

Richmond Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2021

All participants attended the meeting remotely.

Committee members: Erik Filkorn, Allen Knowles, Jon Kart, Mark Damico,

Absent: Cathleen Gent (chair), Chris Cole

Others present: Ravi Venkataraman, Jason Charest, Bryan Davis, Marshall Distel, Chittenden Regional Planning Commission: Sarah Volinsky, Sam Fox, Gary Bressor

John Kart opened the meeting at 5:38 PM.

Meeting Minutes: May 25 minutes moved by Filkorn, seconded by Damico, approved unanimously.

Revisions to Agenda

Allen Knowles would like to take note of 419ppm threshold has been passed.

Route 2 Repaving Project Update

VTrans meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Grant Opportunities

CCRPC is getting ready to send out UPWP grant notices. Richmond's projects were approved – sidewalk scoping and Jericho Road north of School Street. Also south of the Winooski master plan.

Organizational Session - Election of Chair, Clerk, Vice-Chair - Open meeting law

Knowles nominates Cathleen Gent as Chair, Second by Damico. Approved unanimously. Filkorn nominates Cole as Vice Chair, Seconded by Knowles. Approved unanimously. Knowles nominated Filkorn as clerk, seconded by Damico. Approved unanimously.

UPWP Grant – Project Reports

- Bridge Street Project

Several citizens joined for the discussion with a focus on the Bridge Street/Thompson Road/Cochran Road intersection. Jason Charest reviewed some of the previous proposals and why they were not preferred alternatives from the Town's perspective. He noted that the idea of closing Thompson Road did not go over particularly well. Knowles still favors a 4-way stop. Sam Fox does not favor the 4-way. Likens it to the 4-way at the Corner Qwik Stop in Williston. Favors narrowing the road. Charest explained the new proposal that includes a traffic calming island and a 3-way stop. There would not be any significant taking associated with the sidewalk construction. Volinsky spoke out in opposition of a 4-way as well. There was some conversation about what would occur if Thompson Road. The Road Foreman did not support that approach. Kart offered the idea of making Thompson one-way. Volinski asked if speed bumps had been considered. Knowles spoke out in support of speed bumps/tables. Bressor asked if flashing lights were considered. Charest said that they were not appropriate for the existing crosswalk but may be appropriate for the new configuration. Charest reminded us that speed bumps and tables are not silent. Volinsky and Fox still favor bumps and tables over full stops. Charest reminded us that

study and the fiscal year are nearly over. Filkorn noted that the safest option presented was the mini roundabout but instead we are looking to cobble. Charest then showed the roundabout option again. Bressor noted that the land consumed would reduce his buildable units on his land. Knowles moved that we present the current 3-way option as recommended by VHB, seconded by Damico. Neighbors remain interested in exploring speed bumps as part of the final package. Volinski specifically asked that the committee recommend to the Selectboard that traffic calming devices be tried before installing the Bridge Street stop sign. Damico proposed an amendment to substitute a yield sign for the Stop sign on Bridge Street. Seconded by Knowles. All in favor but for Filkorn who felt that the package was not sufficiently complete.

Charest then presented some examples of good and bad deployments of truck aprons. Showed new configuration of crosswalks near the Market/railroad tracks. Motion by Filkorn to support changes to most recent draft. Seconded by Damico. Approved unanimously.

- Northern Bike/Ped Master Plan

Bryan Davis presented the draft report. Committee did not have much time to review the plan in advance so Davis took us through it. More elements including cost estimates still need to be added. Acknowledged committees disappointment with work to date. Pointed out we still have a ways to go on the whole project. Kart offered positive comments about elements of the current draft. Knowles said it looked a lot like what was presented at the last steering committee meeting. Route 2 is the spine and the 3-rod right of way is a major limiting factor. Davis emphasized that we need to get as much as we can out of the VTrans project. Knowles was curious about how narrow bridges would be accounted for on the Rt. 2 sections. Knowles (with support from others present) emphasized the need for interim action on several high-risk points on Rt. 2 including the Slip Lane and the guardrail near the cemetery. Plan is due to go before the Selectboard on 6/21. Comments should be in to Bryan by Friday.

Motion to adjourn by Knowles , Seconded by Damico. Approved unanimously. No abstentions.

-Erik Filkorn