



# Livable Streets Update (FIVE IN FIVE)



DowntownRaleigh

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## CITY COUNCIL APPROVES DESIGN OF CITY PLAZA RETAIL PAVILIONS

The Raleigh City Council voted unanimously August 7 to approve the design of four retail pavilions that will be on the new City Plaza in the 500 block of Fayetteville Street downtown.

The four glass pavilions will be constructed, owned and leased by The Simpson Organization, the owner of the Bank of America building in the City Plaza area. The Simpson Organization also owns the land and parking deck underneath the City Plaza. Each of the four retail pavilions will be approximately 1,000 square feet.

The City Plaza will be a public gathering place designed to reinforce Raleigh's image as being one of the most livable, high-tech cities in the country. It will be configured to accommodate a number of public events, including parades, markets and shows, while preserving the view along Fayetteville Street between the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts and the Capitol. Under a preliminary timetable, the City expects to begin construction of the City Plaza this fall. Completion of the plaza will coincide with the opening of the new 500,000-square-foot downtown convention center in the fall of 2008.

Design elements of the plaza include flexible seating, water features, trees and shade structures, high-quality paving and dramatic lighting. The design includes four light towers and bollards with underside lighting that will be placed on both sides of the Fayetteville Street rights-of-way. The light towers will be designed to allow for projection equipment that can provide varying levels of light for a variety of events. Details of the light towers and bollards are being designed in collaboration with North Carolina artist Jim Gallucci, a member of the design team for the City Plaza.

The design of the City Plaza was developed with considerable input from the public and from City boards and commissions at design workshops last fall.

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## CITY OF RALEIGH SOLICITS QUALIFICATIONS FROM LOCAL DESIGN FIRMS FOR LIGHTNER PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER

The City of Raleigh has issued a request for qualifications (RFQ) from qualified local design firms to provide design work and other professional services for construction of the Clarence E. Lightner Public Safety Center at the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex.

The City is soliciting responses from firms to provide professional design, engineering, budgeting, permitting, bid and contract development, and other construction-related services for the public safety center. The deadline to respond to the RFQ is Monday, Aug. 27 at 4 p.m. Public notice of the RFQ is posted on the City's website at [www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov). (Go to the Finance Department's webpage).

The Clarence E. Lightner Public Safety Center will be located on the corner of Hargett and Dawson streets, currently the site of the City of Raleigh Police Department headquarters. The 15-story, 260,000-square-foot facility will enhance the City's ability to consolidate public safety operations and other local government offices and functions at one location, including the City's police and fire departments. The public safety center is named in honor of Clarence E. Lightner, who served as mayor of Raleigh from 1973-75.

For more information about the RFQ process for the Clarence E. Lightner Public Safety Center, contact Mark Burns or Bill Black, City of Raleigh Construction Management, at 807-5575; or email [Mark.Burns@ci.raleigh.nc.us](mailto:Mark.Burns@ci.raleigh.nc.us) or [Bill.Black@ci.raleigh.nc.us](mailto:Bill.Black@ci.raleigh.nc.us).

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## PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR HILLSBOROUGH/MORGAN STREET ROUNDABOUT

The City of Raleigh will hold a public hearing on Aug. 15 starting at 5 p.m. regarding the proposed roundabout at the intersection of Morgan and Hillsborough streets. The intersection design was added as part of the conversion of Morgan Street to two-way traffic.

The City's engineering design consultant, PBS&J, have completed preliminary design mapping for the projects. The public is invited to view the drawings and offer comments and ask questions about the project. The meeting will be held in room 305 of the Avery C. Upchurch Municipal Complex at 222 W. Hargett Street. Engineers will be on hand from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to discuss the project.

For more information, contact Tim Sudano at 890-3030.

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## COUNCIL AUTHORIZES DOWNTOWN MASTER

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**Web links**  
City of Raleigh  
[www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov)

Wake County  
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Downtown Raleigh Alliance  
[www.downtownraleigh.org](http://www.downtownraleigh.org)

Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce  
[www.raleighchamber.org](http://www.raleighchamber.org)

Greater Raleigh Convention & Visitors Bureau  
[www.visitraleigh.com](http://www.visitraleigh.com)

## **PARKING PLAN**

At its Aug. 7 meeting, the Raleigh City Council approved a contract with Carl Walker, Inc. for the development of a downtown master parking plan. The plan will document a strategic parking management action plan with specific immediate, short-term and long-term goals.

In March, the council appointed an eleven-member task force that will also participate in the development of the plan. A stakeholder group of downtown merchants, businesses, parking operators, and state and county governments has also been invited to participate in the development of the plan.

The contract with Carl Walker, Inc. is not to exceed \$289,000. Carl Walker, Inc. will present its report and findings to the council in June 2008.

