

Richmond Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes – July 26, 2022

All participants attended the meeting remotely.

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

Others present: Ravi Venkataraman (Town Planner)

A quorum was reached and the vice-chair convened the meeting at 5:31 PM

1. Revisions to the Agenda: None

2. Approval of Minutes from July 12, 2022: Minor correction noted by Knowles. **Motion by Kart, seconded by Knowles to approve corrected minutes. Vote in favor unanimous.**

3. UPWP FY22 Project Updates:

a. Sidewalk Scoping Study: Stantec has provided a final version of the report, which is included in the meeting materials for review by Transportation Committee members. Minor edits can still be made.

The sections for Jericho Road and Bridge Street have already been presented to the Selectboard and the recommendations of the Transportation Committee were endorsed at the June 6, 2022 Selectboard meeting.

The remaining task is to update the Selectboard regarding the Huntington Road section. (further action, Venkataraman and Committee) After further conversations with the Farr's during the June 6, 2022 Selectboard meeting and the June 14, 2022 Transportation Committee meeting, the Committee recommended the "No Build" alternative for the Huntington Road section at the June 14 meeting. An additional recommendation from the Committee to the Selectboard is that further study is needed to address the segment of Huntington Road in a global fashion for the safety of all users, including operators of farm equipment and residents crossing the road to work their farm, as well as pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. The S-curves, short sight lines, and motor vehicle traffic volumes and speeds create problems beyond what can be addressed with shoulders, sidewalks, or a multi-use path.

Kart and Gent felt that Stantec report needs further clarification of why the "No Build" was chosen and what the next steps should be. Kart will draft a short statement to be added to the report as a minor edit and submit it to Venkataraman to be passed on to Stantec. (further action, Kart and Venkataraman)

b. Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, Phase 2, South: The online public comments survey ends this week.

Regarding obtaining adjacent landowner feedback for potential new trail connections from Johnnie Brook Rd. to Fays Corners along Johnnie Brook, and from the Preston Forest Trails to Huntington Road or Grandview Road, Venkataraman has received feedback from one landowner on Grandview Road and passed that along to Dubois and King. He also will supply a list of other adjacent landowners and sample language that he used to committee members. (further action, Venkataraman)

The next bike/ped steering committee check-in meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2022 at 5:30 PM.

4. Project Pipeline Document: Gent presented a draft spreadsheet Project Pipeline document. The Committee reviewed it and agreed that it will be a useful tool both for keeping track of projects, and also for presenting status updates to the Selectboard. Gent will assume primary responsibility for keeping it complete and up to date. (further action, Gent)

5. Planning for Future Update to the Selectboard: The Committee intends to update the Selectboard on completed, ongoing, and forthcoming projects, along with discussing the role of the Transportation Committee in conjunction with other committees and town policies. A consensus was reached that the preferred time would be after the final report of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan, Phase 2 was delivered, and before the budget process began in October. Venkataraman will see if this can be on the agenda of the September 19, 2022 meeting of the Selectboard. (further action, Venkataraman)

6. Update – Bridge Street / Railroad Street Intersection Project: East Engineering, one of the engineering firms the Town regularly works with, gave town officials a draft drawing to review. The Town provided comments to better integrate the Bridge Street Corridor Study and safety concerns. East Engineering is currently working on a revision of the drawing.

7. Public Education Materials: Bryan Davis (CCRPC) sent useful links about project procedures and timelines to be used in public education. The need for this was discussed at the July 12, 2022 meeting. He also provided links to resources regarding the possibility of advisory bike/ped lanes on Cochran Road. These can be accessed in the RTC Google share drive folder.

<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/sites/aot/files/highway/documents/publications/ProjectDefinitionProcessGuidebook2017.pdf>

<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/sites/aot/files/highway/documents/publications/FlowChart.pdf>

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/small_towns/fhwahep17024lg.pdf

8. Adjourn: There being no further business, at 6:35 PM **motion to adjourn by Knowles, seconded by Kart, approval unanimous.**

Minutes by Allen Knowles

Further Action Needed:

1. Update the Selectboard regarding the Huntington Road section of the Sidewalk Scoping Study.

(Venkataraman and Committee, see 3a above) This is to address both the “no build” recommendation and the recommendation for further global study of problems with the road segment. Subsequent to the meeting it was determined that this is on the agenda for the August 15 Selectboard meeting.

2. Draft a short statement to be added to the Sidewalk Scoping Report for further clarification of why the “No Build” option was chosen and what the next steps should be. (Kart to draft and submit to Venkataraman, see 3a above)

3. Provide a list of landowners adjacent to potential new trail segments and also sample language for contacting them. (Venkataraman, see 3b above)

4. Complete and update Project Pipeline document: (Gent, see 4 above)

5. Future Update to the Selectboard: (all committee members; Venkataraman, see 5 above) Planned date is September 19, 2022.