

TO: Richmond Selectboard

FROM: Ravi Venkataraman, Town Planner

DATE: May 14, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 Round 2 Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant and 2021 Federal Aid Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant

### Background

The town is awaiting a response from VTrans regarding the reconstruction of sidewalks along East Main Street within the village. However, to move this project forward, in case VTrans does not commit to reconstructing the sidewalks, I would like to pursue the following grants:

- 2021 Round 2 Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant
- 2021 Federal Aid Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant

Both grant applications are due June 4, 2021. The scope area for this project includes sidewalk on the north side of East Main Street from Bridge Street to the Fire Station and on the south side of East Main Street from Bridge Street to Lemroy Court.

### 2021 Round 2 Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant

Projects costing up to \$250,000 are eligible for this grant. For this grant, the town would be required to provide a 50 percent grant match of up to \$125,000 (for a total project cost of \$250,000). Sidewalk reconstruction projects are eligible for this grant.

### 2021 Federal Aid Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant

This grant is for projects costing \$300,000 to \$1,000,000. For this grant the town would be required to provide a 20 percent grant match. Sidewalk reconstruction projects are eligible for this grant.

### Total Project Costs

Per the [January 2020 VTrans Report on the Shared-Use Path and Sidewalk Costs](#) and the cost spreadsheet on the grant applications, the total cost of reconstructing the sidewalks on the north side of East Main Street from Bridge Street to the Fire Station and on the south side of East Main Street from Bridge Street to Lemroy Court would be \$1,279,740. This figure is based on the following:

- Total construction cost of installing concrete sidewalk with a concrete curb (\$277 per foot for concrete sidewalk with concrete curbing, 1800 feet on the north side of East Main Street, and 1500 feet on the south side of East Main Street): \$914,100
- Total Engineering Cost (Equal to 25 percent of construction cost): \$228,525
- Cost of Construction Inspection (Independent engineering consultant to determine that project is built to specification; equal to 15 percent of construction cost): \$137,115

Additional information about these costs and the grant requirements can be found here: [Bicycle and Pedestrian Program | Agency of Transportation \(vermont.gov\)](#)

The small-scale grant would partially fund a portion of the construction of a sidewalk segment along East Main Street. The Federal Aid Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant would provide funding for projects up to \$1 million, and the required grant match for a \$1 million project would be \$200,000. The town would need to cover any gaps in funding.

### Funding Source

Town Manager Josh Arneson and I are investigating utilizing funds from a municipal bond to provide the grant match. In 2016, the town did approve a \$650,000 bond to improve the sidewalks, curbing, and stormwater on East Main Street. This bond was never acted upon. This bond may be invalid because it was voted on five years ago. Furthermore, the amount in the bond may need to be adjusted based on grant funds the town could receive.

### Requirements and Draft Motion

A motion to approve pursuing the grants per the town's Grant Management and Procurement Policy is required.

In addition, for the Small-Scale Grant application, a letter from the Selectboard supporting the application, confirming the provision of the required local match and acknowledging the town's commitment to long-term maintenance is required. A draft letter for your consideration is enclosed.

To facilitate action, I have prepared the following draft motion:

*I, \_\_\_\_\_, move to approve pursuing the 2021 Round 2 Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant and 2021 Federal Aid Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant for the reconstruction of sidewalks along East Main Street within Richmond Village.*



**TOWN OF RICHMOND**  
**RICHMOND TOWN CENTER**  
203 Bridge Street, P.O. Box 285  
Richmond, Vermont 05477



May 18, 2021

Vermont Agency of Transportation  
219 North Main St.  
Barre, VT 05641

Re: Richmond's East Main Street Sidewalk Reconstruction Project

To the Vermont Agency of Transportation,

Please let this letter serve as the letter from the Selectboard that is required in the 2021 Round Two Small-scale Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant. At their May 17, 2021 meeting the Richmond Selectboard voted to pursue the a 2021 Round Two Small-scale Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant to reconstruct the sidewalks along East Main Street within Richmond Village. This motion can be found in the minutes from that meeting.

During that meeting the Board acknowledged the Town's responsibility of providing the required 50 percent match for the project, and maintaining the project in the future.

Sincerely,

Josh Arneson  
Richmond Town Manager  
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