



Richmond Gateway Corridor Kickoff Meeting

Meeting Notes

6pm, November 01st 2022

Online & In Person @ Richmond, VT Town Hall

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81584812248?pwd=aU8yd1B3ZWxpWGthbzh2L3ZGL3pnQT09>

Meeting ID: 815 8481 2248

Passcode: 195656

In attendance

Project Staff:

- Ravi Venikataraman, Richmond
- Bryan Davis, CCRPC
- Dayton Crites, D&K
- Chris Yuen, D&K

Project Steering Committee

- Allen Knowles (Transportation Committee rep)
- Linda Parent (Cemetery Commission rep)
- Jean Bressor (Trails Committee rep)
- Gary Bressor (Richmond Land Trust rep)
- Gretchen Muller (Camel's Hump Middle Schools Principal)
- Jeff Forward - Richmond selectboard
- Virginia Clarke
- Joy Reap - Willis Farms

Discussion:

1. Introductions:

- a. Staff and steering committee members introduced themselves and the organizations they represent.
- b. Ravi Venikataraman has reached out to a few additional relevant residents and property owners but they have not been interested.
- c. CCRPC has reached out to District 5 VTrans rep; asked us to provide updates to them but they do not have staff at this time to sit on each meeting.

2. Project Communications

- a. Generally, the consultant is to communicate directly with CCRPC/Town. The Town is to communicate with the Steering Committee
- b. Team decided on monthly recurring meeting: 6pm 1st Tuesdays of the month



3. Project Scope Review

- a. Goals and objectives of the project
 - i. This study only looks at Route 2 and School Rd/Jericho
 - ii. Railroad ROW and River Corridor was excluded due to feasibility challenges and budget limitations - Route 2 is the option that has been on the table for the longest time
 - iii. In past public meetings about Western Gateway, people were much more interested in staying at low elevation on a straightest path from the town to the P&R
- b. There is a concurrent study happening on portions of Rte 2 corridor that VTrans's current shoulder widening project did not address (pinch points)
- c. This study is an update on the 2014 scoping study adding additional detail; extending beyond P&R
- d. Concerns about scope and process:
 - i. Jeff Forward suggests that the project explicitly reaches out to VTrans at key points, and as often as possible to maximize the chance of success.
- e. Concerns and issues with existing and future design
 - i. Cemetery entrance with limited sight lines; existing burial plots that are near the gravel pathway; significant maple trees.
 - ii. General concerns about traffic safety around interchange
 - iii. Roundabout design at highway interchange was proposed in the past (circa year 2000) - this was an alternative in a 1997 study (STPG TSIG(1)SC,, as well as another project – STP 0284(17) -- for improvements to US2/VT117/Exit 11. The project started in 2001 and the signal at the Exit 11 southbound exit ramp wasn't constructed until 2013. In the 12 years between the project starting and construction of the signal work was done sporadically – PE funds were obligated in FY01, FY04, FY08 and then FY12 and FY13.
- f. Rules around wetland impacts
 - i. The land-trust parcel is nearly all wetland- committee member asked what construction is allowed here
 - ii. The study will address the options of impacting vs not impacting the wetlands
 - iii. Ravi mentioned that typically the rules allow for crossings at the minimum width, with water flow; encouraged to locate at narrowest crossing point; boardwalks are often allowed; but costly

4. **Project Background**

- a. [VTrans Paving Progress - latest news?](#)
- b. [Current Scoping to address "pinch points"](#) - Progress/Updates?
- c. [2014 Pathway Scoping Study](#) - To expand to River Road / Riverview Commons.



- d. [“The Bressor Option”](#) Gary Bressor previously shared his conceptual plans for the placement of a multi-use path from the cemetery to the property near the Crate Escape. This option will be explored in greater detail throughout the project.

5. Next Steps

- a. CCRPC GIS Data Package Coordination -
 - i. **Action: Bryan Davis to follow up with D&K**
- b. Public Engagement Planning:
 - i. Focus Groups - Riverview Commons, School, Cemetery, corridor landowners
 - 1. Jeff Forward suggests offering stipend or incentive for participation to encourage participation;
 - 2. **Action: Bryan Davis to confirm feasibility of that**
 - ii. Timeline for initial public meeting targeted for around March / April 2023