character of our historic city.

We are asking the council to vote NO to protect the heart of Harrisonburg.

sincerely

Bernie and Diar Kaussler
540 S Mason Street

Would you like to be contacted by city staff?

No

If you would like to be contacted, please provide preferred contact information

kausslerb@gmail.com

Pamela S. Ulmer

From: noreply@harrisonburgva.gov on behalf of City of Harrisonburg, VA
<noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 4, 2025 12:46 PM
To: Michael E. Parks; Pamela S. Ulmer
Subject: Webform submission from: Agenda Comment Form

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Submitted on Mon, 08/04/2025 - 12:46

Submitted values are:

Name

Kevin Gabel

Type of Meeting

Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Upcoming Meeting

2025-08-12

Agenda Item Number

not listed yet

Comment

I am a Harrisonburg citizen who lives in Old Town and loves our downtown, I respectfully request that you table the request for rezoning for The Link proposal, and use the time for city wide feedback and deliberation. The property being considered for this proposed development is truly a gateway to our lovely downtown. The scale of the proposed structure is massive and will have a significant and permanent impact on our downtown in many different ways. It is a tremendous responsibility you have to our city and its residents to get it right. A city wide deliberation would allow time for community input and engagement that increases ownership and appreciation for your role as city council.

Let's make sure we have a sight line that is pleasing and consistent with our historic downtown. We want a plan that matches the scale, the traffic flow and parking needs without compromising the city's long term vision.

Pamela S. Ulmer

From: noreply@harrisonburgva.gov on behalf of City of Harrisonburg, VA
<noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 4, 2025 9:30 AM
To: Michael E. Parks; Pamela S. Ulmer
Subject: Webform submission from: Agenda Comment Form

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Submitted on Mon, 08/04/2025 - 09:30

Submitted values are:

Name

Gloria Mast

Type of Meeting

Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Upcoming Meeting

2025-08-12

Agenda Item Number

Not listed yet

Comment

As a Harrisonburg citizen who loves our downtown, I respectfully request that you table the request for rezoning for The Link proposal, and use the time for city wide feedback and deliberation. This space is truly a gateway to our lovely downtown and will be a permanent structure, as you well know. It is a tremendous responsibility you have to our city and its residents to get it right. A city wide deliberation would allow time for community input and engagement that increases ownership and appreciation for your role as city council. Our role is to our community, not to the developer of course.

Let's make sure we have a sight line that is pleasing and consistent with our historic downtown. We want a plan that matches the scale, the traffic flow and parking needs without compromising the city long term vision.

Would you like to be contacted by city staff?

No

Pamela S. Ulmer

From: noreply@harrisonburgva.gov on behalf of City of Harrisonburg, VA
<noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>
Sent: Sunday, August 3, 2025 1:07 PM
To: Michael E. Parks; Pamela S. Ulmer
Subject: Webform submission from: Agenda Comment Form

WARNING: External email. Be cautious when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Submitted on Sun, 08/03/2025 - 13:07

Submitted values are:

Name

Lynette Mast

Type of Meeting

Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Upcoming Meeting

2025-08-12

Agenda Item Number

not yet listed

Comment

As a Harrisonburg citizen who loves our downtown, I respectfully request that you table the request for rezoning for The Link proposal, and use the time for city wide feedback and deliberation. This space is truly a gateway to our lovely downtown and will be a permanent structure, as you well know. It is a tremendous responsibility you have to our city and its residents to get it right. A city wide deliberation would allow time for community input and engagement that increases ownership and appreciation for your role as city council. Our role is to our community, not to the developer of course.

Let's make sure we have a sight line that is pleasing and consistent with our historic downtown. We want a plan that matches the scale, the traffic flow and parking needs without compromising the city long term vision.

If you would like to be contacted, please provide preferred contact information

lynette.mg.mast@gmail.com

5408102060

Pamela S. Ulmer

From: noreply@harrisonburgva.gov on behalf of City of Harrisonburg, VA
<noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 1, 2025 4:59 PM
To: Michael E. Parks; Pamela S. Ulmer
Subject: Webform submission from: Agenda Comment Form

WARNING: External email. Be cautious when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Submitted on Fri, 08/01/2025 - 16:59

Submitted values are:

Name

Ella Leichty

Type of Meeting

Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Upcoming Meeting

2025-08-12

Agenda Item Number

N/A

Comment

As a Harrisonburg citizen who loves our downtown, I respectfully request that you table the request for rezoning for The Link proposal, and use the time for city wide feedback and deliberation. This space is truly a gateway to our lovely downtown and will be a permanent structure, as you well know. It is a tremendous responsibility you have to our city and its residents to get it right. A city wide deliberation would allow time for community input and engagement that increases ownership and appreciation for your role as city council. Our role is to our community, not to the developer of course.

Let's make sure we have a sight line that is pleasing and consistent with our historic downtown. We want a plan that matches the scale, the traffic flow and parking needs without compromising the city long term vision.

Would you like to be contacted by city staff?

No

Pamela S. Ulmer

From: noreply@harrisonburgva.gov on behalf of City of Harrisonburg, VA
<noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 1, 2025 10:41 AM
To: Michael E. Parks; Pamela S. Ulmer
Subject: Webform submission from: Agenda Comment Form

WARNING: External email. Be cautious when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Submitted on Fri, 08/01/2025 - 10:40

Submitted values are:

Name

Sara Leichty

Type of Meeting

Harrisonburg City Council

Date of Upcoming Meeting

2025-09-12

Agenda Item Number

no agenda released yet

Comment

As a Harrisonburg citizen who loves our downtown, I respectfully request that you table the request for re-zoning for The Link proposal, and use the time for city wide feedback and deliberation. This space is truly a gateway to our lovely downtown and will be a permanent structure, as you well know. It is a tremendous responsibility you have to our city and it's residents to get it right. A city wide deliberation would allow time for community input and engagement that increases ownership and appreciation for your role as city council. Our role is to our community, not to the developer of course.

Let's make sure we have a sight line that is pleasing and consistent with our historic downtown. We want a plan that matches the scale, the traffic flow and parking needs without compromising the city long term vision.

Would you like to be contacted by city staff?

Yes

If you would like to be contacted, please provide preferred contact information

sara.leichty@gmail.com

5404217929