

## Local & Regional Input Questionnaire

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### Project Summary

This project, IM 089-2(59), focuses on Bridges 55 N&S over Jericho Road (TH-4), in Richmond, Vermont. The bridges are deteriorating and need either a major maintenance action or replacement. Potential options being considered for this project include replacing the bridge deck, replacing the deck and superstructure, and replacing the entire bridge. VTrans will be recommending a crossover on Interstate 89 to maintain traffic at the project site for the duration of the work. It is anticipated that Jericho Road will need to be reduced to one lane alternating traffic from time to time during this project.

### Community Considerations

1. On Jericho Road, are there regularly scheduled public events in the community that will generate increased traffic (e.g. vehicular, bicycles and/or pedestrians), or may be difficult to stage if the bridge is closed during construction? Examples include annual bike races, festivals, parades, cultural events, weekly farmers market, concerts, etc. that could be impacted? If yes, please provide approximate date, location and event organizers' contact info.

There are no events on Jericho Rd.

2. Is there a "slow season" or period of time from May through October where traffic is less or no events are scheduled?

This road is heavily traveled for traffic headed to Richmond Elementary School and Camels Hump Middle School which are accessed via School St. which is located off of Jericho Rd. immediately south of the bridge. In addition the road is used by Richmond, Huntington, and Bolton residents traveling to Mount Mansfield Union High School. Thus traffic on the road in the morning and afternoon commutes is very heavy when school is in session from late August through mid-June. The slower time is mid-June to late August.

3. Please describe the location of the Town garage, emergency responders (fire, police, ambulance) and emergency response routes that might be affected by the closure of the bridge, one-way traffic, or lane closures and provide contact information (names, address, email addresses, and phone numbers).

The Town Garage, Richmond Rescue, Police and Fire are all located to the south of the bridge. All services have to travel under the bridge to reach areas of Richmond that are north of the Bridge. Jericho Rd. extends for about two miles from the bridge to the Richmond Border. This section of Jericho Rd., and the roads off of Jerich Rd. in this section, contain approximately 150 – 175 homes. Response to incidents on the highway south of the bridge would also be affected as app services enter the Highway from Exit 11 which is north of the bridge.

## Local & Regional Input Questionnaire

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### Contacts for First Responders

Richmond Town Highway: Pete Gosselin

Ph-802 434-2631

Email: [pgosselin@richmondvt.gov](mailto:pgosselin@richmondvt.gov)

Richmond Fire Department: Chief Jerry Levesque

Ph-802 434-2002

Email: [jlevesque@richmondvt.gov](mailto:jlevesque@richmondvt.gov)

Richmond Police: Interim Chief Frank Bryan

Ph- 802-482-3397

Email - [Frank.Bryan@vermont.gov](mailto:Frank.Bryan@vermont.gov)

Richmond Rescue – Non-profit not affiliated with the Town that provides ambulance Services: Director Michael Chiarella

Ph- 802-434-2394

Email - [director@richmondrescue.org](mailto:director@richmondrescue.org)

4. Are there businesses (including agricultural operations and industrial parks) or delivery services (fuel or goods) that would be adversely impacted either by a detour or due to work zone proximity on Jericho Road?

There may be some disruption to agricultural operations as well as goods and services businesses in the proximity of the project but as long as two way traffic remains in operation on Rt. 2 and I89 the impact should not be especially adverse.

5. Are there important public buildings (town hall, community center, senior center, library) or community facilities (recreational fields, town green, etc.) close to the project?

The access to the Richmond Elementary School and Camels Hump Middle School is located off of Jericho Rd. immediately south of the bridge. In addition the road is used by Richmond, Huntington, and Bolton residents traveling to Mount Mansfield Union High School.

## Local & Regional Input Questionnaire

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6. What other municipal operations could be adversely affected by this project?

None that I can think of.

7. Are there any town highways that might be adversely impacted by traffic bypassing the construction on other local roads? Please indicate which roads may be affected and their condition (paved/unpaved, narrow, weight-limited bridges, etc), including those that may be or go into other towns.

If traffic on I89 is bad enough, vehicles may utilize Rt. 2 to travel between Exit 10 and 11. While not a Town Rd., Rt 2 runs the entire east/west length of Richmond and travels directly through the Richmond Village. This section of Rt. 2 runs directly through the Richmond Village and has potential to cause major congestion on Rt. 2 in the Richmond Village as well as on Bridge St. and Jericho Rd, (both paved) which both intersect with Rt. 2 in the Richmond Village.

Richmond may also see increased use of roads leading from Jericho to Richmond. These include Governor Peck Highway (paved) and Stage Rd. (gravel)

8. Is there a local business association, chamber of commerce, regional development corporation, or another downtown group that we should be working with? If known, please provide name, organization, email, and phone number.

None

9. Are there any public transit services or stops that use Jericho Road under the bridge, or transit routes in the vicinity that may be affected if they become the detour route?

School busses to and from the schools mentioned above.

### Schools

1. Where are the schools in your community and what are their yearly schedules (example: first week in September to third week in June)?

Richmond Elementary School and Camels Hump Middle School are accessed via School St. which is located off of Jericho Rd. immediately south of the bridge. In addition the road is used by Richmond, Huntington, and Bolton residents traveling to Mount Mansfield Union High School. Thus traffic on the road in the morning and afternoon commutes is very heavy when school is in session from late August through mid-June.

