

Richmond Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2022

All participants attended the meeting remotely.

Committee members present: Cathleen Gent (chair), Chris Cole (vice-chair), Jon Kart, Allen Knowles

Others present: Ravi Venkataraman (Town Planner), Peter Gosselin (Highway Foreman), Jason Charest (CCRPC)

A quorum was reached and the chair convened the meeting at 5:32 PM.

1. Revisions to Agenda: None.

2. Meeting Minutes: *April 26, 2022 minutes were moved by Kart, seconded by Knowles. The minutes were approved unanimously.*

3. Discussion with Road Foreman Peter Gosselin

Gosselin reported that he has met with Dan Noyes numerous times regarding pedestrian safety at the Railroad Street/Bridge Street intersection. Noyes has agreed with a plan, which Venkataraman shared on the screen, showing the proposed location for the sidewalk, cross walk, new power poles for illumination on two corners, and the re-located mountable curb in front of the current market. Noyes provided information to Gosselin regarding rights-of-way. The new sidewalk and curb would be within Noyes' right of way and some kind of easement or boundary line adjustment is likely. Charest said that he was surprised the right-of-way is so different from what the consultants found last year during their scoping study. Gosselin said there is a pink line marking the locations of the sidewalk, crossing, etc. and encouraged people to visit the intersection. Committee members thanked Gosselin for working with Noyes to come up with improvements for pedestrians in that area.

The discussion shifted to a discussion of the committee priorities, for a new sidewalk on the east side of Bridge Street and for a Jericho Road sidewalk extension from School Street to Valley View Road. Gosselin said the highway department would not be able to take on the construction of those two new facilities, but the department can do on-going maintenance once the sidewalks are in place. He said engineering will need to be done to ensure the railroad crossing can accommodate pedestrians on the east side, and noted that parking is currently located in front of Richmond Community Kitchen, which would be dangerous for pedestrians. Kart pointed out that was addressed in the 2011 Bridge Street sidewalk study and that final alignment will need to be done. There was discussion about sidewalks in front of Jolina Court, in terms of where they may end vis-à-vis the town ROW. Gosselin said he prefers the alternative in the new Stantec scoping report for a five-foot sidewalk and a five-foot green space between Jolina Court and the end of the sidewalk across from Esplanade since that design will aid in snow removal. Knowles pointed out that that option may require the removal of mature trees. Charest said there are options to keep trees in place if the town wants that. Gosselin said the trees in front of the library appear to be ash, which may be scheduled for removal. The trees in front of the town center are maple.

The Route 2 repaving project was discussed next. Cole and Gent thanked Gosselin for the information he presented during the meeting with VTrans. VTrans has agreed to make needed improvements for stormwater infrastructure in their ROW and to work with Gosselin for the best solutions to alleviate the water discharge from Route 2 onto private property for many years. Gosselin will soon meet with VTrans staff and will report back to Venkataraman and the Transportation Committee about planning and agreements regarding the stormwater elements. VTrans reported during that meeting that there will be limited changes to improve the six pinch points between the village and I-89 and that additional future projects will be needed to address those. Gent and Venkataraman said that VTrans suggested that the FY23 UPWP application for ped/bike path alternatives between the village and Exit 11 be expanded to address solutions to those pinch points. Venkataraman said he has sent an email today to Charlie Baker and Eleni Churchill at CCRPC about how to integrate that new component, and he noted that we have not received any notification yet that our UPWP grant application will be approved, but believes it will. Gent added that there was a suggestion during the

meeting with VTrans that there may be an opportunity for a limited shuttle between the village and the park and ride, at least on a short-term basis and that the Green Mountain Transit work plan, which includes studying how to provide transit service to Richmond, look at providing some transit service between the village and the park and ride, on a limited basis. Gosselin left the meeting at this time.

4. FY22 UPWP Project Update

a. Sidewalks Scoping- Venkataraman said that Stantec will present the sidewalk scoping report to the Selectboard on June 6th. Venkataraman and Charest agreed to accept comments from committee members until May 18th, and encouraged comments to be submitted before then. During the May 24th meeting, the Transportation Committee will consider recommendations for alternatives for each of the three projects within the scoping study. Knowles raised points he presented in an email earlier in the day, regarding the report. There was discussion about the cost information in the VHB 2021 scoping study. Venkataraman said there is detailed cost information within that report, which can be used for an upcoming grant application. There was additional discussion about the sidewalk in front of Richmond Community Kitchen. Cole suggested parking in that location will be problematic with increased development in the immediate area and that a raised sidewalk would be appropriate. In order to proceed with preparations for the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian grant application, the committee discussed preferred alternatives presented in the Stantec report. *Motion made by Knowles, seconded by Kart, to select alternative #1 for the Bridge Street east new sidewalk, namely for a five-foot sidewalk and a five-foot green strip. Voting: unanimous affirmative vote.* Charest left the meeting at this time.

b. Phase 2 – Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan – Venkataraman and Kart said that project is moving forward smoothly.

5. Grants – The committee discussed the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program application.

Venkataraman said the Selectboard will discuss approving the application during the May 16th meeting. Gent suggested the committee provide a recommendation for Venkataraman to present to the Selectboard, along with the application information. *Cole made a motion to recommend the Town to apply for the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian large-scale grant, for a new sidewalk on the east side of Bridge Street (from the Big Spruce to properties across from Esplanade Street), to incorporate the VHB and the Stantec scoping reports, with cost estimates based on those two reports. Voting: unanimous affirmative vote.* Richmond will be required to supply a 20% match for the approximate \$440,000 in cost. There was further discussion about the location of bump outs in the upper block of Bridge Street. The grant will cover final engineering and construction. The application writing committee (Venkataraman, Kart, and Knowles) will continue its work, with Cole prepared to do a review.

6. AARP Walkability Audit Tool

Venkataraman reported there are doodle polls for the volunteer training and for the audit and that planning is on-going for the project.

7. Old and New Business –

Venkataraman proposed that the Transportation Committee make a recommendation for the VTrans small-scale grant application. *Motion by Cole, seconded by Knowles, to recommend that Richmond apply for the VTrans small-scale grant for the East Main Street sidewalk and green strip improvements, which will be done entirely by the town highway department. Voting: unanimous affirmative vote.*

9. Adjourn – At 7:00 PM, motion to adjourn by Knowles, seconded by Cole. Approved unanimously.

-Minutes taken by Cathleen Gent