

TO: Richmond Selectboard

FROM: Ravi Venkataraman, Town Planner; and Cathleen Gent, Richmond Transportation Committee Chair

DATE: December 17, 2021

SUBJECT: FY23 UPWP Project Requests

Following discussions during the November 15, 2021 Selectboard meeting, the Transportation Committee discussed possible FY23 UPWP projects to pursue during its November 30, 2021 and December 14, 2021 meetings. Based on the outcomes from past projects, input received during public meetings for past projects, and recommendations from the Selectboard and Planning Commission members, the Transportation Committee decided to endorse pursuing the following projects:

- An update to the 2014 Route 2 scoping study as well as a detailed analysis of related elements in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan (North End) completed earlier this year.
  - 2014 Scoping Study Update: The scoping study undertaken in 2014 investigated the feasibility of a shared-use path along Route 2. This study is dated, and has to be reevaluated and updated in order to use to pursue funding for engineering and construction.
    - connections between the Exit 11 Park and Ride and the mobile home park,
    - connections between the Willis Farm area and the schools,
    - multimodal traffic flow through the Route 2/I-89/VT-117 intersections.
  - The FY 23 UPWP project will also include further analysis of Phase 1 of the Walk, Bike, and Trails Plan (North End) to determine feasibility for improvements and modifications:
    - feasibility analyses for connections between the mobile home park and the park and ride,
    - a planning study for the Exit 11 to improve traffic flow for bicycles and pedestrians.
    - Estimated FY23 UPWP project cost is to be \$25,000 and the required match would be \$5,000. The \$5,000 match is contained within the Transportation Planning item in the FY23 budget.
- Converting the Walk, Bike, Trails Plan into an Official Map – This project would take the first steps toward converting the master plan we have been working on for the last two years into a regulatory map. This regulatory Official Map would force the development of infrastructure as depicted on private properties or within rights-of-way when a property is developed or redeveloped. The Official Map could include public parks, roads, water lines, and sewer infrastructure, in addition to bicycle and pedestrian connections, if a need is evident during the project planning process.
  - **To note:** Based on guidance from CCRPC, the Transportation Committee decided to split this project into two phases. The initial phase—undertaken with UPWP FY23 funding—would only include an analysis of existing conditions and review of past studies. This phase would begin in January 2023. This phase will be wholly carried out by CCRPC staff. Therefore, no match is required for this phase of the project. The second phase—actually developing an Official Map—is eligible for federal transportation funds and CCRPC staff costs would be covered by the Federal Highway Administration. This will be undertaken in cooperation with the Planning Commission after the completion of Phase 1.

Listed are the motions Transportation Committee voted upon during its December 14, 2021 meeting for your consideration:

*Motion offered by Knowles, seconded by Cole, to recommend to the Selectboard that Richmond apply for a FY23 UPWP Grant to update the 2014 Vermont Route 2 Bicycle and Pedestrian Scoping Report combined with the Phase 1 Bike/Ped Master Plan completed earlier this year, including: (1) a connection to the Exit 11 park and ride and Route 117 to the mobile home park, (2) from the schools to the Willis Farm area, and (3) a planning study for the Exit 11 area alternatives to accommodate pedestrians and bicycles as presented in the 2014 Vermont Route 2 Bicycle and Pedestrian Scoping Report. Voting: unanimous in favor of the motion.*

*Knowles requested to amend his original motion [during the November 30, 2021 Transportation Committee meeting] to recommend to the Selectboard that Richmond apply for Phase 1 for an Official Map project, with Phase 1 focused on gathering information and data in preparation for making the finalized pedestrian/bicycle master plan part of a new Official Map, with Phase 1 to begin the second half of FY23 (January 2023). As the member who seconded the original motion, Kart agreed to the amendment. Voting: unanimous in favor of the motion*

To facilitate action, I have prepared the following draft motion:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, move to approve pursuing the following projects through the FY23 Unified Planning Work Program:

- An update the 2014 Vermont Route 2 Bicycle and Pedestrian Scoping Report combined with the Phase 1 Bike/Ped Master Plan completed earlier this year, including: (1) a connection to the Exit 11 park and ride and Route 117 to the mobile home park, (2) from the schools to the Willis Farm area, and (3) a planning study for the Exit 11 area alternatives to accommodate pedestrians and bicycles as presented in the 2014 Vermont Route 2 Bicycle and Pedestrian Scoping Report.
- Phase 1 for an Official Map project, with Phase 1 focused on gathering information and data in preparation for making the finalized pedestrian/bicycle master plan part of a new Official Map, with Phase 1 to begin the second half of FY23 (January 2023).

I also move to allocate \$5,000 from the Transportation Planning line in the budget towards funding the required 20 percent match for the update and expansion to the 2014 Vermont Route 2 Bicycle and Pedestrian Scoping Report.