

# Harrisonburg, Virginia Community Connectors Project

July 2025 Update



**HARRISONBURG | VA**  
**FRIENDLY BY NATURE**



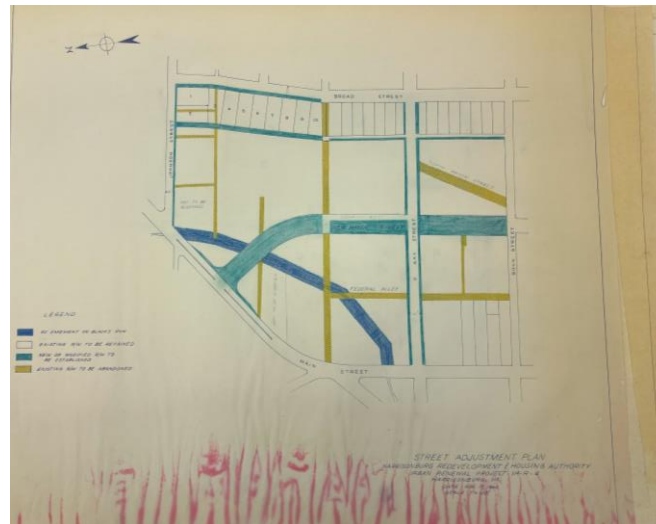
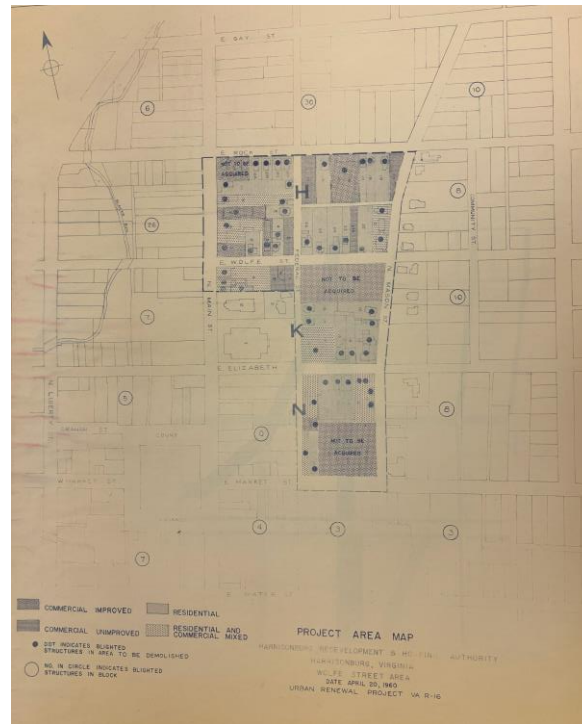


Harrisonburg was selected in September 2023 to be the recipient of a Community Connectors Program grant through national nonprofit Smart Growth America and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The community's team is led by the Northeast Neighborhood Association, Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project, Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance, Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority, and the City government.







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## Harrisonburg's Program Components



**Northeast Neighborhood 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 N. Mason Street



## Prioritize People

*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.*





# Neighborhood Pop-Ups

July-September 2024

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





## Northeast Neighborhood Small Area Plan

- CHPlanning is the firm leading development of the Small Area Plan.
- Hundreds of neighborhood residents have participated either in person or by survey in the development of the Small Area Plan
- The Plan is on track to be presented to City Council at the end of August.



# Small Area Plan Input Meetings

November 11, 2024

*Community Meeting - Simms*

December 9, 2024

*Virtual Townhall Meeting*

February 15, 2025

*Community Meeting - Simms  
(Visioning and Design  
Charette)*

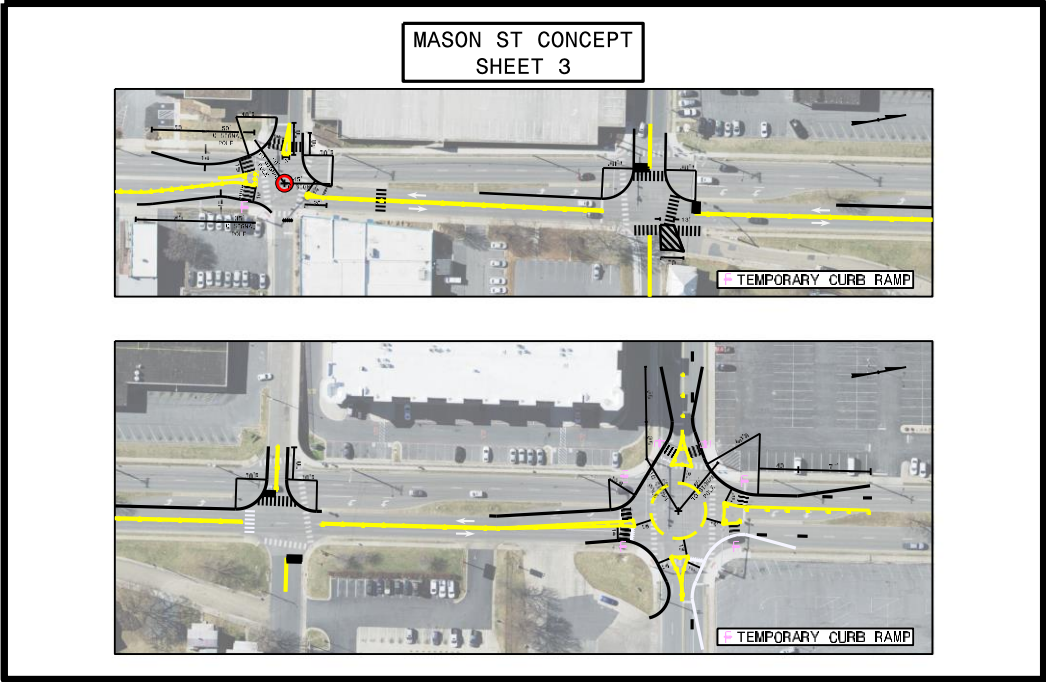
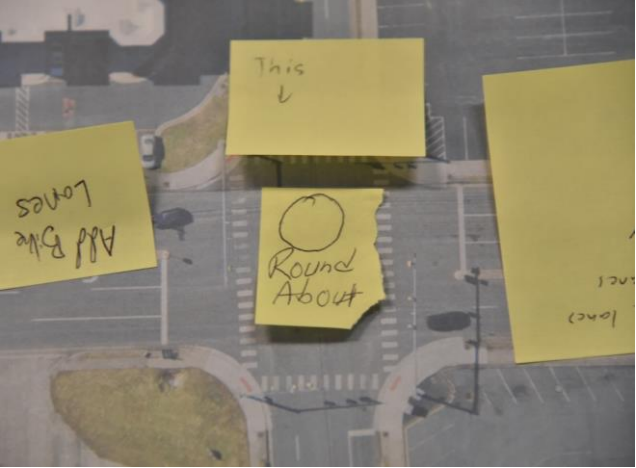
June 2, 2025

*Community Meeting - Simms  
(Small Area Plan Feedback)*





# Complete Streets Leadership Academy





# N. Mason street Demonstration Project

- Temporary reconfiguration of North Mason Street until first week of August
- Community Designed
- Community survey available at:  
[survey.zohopublic.com/zs/5YB1Di](https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/5YB1Di)









# N. Mason Street Block(s) Party







## 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.
- The Institute for Engagement and Negotiation at the Weldon Cooper Center at University of Virginia has been hired to serve as facilitator.



## 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
- Research completed by historians Ann Pfau, David Hochfelder, and Stacy Sewell





**Questions?**