

Arts and Culture – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- The Ly. Museum System's display on "Experience the James: Lynchburg's Pathway to the World" exhibit is one of the best I have seen in a long time and certainly made me more aware of the part our James River has had on our local life, economy, and development.

 - Support the restoration of the historic Academy of Music Theatre in dollars! Not only will the restored theatre be a cultural beacon but an active theater will bring revenue and more exposure to our city's downtown and Region 2000.

 - Support the restoration of the historic Academy of Music Theatre in dollars! Not only will the restored theatre be a cultural beacon but an active theater will bring revenue and more exposure to our city's downtown and Region 2000.

 - All these things are good but in my opinion, the completion of the restoration of the Academy of Music Theatre is, bar none, THE most important project for this city to accomplish in the near future, for the sake of our economic growth and the vitality of downtown. It is CRUCIAL, and I know of so many cities that have contributed large amounts of money to similar projects -- a key component to encouraging private and corporate support and to getting the job done! People need to know that the city values this project, considers it a TOP priority, and puts its money where its mouth is! PLEASE consider!

 - Need to partner more with the Academy of Fine Arts on their historic theater renovation. That's the lynchpin on the downtown revitalization.

 - Progress is being made but the city has yet to support vital downtown Arts initiatives like the Academy of Fine Arts. At a time when we are spending nearly \$100 million on school infrastructure, it would seem we are committing almost nothing to the Arts.

 - I don't read local newspaper or watch the local news, so I do not hear about these types of events. I would prefer the use of a billboard or an email blast

 - Most if not all the focus is on downtown. I would like to see other areas of the city to be included. For many citizens downtown is not convenient and parking is a challenge.

 - The pianos on Main Street were an interesting idea

 - It is time for the city to make a commitment to the Academy of Music Theater restoration.

 - The city has done a very good job relative to the arts (e.g. art, music, dance, drama). In regard to history it has done well, but not great. I've lived in Boston, Massachusetts and Newport, Rhode Island and they've done a better job. I went to the July 4th celebration at Poplar Forest this year and the site itself (in terms of its presentation to the public) has really dropped off. There was a lot more to learn and see 10-15 years ago.
- Tourism can be a big business. If the historical aspects of the city were supported more it be a big financial bonus. One other item, significantly more parking is required for the Amtrak station.
-
- Much progress has been evident. Once the downtown Academy's renovations have been completed, we'll be able to expand arts in the City even more. The acoustics in that space should be the best in the area, which will allow for stellar musical and theatrical memories.

Arts and Culture – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- I've enjoyed many of the programs mentioned above. Please continue to promote them via the News and Advance - my source of local happenings.

- \$35,000 divided between 13 grants is not much money. How much has the City invested? In general, though, the Downtown area is much more thriving and interesting place!

- How about art collaborations that focus on a more racially/ethnically diverse audience? Many of these events cater to mostly white audiences. Engage more youth in the Arts and Culture events as well as the business community.

- Dedicated music venue or outdoor pavilion to bring in people from across virginia for concerts. I.e charlottesville pavillion on downtown mall.

- Pleased to see the work progressing on the Academy Theater and the work at City Cemetery.

- It seems that a large number events take place at the old city cemetery, even unrelated events. I get the impression that so many events take place there because Lynchburg doesn't have any place else. If so, Lynchburg should create a place for public events. The cemetery has historical significance; but it shouldn't be the only, or most significant place, Lynchburg is known for.

- Even though this category is not one of great interest to me, I have seen many events available to the community. Would love to see the art sale/show that used to be park of Kaleidoscope somehow renewed. I feel there is a great deal available for locals to experience.

- Need a city owned and managed Civic Center

- Pick a focus and expand it for three or so years, instead of being all over the place. Much of the efforts were scattered, and too much on the past than the present or future.

- Lower the cost for non profits to use Riverfront Park for festivals (once it reopens)

- I like Bedford's artist walk/trail. I think first friday's is great but the city should help sponsor it better and the Lynchburg Art Club sale/show at EC Glass is great but the City seems to always schedule a conflicting "beer festival" type event against it. If they must over-lap, maybe have a shuttle or something between the two events or promote both in some type of fashion.

And our movie theatre does not get grade A movies. A whole bunch of academy award nominee movies out over this Christmas and we are not getting many of them. WHY? is our cultural events being censored? Any push to expand our theatre events/ exposure would be great for our city and culture and quality of life.

- These events are generally "light" fare. What about supporting the cinematic arts, the Lynchburg Youth Symphony, chamber music, or Opera on the James?

- Advertise more on things to do in Lynchburg. The Burg is a great location to advertise because its a free newspaper. Many ppeople leave Lynchburg to go to nearby cities to have fun and take in arts, plays ect because they simply did not know about an event in Lynchburg! So frustrating.

Arts and Culture – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- Should one conclude that each of these events is a direct result of City government involvement? Does "City" mean City government or the city as a community?

Music and sports are part of the American culture. We have the Symphony, Opera, minor league baseball, college and community theater groups, etc.

- Loved the painted pianos, the painted walls especially along the steps down to Jefferson St. The creativity of some local people is really supported
- The former Museum educator, Rachel Deddens, left the Lynchburg Museum System in 2013. That was a huge loss to the Museum and City. It is unfortunate that she wasn't retained. Although she left on her own her working environment had become difficult.
- I believe that unfortunately a lot of Lynchburg's citizens and those in the surrounding county are not aware of all that the city offers in regards to Arts and Culture. More publicity of these areas would increase awareness.
- The Museum at The Old Courthouse and Point Of Honor are wonderful treasures for our city. It is very important to protect and preserve our history. It is awesome so many school children and tourists enjoy and appreciate our history and it is available to share with them. Please make sure to fully fund these valuable entities.
- We need more live music options!!! Anytime our group of friends want to see a band, we have to drive to Charlottesville, Roanoke, Blacksburg, etc. We are fortunate to have places like Mangia and Stoney Badger that bring in music, but Lynchburg should have a venue for bands other than Dragon Fly or The Worx.

The office for the Executive Director of the Virginia Theatre Association is now located in Lynchburg. I think her resources should be considered, as well as her expertise, in enhancing the arts in Lynchburg. Our city is famous for taking forever to accomplish a goal. For example, consider how long it took for Lynchburg to revitalize downtown. This initiative began in the late 80's, early 90's, with a push from Nancy Payne. Now, look at how long it is taking to revitalize the Academy. It is time for Lynchburg to stop dragging their feet in making decisions.

- Didn't hear about this until after the fact.
- I am not in favor of events that have alcohol, That is not family friendly.
- I hope we continue to move forward in this area. Our culture & history are so important for now and the future generation
- Capitalize on the fact that Lynchburg is host to a huge sect of trail running. There is hardly another city on the west coast that has this type of culture.
- Keep it up!
- What a total waste of money, most "artists" are drug selling, drug buying heroin addicts, mark my word they are worms downtown. I am Ex LPD!

Arts and Culture – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- Awarding \$35K for 13 projects is no substantial commitment. I have seen exorbitant amounts spent on hiring outside consultants when the city staff or local consultants ought to be doing the work. How much is being spent on this "survey"? It reads like a PR piece.
- Awareness of the Arts and Culture of the City excelled this year. Something for everyone and attended well by all.
- Lynchburg is in dire need of a proper concert venue. I have been forced to go one to three hours away to see music acts that could be brought here if the facility existed. "Down by the river" is not it.
- I can tell a difference in the arts and culture scene since I moved here in 2006 - more events.
- Continue to focus on the arts, entertainment, and food as part of the rebirth of downtown. Establish an annual black tie social event that brings all of the downtown and Historic District residents together for an evening of fun in downtown.
- Encourage artwork in places other than Downtown.
- I think more thought should be given to the downtown/riverfront area. There are many opportunities for cultural growth. We need to bring people downtown to eat, drink, play, and live.
- Lynchburg is a hub for the arts and history. If this progress continues, downtown will flourish even more.
- Loved the "Experience the James" exhibit-the museum has done a great job!
- Need more art in the schools
- I believe progress is significant. I also believe that Lynchburg should continue this progress in the same vein which, it seems, are small to medium venue activities. These are appropriately sized for our city.
- I assume the Cultural District overlay has been approved.

We need a CITY-WIDE campaign to finish the renovation of the Academy of Music. Every citizen of every age, and every business, should be contacted and asked to support the project. That's how Roanoke successfully brought Center in the Square to life many years ago.

- I believe that government should not be involved in arts and culture.
- I applaud the city for supporting the Arts and Culture district!
- consider a 4th of July parade - more downtown oriented celebrations
- The throwing away of part of the history of Dunbar High School and not try to acquire some semblance of this gap back for all of the city's residents is horrible. Many wonder why the gap in the U.S. is so wide economically and empathetically. It is easy to explain. Simply look at how groups of people and the glibness of their lives prior to integration. There are people living here in central Virginia who actually do not go downtown because they are told that

Arts and Culture – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

downtown is full of vice, thugs, bad people, and drug dealers, let alone go to see the memorial to pre integration Dunbar High or Anne Spenser House. Council should do more inform the western city areas as well as Timberlake and nearby Bedford County areas. These areas are misinformed about the city. The kids in the city and nearby areas private and public schools should be sent ambassadors from the city to inform them that the city is a good place. Many children from these areas are told the city is BAD !! This is echoed at home.

- Even more local festivals right here in Lynchburg. Fix the problem with Riverfront Park where there is NOWHERE to get out of the sun for Friday Cheers. The first year there was a tent with tables & chairs set up for everyone to get out of the sun for a bit & sit down to eat. It hasn't been there since & frankly, we are tired of sweltering in the sun . We haven't gone much the last few years for that very reason. We did go to 2 of them last year back at the Market because we could get out of the sun for a bit.
- Arts & Cultural Grants spark excitement for the Arts District...need to be continued and supported
- The city needs to partner with the largest businesses in town to complete the Academy. It will be the final missing piece to really revitalize downtown. It has taken too long. There is great momentum for downtown now.
- Lynchburg needs cultural events. There are no festivals to celebrate the cultures in the city (ie. Italian, Greek, Mexican, Korean). Cinco de Mayo Festival in Lynchburg? That Would draw people. Jewish Fest in Lynchburg? Same thing. People LOVE festivals. Just look at Richmond. They have like 3 festivals a week when the weather breaks. These are just festivals that are non existent in Lynchburg but flourish other cities. Keep up good work.
- I spend time downtown every week, and I have noticed significant and valuable arts and history projects over the course of the last few years especially. I love what I am hearing about the bike rack project. The pianos on Main Street were a great success. The new history signs around the city are excellent, and are a personal favorite of mine. The fundraising progress at the Academy theater is also highly encouraging. City sponsored public art projects like the pianos and bike racks are wonderful ideas, and I want to continue to see more of them. I think this is public money very well invested in our city.
- Great work here. These are important parts of a vibrant community.
- It is difficult to quantify progress when I don't know what's been done in previous years, but these sound like grants that do contribute to the increased focus on the arts and culture of our region.
- I think the City needs to think about ways to become actively involved in the Academy for Fine Arts project. This project could be an enormous boost to downtown revitalization (which is making wonderful progress, I might add). Without the City's involvement, I just don't see how this project will ever be complete.
- Integrate more fixed art exhibits into trail system and parks - intepretative areas.

Arts and Culture – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- Unfortunately, Economic Development has focused on the downtown area almost exclusively, to the extent that one wonders if the City and Economic Development realize that downtown is but a part of Lynchburg. The accomplishments listed on the Economic Development website, and in fact those listed above, are embarrassingly myopic in the focus on downtown. In my humble opinion, what we need is a focus on the entire community and what it offers NEW businesses to come here to locate and create jobs. We will never get out of a shocking 24% poverty rate until we have NEW manufacturing offering NEW jobs. Our Economic Development staffs both in Lynchburg and the region have done a grade D job in attracting new jobs to the area in the last 10 years. Without job growth, we are doomed to fall behind, even more than we have.

- Continue funding these interesting events in our Arts and Cultural district.

- Incorporate local universities work with a mix of works from other city museums to rent that will appeal to local population. For instance, Tissot works appealing to the faithful would draw liberty students perhaps. It can be acquired on loan from the Brooklyn museum

- The new public art on Jefferson street is awesome! I would love to see more opportunities for artists to live and work downtown. The love sculpture has also been popular and is a great tourist attraction.

- Would like to see the City spearhead efforts to complete Academy of Fine Arts restorations.

- Arts and culture should be funded from private donations not tax dollars.

- What has been the impact of these events on the local population? What portion of the area population actually and actively participates? I suspect it is a small portion, and not worth much public investment. Let the participants pay their own way.

- These events contributed mightily. Hope there will be more money approved for similar projects.

- I like the pianos on Main Street!

- Museum is doing an excellent job collecting and preserving the city's history and is including the history of all Lynchburg people.

- The City has a wealth of history and architecture, especially in downtown, that with more investment can be a catalyst for increased tourism and revenue from visitors. Visitors to cities like Lynchburg gravitate to the older downtown and water. Please make sure to plan and invest wisely to make the riverfront area a people attractor. At present it is a hodgepodge.

The Visitor Center and Lynchburg Museum are not in the best locations to maximize their potential.

- Bring art movement to places where they're currently nonexistent. Art at airport, Kemper Street train station in and outside. This can let people know about arts culture here. I have long been a fan of arts in this great city. Let's continue the progress!

- Keep up the good work!

Arts and Culture – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- While I think there have been some definite cultural improvements over the last few years, I am hopeful that more will continue to happen. I am about to move from the Cornerstone area to Main St and am very hopeful about continued business and cultural opportunities downtown.

Citizen Engagement and Social Capital – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- The Citizens Academy is a grand asset to our citizens.

While I hope we never have to depend on the Lynchburg Alerts, Reverse 9-1-1 after the terrible storm of a few years ago, I am thankful we now have this resource.

-
- The first two bullets represent significant progress. The third's progress is less than moderate.
 - Much more commitment is needed to bridge the economic/racial/cultural divides.
 - Please continue to provide opportunities to get more people into our wonderful parks and trails and continue to fund improvements.
 - The city parks are under funded, under improved, and under utilized. A city of 80,000 should have more than one pool and two parks.
 - I have a hard time judging this item because I'm not familiar with many of these initiatives.

I would love to see a large gazebo built in Riverside Park for evening concerts, open to the public.

-
- Consider an alternative time frame for the citizens academy. While I'm interested in participating, it's difficult to commit to the entire length of the program.

I've signed up for the Lynchburg alerts - thankfully, haven't received any yet.

The park system is a tremendous asset - please continue to improve them. Peakview Park is due for some picnic table updates. They are in rough shape. The tennis courts and basketball court get great use. A second basketball court would get used in available.

-
- Much more work needs to be done with regard to racial issues in the City. There seems to be two Lynchburgs -- white Lynchburg and black Lynchburg -- with little feeling that the City government belongs to both.
 - The City has had a number of meetings to engage the public around zoning and the budget. However, these meetings keep engaging the same people, generally the most privileged in our community and not representative of the entire community. Part of the reason is because the City does not do any strategic community outreach to build authentic relationships throughout the year with marginalized groups in Lynchburg. The primary beneficiaries of social capital initiatives have been largely white men and continue to be. Share the Parks events were a knee jerk reaction to an ignorant City Council member that played on racist fears of the public. How about initiatives to increase youth employment? The national youth unemployment rate is pretty high. It is probably high for the City as well. Put some funding behind Share the Parks and figure out how to let the community play more of an ongoing integral role. Look at the City budget and you'll know how much social capital is valued. Also, what does the Reverse 9-1-1 System have to do with social capital? "Social capital focuses on the social networks that exist between us (literally who knows whom) and the character of those networks, the strength of the ties, and the extent to which those networks foster trust and reciprocity. The core concept of social capital is that social networks matter, both for

Citizen Engagement and Social Capital – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

those in the networks as well as sometimes for bystanders as well." Social capital means trust! City council needs to get out in the community and hold meetings with their constituents, not just when the City has organized a meeting and not just when its campaign season. Many of you showed up in certain neighborhoods during campaign season and haven't been back since. You have a roll to play to build social capital. It's not just City staffs responsibility. Respond to phone calls and emails.

