

# Richmond Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2021

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

Absent: Chris Cole (vice-chair), Erik Filkorn

Others present: Ravi Venkataraman (Town Planner)

Ravi Venkataraman was present at the meeting physical location and all other participants participated remotely.

The chair convened the meeting at 5:34 PM. There were no revisions to the agenda.

**Meeting Minutes:** *July 27, 2021 minutes moved by Damico, seconded by Knowles. There were no changes and the minutes were approved unanimously.*

**Williams Hill – Class 4 Road:** Venkataraman briefly reviewed the memo he prepared for the Planning Commission regarding this matter. Committee members reviewed the Town highway map (from VTrans) and discussed the options that the Selectboard will consider as a result of the request to discontinue the 0.7 mile class 4 portion of Williams Hill Road. There was general agreement that the public interest is best served by maintaining the class 4 road section and that the town plan specifically encourages trails as a means to connect neighborhoods and provide non-vehicular methods of travel. *Motion made by Knowles, seconded by Damico, to send a letter to the Planning Commission and Selectboard advising that the Richmond Transportation Committee supports the public interest in keeping the Class 4 Williams Hill Road and opposes discontinuance of the Class 4 section of Williams Hill Road. Voting: Unanimous in favor of the motion.* After the vote, there was discussion about whether to take additional action as to making the Class 4 road into a legal trail. There was some agreement that could be taken up when the UPWP project for Phase 2 of the Bike and Ped master plan is taken up this fall.

**Route 2 Repaving Project Update:** There was a brief update from several members (Gent, Kart, Knowles) who – along with Venkataraman - attended the Selectboard meeting on this topic. The Committee also reviewed the letter from VTrans indicating that our application for 2021 Bike & Path Program funding was not approved. The chair requested that Venkataraman get in writing formal feedback regarding why the application was rejected. Venkataraman said that the town manager is preparing a draft response letter to the VTrans secretary. Knowles stated the problems of addressing storm water run off for property owners and of water pooling on roadway during storm events. There was general agreement that a piecemeal approach to this project will simply not work, and that dealing with the roadbed, water and/or sewer lines, drainage, shoulders, sidewalks, streetscape, etc. should be approached together, as Waterbury has been, the theme being, “Do it right the first time.” *Motion by Knowles, seconded by Floyd, that, based on the information available and presented during the August 2 Selectboard meeting, the Transportation Committee favors stopping the Route 2 repaving project and taking more time to address stormwater, sidewalks, and other aspects of the project. Voting: Unanimous in favor of the motion.*

**Town Plan – Goals and Objectives Review – Final Submission:** The Committee reviewed the table: Transportation Committee Feedback on Town Plan Check In Items T.1-2.3. Venkataraman indicated changes may be submitted until Thursday. Damico stressed the importance of monitoring and evaluating goals and objectives over time, with no “silos”. Venkataraman said there will be a working group of representatives from the planning advisory committees to help with the town plan project management. That is expected to be created in the next few months. There was consensus from all committee members that the Transportation Committee Feedback on Town Plan Check In Items T.1-2.3 table is ready for submission to the Planning Commission.

**Capital Improvement Plan:** Venkataraman explained the purpose of and elements included in the Capital Improvement Plan and noted that this is a draft for initial discussion. Gent asked about the fiscal year schedule and Venkataraman explained it will take multiple years to prepare the firmer cost estimates. Damico suggested that the narrative for the cost estimate for the Bridge Street project should note that the \$300,000 does not include signage, lighting, or streetscape considerations. The committee discussed whether any elements of the Phase 1: Bike and Ped Master Plan are ready for the CIP and the consensus are that they are not ready, until more firm price estimates are prepared. *Motion by Kart, seconded by Floyd, to recommend the Capital Improvement Plan, with changes as discussed during the meeting, "subject to street design and related other improvements."* *Voting: Unanimous in favor of the motion.*

**Green Mountain Transit – Follow Up:** Gent said she has not yet received information from Jamie Smith, per our last meeting, and will follow up. The Committee asked that this topic be added to an agenda after information is received from Smith.

**UPWP FY22 Grant Approval – Updates:** Venkataraman said there are no updates to report. Damico said it will be important to keep the public informed about the next project and Gent asked members to think about the steering committee structure ahead of when this topic is next discussed. Knowles reiterated a point made previously that the consultant reports should be generated and reviewed separately by the Selectboard, to provide adequate opportunities for discussion during the Select board meetings.

**Grant Opportunities:** There are no new grant opportunities at this time. Damico asked if there is a list of grant opportunities and Venkataraman referenced the CCRPC web page for a full list. The committee discussed the federal infrastructure bill, which is poised to pass the US Senate.

**Old and New Business – Committee Work Plan:** Floyd has prepared a draft template for tracking committee work /projects and will post the table to the Google docs for members to review.

**Adjourn** – At 7:10 PM, motion to adjourn by Floyd, seconded by Knowles. Approved by acclamation.

-Minutes taken by Cathleen Gent