2. Is this project on specific routes that school buses or students use to walk to and from school?

Yes. All busses going to Richmond Elementary School and Camels Hump Middle School travel on Jericho Rd. to access School St. which intersects with Jericho Rd. immediately south of the bridge. Busses coming from the north will pass under the bridge. Many students walk from the

## Local & Regional Input Questionnaire

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Richmond Village, located just south of the bridge, to and from the schools. Some students was from the north on a route which puts them under the bridge.

3. Are there recreational facilities associated with the schools nearby (other than at the school)?

Browns Ct. park is located less than a quarter mile south of the bridge.

### **Pedestrians and Bicyclists**

1. What is the current level of bicycle and pedestrian use under the bridge?

Moderate under the bridge. Heavy directly south of the bridge especially when school is in session.

2. Are the current lane and shoulder widths of Jericho Road adequate for pedestrian and bicycle use?

There is a sidewalk to the south of the bridge which is adequate. Wider shoulders under the bridge and north of the bridge would be helpful for pedestrian and bicycle use.

3. Does the community feel there is a need for a sidewalk or bike lane under the bridge?

Yes. The Town has a scoping study for a sidewalk under the bridge that would travel from School St. to Southview Dr.

4. Is pedestrian and bicycle traffic on Jericho Road heavy enough that it should be accommodated during construction?

Yes. Especially when school is in session.

5. Does the Town have plans to construct either pedestrian or bicycle facilities under the bridge? Please provide any planning documents demonstrating this (scoping study, master plan, corridor study, town or regional plan).

The town conducted a scoping study for a sidewalk but that project has not progressed. Here is a link to the scoping study:

[https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Departments/Planning\\_Zoning/Richmond\\_Scoping\\_Report\\_FINAL\\_09232022.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Departments/Planning_Zoning/Richmond_Scoping_Report_FINAL_09232022.pdf)

## Local & Regional Input Questionnaire

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6. In the vicinity of the bridge, is there a land use pattern, existing generators of pedestrian and/or bicycle traffic, or zoning that will support development that is likely to lead to significant levels of walking and bicycling?

No, the lack of pedestrian or bicycle infrastructure does not support these activities.

### Design Considerations

1. Are there any concerns with the alignment of Jericho Road under the existing bridge? For example, if the bridge is located over a curve, has this created any problems that we should be aware of?

The bridge is located over a curve in Jericho Rd. If the length of the bridge could be extended this would allow for Jericho Rd. to be widened which would allow for a turn lane onto School St. for access to the school and/or a walkway/sidewalk to allow for more pedestrian traffic.

2. Are there any concerns with the width of Jericho Road under the existing bridge?

The road could be wider to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists and/or a sidewalk.

3. Are there any special aesthetic considerations we should be aware of?

No.

4. Are there any known Hazardous Material Sites near the project site?

No.

5. Are there any known historic, archeological and/or other environmental resource issues near the project site?

No.

6. Are there any utilities (water, sewer, communications, power) attached to or under the existing bridge? Please provide any available documentation.

The Richmond Water Resources water tank is located less than a quarter mile north of the Bridge. The Water Department needs access to the tank. Water lines run under Jericho Rd. under the bridge.

## Local & Regional Input Questionnaire

---

7. Are there any existing, pending, or planned municipal utility projects (communications, lighting, drainage, water, wastewater, etc.) near the project that should be considered?

No

8. Are there any other issues that are important for us to understand and consider?

No.

### **Land Use & Zoning**

1. Please provide a copy of your existing and future land use map or zoning map, if applicable.

Not applicable but link to Village Zoning:

[https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/General/2025/01/Village\\_Zoning\\_Map\\_Effective\\_January\\_29\\_2025\\_.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/General/2025/01/Village_Zoning_Map_Effective_January_29_2025_.pdf)

2. Are there any existing, pending or planned development proposals that would impact future transportation patterns near the bridge? If so, please explain.

No.

3. Is there any planned expansion of public transit or intercity transit service in the project area? Please provide the name and contact information for the relevant public transit provider.

No.

### **Communications**

1. Please identify any local communication outlets that are available for us to use in communicating with the local population. Include weekly or daily newspapers, blogs, radio, public access TV, Facebook, Front Page Forum, etc. Also include any unconventional means such as local low-power FM.

2. Richmond Front Porch Forum

3. Town of Richmond website [Home - Town of Richmond, VT \(richmondvt.gov\)](https://www.richmondvt.gov)

4. Times Ink! Monthly newspaper

5. MMCTV public access television

## Local & Regional Input Questionnaire

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6. Other than people/organizations already referenced in this questionnaire, are there any others who should be kept in the loop as the project moves forward?

Richmond Town Manager Josh Arneson

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Email: [jarneson@richmondvt.gov](mailto:jarneson@richmondvt.gov)

Richmond Water and Wastewater Superintendent Steve Cote

Phone: 802-434-2178

Email: [scote@richmondvt.gov](mailto:scote@richmondvt.gov)

Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District Superintendent John Muldoon

Email: [john.muldoon@mmuusd.org](mailto:john.muldoon@mmuusd.org)

Camels Hump Middle School Principal Gretchen Muller

Email: [gretchen.muller@mmuusd.org](mailto:gretchen.muller@mmuusd.org)

Richmond Elementary School Principal Jeremy Rector

Email: [jeremy.rector@mmuusd.org](mailto:jeremy.rector@mmuusd.org)

Transportation Supervisor, Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District Aaron J. Little

Email: [aaron.little@mmuusd.org](mailto:aaron.little@mmuusd.org)