- We have a LONG way to go to make all our parks safe and enjoyable for everyone.
- I'm familiar with reverse 911 system but not real knowledgeable on the other initiatives.
- Still a closed shop. Not enough young people involved in decisions. The parks are still dangerous, and the trails system is under utilized and developed. the city need to realize it is getting younger, not older, and place it emphasis on that pool of people.
- a white man can not go to the park by himself without being harassed. i have tried this. (miller park)
- I'd like to see more family-oriented programs.
- Exclude this type of information on the Lynchburg website. You really need to "sell" Lynchburg on all the improvement because if u went up to another random 100 residents they would not know what is going on.
- You have a goal of increasing social capital? What on earth does that mean?

And why combine citizen engagement and social capital in one topic? They are two different things.

- Looking forward to the reverse 911
- I am a graduate of the 10th Citizens Academy and enjoyed the program. I still run into some of my other classmates and they speak fondly of the course as well.
- Great progress. Keep up the good work!
- What is Social Capital? Makes no sense.
- More effort needs to be made to keep the parks safe. There is a great deal of crime at Peaks view park including people regularly smoking marijuana out in the open. Not a good environment for children. Why not have an officer drive around in a golf cart there all day?
- Considering the two events at Miller Park were rained out, the Share the Parks Initiative was not a successful effort. The Parks does very little in communicating to the public "in the Parks." At one time, staff from the Nature Zone had people in the parks to talk to the public. This was not the case this 2014 year.
- Eager to see an Alumni Organization for Citizens' Academy Participants!
- When full funding is claimed the source of that funding ought to be named. It is usually out of our taxes.

Citizen Engagement and Social Capital – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- Engage citizens in more volunteer opportunities, perhaps in their neighborhoods. Extend National Night Out to include a day of service.

- Connect the parks with the bike trails.

- Lynchburg Alerts is a great investment! Parks and Rec however, needs to put themselves out there more.

- I apologize. I am not as aware of the issues regarding this category as I'd like. I am concerned about issues like the Virginian.

- Continue to hold neighborhood meetings or city-wide meetings where citizens can learn what's being planned and contribute their thoughts.

- more communication with parks and rec to the community about what it offers

more coordination between schools, parks and rec and community on field use

- More posters and bill boards, public announcements on openings as well as free FREE EVENTS!!!! Most residents rarely hear after the events are over!! Older citizens rarely hear unless it's said on the tv. Or multiple times in the paper!!

- I don't think the city is doing anything wrong on this front. I do not know so much about these efforts and have not heard much of them.

- Have not heard anything about the reverse 911.

- I am very excited to hear about the Lynchburg Alerts system. I think this is a fantastic idea that -- if implemented correctly -- will help citizens know how and when to be aware of events that might endanger our safety.

- I understand the difficulty in engaging the public but believe a better job can be done. Meet people where they are. Don't advertise "public meetings" at the last minute and at odd times -- be consistent so the public understands what to expect.

- While 250 participants is an accomplishment, our population is around 75K. I feel that our community does not engage the residents of our lowest income bracket. When one in five of the children in community are food insecure, how can we call anything successful? If we are serious about "Citizen Engagement", then we must pull from ALL socioeconomic levels.

- There is still a racial/class barrier in Lynchburg - need to promote cross-cultural events on a more frequent basis and make it a highlight to bring positive experiences between the races. Too much emphasis on entitlement programs and handouts perpetuates generational poverty.

- More progress needs to be made in making our parks safe places for all citizens.

- I, as someone more engaged in local government than the average citizen, did not feel engaged by my city leaders. Citizens academy participants seem to be mostly of a retired age. I would love to see more young people engaged. I never heard about the Share the Parks event.

Citizen Engagement and Social Capital – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

I would love to see better marketing from the city. The graphics and new city branding seems very antiquated.

-
- Overall community engagement remains minimal
-
- Encourage other groups -- churches, schools, universities, volunteer organizations, etc. -- to also sponsor events at the part. Provide a performance venue for such events.
-
- Put a playground for children in the Riverfront park to make it family friendly. Build bleachers into the bank below the walkway to cover the eyesore space and provide a venue for concerts & other events.
-
- Better security
-
- As above, what metrics justify city expenditure on these activities?
-
- I certainly appreciated getting an alert about the train derailment while I was out of town. It helped me follow the event on live streaming and thus I could determine that I didn't need to return immediately.

Economic Development – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- Continue the push to complete the Academy of Fine Arts as a cultural center as identified in the strategic plan by ED's consultant.

- Continue the push to complete the Academy of Fine Arts as a cultural center as identified in the strategic plan by ED's consultant.

- More effort needs to be made in diversifying the economic development. The city is overly dependent on a handful of enterprises. Without underestimating the commitment and contributions of those enterprises, the city needs to plan for a wider spectrum of opportunities.

- 4MM in grants to businesses already in the area only goes so far. Need to recruit business to the area that are not already here.

- Recent investment in our downtown has been good, but much more needs to be done. The Academy of Fine Arts restoration project would provide conference opportunities and substantial support for downtown hotels, shops, and restaurants, yet the City has not provided any support to the project to date--why?

- OED and EDA should estimate the economic impact of the AFA Theatre restoration and if significant urge council to invest now.

- Somehow more diverse high technology must be encouraged to come into the area. AREVA and B&W are not growth industries. There is a wealth of higher education in the area to encourage it. Also, I imagine the overall average salary is low and, therefore, another encouragement.

- Again, I don't know much about these initiatives.

- More focus is needed on economic development for small businesses, specifically minority owned and women owned businesses. There has been virtually none or if there has been any, it certainly isn't known to the general public. Was the minority business community involved in the development of the strategic planning process?

- downtown is vacant after 5pm. need to do more to support downtown businesses and promote an environment of night life, and prove that downtown isn't just for breakfast or lunch. Still too many vacant store fronts on main st./ commerce st

- "... in partnership with a consultant" was another wasted expenditure that the city seems to do over and over.

- I am very concerned about the city paying for the bluff walk hotel downtown.

- Bring more (better paying) jobs to the area.

- Even though the City unfortunately can't directly benefit from all the LU construction, the items listed above definitely help support the City. Small businesses and downtown growth are key areas that seem to be growing.

- We are a young, educational oriented town. More work with the five colleges, research and development will return higher.

Economic Development – Citizens’ Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- education needs to improve across the board in our schools and critical thinking instead of rote memorization. Technical or trade schools would be a big boost to our economy.

I like the downtown revitalization but I am worried about on street fee parking.

- I work for a major employer in downtown Lynchburg and am able to see and enjoy improvements.
- I was recently pleased to see that Dinner Bell was purchased and that \$3m was spent to restore the building. This restoration is in an area that needs more attention. I feel more work needs to be done in the Mayflower Drive area to enhance economic growth.
- Perhaps more emphasis could be placed on businesses utilizing existing vacant buildings.
- Doing well in spite of slow economic recovery
- Overdevelopment of the Timberlake area should require a traffic study of Timberlake Rd.
- Great news regarding the expansions at AREVA and Azdel but more industry is needed in Lynchburg. Without new or expanding industry our community will slowly wither.
- B & W just announced significant job cuts.
- It would be good to see more economic development in industry here. There is huge growth in the colleges, but we need to see more jobs here. The college students come and take the few part time jobs that local people could use.
- I think Lynchburg has been quite stable over the years economically. However, I am against the city trying to raise funds by setting up parking meters downtown. This will only serve to drive cheapskates like me away from wanting to do any activity downtown. Please review other studies showing this same phenomenon; people leave when they have to pay to park in such a small town. We aren't Philadelphia. If I wanted to pay to park I would move there.
- I fear these statistics are out dated. Areva is currently cutting back on local personnel (fall 2014) and have closed some of their existing operations.
- Growth that adds to climate change is not sustainable and should not be considered a good thing.
- Areva laid off 150 in the past 6 months, B&W over 100.

KDS/Tri Tech is using 3 temp agencies.. for over 300 temps, but yet cannot keep all of them for 5 days a week.. 12 hour shifts were also canceled..

The Hanwha Azdel expansion resulted in adding exactly 0 jobs. as NONE of the new jobs will even be considered until mid 2015.

Unemployment in the Lynchburg downtown area is still one of the highest in the state. NO change at all.

Economic Development – Citizens’ Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

Education - no change at all.. CVCC cut over 35% of their degree programs due to no jobs.

-
- In all of my 32 years living Downtown there has been a need for a grocery store. The OED and EDA have been unsuccessful, no matter what the official name of the department.
-
- This city department has provided so much positive growth for the business community and seeing that Lynchburg thrives in difficult economic times.
-
- Please stop allowing new business centers and new businesses to purchase land in already crowded areas. Force new businesses to go to other areas that are NOT so crowded and the infrastructure can handle the growth. For instance, please stop adding new businesses to Wards Rd, Rt 221/Lakeside Dr/29N interchange. These areas are already overcrowded and I, like most residents, avoid these areas at ALL costs due to congestion and high traffic. Spread out the growth!!
-
- The city needs to get behind private development more in this area, for example the Rosedale project off Graves Mill Road. I would encourage the Mayor and City Council to support them in this development.
-
- Not sure why the city can toot their horn over Areva or Azdel spending their own money.
-
- Lynchburg is full of minimum wage jobs.
-
- How did the City help with the Areva and Hanwha Azdel?
-
- More visible support for minority-owned businesses. Need initiatives to grow entrepreneurship in local youth, perhaps in partnership with community centers.
-
- Love that small businesses are getting help in order to keep the downtown area growing. However, how about a pay raise for your part timers that is more than just a few cents?
-
- The city's investment in tourism is extremely exciting and is certain to increase business for hotels, motels, restaurants, historic sites, etc. The new tourism director appears to be extremely competent. We really lucked-out there.
-
- High taxes do not encourage economic growth, but act as a deterrent. Unemployment is pretty high.
-
- I believe good schools, good roads, public safety and business friendly local government are the most important things the city should focus on. Lynchburg needs more jobs. I know several young college graduates who would love to move back to Lynchburg but cannot find a good job.
-
- what is our 3 to 5 year plan to grow new business in LYH? Do we have specific strategies in place?
-
- It appears from news reports that Areva is eliminating jobs.
-
- Get it out to the public better!! Great improvements in funding !!!!!'

Economic Development – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- the city needs to understand the significance of the OED and what it perpetuates for the community. The EDA and OED are a dynamic force in the community and need to be verbally supported by the City leaders

- AREVA has been significantly reducing its work force. Additionally, there seem to be very few professional opportunities for young professionals in Lynchburg. I know very few others my age with professional careers. I would like to see the City of Lynchburg offer to sponsor a certain percentage of young hires' salaries (almost like a scholarship). This could make young hires more appealing to corporations in Lynchburg and the individuals would likely stay employed after the sponsorship expired. AREVA utilizes this type of program with the VIE program (French program) to bring young employees to Lynchburg from France.

- We need a NEW or FULLY RENOVATED MALL.

- I am very pleased that the city has been eager to attract and retain commercial and industrial investment in Lynchburg. Our diverse industrial base secures the people from the uncertainties of the broader economy.

- Would like to see more downtown revitalization (and good stuff has been done so far).

- Lynchburg has numerous empty buildings that need marketing, yet we continue to build.

- The City should work more with the Lynchburg Regional Chamber to promote entrepreneurship and small business in the city. Encourage citizens to not only find a job, but to create a job by using their personal skill sets to start a business.

- Whatever work we can do to help bring businesses downtown is a great thing. From the perspective of a young professional, I seek more moderately priced "mom and pop" type restaurants. I would prefer these restaurants be downtown and have outdoor seating potential.

- Buy local in state and local government procurements. Look inside city limits first. Promote business interlinks to strengthen local business.

- The OED had nothing to do with bullets 2 and 3. Please correct me if I'm wrong, but didn't most of the money in bullet 4 go to downtown development?

- Keep up the good work.

- The most helpful EDA overall. Kudos to that team.

- The EDA is an incredible asset for the City of Lynchburg. They have empowered so many small businesses to start up and to grow, they have brought a great number of important businesses to Lynchburg, and they have been a huge booster for the arts and culture scene in Lynchburg.

- In my experience the City Of Lynchburg Economic Development staff simply does not see itself as having any responsibility to advocate for private developers. In my experience they simply do not view the private, non-government funded sector as their partner in opening up growth opportunities for new businesses, new jobs, new revenues or new benefits for local residents.

Economic Development – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

Private developers need a person in city government, or from the Economic Development Board, whose mission is to enthusiastically advocate on their behalf. Where there are viable opportunities for new business growth, new jobs and new revenues in projects that lack government funding, there must be an enthusiastic advocate acting as a liaison between developers, the City Manager and City Council whose mission is to explore out-of-the-box funding solutions. It's what progressive small cities are doing all across the nation!

As it stands today, City Of Lynchburg Economic Development efforts don't really have a vision for small business development and don't really reach much above the low hanging fruit. As I recall that was pretty much what the outside consultants who reviewed our economic development effort reported in their presentation at the Academy Theater in the summer of 2013.

- Lynchburg lags in the state and nation on Economic Development. Greater engagement and development is necessary as numerous large companies move corporate headquarters out of Lynchburg. What, perhaps, can be done to secure improved air transportation?
- "Consultants" are a red-flag. Who better than we knows where we want to go and what resources are available to get there?
- Draw in more diverse energy businesses
- Need new business and new industry
- More jobs=progress!!
- I don't understand enough about this process to say City residents benefitted from these initiatives. To my knowledge there have been no new large employers opening in Lynchburg, instead choosing to open in the surrounding counties. Also not many opportunities to find high paying permanent full time jobs as one would find in Richmond, NOVA or Hampton Roads regions.
- The business leaders do a hell of a good job as well as EDA.
- Too dependent upon Liberty University for whatever development and economic growth that has occurred.
- I would like to see continued (and maybe even improved) relationships with our biggest draws and businesses, including: tourism, area universities and large companies like Areva

Healthy and Active Living – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- Based on the age old notion that "One Size Does Not Fit All" I would like to see more recreation resources developed geared towards our Senior Citizens. When youngsters and elderly utilize the same space, usually the older folks quickly get overwhelmed by the energy of the youngsters and stop using things that should be directed towards their unique and individual needs.

- The environment for healthy living is indeed high in my experience but I am not sure that it extends to all neighborhoods. Outreach there may require fundamentally different strategies and a different mindset (and community participation).

- The backwater creek trail is an amazing city asset. We need to expand it and connect somehow the trail to Peaksview Park.

- Would look to adding education and events into this program

- Finish the downtown! It needs to be done and draw businesses and restaurants to the area. Focus on the downtown above all. The park built over by Frito Lay was a complete waste of money. Don't spread out so thin that nothing is finished or right, finish the downtown. Have a "Spring Cleaning" project where all buildings, even vacant must clean up property including unsightly windows and citizens pick up garbage and are reminded to pick up dog poop every time. Plant flowers, hang flower pots off lamp posts and have a water truck water them bi weekly. Between Liberty and the other 4 colleges in this town the downtown should be thriving.....so much so that an anchor store downtown could be a Nordstrom but it just hasn't happened. Maybe allow for some brick buildings to be painted so we don't look like an old coal town....finish the downtown with enthusiasm and let the public know the timeline....front page of the newspaper is a good place. Put word out that we are open for business and we have a young community (college age and their visiting parents w money). Get the landscaping done right and keep it manicured. It takes lots of money that's why the park by Frito Lay was unnessasry, the money needs to be focused. The fountain int eh river could also be softened so it doesn't look like a broken pipe....but that's not necessary now. Finish, street cleaning, flowers in the spring and summer, color and allow for some paint, even pale whites, yellows, taupe and grays.

- "Bike Lanes" a real plus as well.

- Keep up the good work! Please see note above about picnic table needs at Peaksview.

- Much more effort needs to be made in adult health and encouraging healthy habits, especially for those in poverty. Also, with so many people without health insurance (did I read 42,000 in the area?), City needs to either encourage local businesses to provid insurance, take a strong advocacy position on Medicaid expansion, or support clinics like Ruth Brooks and the Free Clinic.

- continue working more with Lynchburg roadrunners club this group has 400 members and 2000 friends and participants who promote healthy living

- Keep up the good work at the City Market.

Healthy and Active Living – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- Easy for this area to get overlooked. Our parks and trail systems are incredible. Worth every dime spent. It's time to allocate some money to maintain the trails as many tree roots are starting to damage the paved trails. Would love to see these trails expanded!

- peakview park fields still need work. who gets to use city stadium field, not i.

- Continue work on the nutritional food bus to the food desert areas of the city.

- I love the park system and the rails to trails system in Lynchburg. Please continue to look for areas where the bike lanes can be instituted. I think a few outdoor water fountains should be available as well as at some of our parks and along the blackwater creek trails.

