

Richmond Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2023

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

Others present: Keith Osborne (Town Planner)

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; 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 Agenda: Lower Bridge Street Sidewalk Update was added to “9. General Updates”.

3. Approve Minutes from May 23, 2023, meeting: There were no corrections or additions to the minutes. **Motion by Kart, seconded by Gent, to approve minutes. Approved unanimously.**

4. Western Gateway Update: Knowles reported on the June 6, 2023 meeting of the steering committee. See Related Files for today’s meeting for steering committee meeting notes, draft concept evaluation matrix, and draft of concept alternatives. Briefly, D&K is proposing three alternatives: “No Build”; “North Side Straight” which follows US2; and “Emerald Necklace” which is more separated from US2 but also requires more land acquisition and complicated construction. Dan Mallach of D&K plans to present these options for comment and input to the RTC at our June 27, 2023 meeting and at a public comment/input meeting he hopes to arrange for June 28, 2023. RTC members can also provide input to him via email at dmallach@dubois-king.com After RTC and public comment and input on the concept alternatives has been received, D&K will schedule a presentation of the final report to the SB. RTC discussed the process, and briefly reviewed the reasons for not including other possibilities such as “Over the River”.

5. THBC Intersection Update: Osborne reported that the next step would be a public meeting for input, and a date and time need to be set. Gent queried what would be presented for discussion at the public meeting. Cole stated it would be the “preferred alternative” and the “4-way stop alternative” from the Bridge Street Corridor Study. Osborne noted that Jason Charest of CCRPC should attend, and if he is available for June 27, Osborne will schedule 30 minutes for public comment on the RTC meeting agenda for that date.

6. Share the Road Sub-committee update: Osborne reported that Jay Furr of the SB contacted Local Motion and did receive some materials. Frances Churchill has not responded and Osborne will try once

more. Wells stated she will contact Lisa Kory to see if they can organize something. Knowles reported that Clara Lynne Knowles remains interested in participating, but not in leading the effort.

7. Updates for FY23 UPWP Projects:

a. Route 2 pinch point study: Jason Charest has arranged a meeting for June 19, 2023 to discuss the draft report. Cole noted we will need cost estimates.

b. Cochran Road speed tables: Osborne reported no new information. The speed tables are not installed. The reason for delay is not known to RTC, but this is not an RTC project.

8. FY 24 UPWP Grant Award for Cochran Road Scoping and Feasibility Study: Richmond has been awarded this grant. The notification letter is in the Related Files for this meeting. Next steps include review of the original application, and Gent is sending that to committee members. Gent noted we will need to review the consultant options when we receive them from CCRPC. Wells stated she will join the stakeholder's subcommittee for this project when it forms.

9. General Updates:

a. Lower Bridge Street Sidewalk Update: Osborne reported that Town Staff met with State officials. State officials presented a timetable with construction in 2027, or possibly 2026. Minutes of the SB meeting of May 15, 2023 state that the SB approved providing the \$64K matching funds for this project from ARPA funds. Kart noted that ARPA funds have time limit for their use, and a way to use them for the project within that time limit will need to be found.

b. Upper Bridge Sidewalk update: Minutes of the SB meeting of May 15, 2023 state that the SB approved \$254,509 in ARPA funds for the Complete Streets project on Bridge St. which includes a sidewalk on the east side of Bridge St. from Jolina Ct. to US 2, an uphill bike lane, crosswalk improvements, and improvements to the pedestrian walkway at the intersection of Railroad St. and Bridge St. near the Richmond Market. Gent stated that RTC should discuss with Osborne and Arneson to make sure all elements are addressed. Cole stated Upper Bridge Street needs to be a future agenda item to review the various elements. These elements are in https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Departments/Planning_Zoning/FINAL_Richmond_VHB_BridgeStreetCorridorStudy_TechnicalMemo_8-27-21-compressed_1_.pdf See pages 28-30; 32-34; 76-81; and 90-99.

b. Cumberland Farms: Osborne reported continuing to research old deeds.

c. Jericho Road sidewalk – School Street to Southview: Osborne reported the grant request for this was submitted June 9, 2023 and the state reported receiving it and reviewing it. The SB did approve the matching funds if the grant is received.

d. Walkability audit update: The report to the SB did not make it onto the June 5 agenda, but hopefully will be on the June 20, 2023 SB agenda.

10. Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

- **Presentation by D&K: Western Gateway Draft Concept Alternatives**
- **THBC Public Comment session if Jason Charest can attend**
- **Share the Road Sub-committee update**

- **Route 2 pinch point study update**
- **Cochran Road speed tables**

11. Agenda Items for near future (July if unable to fit in June 27)

- **Review elements of Upper Bridge Street Complete Streets for prioritization**
- **FY 24 UPWP Cochran Road Scoping and Feasibility Study Next Steps: Review application, selecting a consultant, and setting up stakeholders committee.**
- **Cumberland Farms**
- **Walkability Audit Report to SB**
- **Jericho Rd. Sidewalk Grant**

12. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Wells, seconded by Knowles. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM.

Minutes by Allen Knowles