

Richmond Transportation Committee Special Meeting

Minutes – February 28, 2022

All participants attended the meeting remotely.

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

Others present: Ravi Venkataraman (Town Planner), Peter Gosselin (Highway Foreman) Erik Alling (Stantec)

Not present: Chris Cole (vice-chair)

A quorum was reached and the chair convened the meeting at 4:03 PM.

1. Revisions to Agenda: There were no revisions to the agenda

2. UPWP FY22 Project Updates - Sidewalks Scoping - Review consultant preliminary designs

Gosselin described the plans for this year for repaving the west side of Bridge Street from Depot Street, with new concrete curbing, a short green belt, and five-foot sidewalks. He said he has had conversations with Dan Noyes about the sidewalk in front of the Richmond Market and crossing Railroad Street. Gosselin also discussed plans for the east side of Bridge Street. The Highway Department plans to place concrete curbing for the length of the east side of Bridge Street, in advance of any plans for sidewalks, as well as new storm drains in front of the library and the town center. There is a low spot near the handicap parking spaces across from the church. Gosselin is considering a new catch basin in Volunteers Green at the low point to further purify water before it goes into the Winooski River.

Knowles suggested it may be best to end the east side sidewalk just north of the Giffords driveway across from the north side of Esplanade Street. Gosselin said either location – north or south of that driveway -- works, but ending it at the north side makes good sense. Kart said that there is poor lighting across from the library, where a pedestrian was killed. Gosselin said that the installed illuminated cross walk has mitigated that lighting problem. Highway is looking at adding a street light at Church Street and Bridge Street.

Alling asked clarifying questions about the stormwater collection and the curbing on the east side of Bridge Street. Gosselin indicated that the curbing will be at the existing location of the deteriorated curb on the east side. There may be a need to move the road slightly to be sure one particular street pole will line up in the green strip on the west side. He also clarified that the west side grass strips will be approximately 2 feet in width.

The topic then turned to the Railroad Street area. Alling shared the final design from the VHB study for the Railroad Street intersection. Gent noted that the VHB study provides a consultant-determined alternative, based on public input, for that area. Gosselin recapped ideas recently discussed with Dan Noyes about the sidewalk and the Railroad Street intersection. Noyes has suggested certain features, such as placing the sidewalk near to the Richmond Market building, and his interest in retaining a sufficient radius for trucks turning onto Railroad Street. Gosselin made the point that Noyes owns Railroad Street, except for the ROW owned by the town along Bridge Street. Alling left at this time. Damico said that the design standards in the VHB study allow for that turning radius and that a mountable curb is workable. Kart said he believes Noyes' goals and the public good for pedestrian and bicycle safety can both be met. There was a brief discussion about sidewalks continuing along Railroad Street to the planned new location for the market. Damico said that sidewalks will help ensure the success of the new business and the safety of residents. Gosselin has a copy of the VHB study and will continue discussions with Noyes. He will then communicate with Venkataraman.

Gosselin provided brief comments about the Stantec sidewalk alternatives for Jericho Road and for Huntington Road. He already submitted written comments to Venkataraman about the Jericho Road project.

3. Adjourn – At 5:08 PM, Gent adjourned the meeting.

-Minutes taken by Cathleen Gent