

Richmond Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes – April 26, 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 5:31 PM.

1. Revisions to Agenda: Gent requested adding one item regarding hybrid meetings, if time permitted.

2. Meeting Minutes: *April 12, 2022 minutes were moved by Kart, seconded by Cole. The minutes were approved unanimously.*

3. Discussion with Road Foreman Peter Gosselin

Venkataraman reported that Peter Gosselin was unable to attend the meeting. Venkataraman will check with Gosselin about rescheduling the discussion with the committee. Venkataraman reviewed with the committee the highway department 2022 construction schedule, which was shared with the Selectboard during their meeting last night. Discussion ensued about the Bridge Street street and sidewalk re-paving project, the parking lot paving at Volunteers Green, and East Main Street sidewalk re-construction project, which will be timed with VTrans road repaving project. Venkataraman will talk with Gosselin about the status of the Railroad Street/ Bridge Street pedestrian improvements. Damico requested that Venkataraman talk with Gosselin about filling in the pothole at the Route 2 intersection.

4. AARP Walkability Audit Tool

The Transportation Committee reviewed Venkataraman's draft public announcement about the project. Gent offered one suggestion to reference the AARP tool in the announcement. Kart offered to provide his comments directly to Venkataraman and then Venkataraman will post the announcement. The committee then reviewed three maps prepared by Venkataraman, showing the three locations for the audit to be completed. For the village, the range will be approximately one-half mile, from the village to the school. Also included will be East Main and West Main, and to the Bridge Street bridge. A special segment will be done from the school to Valley View Road. For the Round Church area, approximately one-half a mile radius will be included, going to the bridge and to the top of Thompson Road, out to the Cross Vermont trail on Huntington Road and to the two trail heads on Cochran Road. For multiple rounds of audits, the mix of volunteers can change. Knowles suggested, and the committee members agreed, that if a group of volunteers wishes to take on other locations not in our planned audits for this year, those can be added.

The committee discussed timing for training volunteers and conducting the audits, which will involve multiple sessions for each segment. The goal is for training to be done around the second or third week in May and the audits to be done between the end of May (not Memorial Day weekend) and completed by the end of June. The committee is looking for three "captains". Gent will reach out to Jeff Forward and Ann Naumann, who are interested in the project. Training can be done with the captains and interested committee members, who will then train the volunteers at the start of the audit sessions. Gent will put this audit tool item on the next meeting agenda.

5. FY22 UPWP Project Update

a. Sidewalks Scoping- Venkataraman said that the committee will be reviewing the draft Stantec report at the next meeting, in light of the presentation of the report in June. In response to a question, Venkataraman said that the draft report can be referenced in the VTrans bike and pedestrian grant application in June.

b. Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan – South End – Venkataraman briefly recapped the project schedule, with a final project report and presentation to the Selectboard pushed back to September due to staff changes with

the consultant. Cole noted that the timing will work well with the FY24 UPWP application deadline (for January) for a master plan feasibility study.

6. Route 2 Repaving Project Update – Venkataraman, Kart, and Knowles briefly recapped the Selectboard discussion from the previous evening, which also included an update about VTrans getting an easement on town property for the bridge replacement – located past the fire department location on East Main Street. Venkataraman said there will be a meeting with town staff and VTrans. CCRPC will also be brought up to speed on the project and corridor improvements.

7. Grants – Gent briefly reviewed Josh Arneson’s email about the federal Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program. Since the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program has looming deadlines, the committee focused on that grant and discussed potential projects. Venkataraman and Knowles (if schedule permits) will attend the VTrans training session on April 29th. Motion by Damico, seconded by Cole, that the Transportation Committee recommends Bridge Street complete streets as our top project for the VTrans grant application, with the Jericho Road (to Valley View) as our alternative project, subject to information learned at the April 29th information session. Kart and Knowles will assist Venkataraman with the application, and Cole will proof read the application.

8. Old and New Business – Gent asked if the committee would like to review member applications for the transportation committee, which will be reviewed by the Selectboard in late May. Committees have the opportunity to provide recommendations and comments to the Selectboard. Both Kart and Knowles have reapplied, and a person not on the committee has applied. Committee members did not wish to take up that topic at the next meeting.

9. Adjourn – At 7:10 PM, motion to adjourn by Knowles, seconded by Damico. Approved unanimously.

-Minutes taken by Cathleen Gent