

TO: Richmond Selectboard

FROM: Ravi Venkataraman, Town Planner

DATE: October 29, 2020

SUBJECT: RiseVT Amplify Grant

The Transportation Committee is seeking Selectboard approval to pursue a RiseVT Amplify Grant for \$1,500. This grant would be used to help pay the required match for the current UPWP Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan project. There is no match requirement for the Amplify Grant.

After talking to Justin Graham, Program Manager at RiseVT, he, the Transportation Committee and I concluded that this UPWP project supports RiseVT's initiative because the project aligns the following CDC strategies to reduce obesity:

17. Enhance infrastructure supporting bicycling
18. Enhance infrastructure supporting walking

Grant funds are awarded on a first-come first-served rolling basis until December 31, 2020. If the Transportation Committee is awarded the grant, it will work with Graham and the town to comply with reporting requirements.

For your consideration, the minutes of the October 22, 2020 Transportation Committee meeting with the committee's recommendation to pursue the grant is enclosed.

#### Draft Motions

I have prepared the following draft motions to facilitate action by the Selectboard:

*I, \_\_\_\_\_, move to pursue the RiseVT Amplify Grant and to appoint Town Planner Ravi Venkataraman as its Grant Program Manager.*

Richmond Transportation Committee  
Meeting Minutes – October 22, 2020

All participants attended the meeting remotely.

Committee members: Cathleen Gent (chair), Jon Kart, Erik Filkorn

Others participating: Town Planner Ravi Venkataraman, Jason Charest (CCRPC) Bryan Davis (CCRPC), Jennifer Conley (VHB) Sai Sarapalli (CCRPC), Lisa Kory

Cathleen Gent opened the meeting at 5:36PM

Meeting Minutes: October 1, 2020 – Motion by Erik Filkorn, seconded by Jon Kart to approve the minutes. No changes. The motion was approved unanimously.

### UPWP Grants

Jennifer Conley from VHB presented the initial scope for the Bridge Street Study. This is not a true corridor study, but focuses more on individual trouble spots along Bridge Street. The group then spent some time reviewing the satellite image of bridge street and pointing out some considerations beyond the right of way and how those conditions might impact the overall project.

The proposed draft timeline is dependent on successfully scheduling the Local Concerns meeting and other public-facing events that will impact data collection. Work will commence beginning in November. Final presentation to the Selectboard is anticipated to take place in June 2021.

Ravi is getting lots of interest in the Bike/Ped committee (5), but interest is still a little light on the Bridge Street Committee (1). Jon is going to work with Cathleen to directly recruit business owners to join the committee.

Jason pointed out that the public or even steering committee members may not be interested in attending the Project Team meetings which tend to get a little weedy and might create an advanced state of boredom amongst lay persons. Additional conversation ensued in an attempt to clarify what exactly each type of meeting was meant to accomplish—local concerns, etc. There are a lot of moving parts here and Ravi is going to have his hands full. Bryan suggested in lieu of assembling a steering committee in the pure sense, just do 1 on 1 conversations with folks in the business block.

It was proposed that rather than have a “steering committee” for the Bridge Street project, having the one volunteer serve as “ambassador” to the Bridge Street Businesses would be a more reasonable approach. A presentation would be made at the Western Slopes Business Association the week before the Local Concerns meeting to engage business and gather additional opinion and information.

Ravi will supply a list of dates the week of December 7 and December 14 to schedule the Local Concerns meeting.

Regarding the Bike/Ped steering committee, any date after November 2, is acceptable to schedule that meeting as they will have been appointed by the Selectboard by then.

Bryan’s pointed out that he has been looking forward to this meeting all week. His enthusiasm appears to be contagious.

Jennifer signed off in order to greet her daughter returning from field hockey.

Bryan stated that the next round of UPWP applications will be arriving in November and will be due in January. All of the current work should be done within a sufficient time frame so as to not interfere with the next round of applications. We should consider pursuing any holes left by the current effort—spots we didn't cover on Bridge Street, etc. There is no penalty for having received grants in this period. Ravi suggested perhaps a parking modeling study might be a good idea—perhaps using the RSG modeling tool.

#### Capital Reserve Funding

CCRPC crew seized the opportunity to spend time with their families at this point. Ravi is seeking clarification as to whether the money would live in the planning budget or the transportation budget. Ravi shared a spreadsheet that showed \$16,000 in FY22 for grant match that would be used to establish a Transportation Planning reserve fund at town meeting. Unexpended funds would remain in that fund going forward.

#### Amplified Grants

We can apply for an “amplified grant” to help pay for the UPWP match. First come, first served through the end of the year. Ravi is confident that the application is not too onerous and could net us \$1,500 to help match the Bike/Ped Master Plan.

Motion by Kart to request Selectboard approval to apply for a Rise Vermont Grant to support our current UPWP projects. Seconded by Filkorn. No further discussion. Approved unanimously.

#### Old and New Business

- a. Update on Rt. 2 Paving Project: Bard, Josh and Ravi met with the Asset Management Bureau at VTrans and made it clear that we wanted 6' shoulders and a new traffic signal at Bridge Street. Cathleen asked if the East Main sidewalks were still a part of the project.

Motion by Kart to convey to the Selectboard the following message: It is the expectation of this committee that VTrans will honor its previous commitment to include sidewalks on East Main Street as part of the Rt. 2 paving project. Seconded by Filkorn. Approved unanimously.

VTrans will distribute preliminary plan set in February and Ravi will send to the committee for comment at that time.

The committee thanked Lisa for joining.

At 7:13PM, Filkorn offered a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Kart. Approved unanimously.