

Richmond Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes – March 22, 2022

All participants attended the meeting remotely.

Committee members present: Cathleen Gent (chair), Chris Cole (vice-chair), Mark Damico, Jon Kart, Allen Knowles

Others present: Ravi Venkataraman (Town Planner)

A quorum was reached and the chair convened the meeting at 5:34 PM.

1. Revisions to Agenda: None

2. Meeting Minutes: *March 8, 2022 minutes were moved by Kart, seconded by Knowles. The minutes were approved unanimously.*

3. Committee Planning Session: Committee Priorities

Committee members discussed various projects that are in planning or scoping phases. Given that the highway department is reconstructing the west side of Bridge Street, there was agreement that we should request that the highway department include in the upcoming construction project as many components as possible from the VHB Bridge Street Complete Streets Corridor Study report. Cole noted that, for state or federal funding for Transportation Committee projects, we could request funding for either engineering or combined engineering/construction phases. There was general agreement that the committee's two top priorities are: 1) new sidewalk for east side of Bridge Street from the vacant TD bank parcel to Esplanade Street; 2) new path/sidewalk on Jericho Road between the schools and Valley View Road. Venkataraman said that Stantec is completing the scoping studies for the Jericho Road project, east side of Bridge Street project, and Huntington Road project with sufficient time to present to the Selectboard and apply this year for VTrans bike and ped grant funding. Gosselin is also working with Dan Noyes on improving conditions at the Railroad Street and Bridge Street intersection. Several committee members said it would be helpful to meet with highway foreman Peter Gosselin again and Venkataraman will ask Gosselin to join the committee for one of the two April meetings to discuss what elements of the VHB report might be incorporated into this year's construction project on Bridge Street, the best timing for constructing sidewalk on the east side of Bridge Street, what capacity the highway department has to construct new sidewalks, e.g., Jericho Road and east side of Bridge Street, and an update regarding pedestrian improvements at Railroad Street and Bridge Street. Committee members agreed that our goal should be to get funding for and construct a different sidewalk project every year.

Jon Kart also referenced a 2010 bicycle/pedestrian study that recommended a pocket park along the railroad near Bridge Street. Gent asked committee members to review the VHB report and the earlier 2010 study.

4. Committee Membership and Staff/Committee Work

Gent asked whether the three members whose terms are up plan to reapply for appointment. Damico said he is not going to stay on and committee members thanked him for his many contributions and for staying on the committee until the reappointment process is completed. Venkataraman discussed options for recruiting new members and Damico agreed to write a request – to be posted by Venkataraman – for someone to fill his slot. Gent said that she does not wish to stay on as chair, though will remain on the committee as her term is not up. She suggested the committee's organizational meeting take place after the Selectboard makes appointments and the staff/committee work can be discussed at that time.

5. FY22 UPWP Project Update

a. Sidewalks Scoping- Venkataraman described the alternatives public presentation meeting on March 17th. He and committee members noted there was great turnout and excellent feedback regarding the alternatives. The committee discussed the three project areas, Bridge Street, Jericho Road, and Huntington Road. Cole said one challenge with the sidewalk/trail to the Johnnie Brook trail is the lack of parking, and noted there is parking in

the village. Venkataraman noted that there will likely be parking again this year along Route 2 and Kenyon/ Johnnie Brook roads. Gent said more work on the Huntington Road scoping is needed before moving to engineering or construction. Committee members discussed elements of the Huntington Road scoping project.

b. Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan – South End – Venkataraman briefly recapped the recent stakeholders meeting, and noted the first couple chapters of the report have been completed and sent to those committee members. Kart noted the discussion about pros and cons of including private trails in a public document and map. Gent said she was concerned about the timing of the alternatives public presentation and making changes based on public input to the final report before the project ends in June.

6. Route 2 Repaving Project Update – Kart recapped the discussion from the Selectboard meeting last night regarding the VTrans response to the Selectboard’s letter about the Route 2 repaving and the bridge replacement project. June Heston and Josh Arneson met with our state representative and Senator Thomas Chittenden. It is expected that Chittenden will contact the VTrans secretary and there will be further Selectboard discussion. Kart noted that VTrans is bidding out work for the culverts.

The committee decided that the remainder of the agenda items will be taken up at the next Transportation Committee meeting, since Venkataraman is technically on vacation this week. Gent asked whether there is time at the next meeting for the committee to discuss the traffic calming policy. Venkataraman said there is time, but that the staff working on the policy wish to bring it to the Selectboard soon because requests have come in for changes in speed limits and other issues. He clarified that the traffic calming policy would apply to Route 2, with the procedure being that an assessment would be done, then a request made to the VTrans/state traffic committee.

7. Adjourn – At 7:04 PM, motion to adjourn by Cole seconded by Knowles. Approved unanimously.

-Minutes taken by Cathleen Gent