

MEMORANDUM

TO: Richmond Selectboard and Town Manager Josh Arneson
FROM: Cathleen Gent, Richmond Transportation Committee Co-Chair
DATE: January 2, 2020
RE: Transportation Committee Items for 1/6/2020 Selectboard Meeting

CC: Richmond Transportation Committee members and Town Planner Ravi Venkataraman

The Richmond Transportation Committee has been meeting since October and brings two matters to the Richmond Selectboard meeting on January 6th. The first is a draft Transportation Implementation Plan Priority List for the Selectboard's consideration. The second is a time-sensitive set of recommendations for applications to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), a grant program of the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.

1. **Richmond Transportation Implementation Plan Priority List** (draft attached) for consideration by the Selectboard. This plan incorporates elements of Richmond's Town Plan (Transportation and Energy sections), a list provided by the Selectboard, and the Richmond Transportation Committee's goals. The Transportation Implementation Plan Priority List includes projects (some new and some that have been contemplated for years) to construct based on feasibility studies and current cost estimates, with funding support from the town, state and federal governments.

Based on the Selectboard's input, the next step will be for our committee to engage a variety of stakeholders and community members to further refine the implementation plan.

2. **Recommendations for the CCRPC Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)** –Based on discussions with the CCRPC, the following projects have the greatest chance of securing funding through the CCRPC's UPWP grant program. These applications can be submitted as separate applications. This is a time-sensitive matter.

- A. **Bridge Street complete streets upgrade** – sidewalks, crossings, bicycles – and intersections
This will provide a new study, based on current conditions and previous efforts from 2010 and earlier.
- B. **Master Plan for Natural Surface Multi-Use Paths** (pedestrian and bicycle) on roads for transportation
This will provide a master plan for adding wider shoulders/lanes for pedestrians and bicycles on Richmond town roads. The exact roads will be determined through the project.
- C. **EV Charging Stations in public areas**
This will result in a plan for EV charging stations based on site criteria for primarily public areas or private spaces with public amenities like parking areas.

The UPWP applications are due on January 17th. To capitalize on this grant program, we recommend that the Selectboard take the following actions during the January 6th meeting.

1. Authorize the Town Manager to submit application(s) for each of the above projects
2. Approve the approximately \$16,000 match for this project. The Selectboard recently discussed this match with the Town Manager. If final match details do not meet the Selectboard's approval, the projects could be pulled at a later date without penalty.

We look forward to meeting with the Selectboard next week to discuss these matters and the Richmond Transportation Committee's general progress.

Thank you.

Transportation Implementation Plan Priority List

Richmond Transportation Committee

For Presentation to Richmond Selectboard – January 6, 2020

Draft – 1/2/2020

The Richmond Transportation Committee seeks to develop a town Transportation Implementation Plan with projects selected based on community input, feasibility studies and current cost estimates. The Transportation Plan will support the Town Plan and the regional plan and will promote public health while seeking to avoid and minimize environmental impacts. The Transportation Committee will reach its goal using a process that encourages and incorporates participation from a variety of stakeholders and community members.

Items are not in priority order

- I. **Implement a “Complete Streets” program that encourages multi-modal transportation options such as walking and biking in addition to motor vehicle traffic**
 - A. Add new sidewalks within village along east side of Bridge Street
 - B. Build four new crosswalks at the Bridge/Railroad/Jolina intersection
 - C. Support sidewalks and bike paths or striping for cyclists and pedestrians on State and town road projects.
 - D. Implement a town policy that pedestrian crosswalks have safety lighting and illumination (when streetlights are not in place).
 - E. Work with VTrans to prioritize rebuilding Route 2 (Main Street) including sidewalks and bicycle/pedestrian accommodations, either on alignment or off alignment East Main Street to Park & Ride and Riverside Commons.
 - F. Identify and bridge gaps in interconnectivity of trails and connectivity of trails with destinations such as the market or park and ride to support non-motorized means of travel.
 - G. Install bike storage lockers and electric-bike charging capability at key locations
- II. **Improve safety and efficiency of public roads, bridges, paths, and all modes of transportation**
 - A. Work with partner agencies and organizations to identify and test (e.g., through pop-up demonstrations or other means) best practices in bike and pedestrian safety
 - B. Implement low-cost improvements such as better signage and road markings and improve signage for existing parking areas.
 - C. Develop design standards for signage and install signs for all public paths as needed throughout town.
 - D. Support Safe Routes to School and other bike/ped programs on town highways.
 - E. Work with VTrans to adjust the signaling at the Route 2/Bridge Street intersection to improve traffic flow and safety and continue to support policing and traffic management at this location during morning and evening busy times.

- F. Creamery parcel – Encourage the town to require the developer to conduct a traffic study of the Railroad Street, Bridge Street, Jolina Court intersection and address both vehicular access and pedestrian/bicycle safety strategies during the Act 50/master plan review process.
- G. Improve safety in all multi-modal implementations.

III. Increase the resilience of transportation infrastructure

- A. Support the Selectboard and Highway Department by finding opportunities to support more resilient transportation improvements.

IV. Encourage transportation policies and programs that reduce single-occupancy vehicle travel on town roads

- A. Support public and private efforts promoting alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle travel such as public transit, rapid transit buses, car-sharing and carpooling, ride sharing (“hitching post”), telecommuting, rail commuter station, local bus shuttle, flexible work schedules and school bus usage.
- B. Pursue partnerships with employers to subsidize shuttle and public transit.
- C. Add/expand park and ride facilities in Richmond and neighboring towns, with access to public transit.
- D. Encourage smart growth development in village center, downtown, and near transit options.
- E. Support social service transportation such as SSTA, Neighbor Rides and others for elderly, disabled, or other non-drivers.
- F. Partner with Mount Mansfield Unified School District:

V. Pursue energy-improvement related transportation projects

- A. Consider energy efficiency and alternative fuels when purchasing municipal vehicles, recognizing there may be limited options at this time for heavy duty vehicles and vehicles for first responders.
- B. Identify and implement actions to reduce carbon footprint such as public transit, bike paths, sidewalks, infrastructure for electric vehicles and bikes (EV charging stations).
- C. Enforce Richmond’s no-idling policy.