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TO: Richmond Selectboard

FROM: Ravi Venkataraman, Town Planner

DATE: August 12, 2022

SUBJECT: Update on Huntington Road section of the Richmond Sidewalks Scoping Study

During the June 6, 2022 Selectboard meeting, the Selectboard reviewed the three project scope areas of the Richmond Sidewalks Scoping Study: (1) the east side of Bridge Street from Railroad Street to Volunteers Green; (2) the west side of Jericho Road from School Street to Valley View Road; and (3) the north side of Huntington Road from the current end of the sidewalk to the Johnnie Brook Trail. The Selectboard endorsed the recommendations the Transportation Committee put forward for Bridge Street and Jericho Road during the meeting.

For Huntington Road, during the discussions, the Selectboard, the project team and the Transportation Committee became aware that more conversations with the property owners were necessary before the Selectboard could endorse any recommended alternatives. The Transportation Committee, the project team, Ashley Farr, and Erin Farr—the main property owners within the project scope area for Huntington Road—met during the June 14, 2022 Transportation Committee meeting. Ashley Farr and Erin Farr stated their concerns about the safety of the road for vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, and their farm equipment; and that a more comprehensive solution for the entire roadway needed to be addressed. Based on the input the Transportation Committee received, the committee voted to amend their recommendation from Alternative #1 to the “no preference alternative”, recognizing that the roadway including bicycle and pedestrian issues on the roadway must be studied further.

The Richmond Sidewalks Scoping Study has been revised to include the Transportation Committee’s preferred option on page 47, explicitly stating:

The committee recommends the “no build” alternative at this time along with a recommendation for a feasibility study of relocating the farmhouse and/or realigning the road. Relocating the farmhouse or other farm structures, or realigning the road would improve pedestrian, bicycle, and motor vehicle safety. Any such study should include the direct involvement of all property owners within the scope of the study.

At this point, the Selectboard does not need to take any action on the scoping study report. This project has been properly closed out, and the purpose of this discussion item is to report back to the board on an item that had been left unresolved months ago. Currently, the

Transportation Committee does not have a plan for further study into the Huntington Road corridor, and the committee may have discussions with the Selectboard at a later date on how it would like to pursue additional investigations.