

TO: Richmond Selectboard

FROM: Ravi Venkataraman, Town Planner

DATE: June 18, 2021

SUBJECT: Richmond Bike, Walk and Trails Plan Phase 1

Background

The Richmond Bike, Walk and Trails Plan is an investigation into possible improvements to the bicycle and pedestrian path network throughout town. Possible improvements included sidewalks, bike paths, and/or bike lanes parallel to roadways, as well as off-road paved paths and unpaved trails. This project is in Phase 1 out of two phases. This initial phase focused on improving existing connections and mapping possible connections in areas north of the Winooski River. Phase 1 of the Bike, Walk, and Trails Plan project was funded through the FY21 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The second phase will be undertaken later this year and early next year as part of the FY22 UPWP.

The UPWP a federally mandated annual statement of work listing planning priorities and activities to be carried out by Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission. Eighty percent of the funding for these priority transportation planning projects within the UPWP program come from federal and state funding allocated to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) (CCRPC serves as the designated MPO). The remaining twenty percent of funding comes from local matches.

Phase 1 of the Bike, Walk and Trails Plan began in October 2020. Toole Design was the designated consultant for this project. CCRPC Senior Transportation Planner Bryan Davis provided project management and technical assistance for this project. The Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan Project Steering Committee--consisting of Trails Committee members, Transportation Committee members, representatives from partner organizations, and the general public--and the Transportation Committee gave guidance throughout the project. The project steering committee met three times--in November 2020, February 2021, and May 2021--to provide guidance and input to the project consultant. In addition, the public was able to provide recommendations via a WikiMap application from December 2020 to March 2021 and a public meeting for the project was held in March 2021.

Contents

Enclosed for your consideration are:

- The Phase 1 Richmond Walk, Bike and Trails Plan; and
- Select appendices on separate documents.

Next Steps

First and foremost, the next step is to complete the Walk, Bike, and Trails Plan by July 2022. However, the Transportation Committee and I are working towards determining the feasibility of developing segments per the plan. A sidewalk scoping study for Jericho Road from School Street to Valley View Road is slated to begin in the coming months. This project will be supported through the FY22 UPWP. This scoping study would not only determine the feasibility of a sidewalk but also identify constraints and costs. The Transportation Committee and I will seek out additional funding to scope priority segments per the plan in order to prepare for possibly engineering and constructing new paths.

At this point, the Selectboard does not need to take action. The purpose of this item is for the board to understand and acknowledge the project. Since this project is ongoing, this portion of the project may be revised in order to create a more cohesive town-wide plan. When phase 2 of this project is complete, action by the Selectboard will be required.