- Numbers look great but if you don't spread the word it is useless. I am on snap and I never received even a tiny piece of paper of this information. Would of been nice to know.

- Support for the 10-Miler, a nationally recognized event?

- I am very pleased with the promotion of SNAP at City Market. Well maintained trails and parks. Riverside is definitely finding new life with fun things for kids to do and increased utilization by people of all ages.

- need more bike lanes and sidewalks.

- Great success in theses initiatives,.

- I live in Sandusky--no neighborhood community center here. No pool, although I've heard there once was. Parking is too limited; inconvenient to go to Community Market.

- Wellness and fitness are fantastic, but what about doing something to clean up the water in the James River and do something about the air quality?

- We should get rid of the SNAP program. People should work for their food, and not just be given my money to get free food. It's disgusting really to think about.

- Kudos to the Parks Manager for updating the equipment in the Parks.

- Need to increase bike lanes

- Keep it up! Community centers are valuable assets for improving health and active living. Please consider the support they need for the City to achieve goals in this area.

- Do you have any data that reflects how the SNAP recipients are improving their health by purchasing from market vendors? We recognize the value to the vendor but not the recipients.

what are you doing to improve programming at the centers you have targeted for closure for the last several years?

what is the plan for the 3 neighborhood targeted centers - for example, are you connecting with or seeking partnerships with any groups to improve these facilities? seating for seniors? age appropriate activities and

Healthy and Active Living – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

the like.

Any plans to increase programming and enhance programs for seniors in neighborhood centers, particularly inner city centers.

Any plans to advertise publically the 50 plus programs for inner city centers -- think the programs have gone from 2 days per week to 2 hours per week or less or none at all some weeks. these are not included in your 50 plus newsletter -- not clear why not --

-
- SNAP is superficial fraud
 - YMCA is a PAY for use site, that is a commercial business. No one in the lynchburg downtown area benefits from this when this agency sues people for non payment of dues, and usage fees.

SNAP benefits have been CUT in Virginia, resulting in 90% of single people no longer being eligible for more than 90 days of benefits in a 3 years period. This is new state law.. Who heard of such nonsense.

Who gives a crap about recreational facilities when the litereacy rate in this area is under 33%. Yes that is correct 1 in 3 cannot read a menu, cannot understand basic math, and cannot function in society.

-
- What an all around great community we live in for health and wellness as well as our Community Market. The Market definitely benefits all of our downtown as well as the farmers and the recipients of the Snap benefits. So very proud to be a resident of our grand city!
 - a two for Riverside and Peakview, otherwise it did not help the majority of citizens.
 - I would LOVE to see more given to the Parks and Recreation facilities here in Lynchburg. This is something everyone can use.
 - Improvement I see out of that list is SNAP benefits accepted at the Community Market. I don't see how the other renovations drew more people in to exercise. It is a good thing to invest in the infrastructure of the parks but I don't see how that brought more people to exercise that were not already using the equipment.
 - Increase awareness of healthy living for inner city families.
 - With the running aspects are great, start promoting other healthy activites within the city. Not all of us like to run you know!
 - I am unclear as to local participation in the Health and Active Living programs and am not sure how they are advertised. I also wonder if enough activities are geared toward disabilities.
 - These programs need better publicity.

Are any programs available for Senior Citizens?

-
- I believe that government should not be involved with healthiy and active living issues.

Healthy and Active Living – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- I think the city is doing a good job to draw attention to healthy living and improve access to our citizens for food and exercise

- Pluses in the free offerings department to see that the kids who are in the camp programs get to swim, learn to swim.

- I would like to see Parks and Rec offer flag football. This would require minimal investment.

- I am happy to see the city maintaining and investing in our park infrastructure.

- The city's role in these activities is not well publicized nor understood. There is a feeling that these offerings are limited to particular groups.

- If you go into each Parks & Rec center you may be surprised to see the conditions they are in. The sinks in the bathrooms trickle, there is no soap and no paper towels. They are depressing and are not very inviting. A little paint can go a long way.

The SNAP at the market has been a HUGE success!

It is true, there are more classes being offered at our P & R centers, but for the poor in our community, they cannot afford the fees. These centers are located in these neighborhoods.

Imagine if Lynchburg were known for its focus on health, what a desirable place this would be to live.

- Require city employees to stop smoking within the next year and participate in weigh reduction programs for those that are clinically obese.

Ban all tobacco use on city property including no smoking around city hall, sidewalks, parks, etc.

- Sounds great, but what the numbers/metrics that show these things have actually created positive change?

- Our City has made progress in leaps and bounds in this area.

- Living healthy is a choice and would be the least of all to be focused on, though these programs are good and should be retained.

Add low cost programs like 'no car day' on main streets. You can charge for parking on those days or charge higher. It won't be popular but if you implant it slowly it will be more acceptable.

- I am glad to see Live Healthy Lynchburg living on. I have also enjoyed the bike lanes on Rivermont Avenue. The SNAP benefits have been wonderful at the community market and have served a previously unreachable population.

- Miller Park Pool could stand to have lap hours for lap swimmers from 6-8 pm (M-Thursday) with lane lines and still have room for swim lessons. The facility should also consider volunteer instructors, as long as the instructors have had a decent level of experience - I tried to volunteer, especially with non-swimmers who

Healthy and Active Living – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

have a fear of the water, but was told to get my certification (which I let lapse 30 years ago due to the incompetence and intransigence of the ARC (American Red Cross.) If teaching nonswimmers is really a goal, then putting up roadblocks is not the way to go about it. Understand that background checks of volunteers are necessary, and that pool management should always be present - with a lifeguard on duty - but it's a shame that bureaucracy overrides common sense.

-
- Improved Health Awareness is certainly visible in the community
-
- That's useful for some, but it doesn't really help those who live far from the listed parks or who don't qualify for the SNAP program.
-
- Support of Ag study is great for the whole area.
-
- Better security
-
- It is a great city that cares about the individual health of its citizens. These efforts demonstrate that.
-
- Council needs to stop the mixed messages about closing or privatizing all the neighborhood centers or close the city market. Invest in and treasure what we have that adds to quality of life.
-
- If you really want a health and active living, put in sidewalks and bike lanes. I can't think of one sidewalk in the city of Lynchburg that goes beyond a couple blocks.
-
- Need improved parking, lighting and security for all facilities.
-
- I would love to see the James River/Blackwater Creek trail system extended to areas west and southwest of the downtown area – e.g., extending from the Ed Page trailhead toward Peaks View Park.
-
- I think Lynchburg is the perfect place for outdoor activity. The trail system is excellent. I will be moving right next door to the Community Market and I hope that they continue to receive support and promotion

Infrastructure – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- Mid town connector project needs to be completed.

- Just finish the mid-town project - contractor must be performing on a cost plus basis with no cost ceiling.

- Many of these projects are long term and we are only slowly seeing the effects.

- It seems like sometimes the city does an improvement project and then goes back and tears it up for the sewer line. Does seem like there is good coordination sometimes

- All good work, especially 12st downtown.

- Projects are moving forward, but the pace seems extraordinarily slow. Could the city add time sensitive provisions to contracts?

- There are too many streets with rough pavement, lacking sidewalks, and streets that are too narrow for traffic to meet without one vehicle stopping. The streets that have been redone downtown have the intersections narrowed down, making it difficult or impossible for large trucks (including fire trucks!) to make a turn. There is no good reason for moving the curb in and for making it so high. Streets and intersections should be widened, not narrowed. I would be interested in discussing this to see where improvements could be made.

The city could always use more fire hydrants. No point on the street should be more than 300 feet from a fire hydrant. Anywhere.

- 5th street was a debacle, the cross town connector is almost that, and Wards Road is a nightmare. Who plans these things? Does future growth even enter into the thought process? Why didn't Wards Road have a service road? Why is the College Lake even being considered for being drained. How many cities have the creeks, lakes, and rivers that we do? Why are we not preserving them and making them a showcase?

- There are many opportunities to improve here. In some areas of town traffic at rush hours moves at a slow pace.
 - Wards Road needs to be widen to 6 lanes (3 north & 3 south)

 - Timberlake Road from Fenwick Drive to Brookville High School.

 - Maintaine current roadways better.

- I'm getting tired of the constant detours that effect my short trip to work. As soon as one is removed another takes it's place.

- Ditto above. Fifth street looks good but spread too thin....think Main St, Commerce, And Jefferson to get the most bang for your buck. Wards Road is done.....can't possibly need anything else. Encourage boutique business and a high end anchor store downtown. Also the downtown NEEDS a GROCERY STORE. Trader Joes??? YES

- Delaying the start of the Main and Sixth Street water run off / sewer changes are increasing the projected cost of AMT restoration by \$1.5 million a year. Pull the trigger and get it done !

Infrastructure – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- Some progress, yes, but the place looks like it's falling apart. Awful streets, shortage of sidewalks, derelict buildings, you name it. Take courage and raise taxes to meet the needs.
- High speed internet connections are exist, but they are not good. This must be encouraged, third world nations have better internet.
- I really appreciate the beautification efforts around town. The new street lights, new roundabouts, etc. are excellent!

Would like to see improvements made to the intersection of Old Forest Road and Lakeside Drive (near LC).

And, I would love to see sidewalks going from Lakeside Drive all the way up Old Forest Road. We have folks (walkers and those in wheelchairs) that would like to be able to travel the full length of Old Forest.

- don't understand the obsession with traffic circles in high traffic areas...I think some of these (Lakeside Dr) are disasters waiting to happen
- City infrastructure projects seem to take forever and have been going on for years!
- Thrilled with the results, especially 5th St. But why do these projects take so long?
- And why does it seem like a road section gets done, just to be torn open a month later?
- What is being done to mitigate gentrification on 5th Street or other areas where the City has invested in improvements? Many of the businesses and neighbors will be priced out in the next 5-10 years. How about some economic development programs for businesses that exist there? How about hiring City staff that have experience working in urban communities?
- wards road has to have service lane or something I avoid area like the plague
- Too many projects at the same time. This means that projects take far too long to be completed, disrupting traffic flow all over town.
- Lynchburg seems to learn nothing from history. In the 70s downtown was dying. Everyone complained about how difficult it was to drive and park downtown. The traffic was terrible and there was no free parking. The city fixed that with one way streets to make downtown less of a bottle neck, and they got rid of the parking meters. The downtown merchants wanted this to make downtown a less unpleasant place to visit. All that is forgotten. The merchants downtown now want the traffic slowed down, so drivers can look at their stores while they're driving, which doesn't make much sense and sounds dangerous. Making people pay to park can't possibly attract more people to downtown. If more parking is needed, rather than driving away people who don't want to pay for parking, the city should take the responsible action of turning some old dilapidated buildings into parking lots.
- Projects taking too long to complete, with a lot of work undone or cut out due to lack of planning/resources

Infrastructure – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- Not real keen on the midtown connector project. Not really sure if it is worth the time and expense. Infrastructure is going to need LOTS of attention and money over the next 2 decades. Would have rather used the midtown project money for bridges, water systems, and other areas showing significant wear.

- It is just awful, and it is not getting better.

- 5th st. looks nice but what good did it do? until some people are kept off the streets, other will not shop there

- Keep up the good work with streetscapes! It's worth the cost to make the city look more attractive.

- Rivermont- every storm drain has a dip in the road from one side to the other and the road is patched instead of smooth. Wards road lights should be better timed and more turn or earlier turn lanes. The lights on Old Forest drive near walmart are defaulted into the neighborhoods instead of along the main traffic artery of Old Forest Dr. The turn arrow instead of the straight-ahead green lights. The intersection of 221 and 501 at Billy Craft Honda is a mess.

- I think that when ever over-flow work is done that a long term look at those road ways should be considered and incorporated. How many times have the same roads downtown been dug up and repaved because there was not coordination between several different projects. Any anytime we can bury power lines we should be.

- The City is looking a lot better, I just wish some of these projects would move quicker. One small thing I've noticed I really like is the street lights that are hanging from wires being replaced by the metal poles, not sure if this is because of the City but I like it (they've done a few intersections by Fort Hill Village).

- More downtown development. Finish bluff walk--and keep the bluff walk clean! Weed surrounding flower beds. And please finish the construction on the waterfront park on Jefferson st!

- Why are all these projects being done at the same time?

- The quality of re-paved streets, measured in the smoothness of the pavement, especially after major construction work provides an opportunity to virtually begin street construction anew, is poor. Manhole covers are not flush with the surrounding pavement, rough spots are frequent and potholes and depressions often have developed shortly after completion.

Fifth Street lane markings force drivers to make extreme turns that intrude into the opposite lane. The left turn from Main Street to Fifth forces one to turn into the left turn lane for Church Street; if one's intent is to continue on Fifth Street, one is forced to cross a solid line.

- Job is on-going, necessary and costly. Good concern for change of traffic patterns

- When projects are finally completed it is great. But do multiple closures have to occur all at once?

- Much needed improvements but progressing way too slowly. Hopefully additional improvements will continue at a quicker pace. More roundabouts like the one on 5th Str. are a good idea.

Infrastructure – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- The whole city under construction. All at one time.

- No late night places for young people to go its like this a retirement home

- We don't get the opportunity to enjoy the improvements because construction/ repair takes way too long or as soon as we have a completion then another project is hindering us just down the road!

- Please add more shopping instead of restaurants

- Always detours and delays somewhere.

- It seems like any progress here takes a very long time.

- Need onramps to be lengthened to get on the highways. It is downright dangerous. I was almost killed last year because of the lack of onramps. This is a glaring problem that I hope is fully solved within the next 10 years.

- Road projects take forever in this city.

- Fifth Street is a pandemic drug market, open drug buys and a true ghetto, thanks for wasting our money Counsel. We are curse at by thug black people most of the time we ever walk that street, and yes I do carry a gun legally and will use it.

- Who benefits from the Fifth street project ?? exactly no one.. yep
Wards Road Bridge Rehabilitation - is this the Liberty Bridge that Liberty U paid for... City did not pay for this, so they cannot take credit for it. Do not know about last project.

- These extremely expensive projects made life harder for the majority of citizens who had to travel near them. They are of dubious long term benefit to the citizens of Lynchburg.They will continue to make life harder paying for them.

- Why did the Fifth Street work take so many years? Were the fancy brick inlays really necessary. Some items that are for the oh that's nice looking factor could have been left out and the money used in other areas.

- road and bridge construction seems to take too long. 3 years before the fort st bridge was fixed?

- Fifth Street Phase 2 completed. And how long did it take?

- Wonderful employees who plan and implement these phases of accomplishments for our city. Fifth Street is amazing with the beautification. Wards Road is so much easier to travel.

If I had one complaint it would be the time it takes for improvement and how too much construction happens at once making travel a little testy at times. Maybe concentrate on one area at a time to speed up completion and less obstacles throughout the city.

- 1. Fifth street is a mess and will be as long as the traffic circle remains. 2. The bridge work was long needed and much more of the same is needed all around town. 3. What is blue blazes is the Jame River Interceptor Division 3A?

Infrastructure – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- Sick of all of this construction around town. Langhorne Rd (between Miller Park and EC Glass) is especially frustrating.

I don't see a lot of benefit added to the community to the 5th St renovation or Wards Rd Bridge....

- The progress, or lack thereof, on the Mid-town Connector has been awful! Ditto the work on Harvard at CVCC.
- Wards Road.....Greenview Drive exit on 460...Fort Ave potholes
- NO ROUNDABOUTS !!!!!
- Nice improvements to many of the city street/infrastructure. These are very important improvements for the city.
- Still lots of construction going on. Not sure how the mid-town connector helps anything. Lots of roads needs repaving still. I feel the poor condition of existing roads has been put on hold while we work on projects that are unnecessary (the 5th street roundabout).
- This is the area that I get frustrated with! All projects were going on at the same time and it was very difficult to drive from point A to B without multiple closed streets, one lanes, mess, etc. I am sure down the pike the interceptor will help to improve traffic flow, etc, but it has taken way too long (weather has not been a good enough excuse). The most action I saw all year was in anticipation of the VA Ten Miler when things seemed to be whipped more into shape! My point is.scheduling/timing was a disaster.
- Instead of giant projects like Langhorn rd, how about making small improvements all across the board (sidewalks, lighting, street lines)?
- Blocking roads too much.
- Infrastructure progress? How can a city's infrastructure progress when this city can't even pick up the leaves from residential streets, or collect trash with a civilized & cost effective manner by adding a \$5 month garbage fee to its water, sewage & storm water bill? How can there by progress when this city still has no curb-side recycling program?? Take a drive through any residential street during this holiday season. You will notice the holiday decorations embarrassingly overshadowed by the leaves still piled up on the streets, side walks, and parking spaces.

