

Shelburne Bike Ped – public meeting
May 25, 2022

Project website: <https://bit.ly/shelburne-walk-bike>
Online survey: tinyurl.com/shelburnewalkbikesurvey

Project team: Adele Gravitz/Shelburne, Lee Krohn/Shelburne, Jason Charest/CCRPC, Bryan Davis/CCRPC

Public: Barbara Johnson, David Webster, Ellen McShane, Jane Zenaty, Jessica Coleman, Joyce George, Michael Ashooh, Robilee Smith, Stephen Baietti, The Tompkins, Tom Zenaty, Jeff Zweber, Suki Flash, Jane Pickell

The meeting began shortly after 7:00 pm

- Welcome, introductions
- Jason gave a presentation and notes this is second public forum
- Background: rather than start a new study, this one aimed to pull together previous projects and recommendations into a prioritized list so the Town could move forward with implementation.
- Compile and review prior studies and recommendations, created a survey to hear from the public on their values and preferences, analysis of project attributes.
- Process slide – currently in the second community forum so getting near the end. After this meeting we'll take public comments and make any adjustments as needed, then create a final draft for review.
- Project ranking criteria – scores for seven criteria were weighted. Five of the criteria were part of public survey, and responses informed the degree of weighting. Two other criteria: safety is paramount so it wasn't included in the survey; project readiness was added following the recent advisory committee meeting, and not including earlier was an oversight.
- Review of seven criteria:
 - Safety score informed by type of facility (e.g., separated from roadway), proximity to high crash location, traffic volumes. High weight.
 - Recreation score informed by projects providing access to recreation, separation from roadway. Normal weighting.
 - Transportation score informed by proximity to destinations and residential areas. Normal weighting.
 - Maintenance: more points for new facilities rather than repairing existing facilities. Low weighting.
 - Complexity score informed by project cost, potential permitting needs, potential need for property acquisition. Low weighting.
 - Connectivity score informed by closing existing gap in network and connecting to Town's identified growth area. High weighting.
 - Project readiness score informed by previous public process and prior study completed. Very high weighting.
- Review of project prioritization, which are divided into three groups:
 - Top tier includes projects primarily focused on the village area.
 - Middle tier includes projects that connect areas outside the village to each other or to the village itself.
 - Bottom tier includes bike lanes, wayfinding, traffic calming and gateway treatments.

Jason said the goal for tonight is to discuss if these project groupings look right, did we miss the mark on any, do any need to move up or down for significant reasons. There are several options to collect feedback including discussion tonight, Konveio platform with draft document, and brief survey. We'd like to have feedback by 6/3.

Discussion:

- Robilee – Can we pass the link along to others not on the call today? Yes, please do share, and there will be a posting on Front Porch Forum to inform others. It will also be posted on the Town website home page.
- Jane – can you describe project readiness in more detail? Jason said that some of the questions that were being asked at the last Advisory Committee highlighted for the Project Team that project readiness wasn't considered in the scoring criteria and should be.
- Michael – curious about if there is way to compare "size" of projects in terms of cost, scope, intensity or similar? Jason said we used cost as a factor in complexity score and we could also add a cost column to the prioritized list.
- Jeff – earlier you said you were looking at growth areas, and there are long term goals, but I'm interested in whether these studies and areas that connect address needs. Here's a large area of town and large population, so are these projects serving current needs rather than benefiting growth that hasn't occurred yet. Thought the study would target areas of improvement to underserved areas in Town. Adele commented that connectivity was a high ranking based on public feedback, and growth area, including village center, ranked highly. This study looked at previous studies to take advantage of work that's already been done, but if there are needs that haven't been studied, the Town could take future action on that. Jason mentioned that if anyone sees the need for a project, it would be helpful to bring it to the Project Team's attention so it can be included in a list of areas for future study.
- Tom – asked about the statistical validity of the survey and weighting of project criteria. His understanding is the number of respondents is a very small percentage of town residents. Jason confirmed it's not statistically significant and would like people to focus on the project list and whether that hits the mark. If there are concerns with the project list, then we want to know about that so we can consider adjusting the scoring criteria.
- Tom says Ped Safety Group has focus on upper Falls Road and conditions there, lack of separation and protection between walking and cars. Jason said Falls Road Streetscape Study addresses the area north of Church Street but not south of it. Jason clarified his understanding of Tom's concern by confirming if this project be in the top third of the prioritized list as it's shown? Tom says absolutely. People drive their kids to school because of the safety concern.
- Lee – picking up on Michael's question about cost, this will help inform Town's use of ARPA funds and using those within the required timeframe.
- Jessica – one comment and one question. Comment about priority in village and connecting gaps, and I see Rt 7 in the top third, and no one would argue about the need to make it better, it will always be Rt 7 so how to emphasize better infrastructure adjacent to the roadway rather than on Rt 7. Jason clarified if the desire is to have something separate from the roadway? Yes, but more so, Jessica doesn't want to lose sight of parallel routes that people would prefer if similar facilities existed such as on Falls Road. Jason said he follows what she's saying. Other question is that there are many projects that have been brought up, can someone speak to the type of projects that we might be able to count on, the timeline, what are the next steps. Adele

wants to hold the question for a bit until we get the study done because the study's report will provide ranked priorities and implementation next steps.

- Adele also notes there are some big housing projects coming up closer to South Burlington on Route 7 will need enhanced pedestrian connectivity. This relates to Jeff's question about underserved communities. Other amenities like trees, benches and so on also help with traffic calming.
- Jane – since the study focus changed, of which I'm a proponent, I think at some point Town officials and people will have a conversation about relevance of studies from the past compared to current needs. Jason clarified if the comment is that there are areas that still need to be studied? Jane said a walking tour was planned and could have showcased some different areas, it's possible that we're missing some things and there might be some missing pieces with what's currently on the ground. Adele notes that "missing gaps" is an important part of the study and is a priority, and the highway department has made some recent on the ground improvements, so perhaps those address the comments to some degree.
- Michael – origins of study were to identify needs, and rate of accomplishing walk/bike projects is not addressing needs, and it also comes down to what can we afford. Some of the studies are from 20 years ago, and our needs are constantly changing, so this gives us some information on what decisions to make.
- Tom – there are a number of projects that are the responsibility of VTrans since Rt 7 is a state highway, so perhaps we should factor that into any prioritization? Jason says that's true and Town can work with the CCRPC to be sure Route 7 projects are prioritized with VTrans. Lee notes the Falls Rd/Harbor Rd/Rt 7 intersection is in the CCRPC TIP so there are funds for improvements there.

Bryan informed the group that the CCRPC is also updating the Regional Active Transportation Plan, encouraged people to provide feedback, and shared the project website:

<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/regional-bikeped-plan/>

The meeting ended shortly before 8:00 pm.