

FINAL LAP FOR WORLDS



DEAN HOFFMEYER/TIMES-DISPATCH

Fans of the Colombian riders cheered as cyclists headed into the final lap during the men's elite road race Sunday at the UCI Road World Championships in Richmond. Peter Sagan of Slovakia won the gold medal with a dramatic late push.

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THE 10-DAY TALLY: 645,000

Early spectator estimate surpasses by far what organizers had expected

BY LOUIS LLOVIO
Richmond Times-Dispatch

The 2015 UCI Road World Championships far exceeded crowd predictions, with about 645,000 spectators coming to the event during its 10-day run, according to a preliminary estimate released Sunday by race

organizers. The attendance figure tops by almost 200,000 what organizers have expected for the past three years and is a significant increase over the last time the event was held in North America. Organizers said Sunday that the estimate includes atten-

dance beginning with opening ceremonies Sept. 18. "On-site spectators represent fans over the entirety of the event whether they attended one day or multiple days of the event, rather than unique individuals," the organizers said in a statement. The official attendance num-

ber will be released as part of an economic impact study in several months. Lee Kallman, vice president of marketing and business development at Richmond 2015, the event's organizing body, said the attendance figure is based on several criteria, both quantitative and qualitative.

To come up with the number, a committee of eight people was created that included members of Richmond 2015, local public service officials on the ground, and industry experts. The committee looked at certain spots along the race course, venue data, and estimates from

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The Worlds are over — so what do we do now?

Four years after Richmond won the right to host one of professional cycling's largest and most prestigious events, the UCI Road World Championships ended Sunday. It ended with huge crowds, a local boy near the front for much of the day, and one question for many of the people who put on the event: What now? The world championships took over the Richmond area about 10 days ago. In that time, much of the city and region adapted to the massive operation and adopted the international cycling community that came out to watch. Sleepless nights, particularly in the last couple of months, were not uncommon. I first started writing about the world championships in early 2011, shortly after Richmond officially announced it would bid on the event. Like many people, I was skeptical about Richmond's ability to land and pull off an event like this. But, mostly, I had no idea what it was — what is *really* was. For the first couple of years, I wrote dozens of

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DEAN HOFFMEYER/TIMES-DISPATCH

The peloton turned up Libby Hill on Sunday to the delight of thousands of fans along the route during the UCI men's elite road circuit.

Downtown cleanup efforts underway

BY LOUIS LLOVIO
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Work to clear up portions of Broad Street and downtown Richmond after the UCI Road World Championships began Sunday shortly after Peter Sagan

of Slovakia crossed the finish line. City officials said clearing the race's main staging area, on East Broad Street between North Third and North Seventh streets, should be completed by Thursday.

That area has been closed since the evening of Sept. 11, when crews set to work building out what would become the hub of the races. Among the work to be done in the coming days is taking down grandstands, bleachers, the start

and finish line, a hospitality pavilion and broadcast booths. To make sure the staging area and pavilion fit, city crews had to remove traffic signals and light poles, so those will need to be replaced.

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