Semmes Cowardin Hull
Neighborhood Node Plan

DRAFT - Vision Statement

In 2037, SCH is a safe, walkable, vibrant, well-connected, and cohesive community that serves as a crossroads and anchor to the distinguished Blackwell, Manchester, Springhill, Swansboro, and Woodland Heights neighborhoods that surround it. This urban district is a welcoming gateway into Southside, and showcases the residents' shared adoration for local business, community and the great outdoors.

All streets are "complete streets" that prioritize safety, accessibility and low-speed travel over automobile traffic throughput, so all users (regardless of travel mode or ability) are safe and comfortable when moving around the community. Residents and community members enjoy easy access to nearby parks and destinations on both banks of the river using a safe and well-connected network of sidewalks, protected bike lanes, transit, and shared-use paths. The former CSX/Atlantic Coast Line railway is transformed into an urban greenway, featuring a dense tree canopy, park-like spaces and direct connections to public buildings. In addition, the four major corridors—Semmes, Bainbridge, Hull, and Cowardin— are beautiful, tree-lined streets equipped with pedestrian and transit amenities that enhance the streetscape, contribute to the economic vitality of the district, and make multi-modal travel convenient and enjoyable.

A grocery store located within walking distance offers healthy foods, fresh meat and produce, and common household items at an affordable price to the community. In addition, community food organizations supply fresh food to the district. Numerous small and local businesses such as community cafes, unique restaurants, and retail shops also achieve notable success in the district. New developments connect, expand, and improve upon the gridded street network, complement the architectural characters and community identities of the surrounding neighborhoods, and are well-knitted into the existing fabric. As this district grows, additional investments into affordable housing, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, parking, and stormwater drainage continue to enhance quality of life for all residents and businesses throughout the community.

DRAFT - Growth Potential: Medium – The neighborhood node has experienced moderate population growth in recent years, both through multifamily and attached townhouse development. Vacant storefronts and surface parking lots, especially along the major corridors, could be rehabilitated or redeveloped incrementally over time to catalyze the introduction of additional neighborhood-serving commercial businesses and jobs within the study area.

Scan the QR code or visit the Semmes Cowardin Hull Plan webpage at https://www.rva.gov/planning-development-review/semmes-cowardin-hull-neighborhood-node-plan to learn more and stay updated on future meetings.

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Neighborhood Node Plan
Study Area



SEMMES COWARDIN HULL
Neighborhood Node Plan
Scan the QR Code or visit the website bit.ly/rvaSCHplan for more information about the plan.