

Richmond Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes – May 25, 2021

All participants attended the meeting remotely.

Committee members: Cathleen Gent (chair), Erik Filkorn, Allen Knowles, Jon Kart, Mark Damico, Chris Cole,

Absent: James Floyd

Others present: Ravi Venkataraman, Jack Linn

Cathleen Gent opened the meeting at 5:40 PM.

Meeting Minutes: May 11, moved by Kart, seconded by Filkorn approved unanimously.

Additions to Agenda: Discuss regular meeting day. Letter of support for Future of Rural Transit project.

Jack Linn offered public comment. Prior to COVID, Mr. Linn reached out to the Police regarding radar speed tracking. Does the town have an inventory of AADT for various roads that includes speeds? Has the Transportation Committee discussed? Chair Gent replied that the committee had not previously discussed it. Cole offered that there is probably data for AADT on the Federal Aid roads. Jack would like to see the speed cart deployed on the side roads to get some data on how people are behaving on dirt roads. A general conversation about speed ensued.

Route 2 Repaving Update

We are still in conversation with the Secretary's office at VTrans. We expect to meet with the project delivery bureau in the near future. We have a long way to go. Expect to have something to review on the paving grant in the next few days. Kart is working on the draft and Damico is reviewing. Selectboard did approve submitting both grants and supported a 20% match.

There is still some discussion to be had on whether we endorse the Selectboard letter or write our own.

Northern Bike Ped Master Plan –

Disappointment was expressed by Knowles. There was a lack of clarity on the presentation. Through the cemetery? Pie in the sky. Too much talk about new trails on privately owned land. Let's talk about what we can get done like rumbles or full lane access on narrow bridges. Cole concurred with Knowles. Too aspirational. On-alignment solutions are more viable. Gent concurred with the previous statements. The report did not provide much actionable material. Ravi asked what stage of documentation we were at in scoping. He expected more depth and detail, but not sure that is where the process is at. Gent doesn't think they're going to be able to get to cost estimates if this is illustrative of their rate of progress. Ravi has no problem sharing our impressions with Bryan Davis. Perhaps we could get Bryan to attend the next meeting.

Bridge Street –

No information yet on the final recommendations. They have clear direction from the last meeting. Both projects will be presented to the Selectboard on June 21.

Grant Opportunities –

No updates. Cole asked if the town applied for a grant for Jericho Road North of the school? It was included in the UPWP study. No formal confirmation on the award but there appears to be sufficient UPWP funding this year to offer a high level of confidence. We anticipate also receiving grants for studying two others. There was some discussion about adding signalized pedestrian crossings around the Farr complex. Ravi says the Selectboard is in the habit of rolling these out at a rate of about one per year. If we can find funding, we can build one this year.

Other Business

Be sure to sign your code of ethics and review the open meeting laws.

Cole asked if the town has an appetite for engaging with Green Mountain Transit on establishing a Waterbury to Williston route. Federal money could present an opportunity in the medium term. The committee supported the idea of Cole reaching out to Jamie Smith at VTrans to discuss further. We will aim for June 22.

June 8 will include an organizational meeting. Gent will be absent, but Cole will preside.

We may be moving to in-person meetings soon. Keep an eye on the Selectboard.

Motion to adjourn by Cole , Seconded by Knowles. Approved unanimously. No abstentions.

-Erik Filkorn