Please stop patting yourselves on the back claiming infracstructure progress & take a look at the real problems.

- A good year. Congratulations. Looking forward to CSO complete and further progress on Wards Road and the cross town connector (sorry, not sure of the name.
- Any improvements on the water line that carries water from the Peddler Reservoir?;

The work on the Lower Bluff Walk is fantastic!

Infrastructure – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- I would like it to go quicker - more frequent updates to progress
-

- Crosstown Connector is taking too long.

If we want to be a healthy city, we need more sidewalks so that people can walk to more places and not have to take a car. Since a sidewalk has been added in front of my office on Old Forest Road, I see many people use it to go shopping.

Consider complete adding a sidewalk on the south side of Boonsboro Road between the 2 shopping centers (between Mimosa Drive and Kroger). Once this is done, citizens could walk all the way from James River Day School to the end of Main Street.

- Great!!!!!!'
 - These road projects are taking wayyyyyy too long. It seems that no matter where you go in Lynchburg there is road construction for a year-2 years. Quit trying to make everything pretty with roundabouts & fix the streets! Roundabouts may save a minute sitting at a light, but they are notorious for creating lots of fender benders. Every time you create one, I & many people I know adjust their driving patterns to avoid them! Please don't tear up the very heavily travelled Lakeside Road intersection by Lynchburg College for the next 2 years & install another pretty roundabout. That would be a nightmare with new students coming in each year.
-

- No mention of the Midtown Connector?
-

- LYH Has the worst reputation for construction. We, the citizens, welcome construction but why does construction in this city take double the amount of time than previously proposed? That work is 90% of time going to be delayed.

Campbell Ave is going to be reduced for non existent bicyclers. WHY? 4 lanes to 2 for bikes? WHY?

- Some of these projects have been painful for the city. The 5th Street project, for instance, destroyed the business investment of people I knew. We are still waiting for something to come fill the place where the Starlight Cafe used to be. We all know the city was not at fault for this, but it still touches emotions. This is part of the burden we bear trying to live with old infrastructure. I would like to see the city direct some of that start-up money towards 5th Street to restore what was lost.
- I am so tired of construction in Lynchburg! It seems I can't go anywhere without encountering some type of road work. I agree that all of these projects are necessary, but the timing of these projects could have been better since they are all happening at once.
- The Wards Ferry/Harvard St and MidTown projects have left a bad taste with the public. While the city is attempting to make improvements, the lack of public information and terse interactions with contractors are not helping. MidTown is much more than an inconvenience.

Infrastructure – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- You left off one of the most significant examples of progress in infrastructure, the new Heritage High school. The support given to this project by city council will reap benefits throughout the city and particularly in that part of the city.

- Consider making Main Street from 5th to 12 street a walking corridor such as the Charlottesville outdoor Mall. Naturally parking will begin being an issue and will take several years for this to occur, however, this would encourage more downtown businesses to stay open later with the foot traffic. It's a proven positive concept just by 'Get Downtown'.

- Wards Road

- Fifth Street took entirely too long, as is now the case with the cross-town connector. What happened to effective jobsite supervision?

- Keep it up.

- Great work on 5th

- I don't know what the inceptor division is. This is a great example of something that could be communicated better to Lynchburg citizens. Don't assume we know! What is phase 2 of fifth street? What was wrong with the Wards Road bridge?

- Continuing to replace old water pipes is a big priority -

Vents along the trail system make some of the trails unusable - particularly the paved trail between Blackwater at Hollins Mill and the electric substation near the end of Cabell street. The smells are obnoxious - (this also applies to the flat unpaved Creekside trail upstream from Hollins Mill.) I get the feeling that if I were to light a match, the whole place would light up like a methane torch!

- Progress and completion of the projects has been very slow

- What has been done is excellent ... but the remaining potholes are tearing up my automobile.

- How do these accomplishments compare to new needs? Have we discovered more issues than we've fixed?

- The expense and lengthy disruption of the Midtown Connector are of dubious merit. Improvements to the interchange between the expressway, Lakeside Drive (Rte 221), Old Forest Road, and the Doss extension (a major area of congestion) appear to have been foreclosed by the Fresh Market development.

- The projects take way too long.

- Sure wish it had all gone faster...

- Need to put more attention on sidewalks and low trees which hamper pedestrians.

- Fifth St: Took too long, cost too much.

Mid town connector also taking too long.

Infrastructure – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- Most people are not traveling on 5th St or Downtown enough to consider this a benefit. It's seen as a boondoggle- fancy crosswalks and roundabouts do not attract new business. The Langhorne road/park avenue work is another waste of money- is the traffic in that area so bad that we have to seize property and widen the street???!

How about fixing the 1950s era ramps on the expressway or address the congestion on Wards road.

-
- The roads are filled with potholes and cracks. The on and off ramps are prime property for accidents. The worst infrastructure I have ever seen in a city.
-
- There needs to be more transparency when it comes to construction projects in city. We love how our city is taking heed and trying its best to maintain it. The NUMBER 1 issue is the city takes forever for projects and the cause 90% of time is, oh we hit a gas line, have to push this back 6 months to a year. Although the City incorporated the park ave bridge into Midtown Connector, it took YEARS to replace a small bridge. Why does every project take so long? I understand delays but its EVERY project. Why doesn't the City do construction at night as well on some projects like up North?
-
- There always seems to be a huge infrastructure project that is being worked on. I suppose it is natural, but things just seem to take so long (i.e. 5th street and the sewer system replacement)

Land Use – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- City Council has been too reluctant to approve environmental easements with a view to keeping open opportunities for development. More balance is needed here.
- Need more sidewalks! I've never lived in a city with such few sidewalks and crosswalks.
- There is too much vacant land in the city, too many one level parking lots in downtown.
- This is a start, but it still seems that the city is behind and not ahead of what is needed in terms of current growth.
- The revision of the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Ordinance are major accomplishments! Congratulations!

Continue to concentrate higher density developments along major transportation corridors to facilitate access of residents to public transit (Transit-Oriented Development). Emphasize planning for the City's green infrastructure, to improve access of residents to natural spaces (parks, woodlands, streams), and to preserve the City's air and water quality.

- Jefferson is not complete....how long until music can be played in the park? The Bluff Walk need to be finished as well. People all over town consider downtown for entertainment and restaurants. Make it a magnet. Deal w potential for over crowded parking and institute the trolley for evenings. The Jefferson St & Bluff walk will be amazing! It will bring people to buy in the Burg. The building at the end of Jefferson (@ the train intersection)has been cordoned off.... Maybe it should be torn down for parking. It's almost the last building on Jeff St and parking will be an issue with additional restaurants and apt's. The saying build it and they will come fits this scenario, make the downtown a magical place....twinkle lights year around, music, banners that are hip, not colonial. This is a great little affordable town. People should be flocking here....businesses need to be invited to make their headquarters here, why not?
- Yes, many of these accomplishments were badly needed. Thank you!

The new GLTC Center is wonderful!

I would, however, like more information about the new Bluff Walk. It looks like it will be terrific, but will commercial space along the Walk be available for renting?

- riverfront should be utilized better. Outdoor concert venue would go great down there
- see comments above.
- The pedestrian bridge over Wards Rd. was obviously much needed. Locating the bus station across from the train station was a very good and logical idea. I am concerned about safety in that area though.
- No complaints. Doing as well as can be expected with the money that is available.
- Lynchburg needs a city owned Civic Center

Liberty U and Falwell use too much of the city's resources.

Land Use – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- MUST do a better job enforcing code regarding construction sites/runoff, etc. Need to cut way back on approving apartments/condos. They don't bring in the real estate tax revenue yet increase traffic, road use, etc. Do a better job encouraging use of existing buildings/homes, and stop allowing every speck of green space the city has left, to be built upon! And make better use/REQUIRE green technology in new construction-- ie: parking lots that clean up/absorb run off.
- Bike paths and pedestrian walkways across town, following right of way access of power lines/sewer lines would be a great benefit.

Make it easier for easements for quality of life type projects.

College Lake should be saved, it is in poor shape from neglect- it could be a beautiful spot for Lynchburg with walking trails etc.

- Lynchburg does a wonderful job with getting public comment. I do feel more could be done with regional cooperation. We need this if we are going to extend our bike trails or enhance development on both sides of the James River.

I am one who does not like sprawl and feel we should do more to enhance development with higher density. This only works if we have the transportation in place to meet the needs of the public.

- Post and advertise on the ABC 13 news app
- The GLTC Transfer Center is GREAT.
- Can't find another place to put this comment, so I'm putting it in this category: Why doesn't the city consider charging large, nonprofit institutions a services fee to help defray the costs of fire protection, police protection, infrastructure maintenance, etc., since they don't pay taxes? Us ordinary citizens are subsidizing these wonderful places and several of them do make plenty of money !
- GLTC Transfer Center was needed and helps a lot.
- Too much development in Ward III area. Water quality is impacted.
- Great progress. Keep up the good work!
- I believe there's too much politics involved with that. The only thing that has taken place on Campbell Ave near 460 is the traffic light !
- This is not a bike-friendly city as far as roads are concerned. Need more bike lanes than just a token area of Ward's Rd. I live within biking distance to LU but would be risking my life to try to bike to get there.
- Too much money is being spent to make things easier for the Liberty Students to access Wards Rd.

Land Use – Citizens’ Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- City Council members have not shown their interest in reducing the number of housing developments in the City's greenspaces (reducing forested areas needed to keep our City cool and causing ever growing storm water management issues that the next generation will burden) We still can claim we do not have ozone issues like surrounding cities; but will quickly change as we make more impervious areas and reducing our buffer zones. New constructions must have stronger restrictions or simply ethics in responsible development.
- Again, we need more emphasis on sustainability.
- Another easy ride for lazy EBT riders, raise prices and reduce taxes!
- Who cares about retail, pedestrians, and street improvements when you have rampant racial issues, HORRIBLE literacy problems, and NO jobs at all for educated trained people.
- The so called improvements on Jefferson and 12th St. are an abomination. Outrageously expensive materials and moronic planning. The idiotic use of parking spaces made into planters is probably the stupidest plan I have ever encountered. There should be a negative bubble to check.
- The GLTC Transfer Center is absolutely beautiful. What a great addition to that area of town.
- All I see is construction everywhere and no improvements worth mentioning. I look back to the Center concept along Langhorne Rd. and Memorial Ave. and see zero progress.
- The transfer center, the Wards Road Pedestrian, and Odd fellows Road project plans are a start. I would recommend you all explore options around improving the Lakeside Dr area.
- I appluaud the new GLTC Transfer Center.

Jefferson street seems to be taking forever.

- Stealing land through eminent domain for bicycle lanes/sidewalks on Wards Ferry Road is not progress.
- A lot of older shopping centers and buildings are empty. Lets find a way to fill them before we build more.
- Would like to see more focus on residential development (neighborhoods) not related to adding multi-family developments. Traffic has progressively gotten worse in areas of the city where townhomes and apartment complexes have been added, yet traffic patterns & lights seem to remain the same.
- Good progress. Appreciated the methodology for updating City zoning ordinances. Good participation and well facilitated. While I don't always agree with zoning decisions, I understand the rationale and support the careful analysis.
- Continue to root-out derelict properties.

Support investment in run-down neighborhoods.

- you are doing good structural reform which will help down the line

Land Use – Citizens’ Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- NO CAMPBELL AVE REDUCTION AT ALL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

- I am especially pleased about the city's focus on planning for density. Sprawl is wasteful of natural resources and very ugly. Lynchburg's unique value lies in its older, urban cityscape. No one loves Lynchburg for Wards Road. We love Lynchburg for Diamond Hill, 5th Street, Main Street, and the Riverfront. We love Lynchburg despite Wards Road and all the frenzy of American consumption and waste that it represents. Eventually, Wards will decay and disappear just like the Plaza has decayed, only the Plaza was probably all built with better materials and meant to last longer. Let us hope that future generations will not simply move the shopping centers and parking farther into the outskirts. Let us hope that they return to the city center and revitalize the infrastructure and cityscapes that make our place particularly valuable.

Is there any chance of the city making a study for a renewed streetcar system? That all-or-nothing bet on the automobile was a mistake, and we need a diversity of transport. How do the small cities of Germany invest in transport? They manage to run streetcars.

- Developments seem to be growing faster than infrastructure.

- My wife and I just recently relocated to Bedford County. We lived in the 02 area for 37 years, raised our children in Lynchburg and they attended Heritage High School. We moved because of all the apartments that have been built in our area with more on the horizon, and 03 can't get a cell tower approved! I see a huge disparity between the Rivermont side of town and the Timberlake area in how these areas are treated by the city. Cornerstone has overbuilt the number of units (1,000) that it was supposed to be capped at and now there are 280 apartments being built across from Wendy's. On the Rivermont side of the city, HumanKind cannot get their desired changes made which is miniscule compared to the changes we have seen in the Timberlake side of the city. There needs to be more equity in the building of apartments across the city.

- There needs to be some kind of an incentive for businesses to use existing downtown spaces instead of building up new ones. I think it would have made more sense for The Fresh Market to move into an empty warehouse downtown than it would to build a new structure that has clogged up an already busy intersection. I realize that it's often more expensive to renovate an existing structure and that ultimately it was up to The Fresh Market's corporate officers, but we are already battling significant urban sprawl and this needs to be addressed before it gets any worse.

- Why hasn't the city done something with Lakeside Drive. The County did a great job years ago making 221 four lanes and the city hasn't done anything. Look where the tax money is coming from and work on the roads that need it not some round about at Miller Park.

- I think you've done a good job with the Comprehensive Plan. Let's hope we see some real benefits, but again, without an economic shot in the arm, is it really going to be able to help us. Has anyone driven out Rivermont Avenue from downtown? The pavement is terrible! How

Land Use – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

can people get excited about keeping up their homes when the street looks neglected. When Bob Morrison was City Manager and we had a thriving economic environment, Rivermont Avenue got repaved every 4-5 years. Now it just looks terrible and makes for good business for people who replace worn out shock absorbers.

- I don't have any experience with the permitting, licensing and project management, but I have been impressed by the city's public feedback meetings throughout the process of writing the comprehensive plan. Again - I am fairly familiar with this area, but any average citizen would have no idea what lots of this means. This is poorly communicated.

The new transfer center is fabulous. I would love to see the city, in partnership with GLTC, offer a free ride day to orient non-regular bus riders to the system, even soliciting feedback on how to improve it.

Jefferson Street is wonderful. I would love to see this eventually become pedestrian only. I think it would make it a hub for cultural activity and nightlife.

- Some of the ideas you've adopted are not an improvement.
- The early involvement of the planning department in developing projects is most helpful.
- I agree with moderization and leveraging technology.

Do we have enough industry on mayflower drive to support the odd fellows rd and Campbell ave improvements? Will this attract more business? Again, the 1950s era expressway, with its short ramps and low bridges are contributing to the residual costs of other projects.

- The Campbell Ave/Odd Fellows project seems VERY ill planned on the Campbell Ave part. No one hardly bikes on Campbell Ave why bike lanes? Traffic at 5-6pm goes from light at BK to Citgo. Reducing lanes to 2 will be the worst decision ever. I could definitely see your point if cyclists and runners were existent on this stretch but theyre not. The gateway into city is FINE on Campbell Ave. Dont fix something thats not broken.
- This city loses electricity more often than any place I've ever lived--and that includes an island with no bridge. Why is the city not working with AP to out more lines underground every time there is toad work done? Why is there not more aggressive tree work done along major city roads ?
- The work on the GLTC Transfer Center and area access has been great!

Lifelong Learning – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- WOW! We got the Children's Reading Room. That is one of the most encouraging projects we conceived, implemented, and are heading towards fruition in a timely manner.
- The collapse of regional library cooperation was a disappointment.

More is needed to spread the efforts for career and workforce development.

- Libraries in town seem like forgotten relics. Not sure how we make them more relevant.
- This is one of our strongest areas. We're doing really good things.

I wished that more retirees got involved in volunteering at the public schools to provide one-to-one tutoring. So many of our students need intensive assistance. Teachers can't do it alone. Maybe someone could work to enhance the volunteering opportunities in schools.