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## **COUNCIL APPROVES MIXED-USE BUILDING AT 111 SEABOARD**

The Raleigh City Council approved a preliminary site plan on Tuesday for the redevelopment of 111 Seaboard Avenue into a four-story, mixed-use building that will include more than 50 condominiums and more than 11,000 square feet of retail space.

The building, located on almost an acre of land on the corner of Seaboard Avenue and Salisbury Street, will include residential units in an Industrial District within the Downtown Overlay District and required City Council approval.

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## **CONTRACT APPROVED FOR PHASE III RENOVATIONS AT MORDECAI HISTORIC PARK**

The Raleigh City Council on August 7 approved a \$495,000 bid from Progressive Contracting Company for renovations at Mordecai Historic Park.

The scope of work for the phase three renovations includes an extensive exterior renovation of both the Main House (Mordecai Residence) and the Cure Barn. The work includes but is not limited to lead paint abatement and repainting, and structural repairs. The work also will include replacement of siding and shutters, new roof materials and installation of gutters and down spouts. The project will start in late September and be completed in January 2008.

Previous phases of work at Mordecai Historic Park include plaster

repair and painting on the interior of the main house and the chapel, abating the lead paint of other buildings on site and repainting them, roof repairs and structural reinforcement of the Andrew Johnson birth place, carpentry work that included siding and window repairs on the chapel, law office and post office.

Development of an interpretive center at Mordecai Historic Park is part of the \$88.6 million bond referendum to be considered by voters on Oct. 9. For more information on the 2007 Parks Bonds or the Mordecai Historic Park, visit the City of Raleigh website at [www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov) or call the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department at 890-3285.

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## **CITY COUNCIL APPROVES INCREASE IN MOTOR VEHICLE FEE**

The Raleigh City Council voted 7-1 August 7 to raise the City's motor vehicle fee to \$25. The motor vehicle fee had been \$20. The N.C. General Assembly voted to give the City of Raleigh the authority to raise the fee by \$5. The extra revenue generated from the fee increase must be used for transportation purposes. The increase will result in an estimated \$1.4 million a year for the City of Raleigh.

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## **RALEIGH IS AMONG THE 50 LARGEST CITIES IN THE COUNTRY**

Raleigh has surpassed Wichita, Kan., to become the 50<sup>th</sup> largest city in the country, according to population estimates prepared by the City of Raleigh Planning Department's Growth Management Division.

Raleigh's estimated population as of July 1 is 367,995, an increase of 8,663 persons since Jan. 1 when the city's population was estimated to be 359,332. The city's population increased by 4.07 percent from July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2007. Raleigh is now the ninth largest city in the South behind Jacksonville, Memphis, Charlotte, Louisville, Nashville, Atlanta, Virginia Beach and Miami. Estimates are based on the number of dwellings, the average number of people per dwelling, and the dwelling occupancy/vacancy averages.

In 2006, Raleigh passed Tampa, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh; and St. Louis

to become the 51<sup>st</sup> largest city in the nation," said City of Raleigh Planning Director Mitchell Silver. "If our growth rate continues, we project that Raleigh will pass Arlington, Texas, Minneapolis and Colorado Springs, Colo., next year."

Mr. Silver said a strong local economy, housing prices, quality schools and "numerous other amenities" have sustained the population growth in Raleigh.

"Raleigh continues to be one of the fastest growing cities in the United States," he said. "The rank of 50<sup>th</sup> largest city in the country is based on the Department of Planning's projections. The U.S. Census Bureau's estimates lag one year behind local estimates. However, I am optimistic the U.S. Census Bureau will confirm Raleigh's 50th ranking when it releases its 2007 population in June 2008."

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## COUNCIL ACCEPTS RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

The Raleigh City Council voted 7-1 August 7 to join an international association that is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions worldwide and to endorse the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. The City of Raleigh's Environmental Advisory Board recommended approval of both proposals.

The City of Raleigh will join the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)-Local Governments for Sustainability, an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organizations that has made a commitment to sustainable development. The \$2,800 annual membership fee in ICLEI will provide the City with access to software that will help the City conduct an emissions inventory. Once this inventory is complete, the City will establish goals and strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Council endorsement of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement commits the City of Raleigh to join other communities in taking steps to meet or exceed Kyoto protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution. The Climate Protection Agreement was first presented to the U.S. Conference of Mayors by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels and approved by the mayors in June 2005.

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### DOWNTOWN EVENTS CALENDER

08-10 8:00 PM	Five Women Wearing the Same Dress	Kennedy Theater
08-10 8:00 PM	J. Anthony Brown	AJ Fletcher Opera Theater
08-11 8:00 PM	Five Women Wearing the Same Dress	Kennedy Theater
08-12 3:00 PM	Five Women Wearing the Same Dress	Kennedy Theater
08-11- 02:00 PM	Bud Light Downtown Ilve	Moore Square
08-18- 08:30 PM	Movies in the Park	Moore Square