

Richmond Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2023

Committee members present: Chris Cole (Chair), Cathleen Gent (Vice Chair), Keith Jennings, Jon Kart, Allen Knowles, Cameron Wong

Others present: Keith Osborne (Town Planner), Jeanne Adams, Andrew Bessette (Richmond resident), Susan Wells (Richmond resident),

All attended remotely.

A quorum was reached and the Chair convened the meeting at 5:33 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; THBC = intersection of Thompson Rd, Huntington Rd, Bridge St, and Cochran Rd; UPWP = Unified Planning Work Program; VDH = VT Dept. of Health; VTRANS=Vermont Agency of Transportation;

1. Welcome and Public Comment: No public comments.

2. Revisions to the agenda: None.

3. Approval of Minutes from April 25, 2023: There were no corrections or additions to the minutes. **Motion by Kart, seconded by Gent, to approve minutes. Approved unanimously.**

4. Thompson Rd – Huntington Rd – Bridge St – Cochran Rd Intersection (THBC): Gent provided a memo with background information from the 2021 scoping study and consultant’s final technical report. See “Related Files” for the full memo. Cole summarized the history of the study and technical report, and the graphic of the Preferred Alternative was reviewed. Cole questioned whether the cost estimate was really \$72K and Gent said that is what is in the study, and she will confirm with Jason Charest at CCRPC. The graphic’s curbs, curb cuts, need for crosswalks and lack of identified crosswalks were discussed. Jennings questioned why the roundabout option was so much more expensive (\$850K) and it was noted that option required land acquisition and much more new pavement. Location of stop signs was reviewed and Wells noted that school morning traffic backs up now. Cole identified next steps as asking Jason Charest to attend a meeting and provide an inflation adjusted cost estimate, give input, and answer questions. After that public comment would be sought, and then a decision by RTC as to whether to forward a plan/recommendations to the SB. Wells asked whether ARPA money was a possible source of funds for this project. It was noted that the entire Bridge Street Complete Streets Study has been recommended to the ARPA Committee, but that this portion of it has not been specifically singled out.

5. Share the Road Sub-committee update: Osborne reported little response to a Doodle Poll, and no response from Local Motion to date. An initial meeting needs to be arranged. Cole asked whether Francis Churchill, as the sub-committee Chair, could move forward with the approach he has outlined. Also, if Local Motion currently cannot participate, could CCRPC provide help? Also, could the Town

provide funding, since this project is at the SB's request? Gent reported that Bryan Davis at CCRPC said they could help. Osborne stated that an initial meeting is needed to determine specifics of what to ask CCRPC and/or the Town for. This needs to be scheduled.

6. Updates for FY23 UPWP Projects:

a. Richmond Western Gateway Scoping Study: Knowles reported that at the May 2 Steering Committee meeting results of the focus groups and public comment meeting were reviewed, and Gary Bressor presented a concept for a trail. Osborne noted that Bressor's concept would be both costly and require land acquisition. He also noted the need to address the slip lane at the interchange in some fashion. Gent noted that survey results were also reviewed at the steering committee. It was decided to invite Gary Bressor to present his concept to the RTC.

b. Route 2 pinch point study: Site visit by consultant Stantec is scheduled May 19, meeting at the Park and Ride at 9:30 AM. Knowles and Gent plan to attend. Cole stated the culverts will not be replaced until their service life has ended, and we should inquire of Stantec if they know the "asset condition" of the individual culverts, and the dates they should be replaced. As regards the death strip "pinch point" that begins at the west end of the Village and extends for about 150 ft, we should make sure that Stantec knows this is a major concern, and we need to know what it will take to get 5 ft paved shoulders on this section. Andrew Bessette stated that a previous study had considered a connection to the village on the south side of the railroad tracks that would then tunnel under to reach the Rt2 right of way, and if the location of the tunnel were moved west enough to bypass the narrow area entering the Village this would be a way to solve the problem.

c. Cochran Road speed tables: Temporary speed tables have been received but not yet installed. The D&K traffic engineer is to determine their locations. New radar speed signs are up at the west end of Cochran Rd and the east end near the intersection with Duxbury Rd. Wells noted that the west end one also picks up traffic on Huntington Rd before it turns left onto Bridge St, and this may influence data the unit records. It was also noted that Huntington police have done some traffic stops and issued warning tickets, but the contract for that is reportedly on hold.

7. 2023 VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program grant application considerations: This is for Phase One of Jericho Rd sidewalks, to extend from School St to Southview Rd. Osborne has discussed this with CCRPC and is working on the application, which has a June 1 deadline for submission. Gent noted that the Town will need to confirm that matching funds will be available if the grant is received.

8. General Updates

a. Cumberland Farms: Osborne is checking deeds and needs to obtain accurate information on property lines and right of way limits.

b. Walkability Report wrap up: Kart stated the report is ready. Kart and Gent are working on a PowerPoint presentation of about 10 minutes duration for the SB. This is hoped to be on the agenda for May 15. ARPA decisions on funding are pending. Cole noted it would be useful to determine which deficiencies in sidewalk infrastructure would be corrected if RTC ARPA requests were granted.

c. Dialogue with railroad about future projects

d. TAP Update – Bridge St. Sidewalk grant: Osborne reports that the next step is getting the grant agreement signed, and the VTRANS person involved has not responded.

9. Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

a. Gary Bressor presentation, if he is available

- b. THBC intersection: Jason Charest if available; confirm cost estimate; rational for design elements?**
- c. VTRANS Bike-Ped Grant application update**
- d. Share the Road sub-committee update**
- e. TAP grant update/status of ARPA funding for matching funds**
- f. Cochran Rd speed humps update**
- g. Cumberland Farms update**
- h. UPWP updates**

10. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Gent, seconded by Knowles. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM

Minutes by Allen Knowles