

MEMORANDUM

TO: Richmond Selectboard and Town Manager Josh Arneson
FROM: Cathleen Gent, Richmond Transportation Committee Co-Chair
DATE: April 15, 2020
RE: Transportation Committee Items for 4/20/2020 Selectboard Meeting

CC: Richmond Transportation Committee members
Town Planner Ravi Venkataraman

The Richmond Transportation Committee has been meeting since October and has refined a draft Transportation Implementation Plan as well as a Public Participation Plan for guiding the Transportation Committee's efforts to engage and educate Richmond residents, business owners, and stakeholders about potential transportation improvements in town.

1. **Richmond Transportation Implementation Plan** (draft dated April 15) This plan incorporates elements of Richmond's Town Plan, a list provided by the Selectboard, and the Richmond Transportation Committee's goals. The Transportation Implementation Plan includes projects (some new and some that have been contemplated for years) to construct based on feasibility studies and current cost estimates, with funding support from the town, state and federal governments.
2. **Public Participation Plan** (draft dated April 15) This plan lays out public participation goals and outreach strategies for engaging stakeholders and community members in prioritizing elements and adding/removing items in the Transportation Implementation Plan.

Within the current COVID-19 environment, our committee plans to wait to actually implement the Public Participation Plan. But we want to be ready with both the Transportation Implementation Plan and an array of ways to engage the public in the coming months.

We look forward to meeting with the Selectboard next week to get your input for these two documents in advance of moving forward to the public in the coming weeks/months. In addition, the Committee would like to review our general progress, including the status of the two applications for the UPWP grant program and efforts to incorporate E-vehicle charging stations in a public parking area.

Thank you.

Transportation Implementation Plan

Richmond Transportation Committee

Draft – 4/15/2020

The Richmond Transportation Committee seeks to develop a town Transportation Implementation Plan with projects selected based on community input, feasibility studies and current cost estimates. The Transportation Implementation Plan will support the Town Plan and the regional plan and will promote public health and safety while seeking to avoid and minimize environmental impacts. The Transportation Committee will confirm the plan elements using a public process that encourages and incorporates participation from stakeholders and community members.

Items are not in priority order

- I. **Implement a “Complete Streets” program that encourages multi-modal transportation options such as walking and biking in addition to motor vehicle traffic**
 - A. Add new sidewalks within village along east side of Bridge Street
 - B. Build four new crosswalks at the Bridge/Railroad/Jolina intersection
 - C. Support sidewalks and bike paths or striping for cyclists and pedestrians on State and town road projects.
 - D. Implement a town policy that pedestrian crosswalks have safety lighting and illumination (when streetlights are not in place).
 - E. Work with VTrans to prioritize rebuilding Route 2 (Main Street) including sidewalks and bicycle/pedestrian accommodations, either on alignment or off alignment East Main Street to Park & Ride and Riverside Commons.
 - F. Identify and bridge gaps in interconnectivity of trails and connectivity of trails with destinations such as the market or park and ride to support non-motorized means of travel.
 - G. Install bike storage lockers and electric-bike charging capability at key locations
- II. **Improve safety and efficiency of public roads, bridges, paths, and all modes of transportation**
 - A. Work with partner agencies and organizations to identify and test (e.g., through pop-up demonstrations or other means) best practices in bike and pedestrian safety
 - B. Implement low-cost improvements such as better signage and road markings and improve signage for existing parking areas.
 - C. Develop design standards for signage and install signs for all public paths as needed throughout town.
 - D. Support Safe Routes to School and other bike/ped programs on town highways.
 - E. Work with VTrans to adjust the signaling at the Route 2/Bridge Street intersection to improve traffic flow and safety and continue to support policing and traffic management at this location during morning and evening busy times.
 - F. Encourage the town to require the Creamery parcel developer to conduct a traffic study of the Railroad Street, Bridge Street, Jolina Court intersection and address both vehicular access and pedestrian/bicycle safety strategies during the Act 250/master plan review process.

G. Improve safety in all multi-modal implementations.

III. Increase the resilience of transportation infrastructure

A. Support the Selectboard and Highway Department by finding opportunities to support more resilient transportation improvements.

IV. Encourage transportation policies and programs that reduce single-occupancy vehicle travel on town roads

A. Support public and private efforts promoting alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle travel such as public transit, rapid transit buses, car-sharing and carpooling, ride sharing (“hitching post”), telecommuting, rail commuter station, local bus shuttle, flexible work schedules and school bus usage.

B. Pursue partnerships with employers to subsidize shuttle and public transit.

C. Add/expand park and ride facilities in Richmond and neighboring towns, with access to public transit.

D. Encourage smart growth development in village center, downtown, and near transit options.

E. Support social service transportation such as SSTA, Neighbor Rides and others for elderly, disabled, or other non-drivers.

F. Partner with Mount Mansfield Unified School District:

V. Pursue energy-improvement related transportation projects

A. Consider energy efficiency and alternative fuels when purchasing municipal vehicles, recognizing there may be limited options at this time for heavy duty vehicles and vehicles for first responders.

B. Identify and implement actions to reduce carbon footprint such as public transit, bike paths, sidewalks, infrastructure for electric vehicles and bikes (EV charging stations).

C. Enforce Richmond’s no-idling policy.

VI. Improve economic vitality in Richmond village

A. Ensure sufficient public parking for commercial and housing needs in Richmond village area

Public Participation Plan

Richmond Transportation Committee

[Draft April 15, 2020]

The Richmond Transportation Committee was created and charged by the Selectboard with developing a town Transportation Implementation Plan with projects selected based on community input, feasibility studies and current cost estimates. The Transportation Plan will support the Town Plan and the regional plan and will promote public health and safety while seeking to avoid and minimize environmental impacts. The Transportation Committee will reach its goal using a process that encourages and incorporates participation from stakeholders and community members.

This public participation plan will guide the Transportation Committee's efforts to engage and educate Richmonders about the current status of, and potentials for improving transportation within the town.

Goals for Public Participation Plan: The Transportation Committee and the Selectboard will...

1. Use the public's input to revise and prioritize the planning and implementation of transportation improvements in the town.
2. Offer citizens opportunities for early and ongoing involvement in decision-making.
3. Explicitly consider public comments prior to making decisions.
4. Seek out and consider the needs of those traditionally underserved by our transportation systems.

Outreach strategies

- Informational posts to Front Porch Forum, the town web site, the Times Ink and Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV).
- Public face-to-face and online meetings
- Meetings with other town committees and staff
- Outreach to local organizations and businesses
- Word of mouth, flyers
- Conversations with business and community leaders
- Online surveys

Information to convey to the public

- Why the Transportation Committee was formed
- We are actively seeking project funding for identified projects
- We need the public's ideas and feedback about activities in Richmond Implementation Plan

NOTE: If Richmond receives funding through the Unified Public Works Program, there will be separate public participation plans for those projects.