

Remembering the Controversy of the Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike

Michael Q. Rogers

Interdisciplinary Studies: American City

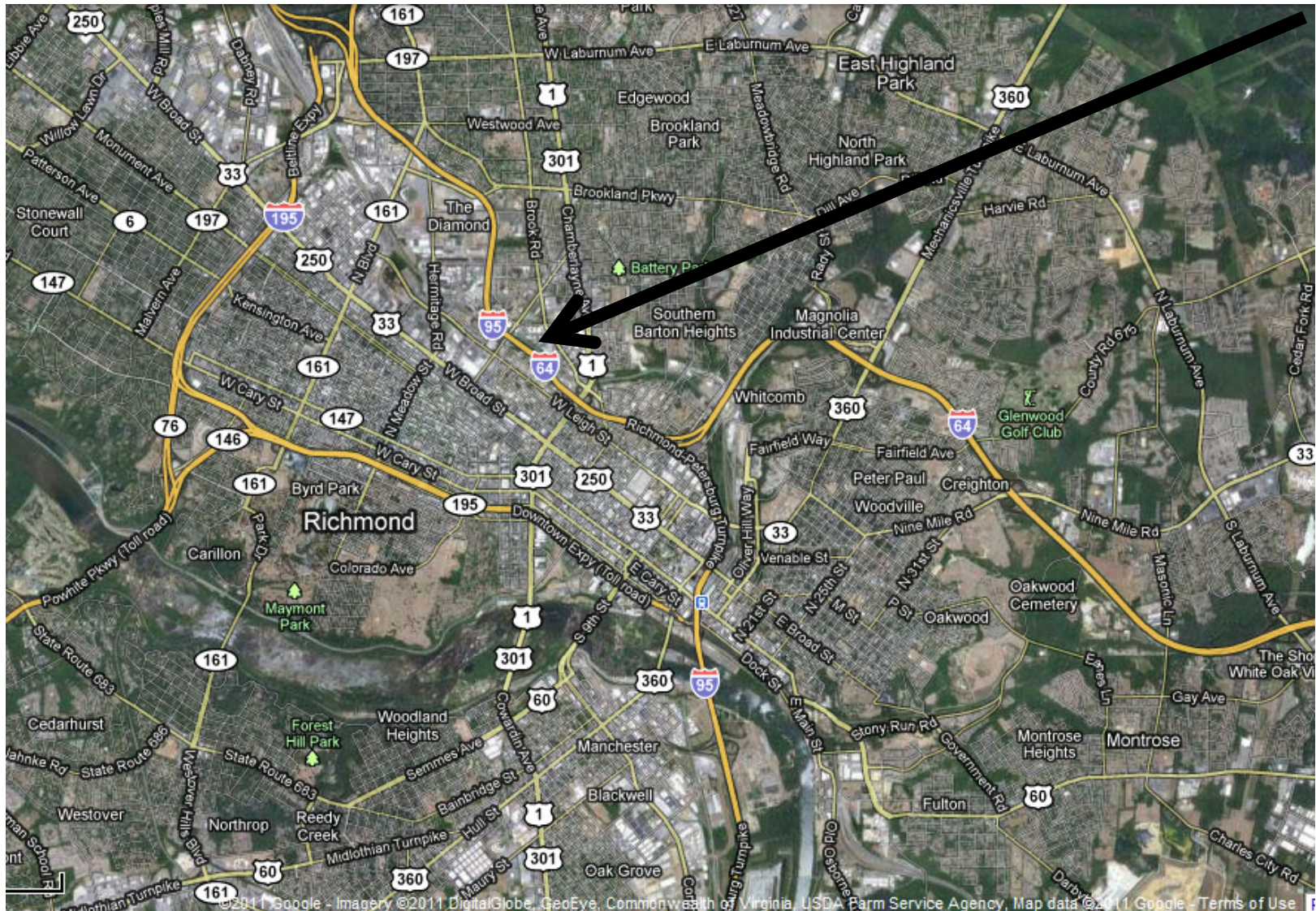
General Overview

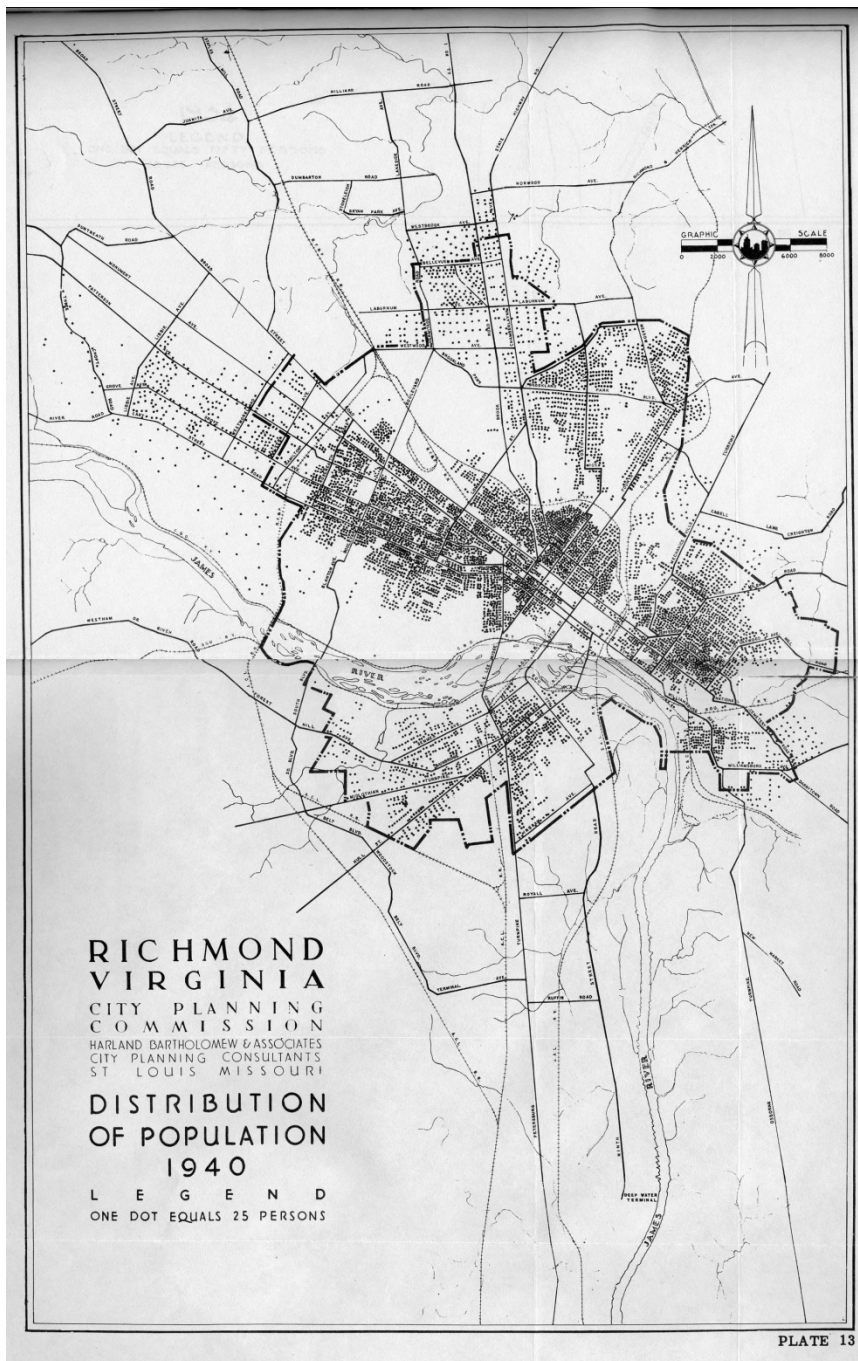
- My sources
- One issue, three lenses
- The Highway Battle
- The Coup
- The Construction
- My conclusions
- Questions?

A Note on My sources

- The Richmond Times-Dispatch
- The Afro-American
- City of Richmond Council Journal
- Dept. of Transportation Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike Authority Work progress photographs

One Issue: Why there?