- Is there more potential to work with programming efforts through the many local colleges?
- Here it is up to citizens to take advantage of many of these opportunities!
- Need a much more coordinated approach, with a focus on elevating vocational careers and encouraging entrepreneurship.
- The Main Library is going to have a brand new children's section and a woefully inadequate adult section. The rug is disgusting at the Library. Hire full-time or part-time grant writer to secure more funding for programming and community collaborations.
- Since youth and libraries are mentioned, maybe I could mention that it has always bothered me that some kids have more of an educational advantage than others. Some kids have easy access to the internet and all of its educational benefits at home. Other families can't afford Internet access or even a computer. Many older kids can't afford the transportation to where they can access a computer or the Internet. I believe the city has made progress in this area, and non profits organizations have done a lot as well. I'd to see the city try to level the playing field more, or at least do more to encourage more support from non profit organizations. Providing students with Chrome Books definitely is a step in the right direction.
- No complaints or comments.
- I think a bigger push to expand the regional library system should have been undertaken. Partnerships with the college's in town for both education, art/culture, could be undertaken to bring more exposure to more of our city's youth.
- Do not understand what the EDGE program has to do with offering citizens lifelong learning. I mean, I guess it's great for the employees.

Need to expand the number of computers available for public use -- and have centers around the city, not just the few in the library.

Support the Parks and Rec Department with funding more programs and classes. That department is always the first to lose funding from the city during budget cuts.

Lifelong Learning – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- Schools' performance is missing. What have been the accomplishments of our formal educational system which involves thousands of our young citizens?
- These seem like worthwhile endeavors but I do not know much about them.
- Main Library neighborhood is high-crime area.
- I think use of the library is fantastic. Education and literacy is the way to upward social mobility.
- These efforts mostly help city employees, which is great, but need to expand opportunities to our poverty-stricken citizens.
- not aware of any of this
- I watch lazy non job seeking free loaders lay around the libraries all day surfing the web send down loading rap songs, never even touch or check out a book ever, these should be closed.
- Lifelong learning ? NOT I was the ONLY adult that graduated at CVCC in the past year. Yes the ONLY 50 year old student. I took a double load for three semesters and was kicked off campus due to on going conflicts with staff in regard to adult education programs. Who audits their funds... they used \$220,000 in state scholarship money that was allocated for Veteran scholarships to renovate two buildings... The CVCC Foundation also has 3 state employees, and several on campus people running a side non profit 501C company. When they had a surplus of \$100,000 in 2013 instead of using this money for scholarships they decided to keep it instead. Then wrote letters to everyone that applied to for the scholarships and said they ran out of money.

Public Professional certificates are worthless unless issued by a educational authority. Self generated certificates handed to employees are a waste of time and efforts. They are completely meaningless.

With the literacy rate so low. 90% of the library patrons are going there to get warm, take a nap, beg for food, or even chat with friends. I tend to question how effective ANY program is when you cannot even get rid of the vagrants that are just hanging out...

- classes and activities for those over 50 are only during the day. people still work until 65. how about activities on weekends and evenings (and by evening I mean after 6:00 pm)
- I'm not satisfied with the progress of the city schools the past couple of years. Leadership under Dr. Brabrand has only shown a decrease in the achievement of our students. School divisions that look like us are out performing LCS, such as Roanoke. In fact, Roanoke has even more challenges. Hiring someone who has never dealt with demographics that exist in our city was a mistake. Lynchburg looks a lot different than Fairfax. Our students can be successful with someone who knows the struggles of Lynchburg students. Hopefully, he will move on soon before things get worse. He's not the answer.

Lifelong Learning – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- EDGE is a joke....Waste of taxpayer money...Majority of employees hate it and only completed because they are being forced (raises, etc...). Employees talk about what a waste of time it is and that it is all about political correctness. In one class the instructor began a lengthy and aggressive attack on Christians and Christian values, mocking and making fun of them. Some in the audience encouraged the dialogue. Those feeling attacked felt there was no recourse because it would place their job in jeopardy. More Obama propaganda and we the citizens had to fund it. Whoever came up with this idea should be fired.

White males in the city employment do not have an easy and equal opportunity of moving up. On the other hand two WOMEN were able to skip the competitive hiring process (applying, interviewing, etc..) that is standard rhetoric and part of the employee policy and procedure manual, and move right to the head of the line. Director of Public Works and Director of Emergency Services. Must be nice.

Much unhappiness among the city employees... Please concentrate on that.

- What have the partnerships between the City and other organizations done to promote lifelong learning? Just stating you have a partnership doesn't tell me anything.
- Would like to see more focus on meaningful experiences at the elementary school level to explore expanded career possibilities and introducing the idea of college at a young age. Schools could plan field trips to the local colleges. Tell success stories of local people who went to their schools and furthered their education/experience to become successful.
- Learning is key and I am glad to see it being promoted to both young and old.
- My rating is only because I am not that familiar with Lifelong Learning activities in the City. This has made me more aware.
- A lot of this is news to me. We need more publicity.

Anything planned for Senior Citizens?

- Should not be a function of government nor a burden to tax payers.
- I would like to see something more specific around the city's partnership with Lynchburg City Schools in this area

Funding the new Heritage High School is a major accomplishment that will promote K-12 learning in LYH

- Bring back Book Mobiles.
- Keep up the good work!!
- It's very exciting to hear about the expansion of library programs! Libraries can foster personal and professional growth and I'm very happy to hear that more people are using them.

Lifelong Learning – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- Would the EDGE program be something that would apply to Lynchburg City School employees? I am thinking this might be good for support personnel, such as maintenance, custodial, secretaries, etc.
- Again, focus more efforts in our under educated in the community. Increasing the educational opportunities for those students slipping through the cracks and providing job training and partnerships with major industries in the area for those adults so they may rise to the next level and be self-sufficient.
- The EDGE classes are mostly a waste of time and resources. Only few have been somewhat helpful or interesting. Many people think this whole program was developed mainly to preserve/create the jobs of a few city HR employees.
- Where are the metrics? Has it made any real difference?
- Again, I don't know what lifelong learning is. How is a citizen supposed to evaluate this? Should we know what the EDGE program is?
- Fine, but it seems like the high dropout rate among African American males guarantees the need for lifelong learning, since these young men seem to be reluctant to engage their minds. The dropout rate is truly embarrassing.

One of the problems with young people and education is culture: a culture that doesn't value education is a culture that is going to be a permanent underclass. That culture begins with under-educated mothers that don't communicate with their toddlers, who end up in early classes hopelessly behind. No child should be behind in Kindergarten! And all Headstart does is teach kids how to be shouted at, which doesn't translate to a modern classroom. While this is not necessarily a government problem, it ends up becoming one.

- I hope the City is taking advantage of the wealth of higher educational resources available right here. And I wish the City w/could partner with the newspaper to broadcast the good news as well as the less-than-good.
- Never heard of this before.
- Involve library in additional workforce development
- What are the metrics by which progress in workforce development are measured? Do major employers have unmet needs, and are impoverished sections seeing improvement in employment?
- Have very little knowledge related to the starting point is the area of Lifelong Learning; thus no basis to respond to this pillar.

Natural and Environmental Resources – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- More effort needed to address stream runoffs and restore College Lake,.
- Still can smell sewage at times when I'm out running on the black water trail.
- A city of our size still lacking curbside single stream recycling is embarrassing! Particularly when we also have landfill challenges. Why are missing the big picture. We have lived in other southern cities where recycling is not only mandatory, but trash pickup is refused is it contains recyclable material. Why are we so slow in this regard? It makes us look really behind the times to potential residents!
- Partner with environmental science faculty at local colleges in developing the Chesapeake Bay Foundation outreach and education plan.
- We're definitely moving in the right direction. This is one of those areas that can always use more...
- The city buses I see, seem to run mostly empty. Are we working toward using smaller vehicles that have a smaller carbon footprint? More long term parking spaces at Amtrack Station would be helpful. It's great to see how popular our use of the service is.
- Environmental concerns in Dearington and more than likely in other poorer neighborhoods in Lynchburg are not pro-actively being addressed How about educational opportunities for these neighborhoods to better inform residents of environmental issues and how to address them?
- Even though the combined sewer overflow project has been a real pain, I think it's necessary so that we don't dump raw sewage within out city. Besides the obvious health problems, just the thought of it is so repulsive. I would like to walk along the Blackwater Creek tail without smelling sewage after a rainfall.
- No complaints or concerns. If CSO is part of this, I'm OK with the progress.
- Little emphasis or leadership.
- Same comment as above: MUST do a better job enforcing code regarding construction sites/runoff, etc. Need to cut way back on approving apartments/condos. They don't bring in the real estate tax revenue yet increase traffic, road use, etc. Do a better job encouraging use of existing buildings/homes, and stop allowing every speck of green space the city has left, to be built upon! And make better use/REQUIRE green technology in new construction-- ie: parking lots that clean up/absorb run off.
- There needs to be more education and support for environmental issues...Many citizens think this is not important at all, or publicly oppose these measures.
- City is concerned about Natural and Environmental resources. I'll be curious to know the decision about the College Lake/ Dam. The city keeps us well informed of issues and meetings. Good on transparency
- Wonderful!

Natural and Environmental Resources – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- Charging me a fee because I have a roof and a driveway--that's progress? Should I put holes in my roof so it's not an impermeable surface?
- I haven't seen any efforts to improve the water quality here at all. The water from our tap smells horrible and tastes disgusting. It leaves a slimy film on our skin in the shower.

Lynchburg should make recycling mandatory as many other community's have. Limit the amount of trash people are allowed to dispose of every week.

Give perks for people bringing their own bags to go shopping with.

- Education of Lynchburg's natural resources is chronically lagging behind the wheel of progress. The Water Department's efforts to educate homeowners about the City's storm waters problems is anemic, with just one person seeking out the public. James River Association is and can be further utilized as a valuable asset to education of local natural resources. The City should take advantage of the local non-profit groups such as JRA and other local environmental educators to spread the word of the City's commitment to protect our natural resources.
- We can do so much more to limit our wasteful use of fossil fuels and start using alternatives.
- seniors need free help with the river heroes program on their property. how are you recognizing property owners efforts?
- LEED certification is NO good unless utility bills are compared with comparable buildings in other areas...

Water issues are NOT addressed. Many companies are still dumping into the James river and this has NEVER been addressed.

Are you kidding me.. River Hero Homes when owners do the work and the city does not pay, this is a good thing ??

- the transfer center: did you know that all the cities where I rode the bus allowed transfers between any 2 buslines that were within 2 blocks of each other? they don't send everybody downtown to get on another bus to go back uptown. it takes me 7 minutes to drive to work, but it would take over an hour by bus because I have to go all the way downtown to change buses and then back again. I would gladly ride the bus if it didn't take too long. oh, also, the last bus from near my job leaves at 5 and I get off at five and can't make it to the bus stop in time to catch it. if you planned your routes and times around peoples' work places and times, you could increase ridership
- Good so far, but much more is needed.
- Still concerned about the train tracks running by the river after the derailment, not sure enough focus has been put on ensuring this never happens again.

Natural and Environmental Resources – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- None of these programs has affected my quality of life living and working in the city. All I have seen is a money grab out of my water and sewer bill in the name of sewer/water runoff.
- Please continue to be considerate of green spaces and the resources that make this area naturally beautiful. However, please do not overtax or overburden homeowners with unrealistic standards for stormwater leaving their property.
- While the city is making progress, streams such as Blackwater Creek remain in jeopardy because of sedimentation and some types of pollution, runoff remains an issue, and I believe the stormwater management system is too restrictive in its desire for excellent outcomes. For instance, I employ rain barrels at my home. I use the water as needed. I also want to remove my asphalt driveway, changing it to gravel. Yet, I cannot reduce my stormwater management fee on my property because I won't put in drains or turn over the water in my rain barrels within a certain period of time. What I am doing helps and I believe the City should encourage it. Yet, the system does not. You can see the issue. Lynchburg is fortunate; we are a relatively environmentally solid city. Let's publicize and encourage this.
- It's time to decide what to do with College Lake. Every heavy rain washes tons of mud into Blackwater Creek, and eventually into the James River.
- I believe public transit and the stormwater programs are examples of government over-reach.
- Some of this not be a function of government nor a burden to tax payers
- Way to go!
- Reducing the pollution of the James is very important. The city's efforts here are noble, but the problem stems from a breakdown in social responsibility. Search the backyards just off of Rivermont Avenue and you will find great quantities of garbage sitting just under the latest layer of leaves. You will also find an alarming number of oil cans and anti-freeze containers. I would love to see a neighborhood specific cleanup program. This is better than a city-wide focus because some neighborhoods will field ready volunteers and others are not as concerned. As a former renter alongside such garbage, I can testify that it is nearly impossible to clean up this sort of mess without access to a dumpster. A city-sponsored dumpster with a neighborhood-specific focus is a small investment that could result in significant progress.

I think a city government built on representation from the various wards of the city could be a basis of leadership in city beautification and waste cleanup in the wards afflicted with waste problems. The current arrangement of at-large representation makes each council member responsible in a vague sense for the entire city. This work needs neighborhood leadership with a vision for improving the landscape of specific places around the city. It is more difficult to imagine at-large representatives leading and organizing neighborhood efforts, as they are not as aware of neighborhood needs. Geographical representation versus at-large representation is a pet peeve of mine, but this seems to me a local issue where council members have opportunity to lead the community in a visceral and positive way.

Natural and Environmental Resources – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- How are our stormwater fees actually being used?
- I have been very impressed with the city's Water Resources department and their efforts with storm water issues.
- Mandatory recycling for everyone.

Creating programs is always a good idea, but what are we doing about addressing that another spill does not occur in our town?

Increase bus efficiency, both in sizes of the buses and routes of the buses.

- The GLTC transfer center is very nice. The other two bullets? Please. Sounds marginally good, but has it really made a difference?
- As a swimmer who is comfortable swimming in the James River at Snowden, it's an embarrassment that source pollution from Blackwater creek is still an issue, with all the work and money that's been thrown at it. Might be cheaper just to set up a water treatment facility in substations along the creek at various intervals! While that is not a completely feasible project, it is done in some European countries. People should be able to swim in the James in Lynchburg without fear of E. Coli and Hep C.
- Greater visibility and engagement with improving James River is desirable; disappointing that Lynchburg College Lake has fallen to state of 'no return'
- You need a no opinion on these answers.

Also, I don't think you can give much credence to the results of this survey. How unbiased is a survey that lists your perceived accomplishments then asks the reader to agree that you've accomplished something. The survey design should be reconsidered in order to get accurate results.

This seems like a waste of tax dollars in order to give government officials an occasion to pat themselves on the back and brag about how well they doing.

- What is being done to improve the Blackwater Creek watershed and save College Lake? How is the city (both public and private sectors) addressing new stormwater management requirements? Your listed accomplishments seem trivial.
- City has far too much trash in neighborhoods, especially in less affluent areas. Consider creating a Litter Coordinator or similar position to coordinate volunteer and paid efforts. Litter hurts prospective businesses, property values, and can be unhealthy.
- I hope that these kinds of initiatives will continue

Neighborhoods – Citizens’ Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- At some places the designated bike lane just disappears and the bikers are left to fend for themselves against vehicle traffic - a dangerous situation. Rivermont Avenue heading west just prior to Miles Market is one example.
- These are true accomplishments but the necessity to spread opportunities to all neighborhoods remains a challenge. The attempts to retrofit bike lanes may not really accomplish the goal.
- Bike lanes good but we need so many more to make this a bike friendly city!!!
- More sidewalks please and cross walks.
- Still lacking sidewalks in vital areas, like VES road!
- I'm NOT a fan of the Bike lanes. It might help if Bikes followed the traffic rules.
- Continue to implement the Complete Streets program to improve the bicycle path network and improve accessibility.

Continue to support and collaborate with neighborhood organizations to promote active engagement of citizens in local government decisions.

- Hard to judge...I don't know much about these initiatives.

Do we know if the bike lanes are working? Are more people biking?

