

# Richmond Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes—April 12, 2022

All participants attended the meeting remotely.

Committee members present: Chris Cole (vice-chair), Mark Damico, Jon Kart, Allen Knowles  
Others Present: Ravi Venkataraman

A quorum was reached and the vice-chair convened the meeting at 5:34 PM.

**1. Revisions to the Agenda:** None

**2. Meeting Minutes:** March 22, 2022 minutes were moved by Damico, seconded by Knowles. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. Traffic Calming Policy:** The proposed Traffic Calming Policy was reviewed. Venkataraman explained that it is being developed in response to multiple requests by town residents for traffic calming in their neighborhoods. Town staff needs a uniform method to develop and apply remedies to traffic issues. Multiple small changes for clarity were made by consensus.

Regarding section “9.2. Appeal of Staff Implementation Plan”, it was noted that the method for residential streets and neighborhoods was not easily applicable to collector streets and intersections which have town-wide impacts. The Transportation Committee recommends to the SelectBoard that in the case of appeal of implementation plans for collector streets and intersections, a petition with signatures of 5% of town voters would trigger an appeal.

The question of budgeting town funds for traffic calming studies and implementations was discussed. The Transportation Committee suggests that this needs to be looked at in the town budget process by town staff.

Motion to approve forwarding the Traffic Calming Policy with revisions and recommendations to the SelectBoard by Damico, seconded by Kart, approved unanimously.

**4. Rt. 2 Repaving Update:** Letters from State Senator Chittenden to Secretary of Transportation Joe Flynn and Sec. Flynn’s reply were reviewed. General disappointment was expressed with VTRANS’ lack of meaningful response to concerns the extended “pinch points” constitute serious barriers to (non-motorized) active transportation along Rt. 2, and in particular to the Park and Ride. Sec. Flynn’s suggestion that we work with CCRPC was discussed. Vice-chair Cole and Town Planner Venkataraman discussed the new approach to planning and prioritizing projects that VTRANS is using, and that through CCRPC the extended danger zone “pinch points” could be brought to TAC, which will be addressing roadway safety projects next year.

**5. Highway Department Projects:** Pete Gosselin is putting together a list of planned town highway projects and hopefully will be able to attend the April 26, 2022 meeting to discuss them.

**6. AARP Walkability Audits:** Venkataraman does not have the maps prepared yet. Means of recruiting auditors were discussed, with suggestions to ask through the Senior Center, the Bike/Ped Steering Committee, the Trails Committee, Front Porch Forum, as well as friends and neighbors.

**7. UPWP FY22**

A. Sidewalk Scoping Study: The report from Stantec is expected for review in early May.

B. Bike-Ped Master Plan Part 2: D&K has advised that it needs an extension due to personnel changes. There is a steering committee meeting 4/19/2022. The next public meeting is planned for June, the review for the final draft in July, the final draft in August, and the “deliverable” report in September.

**8. Grant Opportunities:** Per Venkataraman, VTRANS Bike/Ped grant program opened last Friday and has a deadline of June 8, 2022. He plans to attend the informational seminar April 29, 2022. There are both small scale and large scale grants. Our intent is to see if a sidewalk engineering/construction project would be appropriate for one of these grants, from the current scoping study and/or the VHB Bridge Street study.

**9. Other Business:** The need for new members was discussed. Damico indicated a willingness to write a submission for Front Porch Forum.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:59 PM

Minutes by Allen Knowles