
To:	Jason Charest Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission	From:	Erik Alling Stantec
File:	Richmond Sidewalks Scoping Study	Date:	November 9, 2021

Reference: Local Concerns Meeting Notes, 6:00 PM on Tuesday, November 2nd, 2021 (Hybrid in-Person and Zoom Meeting)

Project Team:

Ravi Venkataraman, Town Planner

Jason Charest, CCRPC Transportation Engineer

Sai Sarepalli, CCRPC Transportation Engineer

Erik Alling, Stantec Transportation Engineer

Residents in attendance:

Gary Bressor

Jean Bressor

Jon Kart

Betsy

Christopher Cole

Robin P

Jed Rankin

Virginia Clarke

Introduction and Background

Jason Charest, CCRPC:

The study is being funded with federal transportation planning dollars that come to Chittenden County through the CCRPC and are used to do transportation planning studies throughout the county. Richmond applied for and was awarded funding for this study through the CCRPC's annual work program.

There is a Project Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from Richmond (Ravi), Richmond Transportation Committee (RTC), and CCRPC (Jason, Sai). The role of the PAC is to attend meetings, review, and comment on materials, provide guidance, and update the Selectboard on the progress of the scoping project.

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Jason reviewed the process for this study which begins with project definition, also called scoping. In this phase the problem is identified, and solutions are explored. The goal is to reach a preferred alternative. The next steps after scoping would be to secure funding for engineering and construction and then design and build the project.

Stantec has done the initial data gatherings and will begin looking at alternatives after tonight's meeting.

Existing Conditions and Discussion with the Public:

Erik Alling, Stantec

There are three separate study areas:

- 1) along Jericho Road from the school entrance to Valley View Road
 - a. Existing conditions:
 - i. 25-35 mph speed limit
 - ii. 1,105 vehicles per day
 - iii. 49.5' ROW width
 - b. Existing sidewalk south of the project area which connects to the village
 - c. Discussion with public:
 - i. Attendee recommended listing number of houses and residents nearby to project area to estimate how many would use this facility. Strava data can also help.
 - ii. Attendee recognized it as a potentially good connection
 - iii. Attendee mentioned that a number of people walk from the Southview neighborhood and would likely use this facility
 1. There is an email group for this neighborhood and attendee will forward information to Ravi for input for this project
 - iv. Attendee requested that there be a green strip due to the potential for children to use the facility
 - v. Attendee mentioned a possible off-street connection to a path near the intersection with Southview Road
 - vi. Attendee who walks along Jericho Road mentioned that the curve under the interstate overpass is dangerous and has limited sight distance.
- 2) along the east side of Bridge Street from Jolina Court to Volunteers Green
 - a. Existing conditions:
 - i. 25 mph speed limit
 - ii. 5,700 vehicles per day
 - iii. 49.5' ROW width
 - b. Existing sidewalk along western side of Bridge Street and on the east side to the north of the project area
 - c. Discussion with public:

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- i. Attendee highlighted the multiple destinations on the east side of the road: the Town Offices, library, and post office
 - ii. Attendee said that a sidewalk on the east side would be useful in preventing multiple crossings
 - 1. Second attendee agrees with this statement.
 - iii. Attendee mentioned that Jolina Court is being developed so sidewalk along both sides will be useful
 - iv. Attendee requested grass strips
 - 1. Erik mentioned that perhaps one alternative could have a grass strip and another could minimize impacts
 - v. Attendee mentioned that the Bridge Street ROW may be off-center and that it is possible that there is additional Town ROW along the east side.
 - 1. Stantec will investigate
 - vi. Attendee recommended ending the east sidewalk and installing a crosswalk to connect with the southwest corner of the intersection with Esplanade Street
 - vii. Attendee requested that Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) be included in the scoping for Project Area 2
 - 1. The attendee then asked if funding for these was separate
 - 2. Erik and Sai responded that funding for proposed improvements would likely be in the form of an 80/20 funding split between VTrans and the Town and that this grant could include RRFB assemblies.
- 3) along the northerly side of Huntington Road from the Stone Corral Brewery to the Cross Vermont Trail trailhead at Jonnie Brook Road.
 - a. Existing conditions:
 - i. 35 mph speed limit
 - ii. 3,429 vehicles per day
 - iii. 49.5' ROW width
 - b. Existing sidewalk to the north/east of the project area on the northwesterly side of Huntington Road/Bridge St which connects to Richmond Village.
 - c. Discussion with public:
 - i. Attendee mentioned that this area is popular with cyclists and recommended considering them in the alternatives
 - ii. Attendees agreed that a multi-use path would be preferred for Project Area 3
 - iii. Attendee recommended extending sidewalk to the farmhouse at 400 Huntington Road, then continuing off the roadway alignment as a shared use path across the farm field.
 - 1. Attendee added that there is a vernal wet area that may need to be avoided and the entire field experiences regular flooding.
 - 2. Ravi mentioned that off-alignment options were preferred for this area during the last master planning process

November 9, 2021

Jason Charest

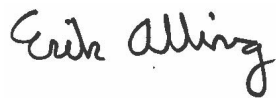
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- iv. Attendee said that this segment of Huntington Road is not comfortable to walk on due to the blind curves
- v. Attendee mentioned that sidewalk may be an option worth examining

The meeting ended at approximately 6:50 PM

Stantec Consulting Services Inc.



