

Draft Richmond Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes – March 26, 2024

Committee members present: Chris Cole (Chair), Cathleen Gent (Vice Chair), Jon Kart, Keith Jennings and Susan Wells

Others present: Keith Osborne (Town Planner), Jason Charest (CCRPC), and from WSP - Erik Maki, Kevin McCarthy, Annabelle Dally. Also Bob Galvin from the Richmond Conservation Commission.

All attended remotely.

A quorum was reached, and the Chair convened the meeting at 5:32pm.

1. Welcome and Public Comments: No public comments.

2. Revisions to Agenda: Wells asked to add an update on Share the Road.

3. Approve Minutes from March 12, 2024 meeting: There were no corrections or additions to the minutes. **Wells motioned to accept the minutes, Kart seconded, passed unanimously.**

4. Cochran Road Study Local Concerns Meeting – WSP docs and set date: Bob Galvin from the Richmond Conservation Commission asked if there is any willingness of the Transportation Committee to consider wildlife friendly infrastructure in the scoping study process. There is potential funding available in the Richmond Conservation Reserve Fund. The Commission is identifying potential amphibian crossing hotspots and what species are crossing in those places. Preliminary data to indicate where the problematic areas will be available soon. Cole said this would be of interest to the Committee and suggested that members of the Conservation Commission attend the Local Concerns meeting.

Discussion about the Local Concerns Meeting (LCM). Date set for April 9. WSP presented a draft Power Point to present to those attending. Committee members gave feedback on the PP. The LCM meeting will focus on goals and areas of the project study and how these fit into the context of prior studies and existing conditions. The point of the LCM is to gather feedback on the issues/concerns. No solutions to be presented. Cole suggested we invite the Parking Advisory Committee to the meeting.

Cole discussed the how the floodplain regulations would affect potential infrastructure of sidewalks and trails near the Kemp farm, which regularly floods. Osborne said that the floodplain regulations allow sidewalks and you can do trails if it's associated with the road. WSP and Osborne can figure that out with our zoning administrator.

Discussion continued about revisions to the slide presentation and the boundaries of the scoping and corridor studies. It will be important to coordinate with the Dubois & King recommendations about speed table placement. The LCM discussion will begin with the two 25 MPH sections. Recommendations will be provided by September-October.

5. THBC status: The Selectboard (SB) will be provided the THBC documents for discussion at the April 1 meeting. A plan for the presentation was discussed and finalized. The TC will recommend having a public hearing and getting information out to adjacent property owners.

6. General Updates

a. Upper and Lower Bridge Street Bike/Ped project: Upper Bridge St.: Osborne advised the Committee that outreach to affected landowners/businesses/residents about the upper Bridge St. sidewalk projects has been completed. We have concept designs, and we are working through those with property owners. KO will forward those concepts to the committee. Lower Bridge Street: There is not much to update. The town bond failed, so we now have to redesign parking as a result. The disabled parking spaces that are in front of the library will remain but they need to come up to standard. There is no loading zone, for example. We have another meeting at the beginning of next month.

b. Gateway Trail Path – May 20, 2024 SB presentation: We can start some planning for that presentation. It is assumed that Dan Malik and Bryan Davis will present the plan.

7. Agenda items for the next meeting: LCM will take up most of the meeting. Also need to give time to Wells for Share the Road update, especially given the chatter on FPF about regulations for pedestrians, cars and bikers. Also, should talk about the THCB intersection discussion at the SB meeting.

6. Adjournment: Motion was made and seconded; passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm.

Minutes taken by Susan Wells

Abbreviations used in RTC minutes: ARPA = American Rescue Plan Act of 2021; CCRPC = Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission; D&K = Dubois and King; GMT=Green Mountain Transit; PPL = Project Pipeline Document; RCC=Richmond Conservation Committee; RHC=Richmond Housing Committee; RTC = Richmond Transportation Committee; RVC=Riverview Commons; SB = Selectboard; TAP=Transportation Alternatives Program; THBC = intersection of Thompson Rd, Huntington Rd, Bridge St, and Cochran Rd; UPWP = Unified Planning Work Program; VDH = VT Dept. of Health; VPSP2=Vermont Project Selection and Project Prioritization; VTRANS=Vermont Agency of Transportation.