- Much more needs to be done in many more neighborhoods throughout the city.
- Is there any funding to implement the Tinbridge Neighborhood Plan? Has the quality of life for residents in Tinbridge Hill increased with the work there? Are more neighborhood leaders being created or are organizations and groups that don't live in the neighborhood leading it? Is there equality of voice established? How is it going to be sustainable if social and economic capacity within the neighborhood isn't built or will the work continue to be dependent on outside organizations rather than building capacity in the neighborhood? Neighborhood centers have been on the chopping block for the last 3 years when they make up a small part of the City budget. More should be done to engage residents in identifying what kind of programming goes on in each Center. Make residents a part of the hiring process for neighborhood centers that's how you build trust and social capital. However, this can't be done without adequate funding.
- After spending tens of thousands of dollars on the mid-town study, absolutely nothing has been accomplished. You can't even replace a tree downed by a car over 6 months ago. The bike lanes are a waste. My experience is that the bikes are everywhere and the pavement is not wide enough for one lane, on-street parking, and a bike lane. Give it up.
- After spending tens of thousands of dollars on the mid-town study, absolutely nothing has been accomplished. You can't even replace a tree downed by a car over 6 months ago. The bike lanes are a waste. My experience is that the bikes are everywhere and the pavement is not wide enough for one lane, on-street parking, and a bike lane. Give it up.

Neighborhoods – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- More bike lanes. Great idea! We need more of them.
- Bike lanes that do not line up and are not present in dangerous curves/continuous really serve no purpose.
- Would like to see additional neighborhood improvements. Esp. with alternative transportation. And, more developed neighborhood plans.
- Would love to see some neighborhoods that aren't downtown get some attention.
- Cannot walk in this town, no sidewalks in majority. No concepts of neighborhoods outside of downtown.
- do not know anything on this, so can not rate it.
- More bike lanes.
- I feel that with the completion of the Cross Town Connector we should be looking to see how the Miller Park and Campbell Avenue areas can be enhanced.
- I am unsure what Neighborhood progress means. Are neighborhoods more important than undefined areas?

I do think the Boonsboro neighborhood gets preference over other neighborhoods sometimes.

- Only 1 specific neighborhood?
- Glad that city has concern for Bike traffic but I think the bike lanes are poorly conceived, for both bikers and automobiles at least on Rivermont.

What are those yellow poles doing sticking up from the ground unexpectedly on 5t Street (and may be elsewhere)

- Too many apartments going up in the west side
- Enhancing our neighborhoods is essential for our citizens. Continued progress has occurred and I hope it will continue. We need more bike lanes on city streets. We also need additional bike paths such as Blackwater Creek Trail. These are tourist attractions that also promote healthy lifestyles.
- I'm not sure what the zoning requirements are, but our neighborhood has had nothing but issues with the new owners of The Yellow Sub. I don't know why they were permitted to build an outdoor area for outdoor music when they are yards away from houses. We have had to call the police several times, who have been helpful when they were able. Our neighborhood is very quiet with small families and elderly. This should be put to a stop and I feel has been neglected with whatever permits they were given to do this.
- The Campbell Avenue near the trailer parks could use sidewalks to accommodate at least the children walking the neighborhood!
- I don't live in those neighborhoods.

Neighborhoods – Citizens’ Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- The cyclists here are so rude and block the streets riding several people across. I thought the bike lanes would improve this, but they seem to have made things worse. How about issuing some tickets to the bike riders who don't obey the laws of the road? If people driving cars behaved like this they would lose their licenses.

-
- Awesome!

-
- seems criminal putting all that money in that one neighborhood; what are you doing for other neighborhoods that don't have sidewalks at all, dilapidated streets and lack essential services like timely removal of dead animals, bulk trash removal and are not organized or have representation in a neighborhood association. any plan to provide assistance to help other neighborhoods acquire friends who are city department heads, supervisors and the like. the inner city neighborhoods except Tinbridge are not getting a fair share of the pie -- mostly, no pie at all, and their needs seem to be greatest in all areas - infrastructure, education, training, jobs, recreational facilities, activities, programming, etc

-
- I question the intent on this. Bike plan is worthless. Under VA laws, ALL cyclists have to have a slow moving vehicle sign on their back, specific lights, and even insurance for their Bicycles. This is why none of this has been used.

Just ONE stop by a cop - if you do NOT have ALL of this it is a criminal offense, that has 1 year in jail and a criminal charge on your record.

Disability access is good, but how many people in that area are REALLY disabled ?? This needs to be addressed MUCH better

-
- I would rate better trash cleanup and maintenance of sidewalks as better progress. have not seen a single person in any of the new bike lanes. helping low income people repair and paint their houses would be progress in neighborhoods. once again, you go for recreation instead of everyday life

-
- No progress for majority of citizens.

-
- Bike lanes not a good use of funds

-
- Put a traffic light on Wards ferry and Atlanta.

-
- We need more bike lanes in areas of town where bikes are prevalent. I ride my bike regularly, however, the bike lanes are not in areas that are popular or safe to ride. Bike lanes in the Fort Hill / Perrymont area would be helpful, as there is no way to safely commute outside of this major suburb.

-
- Seeing the bike lanes on some of the city streets is a good start to removing safety concerns for those choosing to use bikes as a mode of transportation. I do not use a bike for cross city travel, but am very concerned for their safety especially when bikers use those streets with speed limits that can not be obtained safely on a bike. More bike lanes needed.

-
- City needs to address the spreading blight problem. Get tough on property owners who create the problem. Use public media to highlight this issue and create pressure on those who ignore

Neighborhoods – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

the law. Clearly, the issue of property blight is spreading throughout areas other than 03. All neighborhoods are important to the City's well being. I live in an historic district where numerous houses with code violations have been ignored by the city.

Develop a campaign to create citizen awareness and foster community pride in neighborhoods. This problem cannot be solved by the City alone. Citizens need to be encouraged to take ownership of the problem. The City must provide the leadership and put more demanding laws on the books.

-
- City officials could have more of a presence throughout the city. Perhaps neighborhood town halls could be held, and not just around election time.
-
- The Bike lanes are nice, but...I've never seen anybody use them in the areas that they are in. If we're going to have bike lanes, we need more than just a few randomly placed throughout the city.
-
- Not happy spending so much of our tax money on the small volume of bicycle riders.
-
- Most not be a function of government nor a burden to tax payers. Only ADA components.
-
- Good work here!
-
- NO BIKE LANES ON CAMPBELL AVE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
-
- The bike lanes are a highly encouraging investment! This helps city density, encourages better stewardship of our natural resources, and offers better alternative transportation! Please continue this programs!
-
- I think the installation of bike lanes is a wonderful idea. That said, these projects also need to include community education for both those who are using them as bikers and for drivers in the areas. Not everyone knows about the three feet of space you need to keep between a vehicle and a cyclist. People are also probably not aware of the importance of checking your sideview mirrors on the driver's side before opening your door to make sure there isn't a cyclist coming. Being bike friendly means not only providing bike lanes and marketing our city as bike friendly, but also making sure that cyclists know how to use them and that drivers know how cyclists use them.
-
- Would like to see continued progress with the bike plan. It would be good to see this expanded out from the inner city to neighborhoods on the perimeter of the city.
-
- Yes, these are accomplishments, but we need to address the needs of our poorest communities with regard to food accessibility. There are several non-profits addressing these issues, but what about the city? We need grocery stores in these food deserts. I cannot understand why Wal-Mart is building these mini stores in areas that are already served when we have communities in our city that rely on convenience stores for a majority of their food purchases. We have many elderly that struggle to get to the store, sometimes a 2 hour trip by bus each way, and can only purchase what they can carry.
-
- Abandoned properties in neighborhoods need to be demolished and illegal dump sites cleaned up around the city.

Neighborhoods – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- There could be more done with the Neighborhoods. The community centers are under-utilized. There could be some sort of partnership established to cleanup neighborhoods especially those surrounding downtown revitalization (Rivermont, White Rock Hill, and College Hill). Having cleaner, and of course safer, neighborhoods could attract more small businesses.

- Here we go again. Has anyone driven through Tinbridge lately? I drove down there two weeks ago. Very sad. What did all that time, effort and money by so many people really accomplish?

The bike lanes? Inconsistent, poorly placed lanes that force traffic too close to the centerline. The lines are poorly drawn...looks like whoever was driving the paint truck had a problem or little training and experience. Those roads were never designed for two bike lanes. Surely you can find a better method.

- All neighborhoods need to be included in initiatives like these.
- Great job. How is the city soliciting feedback from neighborhoods? Are any coalitions building among neighbors? How can the city empower citizens to get to know their neighbors?

- Lynchburg City Government does a great job of maintaining and preserving this city. Lots of people probably do not fully appreciate that the private sector is all about readily measurable financial ROI. The really tough work is funding those projects whose ROI is less measurable in dollars and cents. Not really much use in having a vibrant private sector effort on the 'next big things' if you cannot keep up those parts of the city subject to decay. Bravo Lynchburg!!!!

- Our neighborhood has improved, but I give most of the credit to the LPD for that, and some credit to better landlords who don't tolerate trashy people.

- The bike lane markings are ridiculous! The lanes are discontinuous at intersections and in narrow roadways, possibly increasing hazards to bikers.

- More bike paths needed

Safe Community – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- Justified praise for addressing issues regarding parks and redressing the effects of untoward comments by some Council members. I am very concerned about the youth and inexperience of many members of the public safety officers. This is not a matter of techniques and law but a cultivation of the heart and a centering that only maturity can bring. We (=the city) have hired a group of very young people to serve in demanding and often dangerous jobs. I am not sure that these younger officers (both police and fire) receive ongoing tempering that is needed. LYH should be a standard in teaching police officers non-violent means of averting conflict and subduing suspects. (e.g., Aikido) The marked difference between the make-up of the police and fire departments and those they serve cries out for scrutiny and response.

- Is the fire department staffing at a level that they never have to put an engine or truck company out of service because they don't have enough personnel on duty to staff every unit? Until the answer to that question is Yes, you have not made significant progress in Safe Community. It has been established that eight engine companies and two ladder companies (really should be three) are required to provide adequate fire protection coverage for the city. Reducing that coverage simply because the city is not willing to provide adequate staffing for the fire department is inexcusable.

- There should be more programs and events to engage the youth of the city

- Continue to support and collaborate with neighborhood organizations to promote active engagement of citizens in local government decisions.

- We have tremendously professional Police and Fire Departments, but school teachers are still sort of in limbo, neither local nor state employees. A safe community begins with the education of our youth and education, despite millions being spent on a new school (thanks for that-it is looonnggg overdue), our schools are underfunded and massively understaffed.

- Need to keep Street lights in neighborhoods working by nocturnal checks.

Light at Northwood Circle and Fieldale has been out for six weeks !!

- I don't know much about these programs.

- In the wake of the multiple situations/tensions across the country regarding policing, I worry our officers may become targeted as others recently have been. Please focus on continued community involvement with officers and residents.

- Lynchburg continues to be a safe community. Crime is pretty low. However, there is still a trust issue with police and poorer neighborhoods especially when there is excessive force. How about establishing a police citizens advisory board with power to review citizen complaints and provide accountability and input on initiatives?

- Neighborhood watches are a great idea. This might not be the proper forum, but I think school resource officers are very important. We need the kids to grow up thinking of the police as a source of help and support. We need them to see the positive side of the police. Some kids are actually taught in their homes that the police are not to be trusted. The only park near me with park benches is Riverside Park, but they're only around the play areas. Not

Safe Community – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

all people wanting to sit in the park want to watch kids. Sometimes it's nice to just be able to sit in a peaceful park and relax. More benches might be a good idea.

- As long as LFD medic personnel are responding to first-aid calls, non-emergency transports, and people with flu-like symptoms, I will not be satisfied with the waste of money and personnel. Our highly trained LFD staff should not be responding to these types of calls. Have Chief Ferguson show you how many staff hours are wasted on non-emergency calls.
- Look at the train derailement to see how un prepared we are. To say nothing of a bio terrorism event, even a flu epidemic.
- I am President of a neighborhood watch and feel that this program has been great. Steven Wood gives us up-to-date information that is timely and beneficial. On a different note, if you were the parent of a child that was attending a Lychburg School when they had a bomb threat you may think differently. Before this event took place the Dunbar PTO was discussing how we would have to get money for additional walkie talkies for emergencies. Personally, I do not feel it is the responsibility for the PTO to finance student security, but we were.
- A safe community also means active support and FUNDS (salaries) for our police, fire, and EMT personnel. They are not paid enough for the jobs they do.
- We have a very active neighborhood watch and a great captain. I feel that we are doing well in term of emergency preparedness
- I have reported some drug activity that happens in our neighborhood, but it doesn't seem like anything has been done about it. There continues to be a lot of traffic that appears drug related. It keeps us from feeling completely safe with hat going on so close to our house.
- Great job on all above. We have a professional and capable Emergency Service program. More community participation in Neighborhood Watches equals less crime and problems in the neighborhoods.
- I'm not sure what the zoning requirements are, but our neighborhood has had nothing but issues with the new owners of The Yellow Sub. I don't know why there permitted to build and outdoor area for outdoor music when they are yards away from houses. We have had to call the police several times, who have been helpful when they were able. Our neighborhood is very quiet with small families and elderly. This should be put to a stop and I feel has been neglected with whatever permits they were given to do this. Regarding safety specifically the liquor license is unacceptable when there are small children so close to this establishment. Their parking lot is in our backyard basically. It does not feel as safe in our neighborhood as it was before the new owners took over.
- There have been 2 shootings close to our neighborhood recently (Toppers & Sakura), not to mention others. Not progress in safety. And how about the oil derailment? Only the grace of God that lives were nor lost.
- The parks are NOT safe for a woman to walk in without an escort.
- Crime is out the roof and quite violent here. This is a major problem in our community. It is higher than the national average. The police need to be tougher.

Safe Community – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- The City has done a commendable job with the VDEM and creating neighborhood watches, however, positive community engagement within City parks is still practically non-existent. One cannot even find results from such activities in local media or online.
- Until we tackle poverty in a more comprehensive way, we will have a problem.
- any chance you can get multiple city departments to collaborate to promote a positive environment and positive engagement within inner city neighborhood centers?
- It should be painfully obvious to anyone with even a pea brain that we do NOT have enough Lynchburg cops, patrolling the streets.

Neighborhood watch, can only report, they have no ability to take action at all. So if someone gets killed all they can do is just say they saw it... that is all.

City Parks are worthless if the people using them are not educated... Schools should be #1 priority, not 10th or 20th on the list

- The community safety seems to be moving backward to a time where you didn't dare go into the city out of fear of shootings. We have been back in Lynchburg for a few years and the crimes seem to be increasing.
- still quite a few assaults listed in the paper. I don't feel safe
- Never felt safer in the City. Police presence is out as well as respond time has been improved.

The response of the emergency services during this past year's train derailment was exceptional and very reassuring to know a catastrophe such as this was handled in a top notch manner

- More shootings than ever. Gang activity is everywhere: vandalism, robbery, drugs
- While I don't, personally, feel unsafe in Lynchburg, I am VERY TROUBLED by the increase in the number of shootings in our city this year!
- Thank you to our fire, rescue and police for the job that they do. The city parks are still unsafe but that is not their fault. It is life.
- The Emergency Management in the city is top notch. Increase in NW is valuable. Every neighborhood should care what happens within their community. That is the first line of defense.
- Curfew needs to be set for the under 18 age group, with exceptions for work. The conversation needs to be had with police and juvenile services because enforcement of the curfew would mainly fall on these two groups, Parents and children should be held accountable.
- The new Disaster-Warning System is certainly a positive step. Maybe we'll see it in operation this winter.

Safe Community – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- Lynchburg is riddled with crime, but the public as well as our leaders seem to think we have safe communities.

-
- My car was broken into twice before I installed motion sensor floodlights in my driveway. Sometimes it seems like people must walk down the street every night looking for unlocked cars. We have a Neighborhood Watch group in my area and it may help a little but my neighbor's car was broken into last night.

-
- I live downtown and own my home in an historical district. There IS NOT enough police presence in the downtown area and there is quite a bit of drug related crimes taking place as well as robberies. I have met with police officers at neighborhood assoc. meetings and one officer admitted that he tells people not to live downtown because of the crime.

I have been told there is a lack of funding for the police department and I know there is a shockingly small number of police officers on the force. We have to face this issue and work it out. I have been told you are working on it but I don't know how much progress is being made.

If you want to improve downtown then you must make it safe so that people will come and keep coming back.

-
- Excellent work more neighborhood watches needed
-
- Some of my only interaction with city officials has been through neighborhood watch programs. I am very supportive of the city's engagement with community security. Neighborhood Watch is also an important means of locals meeting and working with their immediate community. In lower Rivermont, this has been one of my most positive experiences of inter-racial cooperation and interaction.

