

Richmond Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2022

All participants attended the meeting remotely.

Committee members present: Cathleen Gent (chair), Chris Cole (vice-chair), Jon Kart, Allen Knowles, Cameron Wong

Others present: Ravi Venkataraman (Town Planner), Eleni Churchill (CCRPC), Jason Charest (CCRPC), Erin Farr, Ashley Farr

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

1. Revisions to Agenda: Gent asked to have two topics added to the agenda, time permitting, for a Route 2 repaving update and speeding concerns.

2. Meeting Minutes: *May 24, 2022 minutes were moved by Kart, seconded by Knowles.* Knowles offered one correction. *The amended minutes were approved unanimously.*

3. UPWP FY22 Project Updates

a. Sidewalk Scoping: Gent reported that the Selectboard endorsed the recommendations by the Transportation Committee for the sidewalk alternatives for the Bridge Street and the Jericho Road portions of the Richmond Sidewalks Scoping Report. The Selectboard did not approve or endorse the Huntington Road segment due to concerns raised by Ashley and Erin Farr. Transportation Committee members requested that Charest and the consultants clarify portions of the final report.

Huntington Road Segment: Jason Charest discussed the work done on the Huntington Road segment since the public meeting on March 17, which was attended by Ashley and Erin Farr, along with other members of the public. Charest said the consultants erred in not inviting the Farris to future Transportation Committee meetings when the project was discussed. The Transportation Committee endorsed the recommended alternative at the May 10 meeting. Ashley Farr said he believed the project was being tabled so was frustrated upon seeing the published final report with the recommendation for Huntington Road. Both Ashley and Erin Farr asked that they be part of any discussion going forward and that they are very concerned about safety on the double S curves for bicyclists, pedestrians, and their own farm equipment. Discussion followed about potentially moving the farm house, widening the road to have a path on both sides, and the recommended alternative. The Farris said they want to work with the Town to make the road safer. Cole reiterated a significant concern about the double S curves and suggested straightening out the curves would be ideal, with bike paths on either side. Erin Farr asked about how the project mission (goal) statement was developed, which Charest addressed. There was agreement that the Selectboard needs to be engaged with addressing a solution as the whole roadway, not just the shoulder, is a problem. In the meantime, the Transportation Committee will continue to work with the Farris to work through a new proposal. *Motion by Cole, seconded by Knowles, that, in lieu of public concerns regarding safety of the roadway, the Transportation Committee is now selecting a “no preference alternative”, recognizing that the roadway and bike/pedestrian issues must be studied further. Voting: unanimous in favor.* Charest and Stantec will revise the final report accordingly. The Farris will be notified in advance about future meetings when this topic is discussed.

b: Phase 2: Ped & Bicycle Master Plan – South End – Public Meeting Prep: Venkataraman reminded the committee that the public meeting will take place on June 28th. The project steering committee will meet on May 21 to discuss the report. The June 28 session conflicts with the regular Transportation Committee and Gent said an alternative date will be discussed later in the meeting.

4. UPWP FY23 Projects

a. Updates about new grant awards: Churchill said the Gateway Scoping project will begin on July 1. CCRPC will do a preliminary assignment of consultants and will reach out to learn if staff and the Transportation Committee agrees with their choice. After that, there will be a discussion about the scope and budget.

b. Route 2 Targeted Scope: The draft application was discussed, including the budget. Churchill suggested that it would be good to reach out to Stantec, which is doing the engineering for the Route 2 repaving project, about

the budget. The committee discussed the project scope and the consultant. *Motion by Knowles, seconded by Wong, to accept the scope for the Route 2 targeted scoping project and agree that Stantec is the appropriate firm for the project. Voting: unanimous in favor.* Wong left the meeting at 6:40 PM.

5. Organizational Meeting

The committee discussed the office of chair. *Motion by Knowles, seconded by Kart, for Chris Cole to serve as chair, Cathleen Gent as vice-chair, and Allen Knowles as clerk. Voting: Unanimous in favor.* Cole, Gent and Venkataraman will meet regularly to plan for upcoming meetings. The committee decided to keep the meeting schedule as is: the second and fourth Tuesday at 5:30 PM.

6. AARP Walkability Audit Status Report

Knowles has provided documents and photos to Venkataraman. Kart and Gent are finalizing their materials from the walk audits. The three members will work on the documentation and recommendations. There was a brief discussion about the changes for pedestrian safety at the corner of Bridge Street and Railroad Street. Venkataraman said the Selectboard is discussing the plans at their next meeting. In response to a question from Cole, Gent said that road foreman Pete Gosselin attended a transportation committee meeting to discuss the plans for that intersection.

7. Old and New Business – Because the June 28th meeting date and time is dedicated to the public meeting for the Ped/Bike Master Plan (south), the committee discussed whether a second June meeting is needed. Gent asked Venkataraman to send out a doodle poll.

10. Adjourn – At 7:07 PM, motion to adjourn by Knowles, seconded by Kart. Approved unanimously.

-Minutes taken by Cathleen Gent