

Richmond Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes – April 25, 2023

Committee members present: Chris Cole (Chair), Jon Kart, Allen Knowles, Cameron Wong

Others present: Keith Osborne (Town Planner), Susan Wells (Richmond resident)

All attended remotely.

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

Abbreviations used in RTC minutes: ARPA = American Rescue Plan Act of 2021; CCRPC = Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission; D&K = Dubois and King; GMT=Green Mountain Transit; PPL = Project Pipeline Document; RTC = Richmond Transportation Committee; RVC=Riverview Commons; SB = Selectboard; TAP=Transportation Alternatives Program; UPWP = Unified Planning Work Program; VDH = VT Dept. of Health; VTRANS=Vermont Agency of Transportation;

1. Welcome and Public Comment: Cole welcomed Susan Wells and noted that her application for RTC membership is pending SB action.

2. Revisions to the agenda: Wells requested an update on the Bridge/Huntington/Cochran/Thompson Roads intersection. This is placed under 8. General Updates. Cole reported on Stantec’s reply about the scoped sidewalk segment between Southview Rd. and Valley View Rd. This is placed under 7. 2023 VTRANS Bicycle and Pedestrian Program application considerations.

3. Approval of Minutes from April 11, 2023: There were no corrections or additions to the minutes. **Motion by Wong, seconded by Kart, to approve minutes. Approved unanimously.**

4. Update from Share the Road Committee: Osborne provided a working list of committee members, including two Richmond residents who have volunteered:

- Francis Churchill-Chair
- Cameron Wong
- Keith Jennings
- Clara Lynne Knowles-Pending
- Lisa Kory-Pending
- Bryan Davis-CCRCP
- Mary-Catherine Graziano- Local Motion

Cole noted the need to get started, as the SB has requested the educational efforts be underway this spring. Osborne will work to set up an initial meeting next week.

5. Finalize Walkability Audit Report/ Prepare for Selectboard Meeting

a. Cumberland Farms – Planner update: Osborne provided and reviewed the Cumberland Farm 2007 approved site plan, which appears to allow the current situation. Property lines, Town right of way boundaries, and ownership of the sidewalks between Cumberland Farms and Depot Street were discussed, and Osborne will gather information to clarify these issues (further action, Osborne).

b. Finalizing report: The only remaining tasks are to add the Town logo, the RTC name, and the names of volunteers. Kart and Wong will do this (further action, Kart and Wong). Knowles recalled that

participation was fluid at times, and suggested adding “and others” to the list of volunteers, in the event our list misses someone.

c. Preparations for Selectboard – May 15: Gent and Kart plan to present the report to the SB on May 15, 2023 and will prepare for that (further action, Gent and Kart).

6. Updates for FY23 UPWP Projects:

a. Richmond Western Gateway Scoping Study: Knowles reported that there is no new information.

b. Route 2 pinch point study: Cole reported that he and Gent attended a meeting with Stantec personnel, Jason Charest (CCRPC), and Josh Arneson. The project lead for Stantec will be Mike Fowler. Cole reported that the pinch points were reviewed as mostly culverts, and will be resolved as culverts are replaced. Knowles pointed out the longest “pinch point” is the section just west of the Village and is over 100 feet long, and does not involve a culvert. Knowles feels that if this is not addressed, the whole project is pointless. Stantec is working on a date for a site visit, but Cole reports the delay is in finding a flagging crew. Knowles commented that if Stantec will not even walk the site without a flagging crew, that is a sad comment on the state of affairs.

7. 2023 VTRANS Bicycle and Pedestrian Program application considerations: Cole discussed that of possible projects, the scoped sidewalk on Jericho Road from School Street to Valley View Road is the best fit for this grant. He reported that Stantec stands by their scoped plan, based on LIDAR data, for sidewalk along the section with steeply sloped roadsides. The question of a crosswalk at the Valley View end was raised, and Knowles recalled that the speed limit of 45 mph at that point is too high for a crosswalk. Changing the speed limit involves another process. It was decided that with these considerations, it would be best to break the project into two phases, and at this time apply for a grant for phase 1, from School Street to Southview Road.

Motion by Knowles, seconded by Kart: Apply for a 2023 VTRANS Bike-Pedestrian Program Grant to build sidewalk on the west side of Jericho Road from School Street to Southview Road. Approved unanimously. Oborne will work on the grant application, and also see if formal SB approval is needed to submit the grant application (further action, Oborne).

8. General Updates:

a. Bridge St/Cochran/Huntington/Thompson Rd. Intersection: Wells requested an update on moving this issue forward. Cole reported that he and Gent discussed this with Town Manager Arneson. Cost estimates are in the appendix to the Bridge St. Complete Streets Study. To move forward, the issue will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next RTC meeting as to whether to look for grant funding for construction. Then a public comment meeting should be held to review the preferred option, and the issue presented to the SB.

b. Dialogue with railroad about future projects: No new information.

c. GMT Transit Study: The results of this study are scheduled to be presented to the SB at their May 15, 2023 meeting. This is informational, as no action is recommended. The presentation will be by the consultant.

9. Agenda items for next meeting:

- **Bridge/Cochran/Huntington/Thompson intersection**
- **Cumberland Farms information update**

- **Share the Road Committee update**
- **UPWP projects update**
- **VTRANS Bike-Ped grant application update**
- **Cochran Road - Mid-year Adjustment Program: any news?**

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Wong, seconded by Kart. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM

Minutes by Allen Knowles

Items for further action:

1. Osborne to gather information on property lines, Town right of way boundaries, and ownership of the sidewalks between Cumberland Farms and Depot Street. See 5a above.
2. Wong and Kart to finalize walkability report, adding Town logo, RTC name, and list volunteers. See 5b above.
3. Gent and Kart will prepare for and give a presentation to the SB on the Walkability Audit project and report for the May 15, 2023 SB meeting. See 5c above.
4. Osborne will work on the VTRANS Bike-Ped grant application for Jericho Rd. phase 1 sidewalk construction (School St. to Southview Rd.), and also see if formal SB approval is needed to submit the grant application (further action, Osborne). See 7 above.