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Contact: Ted Van Dyk
919.831.1308

Van Dyk Calls for Commencement of Hillsborough Street Planning Effort

RALEIGH -- Architect and Community Advocate Ted Van Dyk appeared before City Council Tuesday night to request that updated Planning for Hillsborough Street's built environment be made a top priority.

Hillsborough Street's Streetscape Plan is over 25 years old. The Hillsborough Street Partnership originally made a request for an updated plan in Early 2007, along with its request for funding for the roadway improvements, but the planning component was not carried out. Recent inquiries from businesses and property owners along the street concerning business expansions and re-development options prompted Van Dyk to request that the planning effort move forward.

"Businesses wanting to locate on the street, expand, or contemplate new development are stuck with a 25 year old plan," said Van Dyk. "Hillsborough Street is arguably the third leg of Raleigh's entertainment and nightlife core -- we need to offer the Street a level playing field with Downtown and Glenwood South, both of which have benefited from updated Streetscape Plans in the last few years."

Streetscape and parking plans can address issues like building heights, setbacks, transitions, mixes of uses, landscaping, parking, and other features such as street lighting, paving, and outdoor furniture. Plans can also include economic analysis to show what kinds of development and business are likely to be most successful, and at what scale. Such efforts are carried forward with the guidance of Planning Staff and with extensive community involvement.

"If we can get the process underway now, we may have our new plan in place in time to facilitate and leverage new private investment in Hillsborough Street as our public investment in roadway improvements near completion." Van Dyk pointed out.

Council forwarded the matter to its Comprehensive Planning Committee for detailed review and discussion.

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