

TO: Richmond Selectboard

FROM: Ravi Venkataraman, Town Planner

DATE; January 19, 2021

SUBJECT: Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) Small Grants for Smart Growth

The Richmond Transportation Committee is interested in applying for a \$3,000 grant offered by VNRC through their Small Grants for Smart Growth program. The Transportation Committee is seeking funding to support the currently ongoing Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan project. Any funds received through this grant would be put towards the required UPWP grant match for the Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan project.

VNRC's Small Grants for Smart Growth supports projects that advance the state's Smart Growth goals, including projects involved in zoning bylaw reform, transportation infrastructure improvements, commercial revitalization, and natural resource management. Funds can be used to support current projects. Applications submitted by February 1st may be eligible for an award of up to \$3,000. After February 1st, applications are accepted on a rolling basis for amounts up to \$1,500. Additional information about the grant can be found on [VNRC's website](#).

In regards to the Transportation Committee and the Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan project, VNRC specifically states the following as example projects eligible for funding:

- *Hiring a designer to help improve walking and biking amenities*
- *Organizing a diverse group of stakeholders to [facilitate their engagement in a transportation planning process](#)*

The Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan project as a whole includes both example projects in its process and products.

The Transportation Committee is interested in applying for a \$3,000 grant by February 1st. Due to an oversight on my part, I was not able to properly notify you of this action item. [Discussions on this item during tonight's Selectboard meeting is informational. Actions may be taken during the February 1st Selectboard meeting.](#) This grant may be submitted prior to Selectboard approval. The Selectboard has the right to deny pursuing this grant. Should the Selectboard deny pursuing this grant, I will withdraw the application from VNRC's consideration.

Town of Richmond Transportation Committee

Application for VNRC Small Grant for Smart Growth for Bridge Street Complete Streets Corridor Study (January 2021)

Contact: Ravi Venkataraman, Town Planner, Town of Richmond

Telephone: 802-434-2430

Email: rvenkataraman@richmondvt.gov

Amount Requested: \$3,000

Overall project timeline: The Richmond Transportation Committee is in the process of completing a Bridge Street Complete Streets Corridor Study. Final plans for the study are expected to be released in June 2021.

Funding: The overall project cost is \$40,000, of which \$32,000 is provided by a FY21 UPWP grant from Chittenden County RPC. The \$3,000 VNRC grant will help fund the required 20% local match of \$8,000.

Project Description: The Bridge Street Complete Streets Corridor Study is the planning portion of a project to upgrade Bridge Street—the primary social, commercial, and transportation node of the Town located in the heart of Richmond Village—into a Complete Street. This study will build on a feasibility study conducted in 2010. Since 2010, development along the corridor has emphasized the need for accommodations for pedestrian, bicycle, and other active modes. Three areas of concern have been identified: the east side of Bridge Street from Route 2 to the Richmond Town Center and the Volunteers Green; the Bridge Street- Railroad Street-Jolina Court intersection; and the Bridge Street-Cochran Road- Huntington Road intersection.

With the completed Corridor Study, the Town would pursue completing the engineering of the roadway, and converting Bridge Street into a Complete Street with the recommended improvements.

- **A brief description of how this funding will catalyze your project:** This project is underway.

Full funding for this project was unanticipated at the time the town budget was completed for 2021. VNRC funding for this project would close current funding gaps for this project, and allow the town to allocate funds for implementing this project.

Eligible Activities

The project advances transportation choice in the community. The Town is working with a consultant to create roadway designs that would facilitate safe, multimodal traffic for all ages and abilities on Bridge Street. With this project, by advocating for active transportation options, we aim to revitalize the village center and improve access to commercial, government, cultural and recreational locations.

Six Criteria

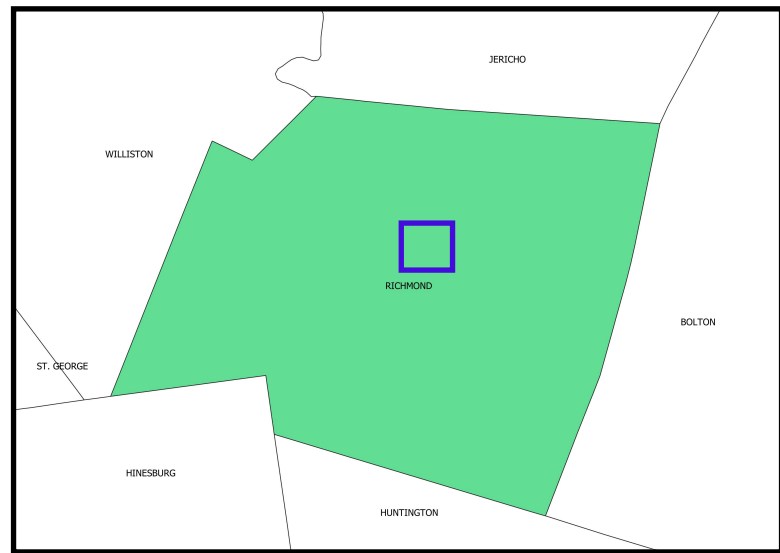
The Bridge Street corridor is the town's commercial corridor. It is at the heart of the town's Village Center designation. In recent years, commercial and housing development has occurred along the corridor, but multimodal transportation improvements scaled to those developments has not. The 2018 Richmond Town Plan calls for promoting a Complete Streets network and improving transportation options along Bridge Street.

The Richmond Transportation Committee--a planning advisory committee providing support to the Richmond Planning Commission and the Selectboard--and the Richmond Selectboard concluded that the corridor must be studied for further improvements with the assistance of Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) and a consultant. Such improvements include establishing safe bicycle and pedestrian access for all ages and abilities to reach businesses, the library, Volunteers Green and other third places in Richmond's historic village center; expanding the town's viable bicycle and pedestrian network; and encouraging transit-oriented development in the near future.

The Bridge Street Complete Streets Corridor Study project began in August 2020 with the intent of establishing a concrete plan to convert Bridge Street into a Complete Street in the coming years. The Richmond Transportation Committee has provided and continues to provide guidance in the steering of this project. A local concerns meeting was held in November 2020. A wide range of community members--people of different ages and backgrounds--attended the meeting and provided input. Another local concerns meeting to obtain feedback on preliminary findings and conclusions is slated for March 2021. The project is expected to be completed in June 2021. Using the project deliverables, the Town intends to implement the project outcomes through engineering, design and construction, as well as regulatory changes.

The plan will be used to implement the next step of formal scoping studies.

Bridge Street Complete Streets Corridor Study



LEGEND

 - Focus areas of the project

Google Earth

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