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Stories of the week

NATIONAL: Enrique Tarrio, Proud Boys leader, sentenced to 22 years for

INTERNATIONAL: South Korean holding mass protests after a teacher's suicide highlights the country's high pressure work environment.

Richmond GRTC plans on expanding bus routes, services

HISHAM VOHRA Contributing Writer **SELNA SHI** News Editor

pretty reliant on public transportation," said political science student Samantha Mendoza-Hernandez.

Mendoza-Hernandez said she takes the areas, according to the report. VCU/VUU Eastbound bus route to get to where she needs. VCU/VUU bus route is one of the two buses that goes through the Monroe Park campus.

"I take the bus two to three times a week. It is really useful to get groceries and go to Target," Mendoza-Hernandez said.

Mendoza-Hernandez said the app is arrival times on the app are often inaccurate. according to the report.

"The bus stops need a couple of upgrades like more benches, maybe a better sheltering system because I know sometimes when it rains, that thin bar doesn't do enough or do what it is supposed to," Mendoza-Hernandez said.

Claros said she used to ride the bus when she didn't have a car on campus.



"I used to work at Jimmy John's downtown, it [the bus] was an easier way for me to transport there," Claros said. "The bus was comfortable, it got me to work and back home, I felt safe taking it."

Claros also said the bus shelters need to pointed out be improved.

"There would be a lot of people at the medical [MCV] stop, where people would be waiting in pouring rain and there would not be enough room," Claros said.

Claros said many of her friends do not know that the GRTC is free nor do they have information on how to take the bus.

"I found out [bus route information] from a friend that taught me. I also learned high cost of maintaining payment

Ashbrook

The nonprofit RVA Rapid Buckingham Transit released its annual State of Transit report, which

Photos by Arrick Wilson

stakeholders and infrastructure.

"Only 26% of bus stops out of 1,600+ have a bench or shelter," according to the

The group advocates for more frequent "I don't have a car on campus, so I'm and expanding routes following the and momentum in a way that maybe blueprint of the Greater RVA Transit Vision Plan to reach communities in Henrico, Chesterfield and surrounding

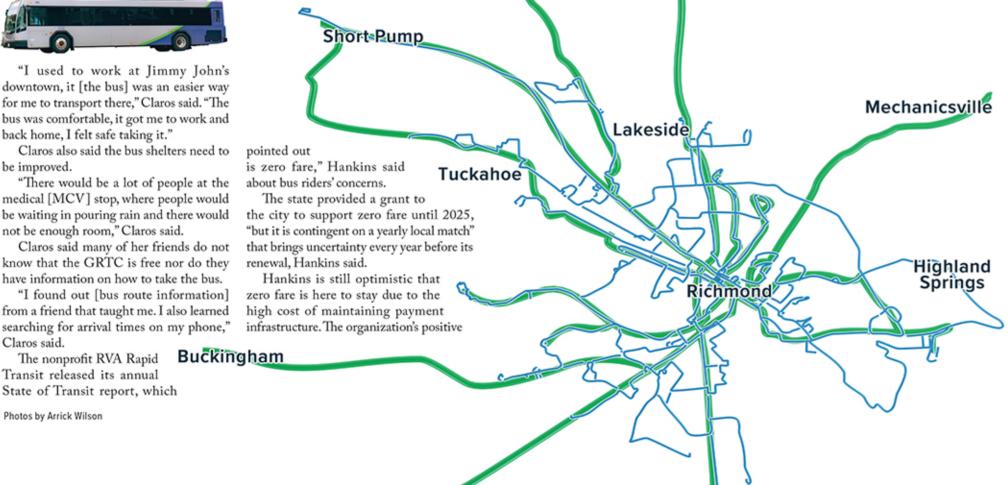


RVA Rapid Transit wants "every green line to have 15 minute bus service" and two useful, but needs some changes because out of five sections have been completed, Library.

The Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization approved the plan "to create a vision for transit development in the region through 2040," according to the Richmond region," the the RVA Rapid Transit website.

Keeping the bus lines, or GRTC, free Fashion design student Franchesca is a major aim, said Richard Hankins, programs and communications manager at RVA Rapid Transit.

of the biggest things that they



2040 VISION ROUTE

CURRENT GRTC LOCAL ROUTE

Chester

Photo Illustration by Victor Romanko

underlines the needs of public transit riders, relationship with localities and government entities is encouraging to Hankins, he said.

> "I think in so many ways they see us as an arm that we can speak up and provide a voice from a rider's perspective," Hankins said. "We can provide energy a governmental organization cannot, highlighting the fervent need for more public transportation across our region."

> RVA Rapid Transit has outreach and education programs, including Mobility University, a free, five-week course to "educate and empower bus riders to selfadvocate for better public transportation," according to Hankins. Sessions include free dinner and begin Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at

Richmond Public Ashland

Its mission is to advocate "for frequent and far reaching transit in website states.