-
- Having experienced a home break-in and major financial loss, I appreciate the efforts law enforcement made to solve this incident. However, there is no follow up and I am still at a loss. As a result of this incident, I sold my home and moved in with an elderly parent. I suffered an additional significant financial loss as a result of that sale and of other items. Yet, one of the two people charged has never paid me a dime. I let the Commonwealth know where he works andnothing. Sorry for the rant but, simply put, I no longer feel safe at home, work or anywhere.

-
- Lynchburg is a very safe community.

-
- Still feel like this is a reactionary focus from negative events, we need to swing the cultural pendulum in a more proactive way to enhance community understanding and cross-cultural engagement.

-
- You still can't walk in the neighborhoods around the City Police station without being confronted by kids threatening to kill you... at high noon! (Yes, it did happen to me, and yes, I called the Chief of Police about it). Downtown is simply not safe! Everyone knows it and no one wants to talk about it. I certainly don't when I'm trying to sell the area. But I also never recommend children and old folks visit the inner-city area.

Safe Community – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- Increase the number of minority officers now.

- If the number of neighborhood watch groups has increased, does that mean people are feeling unsafe?

- The City might want to think about emergency shelters - not just the Armory. These should be stocked with water, medical supplies, temporary bedding and a rotating supply of non-perishable food (Ensure, Boost, canned foods) that can be donated semi-annually. Provisions should be considered for as many as 30,000 people in multiple locations, dividing that capacity for each location.

An additional (emergency) water supply, to add to the Pedlar supply and James; not entirely certain of the specific water sources, but you might look at a system that's in partnership with one of the local counties.

- I know some areas are not as safe as we would like, but, in general, I feel very safe throughout the City. Police (and fire department, esp. EMTs) are accessible, and response times, the very few times I've needed such, have been excellent.

- Staff doesn't show for neighborhood watch program meetings most if the time

- Neighborhood Watch is a valid accomplishment. The other items are of questionable merit.

- Fire drills and emergency evacuation protocols and practices for all downtown loft owners and renters.

Raises for police , fire and rescue personnel.

- There has been many shootings in certain neighborhoods.

- The Lynchburg Police Dept had the killer of Hannah Graham under investigation for the rape of a Liberty University student. Charges were not pressed because, and I quote, it came down to a matter of he said she said. I guess she needed to be beaten to a pulp or dead to be believed. I believe the entire law enforcement agency and the District Attorneys office needs education!!!!

Social Equity – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- All good things. But there is need to address long-term unemployment and something of the social malaise that appears in drive-by shootings and the gang environment. There are individuals and whole communities that live in a different city than I do. As a citizen, I bear responsibility for this and it deserves my and OUR response.

- We still need more interaction between and among races and ethnic groups. And so much more to eliminate the terrible poverty rate in the city

- Lots to be done on the poverty issue, but economic development investment will help this.

- So, it is a good thing that the city is now willing to hire convicted felons? Wow...

There are two ways out of poverty: 1. Give the person enough that they are now above the poverty line. (I can't overemphasize how much I am against this strategy.) 2. The person works hard or smart to earn enough to get above the poverty line. (This only works for those that are willing and smart enough to work.)

- Good start, more needs to be done.

- Please do not offend the felons whatever you do.

- I've never heard of these programs.

- This is an area that should remain an area of focus. So much more can be done. It's alarming to know that our unemployment rate is one of the highest in the state.

- Too much needs to be done in our city to reduce poverty and to bridge the socio-economic divide.

- Ban the box was significant. However, the rate of poverty in this community is absolutely unacceptable, especially since it is concentrated in our minority communities. I strangely encourage a living wage camazing. Too many people are working 2 and 3 jobs, with no health insurance or other benefits, and still living effectively in poverty.

- Kudos to the City for banning the box. However, it's not enough. What other policy changes have been implemented as a result of the Bridges Out of Poverty training and A4C? Not to mention Bridges Out of Poverty has been criticized for being classicist and for its reliance on the myth of Culture of Poverty. How about ensuring that City contractors pay their employees a living wage? The racial disparities in Lynchburg continue to increase and there haven't been any strategies to address them beyond a dialogue. Every quality of life indicator puts African-Americans at the bottom and yet there is nothing being done about it. Conversations from City Council about poverty descend into what types of shoes someone wears as opposed to what policy changes can be made to deal with rising poverty in the City. Feeding people isn't enough to deal with poverty. The City should take a note from the City schools with their transparency and willingness to address the racial disparities that exist there. Poverty is a safety, economic and community development issue. Is the business case being made to address poverty in the community? If not, it should be! It must be addressed from a systemic level, talk isn't enough. Zoning and housing are social equity issues. I urge City Council to be mindful of how zoning impacts segregation and poverty as they deliberate this year. Make all

Social Equity – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

boards and commission meetings in the evening so a more diverse group of people can participant. Actively target missing groups. Conduct board and commission training for interested members. Implement targeted advertising to engage marginalized groups. Put funding toward more neighborhood business development and cooperatives to build wealth in those communities. Black, brown, working class and poor people are being left behind. Don't make decisions that penalize citizens when the City isn't losing ANY money, i.e blue trash bags. One council member brought up a concern and a policy was changed to implement blue trash bags when the City wasn't losing money with the previous system, not to mention the bags are flimsy.

-
- A felony is serious and we need to know if one has been convicted of a violent felony.
 - Would like to see more diverse workforce within the city departments, esp. the police dept and school system. Would like to see higher paying jobs. Lynchburg has one of the HIGHEST percentage living below the poverty rate. More than Bridges Out of Poverty training should be done about this.

Still too many food deserts.

-
- Not a fan of this unnecessary category. I don't feel it is in the best interest of the majority and it is being done to appease a handful of local people. Obviously a frill because Leslie King was one of the first to go when the budget got tight. FYI, I feel knowing about convicted felons is necessary and important.
 - Not enough emphasis on education, technical, classical, job training, etc. vs. entitlement. More cultural engagement by the members of diverse cultures in planning.
 - i think you need to know if an applicant is a felon, then make a decision to hire or not
 - concerns are education, exposure to resources, food deserts, etc
 - There has to be a lot more done to meet the goal of Social Equality.
 - Social equity will improve when and only when all races realize the importance of one's individual responsibility to improve themselves. Stay in school, study hard, work hard and do not expect society to provide social equity.
 - When you see the statistics about poverty in Lynchburg it is a sad. I am sorry to say that I am not familiar with Bridges Out of Poverty, but seeing that only 125 went through the program I think that is too few to get a positive response.
 - Why ban the box? Good hard working people are losing the opportunity to provide a decent life for their families. Sick to my stomach!
 - Good grief, this is government talk at its finest. The only one I understand is the box statement. Speak English folks ! This whole survey is written that way. Earlier surveys were a lot easier.

Our city is becoming more divided between haves and have nots just like the rest of the nation. It is not due to local government management.

Social Equity – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- Define Social Equity.

Is a felon, listed on the state sex offender registry, considered for employment at a community center? Does a background check make the absence of employment application question moot?

- That is a tough one to rate. The poverty in our city is alarming and clustered in a few neighborhoods.

Very happy about the Ban the Box. It would also be good to review the policy that prevent felons from eligibility for certain social services

- I'm not sure why hiring convicted felons promotes social equality...

- Social Equity is important. Anything that can be done to eradicate poverty is good. Offering training and self-help programs to assist is essential.

- I don't agree with ban the box. If I owned a business, I would want to know if I hired a convicted felon or not.

- You need to ask if an applicant has been convicted of a felony. You want more crooks in city gov.?

- Ban the Box – the City no longer asks if an applicant has been convicted of a felony on employment applications. Why wouldn't they ask anymore? Why hire criminals?

- I don't know enough about this program so I don't feel informed enough to rate this.

- Ban the Box is a foolish initiative.

- How can more people learn about/be a part of programs like Bridges Out of Poverty? Please work to increase diversity of City employees across through all departments

- unaware of these and am unable to rate any progress at this time -- maybe just lacking information about these.

- What a joke, this is reverse racism. Of course we should know about the criminals history!! Affirmative Action in camo, we are sick of this trash people, man up and be a hard working, honest tax payer or pack up and leave Lynchburg, so sick of the coddling of thugs.

- How many of these 125 got REAL long term jobs - exactly 0

Change groups are worthless - if people refuse to change

I recently applied for a position at City of Lynchburg. I was told that a dismissed felony case...that was expunged from my record (4 years ago), was grounds to be NOT hired. It does not even show up on a background check as it was officially expunged due to being dismissed.

City NEVER ran a background check, never consulted with my attorney, and never even gave me a chance to do the job which I was clearly VERY qualified for. To this day, I am VERY

Social Equity – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

offended by these actions of the IT and HR department. Accepting hearsay comments instead of running an official background check.

- Just what the citizens of Lynchburg need, felonius city employees. This is another idiotic idea.
- allowing 'food deserts' - places where there are no supermarkets is not progress. not having the bus run nights and weekends when most low income people have to work is not progress. closing the health department and making people go to Johnson's is not progress
- The City no longer asks about felony convictions on employment applications? Are you kidding me? How is this considered social equity? This is an insult to every applicant who is not a convicted felon. It is also an insult to your Commonwealth's Attorneys and police officers who work so hard to secure those convictions.

If someone is a convicted felon, it is because they have committed a grave crime against society. Yes, these things have consequences, and one should expect to experience prejudice in their employment prospects going forward.

Your so-called ban the box initiative is a bunch of misguided hooley.

- Not sure the reasoning on the Ban the Box and maybe I am not familiar enough with it, but I think it is very important to know if a city employee was convicted of a felony. I know Centra Health asks this question of their employment applications. I do believe in the fact people change but sometimes it is better to know the past to assure the future.
- Everyone should answer if they are a convicted felon...especially city employees. Why not?
- I don't understand Social Equity.
- If folks don't educate themselves equally, have equal motivation or work equally, why should they expect to be equal?

Why do you feel it is the duty of the government to create Equality?

- I disagree with the felony question being removed.

Rates of children who qualify for free/reduced lunch is too high and increasing. We need more jobs for people without college and programs to get people into those jobs.

- All political correctness. A4C another joke. And what in the world...Ban the Box? I would like to know that all the city employees that are working around the business's I go into are NOT felons. I would like to be assured that the trash, streets, and water employees that are in my front yard are NOT felons. Again, whoever came up with that idea should be fired.

The federal government has spent trillions since the 60's and we are still talking about it?

- Bring in better paying jobs.
- How does ignoring someone's felony record bring social equity? What if that person is a violent felon? Certainly there are some jobs that person would not be appropriate for because

Social Equity – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

of this. For example you don't want a person convicted of larceny working in billing or any other financial office. Seems more people are on welfare than ever so I cannot see how these programs have made a difference. It is worthwhile to pursue but at this time I see no difference.

- Social equity begins with self education. Put money in education and training, don't lower standards to meet quotas. It is scary to think that criminals are now public employees, big mistake. Are there not enough honest people who need employment.
- Systematically, minorities are not well represented at upper levels of management. In some instances it seems like reasons are sought in order to not promote minorities. While others are often given a chance to prove themselves once promoted, minorities tend to need to prove themselves prior to consideration for promotion.

Segments of the community are out of touch with the experiences of others and many choose to not co-mingle. This causes a huge gap in understanding social norms and acceptable behavior of various classes and cultures.

- Increasing the odds of hiring a convicted felon is considered progress???
- Great job on Ban the Box, however neighborhoods are still very much segregated throughout town.
- Good work. Our city is above average. I believe we need to bring our police force more firmly into the mix and am glad a police group attended Bridges Out of Poverty though it was noted that they did not mix with the rest of the attendees; they stayed together.

I am, at this point, a BOP advocate and am concerned with its implementation, encouraging that we don't use it as a tool to force social equity but as a tool to build community. That, in turn, will build social justice.

As a city, we have increased poverty with a rate around 24%. We have many people with disabilities and low incomes without proper housing. The City, to date, has not really led a housing plan; it has reacted to those who initiate housing. We do not use zoning proffers or other ordinances in any significant way to increase housing stock. I understand a Housing Collaborative is forming. That's a good first step.

- Recently-released statistics re. Lynchburg's homeless, poverty-stricken, unemployed, etc. are frightening.
- Are the surrounding counties sending us their indigent?
- I don't like governmental spending in this area. I think any prospective employer should know about felony records of job applicants.
- I am strongly opposed to not asking about felony convictions on job applications. You may or may not decide to hire someone (I have hired convicted felons) but not asking is a bad idea in my opinion.

Social Equity – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

The City is not going to make progress in Social Equity. That is entirely up to the citizens. In tact families and parenting that teach personal responsibility and the value of an education is all that will help people out of poverty and improve Social equity.

I know this is not a school board survey but maintaining the tradition of excellence in the Lynchburg City School system is probably the most important thing for keeping Lynchburg an attractive place to live and work for families. there is a lot more to do = could tie in to the work the school system is doing here as well

However, I think it is very important to know if you are hiring a convicted felon. I would say removing that was not a step forward.

-
- Getting there!!
 - Progress as far as city initiatives....it is too bad that the neighborhoods/families/communities within the city aren't supporting the efforts for change
 - Banning the Box is irresponsible.
 - Great but what does this mean for me as a citizen?
 - I don't know what the answers are, but we need to continue to look for ways to bring down poverty in the city. I see this as the number 1 issue the city needs to confront. The high poverty rate is the source of so many of our other problems, from reduced revenues, student test scores, and crime, to the quality of life for the general population. High poverty rates affect all residents.
 - SOOO much to be done here. Training is a good start, but if you had heard some of the dialogue right there in the training, we have a LONG way to go. The practices must be implemented for success.
 - In order for everyone to be engaged, we must reach out to ALL communities and hear ALL voices.
 - If you want to hear those voices, have meetings in those neighborhoods, really hear what they have to say. After a single Mom has worked 2 jobs, she has neither the time or energy to drag herself to a meeting that is across town.
 - Again, what did bullets 1 & 2 accomplish? I am shocked at number 3! You must be kidding!
 - More people need to know about these initiatives.
 - I think the city is really doing a great job with this. I am grateful that the city has recognized the income disparity in Lynchburg and has taken steps to address the problem. I would really love to see the community centers used in different ways to meet specific neighborhood needs. For example, pop up grocery store, pop up clinic, reading clubs, etc. Partnering with businesses and non-profits could be a great way to accomplish this.
 - Ban the Box is not a good idea - because it doesn't discriminate between crimes that may not matter as much (possession or distribution of marijuana, for example) and serious felonies

Social Equity – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

such as rape, child molestation or other of the more heinous crimes. They should be asked if they have been convicted of a felony, period. What is done with that information is the question.

The City should also take the lead in hiring Americans. In some areas near DC, there are complaints that no African Americans nor Caucasians are seen working on numerous road projects. I'm not suggesting that non-residents should be discriminated against, but I am saying that Americans (including naturalized citizens) should be given first priority for hiring.

The LPD ridealong program needs to be encouraged, particularly for minority populations who don't always see the law enforcement side of things. While I'm not suggesting a Ride-a-Thug program, most kids are not thugs. The ridealong program should encourage late-teens to participate, with abbreviated ridealongs for juveniles. Not suggesting for a moment that we should set up the LPD as a carnival ride for children, but community interaction might help prevent some of the unnecessary conflict that certain political and social groups seem intent upon creating.

-
- What? Even if it doesn't relate to job being sought, the City needs to know if there are felons on the payroll.
-
- Ban the Box makes me feel SOOOOOO much safer when a city employee comes to my property. Do you hire parolees without knowing it? Considering the high rate of recidivism, I'm not convinced of the wisdom of this approach to reintegrating back into society felons who have served their time. Hire them? Sure. Not know about their past? You ask for other people's work history, why not this?
-
- The city does not need to have convicted felons working for our citizens. Should reinstate the question
-
- What are the metrics for judging the effectiveness of these activities? Reduction in unemployment? Increase in wages paid?
-
- Ban the box, wow. If people have paid their debt to society, fresh start will improve morale and opportunity. Great idea.
-
- I prefer tough screening of applications for city employment. Felony convictions should not automatically kick you out, but need to be known.
-
- Is dropping the felony question a good thing? How will you keep from hiring thieves in the finance office?

Transportation – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- '2015 to 2025' or 'Urban Among Us?'

Few expect Bob and Maureen McDonnell to receive punishments commensurate with their indiscretions, but they might. Few would predict downtown Lynchburg will match Liberty in terms of meteoric physical expansion and unified ideological passion in our lifetimes, but it could happen.

