

# Military Circle/Military Highway Study

Community Meeting Comments from Monday, September 28

Following are the comments collected at the community meeting at each of the four stations. Note that this is a collection of the comments with no analysis.

## Station 1 Goals:

*Voting Exercise: What are your goals for this planning process?*

- Be transparent: 25 votes
- Be inclusive: 8 votes
- Be sustainable: 10 votes
- Don't sit on a shelf: 29 votes

*Voting Exercise: What are your goals for this plan?*

- Revitalize the surrounding area: 24 votes
- Increase safety & security: 36 votes
- Attract economic development: 16 votes
- Build for resilience: 21 votes
- Connect & unify the area: 19 votes

*What's missing?*

- Be adaptable; be varied. Many uses so the area is eclectic and exciting

*What should we call this?*

- Norfolk Highlands (existing idea): 4 votes
- Norfolk Rising (existing idea): 1 vote
- Uptown Norfolk (existing idea): 4 votes
- Eastern Gateway
- Norfolk Town(e) Center: 3 votes
- Norfolk the Standard
- Crossroads of Tidewater
- Norfolk Circle: additional vote
- Mermaid crossing: 4 votes
- Navy Junction
- City Center (because Norfolk is a city and not a town): 2 votes
- Norfolk Center
- Points East
- Eastside Point
- The Eastside Quarter
- Elizabeth River Center

- Military Mews (Muse)
- Slogan: “experience the New Norfolk” or “Experience Norfolk”

## Station 2 Economy:

*How can we revitalize the area?*

- Attract tech companies
- Make the area more attractive (more color, interesting architecture)
- Build spaces that work for different user groups
- Create more parking garages to reduce the number of lots
- Attract more & smaller-scale grocery stores, specialty shops, and other retail that are walkable & affordable
- Create upscale condominiums around the mall (high density mixed uses)
- Incentivize LONG-TERM business investment that takes root in the community
- Create publicly accessible open space such as courtyards
- Better lighting & more crosswalks
- Mixed use urban center live/work/play spaces
- Variety of housing types
- Build an outdoor entertainment venue
- Promote healthier communities by developing parks and trails
- Create programs that promote physical activity
- Nice, upscale restaurants as a destination; nice retail shops still in area
- Dual purpose spaces
- Easily accessible shopping – but not strip malls
- Amenities for the elderly community
- Entertainment – keep the movie theatres
- Relocate some city offices such as economic development as a catalyst – even city hall.
- Tear down the mall
- Large big box like Ikea to spur development
- Eco-green buildings like in Europe
- Still a need for retail that people can shop close to neighborhoods
- Specialty market like HEB in Texas for “foodies”
- What will happen when the outlet mall opens?
- What is the economic impact of the outlet development at Lake Wright
- Make CTE high school at the circle a governor’s school & pull from other cities for a fee
- Gated senior community for security or safe to walk, etc.
- We need libraries
- Mixed use housing – mix of types and costs
- More senior homes close to light rail to get around
- Sidewalks
- Live/work units for future military contractors: a BIG future market.
- Put TCC in the area where Military Circle is now

## Station 3 Transportation:

*How do you want to walk/ride/drive in this area in the future?*

- Extend light rail to area
- Park and ride needs
- Bike path that connects THROUGHOUT the city
- Bus transit frequency
- Transit connections across modes
- First mile/last mile connections to transit via bike/Uber/etc.
- Bike trails
- Complete streets/road diet/beautification, especially Military Highway & Virginia Beach Blvd.
- Many elderly residents want to come to the church but can't get to it.
- Light rail should go straight through the middle of Military Highway. It will reduce overall traffic if made convenient.
- Light rail can connect to other cities like Virginia Beach & Chesapeake
- Military Highway should evolve to become something like Vanderbilt Ave with complete streets
- Wide streets need pedestrian refuge areas
- Transportation that's affordable, convenient & RELIABLE. Take care of breakdowns quickly. Need a method such as mechanics that drive.
- Street lighting for safety
- Manage pedestrian traffic (e.g. jaywalking) to avoid problems such as those at Curlew & Newtown
- Pedestrian safety and control
- Be able to walk to outlet stores from the new transit station
- Build it & they will come
- We need light rail transportation in the whole region
- Don't fill area with parking lots or garages around the light rail. Plan businesses/parking buildings.
- Make the connections from neighborhoods to light rail safe and walkable.
- Change underutilized industrial uses that are eyesores and create unsafe places to walk.
- Need short bus routes from light rail station to neighborhoods, especially across the interstate
- Uber is an option millennials use consistently. Maybe they need a regional office here.
- Bike lanes & street lighting. Lighting will invite biking, reduce crime, and pay for itself if solar cell.
- Officers currently carpool and take the Navy-run shuttle to the base, but light rail is not currently an option.
- Traveler education/information
- Bike-transit facilities like security racks, lockers, showers
- Bikeshare program
- Handicapped accommodations
- Regional transit linkages and connections
- Longer hours for light rail
- Walkability & safety
- Mixed use communities with multiple options nearby for shopping, eating, etc.

- Options for the elderly
- Safety/police substations
- How will transportation plans be impacted by overall plans for the outlet mall development at Lake Write site?
- How would a delay in Virginia Beach light rail impact this project?
- Can Norfolk afford to build light rail through the planned corridor?

## Station 4 Quality of Life:

*How can this project improve quality of life in the area?*

- Need grocery stores and community amenities
- Add jobs to market
- Add a better “life experience” on a daily basis
- Less reliance on cars
- Walkable/bikeable = healthier
- Increase paths for walking/workout trails
- More fitness/wellness facilities that offer recreational amenities
- More walkable/bikeable areas for Norfolk
- New housing/urban center/light rail
- Concerns about crime & homelessness; make the area safe for everyone
- Remove industrial eyesores near neighborhoods. Repurpose to housing/retail.
- Military Circle Mall could be a community center with a focus on education and addiction recovery
- Large outdoor entertainment venue – like Sandler Center
- Healthy restaurants
- Address issues with rain & tidal flooding
- More medical facilities, especially for the elderly
- More green spaces, plazas & courtyards
- Things like the downtown library that are attractive and stand out (multiple seconds on this suggestion)
- Telework centers
- Needs to bring in tax revenue (one person seconded this suggestion)
- Don’t forget about single family homes
- Have light rail go down Little Oak & Military Highway to avoid flooding issues
- Quality retail with outside & inside entrances
- More green space
- Don’t make it a duplicate or “downtown” Virginia Beach. It needs to continue to represent Norfolk “Military Circle”