

Richmond Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2021

All participants attended the meeting remotely.

Committee members: Cathleen Gent (chair), Mark Damico, James Floyd, Jon Kart, Allen Knowles

Absent: Chris Cole, Erik Filkorn

Others present: Ravi Venkataraman

Cathleen Gent opened the meeting at 5:49 PM.

Meeting Minutes: April 1, 2021 minutes moved by Kart, seconded by Floyd. Minor changes were made, approved unanimously. Gent noted that the letter of support for MMUUSD's Future of Rural Transit Pilot Project application was submitted (copy provided in committee packet).

Additions to Agenda: None

UPWP Project Updates

Bike Ped – Toole is working on the alternatives plan, which will be presented to the project steering committee in May. Venkataraman will pass along the date for that meeting when he gets the information. Toole and CCRPC are working to find another public session regarding the alternatives, if the budget allows for that. Their first focus is on the Route 2 section.

Bridge Street – Several members who attended the April 8th VHB public session spoke about their thoughts about the presentation and meeting. With the alternatives planning session now completed, VHB is preparing the final report and expects to present their report to the Selectboard. Cathleen Gent requested that the RTC members have access to the report at least 10 days before the topic is presented to the Selectboard, hopefully with enough time for the Committee to discuss the report during one of our meetings. Venkataraman will bring our request to VHB for advance time to review the project report. Venkataraman said he is working on getting a link to the video of the alternatives presentation meeting and will pass that along to staff.

FY22 Funding – Venkataraman said that funding is almost secure. There will likely be a seamless engagement letter with consultant(s) to continue the southern ped and bike study.

Route 2 Repaving Project – Venkataraman discussed a recent meeting with Richmond representatives and VTrans staff. The meeting focused on VTrans' response to Richmond's formal response to the plans for Route 2 repaving. Venkataraman said the discussion was primarily related to shoulders, sidewalks, and the left turn signal at Bridge Street. With respect to the left turn signal, VTrans is looking into legal questions and said a turn signal with no turn lane is not permitted, but Town representatives pointed to a number of examples. VTrans says the standard 4-foot shoulder is not feasible in all areas. Town representatives pushed back and VTrans is taking the position that "where feasible" will apply. In terms of sidewalks, VTrans' position is that the sidewalk rebuilding is up to the Town of Richmond. VTrans' project scope is for the road only. Richmond could apply for grants for a sidewalk, which would not necessarily tie to the Route 2 construction time frame. Eleni Churchill is exploring grant potentials. Transportation Committee members asked whether Waterbury had to pay entirely for sidewalks and Venkataraman said he would reach out to Waterbury contacts about that question, although additional funds may be available for designated downtowns, such as Waterbury. The Transportation Committee members offered to reach out to our reps in the legislature and Jon Kart said he will reach out to Bard Hill about whether now is the time. James Floyd asked about what previous agreements the Town of Richmond might have with VTrans for the Route 2 paving project. Venkataraman said he located the Green Mountain Engineering plans from 2011-2012 for East Main Street infrastructure improvements, including

streetscape and sidewalks. Cathleen Gent believes that the water and sewer lines were installed and that the curbed sidewalks on both sides of East Main Street were removed at that time. Venkataraman said there was a town bond vote in 2016 to pay for the streetscape and sidewalks project. Josh Arneson is looking into whether the bond vote is still valid. Venkataraman also said the Town Highway Department is slated to do that project later this year. Venkataraman sent the committee members copies of the Green Mountain Engineering plans from 2011-2012. Either Cathleen Gent or Ravi Venkataraman will reach out to Peter Gosselin about the status and components of that project and invite Peter to attend the next RTC meeting. Committee members discussed whether we could apply for grant funding, which could reduce the town's contribution to only the grant match amount.

Venkataraman said the entire Route 2 repaving project extends from Bolton to Williston and is likely to begin in late 2022, go through all of 2023, and into 2024. Mark Damico posed a question for the entire committee, namely why is VTrans not coordinating the project more closely with Richmond.

Capital Improvement Plan – Venkataraman said he and Finance Director Connie Bona discussed the benefits of putting large-scale transportation projects into Richmond's capital improvement plan, even if only cost estimates can be provided. These transportation projects are completely appropriate for the capital improvement plan, which covers vehicles, buildings, infrastructure. Connie and staff are preparing the capital improvement plan this summer, and our transportation projects should be added at that time. The first two UPWP reports – with cost estimates – will be valuable to looking at adding elements to the transportation improvement plan. This topic will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Grant Opportunities – There was a very short discussion on this topic.

Other Old or New Business – Committee meeting nights are changing to the Second and Fourth Tuesdays – the next meeting is Tuesday, May 11th at 5:30 PM.

Adjourn - Motion to adjourn by Knowles, seconded by Damico at 7:02 PM. Approved unanimously. No abstentions.

-Minutes taken by Cathleen Gent