Even the experts didn't think Ohio State could beat Alabama, but they did. In life anything is possible -- maybe improbable, especially in a lingering post-recession malaise, but still possible.

If one could bet on a ten year game between powerhouse Liberty University and cellar-dweller Downtown Lynchburg, regardless of how many points he was given, no experienced gambler who's done even five minutes of online analysis would pick DL over LU.

That said, after holding one's firstborn child, what feels better than watching the underdog win? Victory against all odds -- the result not of luck but of careful planning and hard work -- fills the soul of the common man, who represent the earth's majority, with immeasurable joy and pride, the essential intangibles without which progress would never have become a word, without which libraries, theaters, and public parks would not have been conceived, designed, and built.

Can 2015 be the year the city of Lynchburg trades passive attention to issues like same-sex marriage and internet privacy for active participation in urban renewal and family rebuilding?

Expressing an opinion is easy. Building a grocery store in a food desert is hard.

Winning an argument about evolution and concealed-weapon permits leaves one feeling empty. Teaching a child to use a tape measure and to say don't have instead of don't got turns inner despair into rejuvenating hope.

LU has been our Alabama for the last decade. As football pundits said about the Crimson Tide, local know-it-alls, even Democratic ones, have said LU is unbeatable. Accept it. Join their team, or wither on your obsolete vine in your abandoned neighborhood.

If we so desire, the next decade can be DL's. We have the bodies and the means. But we will need a guiding force. LU not only has God, they have Him signed to a contract longer and more iron-clad than Nick Sabin's. Is there an Urban Meyer among us? On Cabell or Church Street?

I lay you even odds there is.

Douglas Thom III, Lynchburg

-
- See comment to question 9 relative to bike lanes.

Transportation – Citizens’ Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- Yes, these are good. But access to food markets for those without auto transport has plunged. The food deserts are a disgrace to the city and the corporate perpetrators. As in some of the other pillars of life, the situation is good for some of us but with less overt concern for others.
- Not sure where this belongs but I have concern that the city allocate enough funds to maintain all the nice things that have been designed and built -- street plantings, bluff walk etc. So often I see areas that need to be cleaned up, weeded, just tended to, and I realize that takes money, but I hate to see us do all these attractive things and then not keep them up
- More sidewalks and cross walks please! If you need an example visit my parents who live in Cary, NC. You can walk everywhere and there are sidewalks on neighborhoods and commercial streets.
- Love the investment by the rail station!
- Traffic flow on Wards Road has improved dramatically!

We are spoiled by the number of traffic lights throughout the city that sense vehicles in the lanes. Other jurisdictions just don't have that to the extent that we do here.

Please consider allowing a right turn on red when coming off the Desmond Doss Expressway onto Old Forest Road. It is no different than most entrance ramps onto the expressway. Traffic really backs up there at different times of the day.

Just an observation: GLTC is not true mass transit. No one says, I'm going to take the bus to work today instead of driving my car! The ONLY people that ride the bus are those that do not have a vehicle and/or a driver's license. If you do away with the bus, you do not add one car to the the streets or the scarce parking downtown.

- more can still be done with the lights. Why are lights not turned to flashing yellow/red from 1 am to 5 am
- Need many more bike lanes.
- Complete the gap in bike lanes on Rivermont Avenue, and extend the bike lanes on Rivermont, Fort and Park Avenues. Create connectivity between the on-road bike lanes and the off-road bike trails, (such as the Blackwater Creek trail).
Improve the scheduling and timing of bus routes. Partner with local colleges to promote bus use by students between campuses and to shopping and entertainment areas.
- The turn light onto Old Forest from 501 was genius. The intersection at Fresh Market works very well!
- Significantly more parking is required at the Amtrak train station.
- The changes in bus schedules have led to good improvements in opportunity to ride.

GLTC was badly needed. But, could a smaller version be installed near the Plaza?

Transportation – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

I wished that you included a box for additional comments.

I would like to say how happy I am living in Lynchburg. I've been here since 1993, and the progress that I've seen is nothing short of amazing. After living near Chattanooga during the 1980s, I can see where Lynchburg is moving in the direction reflective of the transformation of what happened in Chattanooga. I'm very pleased with what is happening in our City!

- The city of Lynchburg is a challenge for bike accessibility. Please continue to include efforts in this area.
- It still takes forever to get anywhere on the bus here. Adequate public transportation is an economic development issue.
- I can't see any improvement (actually more delays) on Wards Rd. and Lakeside Dr.
- The traffic flow improvement on Wards Rd. is much appreciated, and needed; especially with the increased LU traffic at Harvard St. However, the bottle neck created by connecting the two expressways with Old Forest Rd. is still the worst idea I've ever seen. It should all be one expressway, with exits for Old Forest Rd. and/or Lakeside Dr. I realize this was a cheap way to do it, but this problem really has to be fixed. I would also suggest that school buses not transport students on the expressway during rush hour. When transporting kids the buses can't legally go above 45 mph. This creates hazards and considerable risks for the kids and all other drivers.
- In this entire survey, and not just this section number 12, there are copious numbers of words that say very little. These are words that are largely penned by government employees who don't usually have improvement goals that make a marked difference in the community.

For an area that has five colleges and a very good community college we are bereft of college life in the community. We still pull in our sidewalks at dusk.

After fifty years of trying to remake our downtown, we are stuck with small progress. We are again going through the parking issues and the outdated parking meter issue. When I came to Lynchburg almost fifty years ago we were then paying consultants to tell us how to improve Lynchburg and what to do with downtown and yes, the damn parking meters. I well recall talking with one of the consultants and his opinion was that we needed about 18 funerals to get past the people who were holding the city back from being what it could become. Well, we have had those folks pass from the scene and we are still discussing the same issues, paying consultants to take our money and laugh at us because they know Lynchburg is still stuck with the mentality of one hundred years ago.

Just look to Charlottesville to the North: they long ago bit the bullet on downtown development and made it a huge success! They would rather die than resurrect and waste time on parking meters. PARKING METERS? Are you kidding me? This stone age thinking!!

Parking meters are a glaring symptom of the out of date mindset that plagues us to this day.

Meanwhile the city has moved into the adjacent counties. The shopping areas have taken up residence far from downtown, where parking is not an issue and Lynchburg government is

Transportation – Citizens’ Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

still stuck in the same bubble as it was fifty years ago.

I could go on and on but the current government will disagree and bounce along its merry way and the young people who understand the city will never change will continue to move away and leave us to do what we've always done, knowing we will always get what we've always got.

-
- No concerns or complaints.
 - i do not ride the bus. lights are better on wards
 - that should say fewer delays not less :)
 - Good.
 - All the consolidations, bike lanes, or traffic signals do nothing if the motorist doesn't follow the rules. Who monitors that?
 - You've already talked about the GLTC Transfer Center and the bike lanes. Yes, they are good.

If the traffic adaptive signalization makes traffic flow better, I have yet to experience it.

-
- The efficiency of the signalization system to improve traffic flow on Wards Road is sometimes spotty.
 - see above comments.

Also I like to watch council meetings and committee activity on Channel 15.

I think we have a good team at the top. Thanks!

-
- Do something about candler's mt road traffic by the mall. It's been a problem for decades. Also, the southbound traffic turning left into the LU tunnel off of wards road backs up into the 501 off ramp. That turn signal needs to be adjusted.

Overall, I think the city is heading in the right direction. I like what is happening down town. Keep up the good work on arts as well and keep down town safe. The more bike lanes and sidewalks you can build, the better.

-
- Fix greenview drive...needs right turn lane on to leesville towards city
 - Great progress! More projects like this are needed
 - Lakeside drive is still awful with traffic and no one goes the speed limit they go under the speed limit. It'd be the worst road in Lynchburg.
 - I cannot see any evidence of better traffic flow and less delays on Wards Road. Still mighty crowded & slow at certain times.
 - I just want to say that being a Navy wife and living in 15+ cities I have never been anywhere, where the citizens get so much input. Way to go Lynchburg!

Transportation – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

- Much work needs to be done on traffic flow. Much, much, more..... We need to widen all the highways if people are so against an interstate here.

- this has gotten substantially better.

- already said a lot about the bus. haven't noticed an improvement in traffic flow, just new posts for the lights.

- The area of downtown at Exits 1A and 1B off Route 29 really need some attention to beautification. This area is a major gateway into downtown and the gravel lot there being used a parking lot for tractor trailers is a real eye soar as cars come into downtown from the exit ramp.

The access off of the Exit 1B causes major problems. Owning a business in this area presents multiple turnarounds in my parking lot as travelers take this exit and cannot turn left into downtown.

Possible roundabout in this area might well help with a solution.

- Don't get me started. The city roadways are a mess of random constuction without apparent benefit.

- Need to get GLTC to run Sunday services again, even if it is for abbreviated routes. This really limits some individuals from gaining employment at it restricts their work availability. This means that individuals that rely on public transportation may be shut out of some jobs due to lack of transportation. Cabs may not always be the viable, cost effective method for some people to get to work. If you opened back up Sunday service, it could increase job possibilities for many individuals which could in turn reduce their poverty levels.

- Again, I applaud the new GLTC Transfer Center.

- Bike Lanes? They are nice. Do they get adequate use?

- Traffic Flow?? That still needs much work. Particularly Wards Road and Timberlake Road at Heritage High School.

- Improve or add crosswalks at lights across busy intersections such as those along Memorial Ave. I'm a runner and it's dangerous to cross the roads because drivers don't yield.

- Great improvement on Wards Rd

Bike lanes were not a good investment

- 3-4 cars passing thru a intersection before the light changes is not better flow.

- Glad for the traffic adaptive signals. The bike lanes seem to only have served narrowing the car lanes.

- Timberlake continues to be an issue from the 501 expressway to Waterlick Rd, especially in the early evening. Old Forest Rd seems to have gotten worse in the mornings and evenings,

Transportation – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

especially near the Fresh Market shopping center. The median as you're turning from Lakeside Dr to 501 toward Breezewood is at an odd angle. The median should curve more, but it was cut to more of an angle, so it is tricky making that turn when there are 2 turn lanes and another vehicle is beside you. Even with the painted lines, the turn should be a little closer in. Some of the bike lane areas around the city are confusing and people are using them for turn lanes or passing lanes.

- The signals at Kemper and Fort are horrendous. Only one direction gets through at a time. Fix that.
- If you had to go outside your home every 2 hours and move your car or be ticketed how happy would you be?! The residents, of Cliffs Edge Lofts, face this every day. The city claims to be encouraging downtown living. Until this is fixed that statement simply cannot be made. Whoever is in charge of the department that made this decision should be very ashamed of his/her job performance. Please make this right ASAP!
- Buses are some of the worse drivers out there, improve the drivers. Bike lanes...continue, more. Great accomplishment. Bus routes were curtailed last year affecting many working poor, causing one more condition for poverty. Adequate bus routes are necessary. All in all, getting better. Oh, more traffic circles. Make stop lights a thing of the past.
- There appears to be a need for more parking near Kemper Street Station.
- Great job keeping airline service in Lynchburg and expanding rail service!!!
- Busses and bikes are fine, but I'm tired of paying for everyone else's benefit. Traffic congestion is terrible for the vehicle owners who pay the bill for all.
- Bike lanes for the minimal number of active participants is a waist of tax revenue.
- I drive up and down Rivermont Avenue all the time and I rarely see someone riding a bike in a bike lane.
- good work - more funds needed
- Projects dont end on time, dont seem coordinated and communication is poor
- Looking very good, great concept put into action!! Good!!!!
- The bike lanes are useless in most places, since they stop & start. They should continue down the whole stretch of road to be effective. lakeside Drive synchronization seems better, Wards Road not at all.
- Need to re-evaluate traffic flow at corner of Lakeside and Old Forest Road. Traffic backs up morning (7:30am - 8:00am) and afternoon (4:30pm - 6:00pm). Many motorists run through red stop lights because they don't want to wait in line of traffic any longer. Very unsafe area. Would be a good place to try cameras to prevent running stop lights.

Also, entry and exit from Candler's Mtn and Expressway is dangerous. No acceleration lane is

Transportation – Citizens' Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

very unsafe area and very congested each morning, especially. Also, traffic backs up onto Expresssway every afternoon for motorists trying to exit near the mall. Not safe.

-
- NO BIKE LANES ON CAMPBELL AVE.

MAKE WARDS RD 3 LANES IN EACH DIRECTION WITH A CONCRETE MEDIAN

-
- We are on our way with transportation restoration and development. Yet, for every few million invested in auto infrastructure, I want very much to see a million towards the resurrection of our excellent streetcar lines we so thoughtlessly threw away.
 - Really need more work on traffic light synchronization. For example, Timberlake is a parking lot at times.
 - Please see comments above regarding bike lanes.

I am not impressed with the traffic adaptive signalization on Wards Road and am particularly unhappy with Lakeside Drive. There are always delays and it doesn't seem to be improving at all. This may be due to some of the poor planning decisions in both areas regarding construction and urban sprawl.

-
- We are lacking education of the bike lanes, if you have never ridden a bike you do not know the rules.

Every day I drive down 12th Street to see cars parked in the bike lane in front of Hunton Randolph and the garage there, it is marked No Parking and they are parked in the bike lane. This makes it very scary when you are on a bike.

-
- The tunnel at Harvard St. into LU helped greatly.
 - GLTC center is great. The bike lanes, problematic as discussed above. Improving traffic flow for Wards Road laudable, but I find it interesting that you would find that important but at the same time be discussing restoring two-way traffic to downtown.

Obviously, NO ONE in city government was around when we had two-way traffic in downtown. They don't remember the traffic snarls, taking 20 minutes to get from 5th Street to 12th Street on Church and an equal time from 12th to 5th on Main. And please, can you make parking any more convoluted, confusing and difficult than you have now? I love to go to downtown restaurants, but never during the day. Way too hard to park when I can go anywhere else in town, park and walk a few steps to where I'm going.

-
- Make all city streets one-way and install bike lanes on every street. Or, completely eliminate every bike lane on every city street. It does not serve any useful purpose, to a bicyclist, to have so few streets equipped with bike lanes. It provides no benefit to a bicyclist unless the bicyclist confines their ride to only those streets that include bike lanes. Replace those new, awful GLTC route maps posted on-line. Bring back the old route maps that more closely resemble an actual city street map.

Enforce speed limits in residential neighborhoods and cite motorists for parking violations

Transportation – Citizens’ Comments

Note: No edits to text – presented as received

such as parking so closely to intersections both with and without stop signs.

Remove obstacles to vision caused by shrubs, hedges and unpruned trees.

I sent a letter to the public works department and included several photographs of an extremely dangerous intersection. The City took no action, made no corrections to the hazards at the intersection and gave no response to my letter. Since sending that letter, an accident occurred at the intersection resulting in the total destruction and loss of property.

-
- These are great improvements, but there needs to be an educational plan (and cops ready to hand out tickets) for the bike lanes. At least on Rivermont, plenty of drivers use them as additional lanes or turn lanes, runners use them instead of the sidewalk, and bikers are still using the sidewalks. You would think the purpose of those lanes would be self-evident, but it is Lynchburg--it seems people here drop their common sense and driving abilities on the curb as they cross into town.
 - Awesome job with the GLTC transfer center. The only intersection I have a real problem with on a daily basis is the intersection of Memorial Ave and Lakeside Drive. Will someone please check the level of service for this area? Thank you!
 - The new lights and lanes at the Plaza are a much-needed boost to traffic - good work there! Congratulations for making that happen!

The traffic light at Park and Kemper is slow and unresponsive - I purposely avoid that light, and others surely do as well.

The bus station change was a positive one.

-
- Improved air transportation may make the largest impact for the local economy and resulting Community projects
 - I was delighted to see smaller buses on some routes. Very efficient.
 - Need those traffic adaptive signals on Fort/Timberlake by the Expressway and Heritage Elementary.
 - Need more parking at Kemper train station
 - Transfer Center may be beneficial, but at monstrous cost. Bike lanes are a negative as installed - if bike safety is a priority, consider wider shoulders.
 - Too little attention to transportation needs of elderly citizens.
 - Keep pushing for better air travel and train schedule additions
 - More funding for GLTC operations.
 - Have a blitz traffic light synchronization effort.
 - I would like to see more traffic-flow issues addressed in the areas of upper Wards Road/Candlers Mountain Road and Timberlake Road/Fort Avenue.