Erik Alling, PE
Project Manager

Phone: 802.864.0223

Erik.Alling@stantec.com

Attachment: PowerPoint Slides

c. Design File

Richmond Sidewalks Scoping

Public Meeting
November 2, 2021
Richmond, Vermont and Virtual



Tonight's Purpose

- Introduce the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) and review project area
- Review project development process
- Review existing conditions research
- **Gather feedback on issues, concerns, ideas - open public discussion**
- Discuss next steps

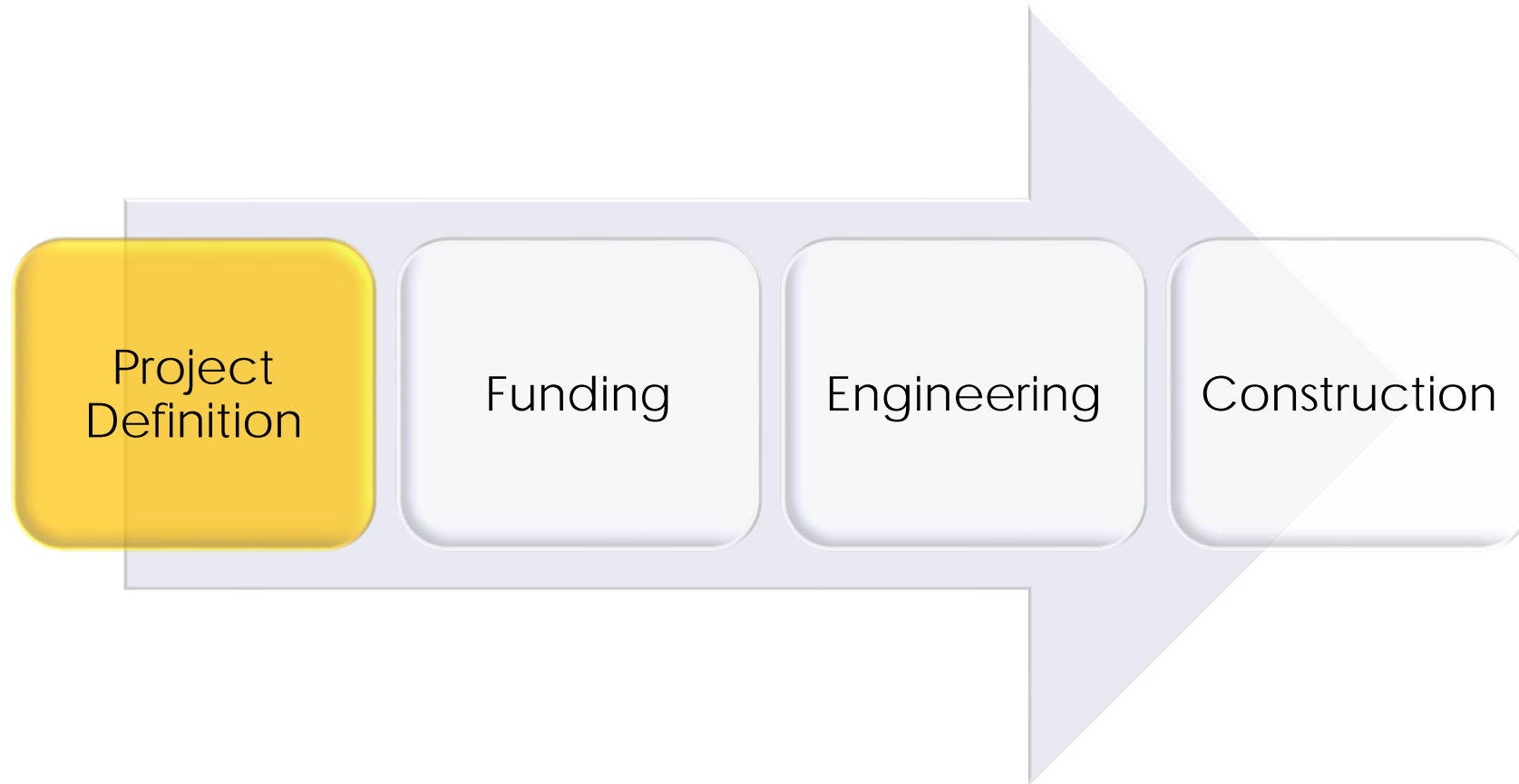
Introductions : Project Advisory Committee

