

Richmond Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes – May 23, 2023

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

Others present: Gary Bressor, Jason Charest (CCRPC), Keith Osborne (Town Planner), Lisa Miller, Ian Stokes

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: Susan Wells was welcomed as a new member of the committee.

2. Revisions to the agenda: Gent noted that the FY24 UPWP grant for the Cochran Rd. Scoping and Feasibility Study has been approved. This was added under general updates.

3. Approval of Minutes from May 9, 2023: There were no corrections or additions to the minutes. **Motion by Gent, seconded by Wells, to approve minutes. Approved unanimously.**

4. Intersection of Thompson Rd, Huntington Rd, Bridge St, and Cochran Rd (THBC): Jason Charest provided a summary of the process that led to the “preferred alternative” in the 2021 Bridge Street Complete Streets Corridor Study. The “preferred alternative” plan was reviewed. This plan is on page 35 of the .pdf of the Study at https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Departments/Planning_Zoning/FINAL_Richmond_VHB_BridgeStreetCorridorStudy_TechnicalMemo_8-27-21-compressed_1_.pdf

Gent questioned the cost estimate. It was noted by Cole that the 2021 cost estimate of approximately \$73K would probably be about \$80K now, due to inflation. Kart noted that the sidewalk segments and curbs in the intersection would not connect to other sidewalks except the Bridge/Huntington corner. Charest explained that the corner curbs, sidewalk segments, and tactile pads/curb cuts serve to allow pedestrians to traverse the intersection. Gent questioned whether the plan would slow traffic enough to allow for pedestrian safety. Charest stated that the plan would improve pedestrian safety; whether it would be sufficient remains to be seen. Discussion ensued of the possibility of converting to a four-way stop, enlarging or moving the center island, further tightening turning radii, and rectangular rapid flashing beacons for the crosswalks. Gent queried about next steps; Cole stated scheduling a public comment hearing. Gent queried how, once identified, desired changes would be incorporated into the plan; Charest stated this would be during the design phase.

5. Share the Road Sub-committee update: Osborne reported he had not received responses for setting up and initial meeting, and hence no progress.

6. Gary Bressor presentation on Rt. 2 Ped/Bike path: Richmond resident Gary Bressor presented a concept he has developed for a multi-use path with park areas connecting the Village with the Park and Ride and Riverview Commons. He has also made this presentation to the Steering Committee of the FY23 Gateway Scoping Study, the Land Trust, and the Conservation Committee. D&K plans to include this concept as an alternative in its report for the Gateway Scoping Study. Discussion ensued of this ambitious plan. It was noted that a phased approach would be useful for implementation.

7. Updates for FY23 UPWP Projects

a. Route 2 pinch point study: Gent, Knowles and Osborne participated in the site visit by consultant Stantec's project engineers. They reported that the site visit was very thorough and the engineers had ideas for how the pinch points can be addressed. Their report is forthcoming.

b. Cochran Road speed tables: Osborne reported that mapping is to be done by June 1, and a technical memo should follow by mid June.

8. General Updates: (very briefly, as time ran out)

a. FY24 UPWP grant for Cochran Road Scoping and Feasibility Study: Gent was notified by CCRC that this grant is approved.

b. Cumberland Farms: Osborne reports no new information or action.

c. Walkability Report: This is on the June 5 SB agenda; Kart will do the presentation.

d. Dialogue with railroad about future projects: Cole reports no new information.

e. TAP Update – Bridge St. Sidewalk grant/ARPA Funding: Minutes of the SB meeting of May 15, 2023 state that the SB approved accepting the TAP grant and providing the \$64K matching funds from ARPA funds, and also \$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, and improvements to the pedestrian walkway at the intersection of Railroad St. and Bridge St. near the Richmond Market.

f. Jericho Road sidewalk – School Street to Southview Road: Osborne reported that he is working on the bike-ped grant application and will need a cost estimate for this shorter segment split out from the cost for the total original scope that extended to Valley View Rd. Charest stated that CCRPC should be able to provide a cost estimate for this segment, and that is in process.

9. Agenda Items for Next Meeting: (very briefly, as time ran out)

- **Share the Road Committee:** Cole will check with Francis Churchill. We need to decide if this can realistically go forward this year.
- **THBC Public Hearing:** Need to decide on scheduling and how to publicize it.
- **ARPA funding of Bridge St. Complete Street project:** How do we move forward?
- **New bank construction on upper Bridge St. without sidewalks:** How did this happen, and how do we address it?
- **General updates on: UPWP FY23 and FY24 projects, Cochran Rd. temporary speed bumps, Jericho Rd sidewalk bike-ped grant application, Cumberland Farms, the railroad and new sidewalk**

10. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Wells, seconded by Kart. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM

Minutes by Allen Knowles