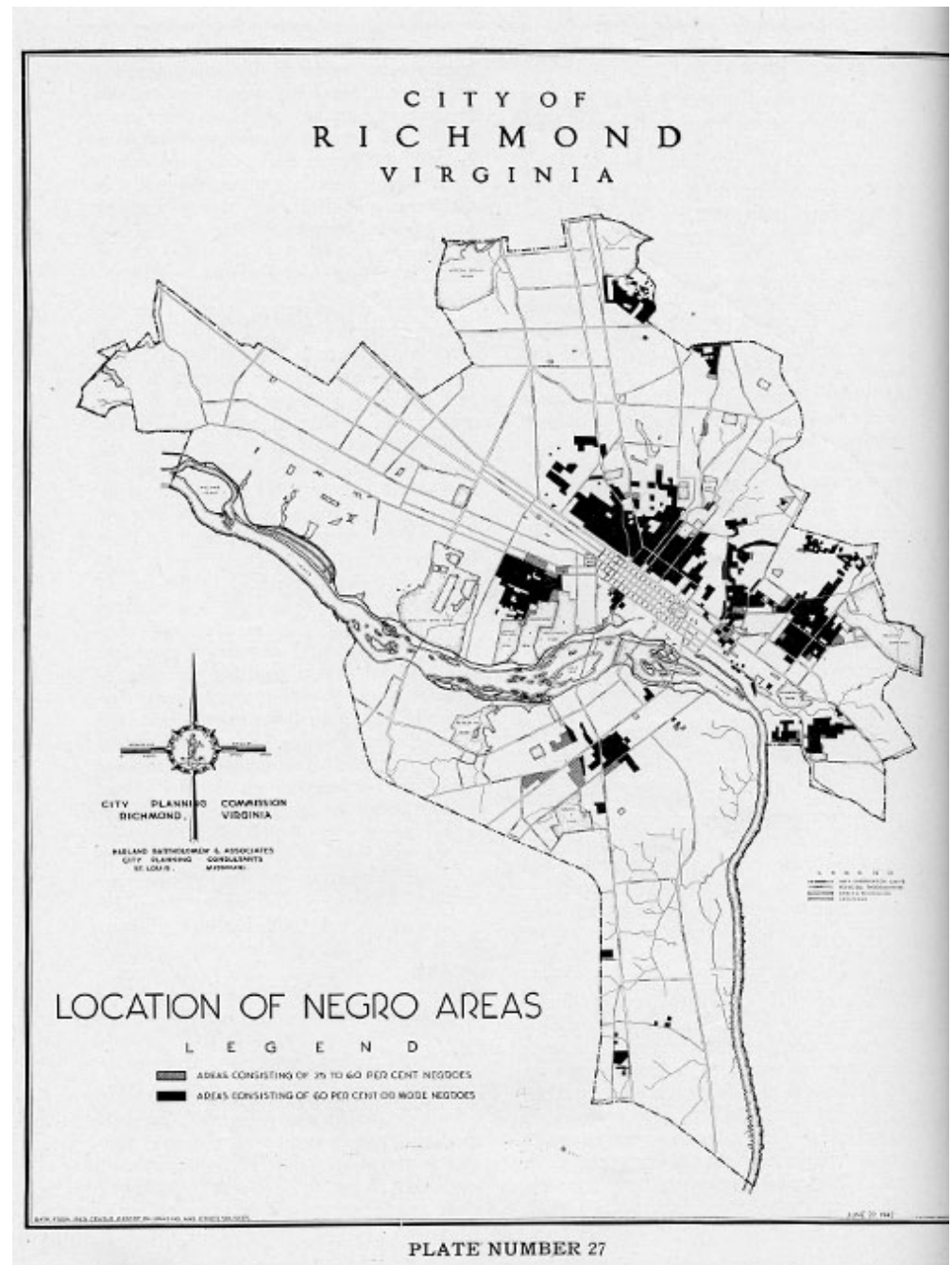
This was the
distribution of
population in 1940.

Consider the politics
of slum clearance:

1. Where is the path
of least resistance?

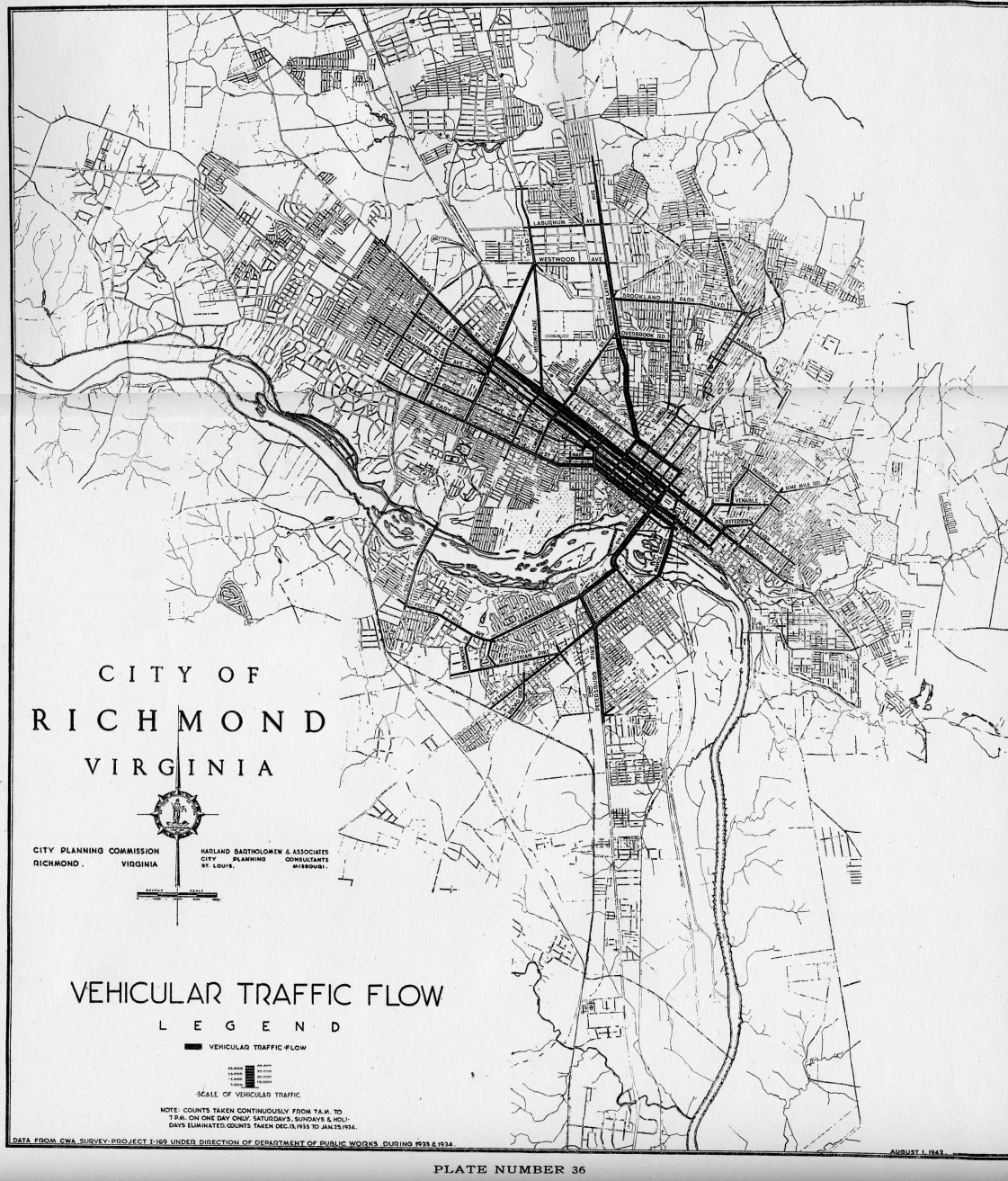
Consider Politics of Race:

1. Stigma
2. Inferiority
3. Undesirability

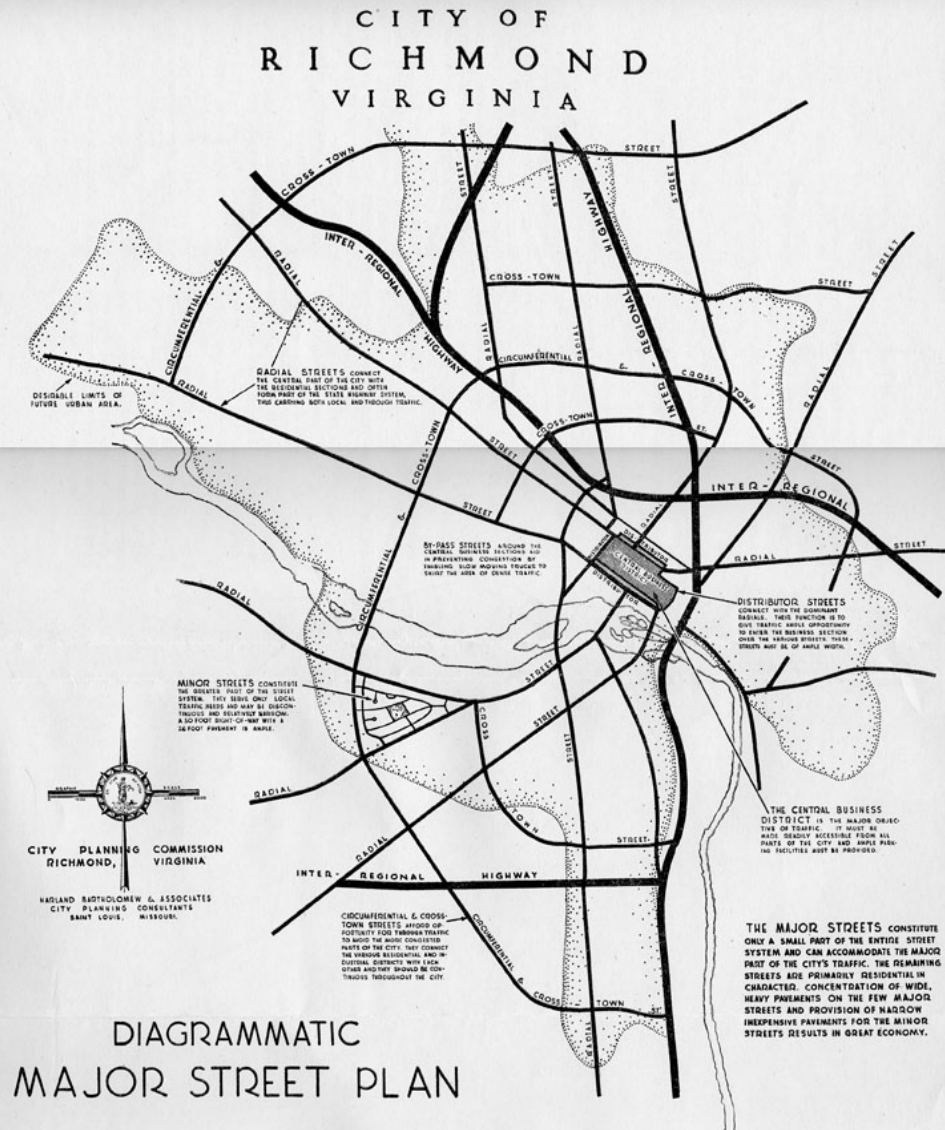


Considering
the politics of
circulation:

1. Traffic
2. Residents
3. CBD



The 1946 Major Street Plan

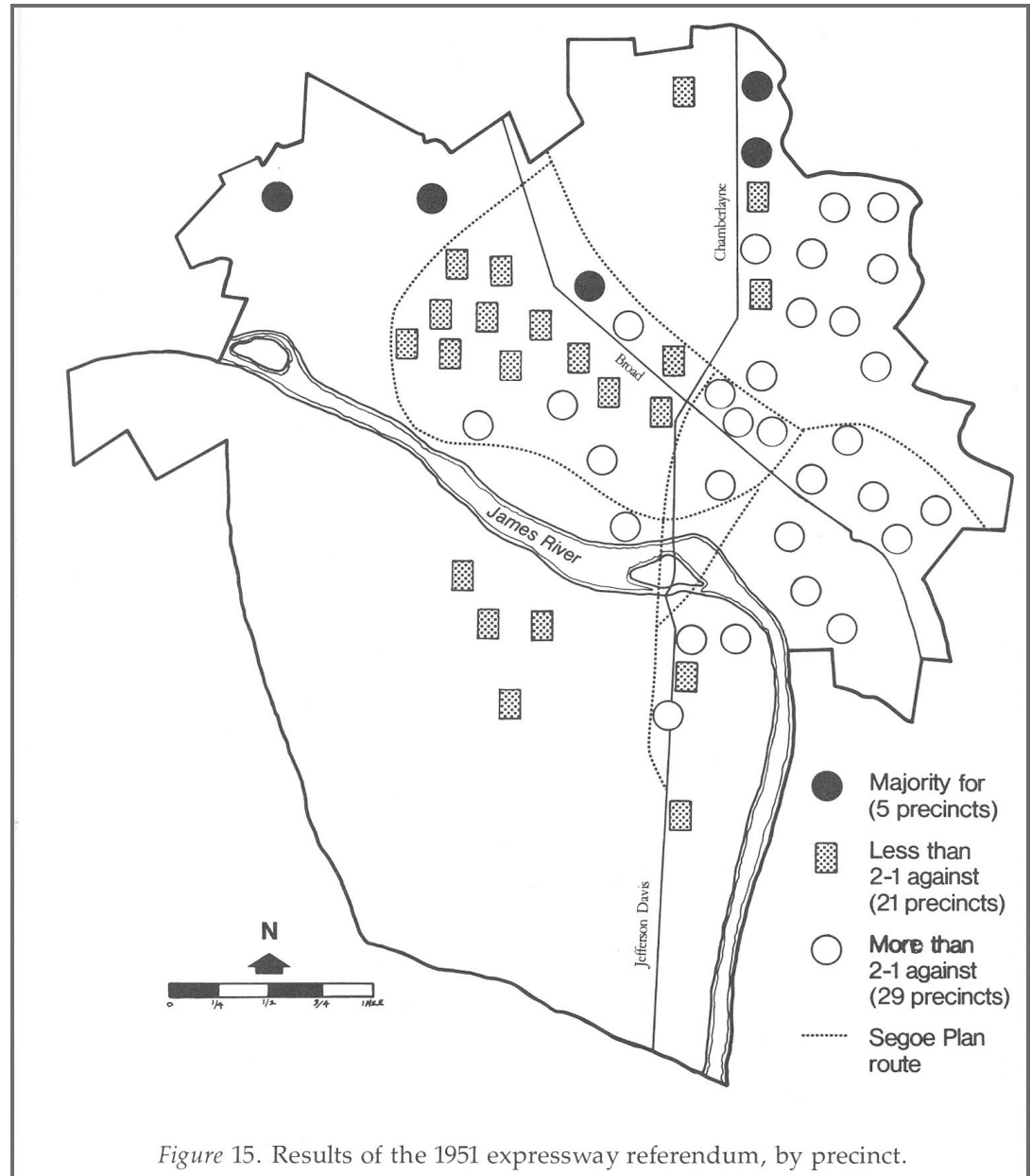


Strangled by a Bottleneck

The Battle: News



The Battle: Referenda



The Coup d'état and Construction

- City Council
- The Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike Authority
- So let it be written, so let it be done

February 7, 1957



RICHMOND-PETERSBURG TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
CONTRACT NUMBER A-4-G.
CONTRACTOR, E. G. BOWLES-
WILEY N. JACKSON CO.
PHOTO NO. 1, STA. 1792 00, NORTH ON CL.
DATE, FEB. 7, 1957.



March 5, 1957

RICHMOND-PETERSBURG TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
CONTRACT NUMBER A-4-G.
CONTRACTOR, E. G. BOWLES-
WILEY N. JACKSON CO.
PHOTO NO. 1, STA. 1792 00, NORTH ON CL
DATE, MARCH 5, 1957.

March 27, 1957



RICHMOND-PETERSBURG TURNPIKE AUTHORITY.
CONTRACT NUMBER A-4-G.
CONTRACTOR, E. G. BOWLES-
WILEY N. JACKSON CO.
PHOTO NO. 1, STA. 1792 00, NORTH ON CL.
DATE, MARCH 27, 1957.

April 24, 1957



RICHMOND-PETERSBURG TURNPIKE AUTHORITY.
CONTRACT NUMBER A-4-G.
CONTRACTOR, E. G. BOWLES-
WILEY N. JACKSON CO.
PHOTO NO. 1, STA. 1792 00, NORTH ON CL.
DATE, APRIL 24, 1957.

June 27, 1957



RICHMOND-PETERSBURG TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
CONTRACT NUMBER A-4-G
CONTRACTOR, E. G. BOWLES-
WILEY N. JACKSON CO.
PHOTO NO., 1, STA. 1792 00, NORTH ON CL.
DATE, JUNE 27, 1957.

August 28, 1957



RICHMOND-PETERSBURG TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
CONTRACT NUMBER A-4-G.
CONTRACTOR, E. G. BOWLES-
WILEY N. JACKSON CO.
PHOTO NO. 1, STA. 1792 00, NORTH ON CL
DATE, AUGUST 28, 1957.

December 30, 1957



RICHMOND-PETERSBURG TURNPIKE AUTHORITY.
CONTRACT NUMBER A-4-G.
CONTRACTOR, E. G. BOWLES-
WILEY N. JACKSON CO.
PHOTO NO. 1, STA. 1792 00, NORTH ON CL.
DATE, DECEMBER 30, 1957.

March 3, 1958



RICHMOND-PETERSBURG TURNPIKE AUTHORITY.
CONTRACT NUMBER A-4-G
CONTRACTOR, E. G. BOWLES-
WILEY N. JACKSON CO.
PHOTO NO. 1, STA. 1792 00, NORTH ON CL.
DATE, MARCH 3, 1958.

June 25, 1958



RICHMOND-PETERSBURG TURNPIKE AUTHORITY.
CONTRACT NUMBER A-4-G.
CONTRACTOR, E. G. BOWLES-
WILEY N. JACKSON CO.
PHOTO NO. 1, STA. 1792 00, NORTH ON CL.
DATE, JUNE 25, 1958.

My Conclusions

- Once they started building it, it didn't matter how they had originally justified the highway
- It's all about notions of progress

Questions?