

Richmond Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes – July 25, 2023

Committee members present: Chris Cole (Chair), Cathleen Gent (Vice Chair), Keith Jennings, 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 5:34 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 Comments: No public comments for items not on the agenda.

2. Revisions to Agenda: None

3. Approve Minutes from June 27, 2023, meeting: There were no corrections or additions to the minutes. **Motion by Gent, seconded by Wells, to approve the minutes. Passed unanimously.**

4. Western Gateway update: Gent reported that the July 13, 2023 meeting for presentation by D&K of the alternatives for public comment was cancelled due to inclement weather closing Town Center. The meeting is rescheduled for August 10, 2023 at 6:30 PM. The online survey is also live.

5. General Updates:

a. Review elements of Upper Bridge Street Complete Streets: Gent provided a brief history of the FY 21 Bridge St. Complete Streets Corridor Study https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Departments/Planning_Zoning/FINAL_Richmond_VHB_BridgeStreetCorridorStudy_TechnicalMemo_8-27-21-compressed_1_.pdf Alternative 2 was chosen for the section of Bridge St. north of Jolina Court. Gent noted that the SB agreed to fund these improvements and designated \$219,509 of ARPA funds for this purpose. The Study report was reviewed. Some work on sidewalk on the west side has been completed. The “sidewalk” along the property owned by the market remains in negotiation. Cole questioned whether the proposed slope work at 14 Pleasant St. was within the Town right of way. Osborne is to check on that. Gent questioned what is the plan in front of the bank building, which recently renovated their parking, including encroaching on the Town right of way, without installing sidewalks called for in the Study. Osborne noted that the bank’s plan was approved by the DRB, and remediation of this situation will need to be negotiated. Gent noted that time limits on the expenditure of ARPA funds may necessitate an accelerated schedule. Osborne noted that the upper and lower Bridge St. projects cannot be combined under a single project management due to separate funding sources. Changing a crosswalk from mid-block in the business section to the outlet of Pleasant St. was discussed. Osborne noted that he should have information on project management by the next RTC meeting.

b. Review elements of Lower Bridge Street East side sidewalk: These plans come from the FY22 Richmond Village Sidewalk Scoping Study https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Departments/Planning_Zoning/Richmond_Scoping_Report_FINAL_09232022.pdf Funding is \$256,000 from a TAP grant, which is federal money that is administered by VTRANS, and \$64,000 Town matching funds. The Town plans to use ARPA funds for this match, but the timeline proposed by VTRANS may not allow that. Cole noted that the Town has other funds that could be used if necessary, and that federal requirements will dictate the pace of the project, which may be faster or slower than the averages used by VTRANS to estimate a timeline. The actual location of the sidewalk relative to the curb will be determined during the design stage, and will combine elements of Study alternatives 1 and 2. Considerations include minimizing impact on the cemetery, which will likely place that segment near or at the curb; avoiding damage to the maple trees at Town Center, which may reduce distance from the road there; and whether or not to use the existing sidewalk that extends from the library to the Town Center driveway, which may be determined by current in-progress planning for Town Center renovations. Where possible, a minimum 5 foot green space between curb and sidewalk is desirable. Osborne noted that the timeline will be clarified when the project manager comes on board, and that should be soon. Gent volunteered to attend project management meetings for both the upper and lower Bridge St. projects and provide liaison with RTC, and the RTC accepts and thanks her for this.

c. Share the Road update: Wells reported on the sub-committee's second meeting. They are working on a plan for short, positive, humorous messages directed to different users (pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers). They are considering signs at key intersections and locations rather than yard signs. They are inviting Radiate Art to give input on design. Wells' expressed the opinion that a short timetable is not practical, and that they need time to come up with effective messaging. Cole noted there is a state sign law that should be complied with, affecting US2, and a Town sign ordinance to be complied with. Ideas were discussed, such as moveable signs. A banner was considered and thought impractical. Wells reported no input from Local Motion thus far.

d. Cumberland Farms: Osborne reported that review of land records indicates that Cumberland Farms owns the land up to Bridge St., and the site plan resulting in the current situation was approved by the DRB. He does not find recourse for the Town to change the current situation there.

e. Walk Audit Report presentation synopsis: Gent reported that the presentation to the SB provided a good overview of the project and was well received. She recognized Jon Kart for his work and doing the presentation. Cole noted that elements of the Walk Audit on Bridge St. should be identified for consideration in the design stage of the upper and lower Bridge St. projects.

6. Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

The Jason 4 (involving input from Jason Charest of CCRCP)

i. FY23 UPWP – Cochran Road Traffic Calming – Temporary Speed Tables: It was noted that these have not been installed, and are waiting for D&K input on location.

ii. FY24 UPWP – Cochran Road Corridor Study

iii. Route 2 Pinch Points – Stantec Report

iv. THBC – Intersection Wells reported that this seems to be getting worse, with short tempers, right of way confusion, etc. Jennings showed an example of an intersection in Colorado that was made safer.

Kart questioned whether temporary changes could be tried to see what would work best, as there has not been consensus on what to do.

7. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Kart, seconded by Knowles. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Minutes by Allen Knowles