

TO: Richmond Selectboard

FROM: Ravi Venkataraman, Town Planner

DATE: June 18, 2021

SUBJECT: Bridge Street Complete Streets Corridor Study

Background

The Bridge Street Complete Streets Corridor Study is a project investigating the improvement of bicycle, pedestrian, and vehicle traffic flows on Bridge Street. This study focused on Bridge Street between the Main Street intersection and the Railroad Street intersection, as well as the Bridge Street/Huntington Road intersection.

This project was funded through the FY21 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)--a federally mandated annual statement of work listing planning priorities and activities to be carried out by Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission. Eighty percent of the funding for these priority transportation planning projects within the UPWP program come from federal and state funding allocated to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) (CCRPC serves as the designated MPO). The remaining twenty percent of funding comes from local matches.

The Bridge Street Complete Streets Corridor Study began in October 2020. VHB was the designated consultant for this project; Jason Charest, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer for CCRPC, provided project management and technical assistance. The project involved two public outreach meetings--one in December 2020 and another in April 2021. In addition, the consultants hired to conduct the study, and CCRPC staff worked closely with the Transportation Committee throughout the project to make sure the project outcomes fit the Richmond context. The project team presented a set of alternatives for public comment during the public meeting held in April 2021. The project team also presented a set of revised alternatives to the Transportation Committee during its June 8, 2021 meeting.

Contents

Enclosed for your consideration are:

- A technical memorandum on the project,
- Preliminary plans for proposed improvements,
- Cost estimates for proposed improvements, and;
- Presentation slides.

Next Steps

In the near future, with this study, the town could install signage and crosswalks as recommended. An itemized cost estimate for all improvements is enclosed. These smaller improvements could be funded through a variety of grants

The Transportation Committee and I will also be using this study to support an upcoming scoping study for a sidewalk on the east side of Bridge Street between the former TD Bank (where the sidewalk currently ends) and Volunteers Green. This project will be funded via the FY2022 UPWP and is slated to begin in October 2021. This scoping study will provide additional details on the feasibility of the sidewalk, constraints, and a more specific cost estimate. This scoping study will be required to hold public meetings for outreach and feedback. In addition, this scoping study will strengthen future sidewalk engineering and construction grant applications.

The Transportation Committee and I will be researching funding opportunities to advance multi-modal traffic flow improvements along Bridge Street.

Draft Motion

To close out this project, I recommend that the Selectboard moves to accept this project for the record. To facilitate action, a draft motion is below:

I, _____, move to accept the Bridge Street Complete Streets Corridor Study as presented.