- Richmond Town Staff
 - Ravi Venkataraman, Town Planner
- Richmond Transportation Committee
- Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)
 - Jason Charest, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer

PAC Roles and Responsibilities

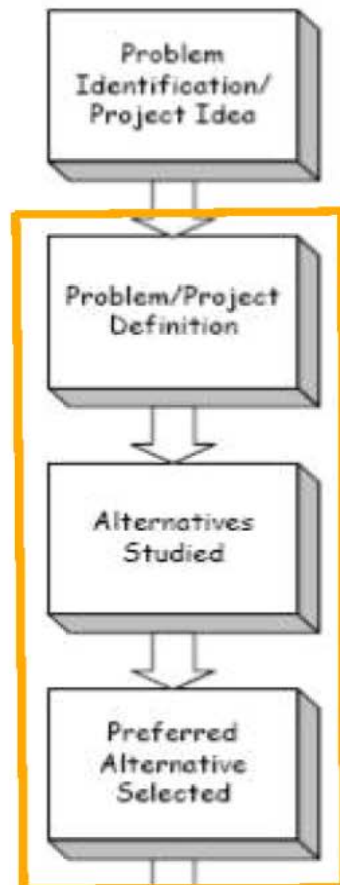
- Attend and participate in PAC meetings
- Review and comment on distributed materials
- Provide guidance, insight, and feedback throughout the scoping process
- Update representing entities on study progress
- Indicate preferences for improvements

Typical Project Process



Typical Project Process

Typical Stages in the Development and Funding of Transportation Projects



Problem Identification/Project Idea – The process starts when a particular transportation problem is identified or a new idea is put forward. This step can be initiated by members of the public, local elected officials, a private business, a community group, or a public agency. The CCMPO also often identifies problems and projects through its ongoing regional planning process.

Problem/Project Defined – The problem or project idea is brought to the CCMPO by local officials for definition and discussion (development of “purpose and need”).

Alternatives Studied – As part of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the CCMPO studies the problem/project idea and examines alternatives through our Technical Assistance and/or Scoping and Project Definition process. In some cases, depending on the scale and complexity of the project, the CCMPO can develop a “quick fix” to resolve the problem quickly.

Preferred Alternative Selected – Working with affected community and the public, the CCMPO facilitates the selection of a preferred alternative, which flows from the study process, for implementation.

Study Tasks and Timeline

- Task 1: Data gathering, existing conditions analysis; **October-November**
- Task 2: Local concerns public meeting; **November**
- Task 3: Alternatives development, PAC meeting workshop; **January – February**
- Task 4: Alternative evaluation, draft scoping report, PAC meeting ; **March**
- Task 5: Alternative presentation, final report; **April - May**

Project Background and Area



Project Area 1



Study Focus: Pedestrian Safety Improvements

Project Area 1 Existing Conditions

- Existing sidewalk ends at the school entrance



- Narrow shoulders, steep drop-offs between the school entrance and Valley View Road



Project Area 1 Existing Conditions

- Speed Limit 25 – 35
- 1105 AADT
- ROW width – 49.5'
- Aerial utilities along west side



Public Input and Solutions

What are the most important conditions, concerns, issues or solutions?

- Safety
- Pedestrian operations
- Sidewalk network
- Transit operations
- Land use changes

Project Area 2



Study Focus: Pedestrian Safety Improvements

Project Area 2 Existing Conditions

- Existing sidewalk along western side
- Narrow shoulders, relatively flat topography
- Destinations include post office, Volunteers Green, and Richmond Market



Project Area 2 Existing Conditions

- Speed limit 25
- 5700 AADT
- ROW width – 49.5'
- Aerial utilities along western side



Public Input and Solutions

What are the most important conditions, concerns, issues or solutions?

- Safety
- Pedestrian operations
- Sidewalk network
- Transit operations
- Land use changes

Project Area 3



Study Focus: Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety Improvements

Project Area 3 Existing Conditions

- Bridge Street sidewalk ends just onto Huntington Road
- Narrow shoulders, steep drop-offs outside of shoulders, slightly hilly topography
- Destinations include Stone Corral Brewery and the Cross Vermont Trail



Project Area 3 Existing Conditions

- Speed limit 35
- 3429 AADT
- ROW width – 49.5'
- Aerial utilities along northern side



Public Input and Solutions

What are the most important conditions, concerns, issues or solutions?

- Safety
- Pedestrian operations
- Sidewalk network
- Transit operations
- Land use changes

Next Steps and Public Meeting

- Develop ideas/solutions to address concerns
- Review with PAC members
- Conduct public meeting to seek input on alternatives – **April**

Thank you!

Contact information

Project Website: <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/transportation/current-projects/scoping/richmond-village-sidewalks-scoping-study/>

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