

June 21, 2024  
Richmond Selectboard and Town Manager  
cc: Keith Osborne

Dear Selectboard Members,

As the two remaining members of the Richmond Transportation Committee (RTC), we are proud of the committee's work and want to continue helping the town pursue its goal of creating safe, convenient transportation options for walking, biking, and driving as outlined in the Town Plan. However, the recent canceling of the two in-development projects leaves us with questions about the committee's viability and purpose.

Our primary questions are:

1. What does the Selectboard want from the RTC if it continues to operate? We need the Selectboard's direction on which projects to prioritize and what types of projects are possible given budget constraints, town desires, and evidence of safety and connectivity. Without clear direction it makes little sense for the RTC to invest its time and to encourage public participation in projects that will then be rejected without consultation.
2. Where will funds for scoping, design and technical assistance, plus construction, come from? In its four-year history, many of the RTC's projects were implemented with technical and financial support from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC), and VTrans. A summary of major projects is in the table below. The RTC invested time and effort into cultivating strong relationships with these agencies, and it paid off. The financial and technical support Richmond received from these agencies for transportation improvements in the past four years far exceeds the total for the previous ten years.

We believe that the manner in which the Selectboard canceled the two projects has harmed the Town's relationships with these two key funding agencies and partners. We now are left wondering whether they will support the town's projects at the same level—if at all—moving forward. Has the Selectboard had any communications with these agencies that might indicate otherwise?

In the RTC's short tenure it has developed a town wide bicycle-pedestrian master plan; helped the Selectboard try to improve VTrans Route 2 rehabilitation; conducted walkability audits in the village, Round Church area and Jonesville; explored options for enhanced mass transit connections with Williston and Waterbury with Green Mountain Transit; and developed several scoping plans for paths connecting the village with the park & ride and Riverview Commons; and we hosted several projects to address recreation safety and neighborhood livability along Cochran Road. All our work included significant outreach and public input gathering. A list of the RTC's major projects follows at the end of this document—projects that brought several hundred thousand dollars of technical and financial support for transportation planning to Richmond.

Importantly, Richmond has several outstanding transportation needs that still need addressing:

- **Cochran Road:** requests for improved safety measures have been requested by many people living, recreating and traveling on this road.
- **Fays Corner:** residents near this intersection regularly request intersection improvements to improve traffic safety.
- **Cross-town safety improvements for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists:** According to the [VTrans Crash Data Query Tool](#), there were 1365 crashes in Richmond between 2010-01-02 and 2024-06-09, the full period of record for the dataset.
  - Of these crashes, 207 resulted in personal injury and 8 were fatal
  - 10 crashes involved a pedestrian or cyclist and 7 of these resulted in injury and there was 1 fatality
- **Kenyon Road speed control measures requested by residents, motorists and recreators:** According to the [Richmond Speed Study](#), there were 19 cases of drivers going above 65 MPH on Kenyon Road, a gravel road with sharp curves, blind hills, and a posted speed limit of 35 MPH, between June 17th and 21st, 2021
  - In Vermont, a misdemeanor speeding offense is greater than 30 MPH over the posted limit
- **Route 2 bike-ped connectivity:** Although it is the main east-west thoroughfare, Rt. 2 has 0 miles of Level 1 (“Comfortable to most bicyclists”) conditions according to the [VTrans Bicycle Level of Comfort Scores Map](#)
- **Thompson-Huntington-Bridge-Cochran intersection pedestrian improvements:** This intersection was identified as needing improvements in three reports: the Bridge Street Complete Streets study, the [Richmond Bike, Walk, and Trails Plan](#) (as well as in the [Existing Conditions Report](#)), and the [Richmond Street and Sidewalk Audit](#).
- **Richmond trail networks:** Richmond has multiple off-road hiking and biking networks with little-to-no connectivity between them, forcing recreators to use heavily traveled roadways. The same goes for accessing Richmond Village from other parts of town.
- **Southview neighborhood:** There is no sidewalk connection from the Southview neighborhood to Richmond Elementary School and Camel’s Hump Middle School.

As you can see, the RTC has worked to advance safety for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists, yet much remains to be done. With the Selectboard’s support and direction, we hope to continue progressing towards a safer, more accessible future in Richmond.

Sincerely,  
Jon Kart  
Keith Jennings

## Richmond Transportation Committee Major Projects Summary

Project Name	Project dates	Description	Focal Area
<b>Richmond Village-School-Park &amp; Ride Connections</b>	2019	A survey to assess how best to create better bike and pedestrian access and reduce traffic congestion between Richmond's village, schools and park & ride. Survey led by Local Motion and in collaboration with the Trails Committee.	Rt 2
<b>Route 2 Targeted Scoping to Improve Shoulder Widths</b>	2022	Evaluate opportunities to increase shoulder width at specific points between Village and Park & Ride, following VTrans' Route 2 upgrades Technical and financial support from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.	RT 2
<b>Improving on VTrans Route 2 Rehabilitation Plans</b>	2019-2023	Analyzed VTrans' Route 2 rehabilitation plans and provided recommendations to the Selectboard addressing plan deficiencies as well as recommendations for more pedestrian and bicycle friendly designs. Helped advocate for a left turn arrow at the Route 2-Bridge St traffic signal.	RT 2
<b>Richmond Gateway Scoping Study</b>	2020-2022	One of multiple efforts/grants to evaluate bicycle and pedestrian connections between Richmond Village, elementary/middle school campus, mobile home park and the exit 11 park & ride. Technical and financial support from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.	RT 2
<b>Walkability Audit Project and Report 2019-2024</b>	2022	Audit to assess needed improvements of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure in the Richmond Village, Round Church neighborhood and Jonesville. Twenty-one Richmond volunteers helped gather data. Technical support from AARP.	Townwide
<b>Bike-Pedestrian Master Plans</b>	2020-2021	Master plan to guide pedestrian and bike on and off-road connections and trails town wide. Technical and financial support from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.	Townwide
<b>Green Mountain Transit Services for Richmond</b>	2022-2023	Scoping study to evaluate the potential for additional mass transit within Richmond and connections to Williston and Waterbury. Technical support and analysis from Green Mountain Transit and CCRPC.	Townwide
<b>Share the Road</b>	2023-2024	Development of a campaign fostering awareness and cooperation among motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians	Townwide

<b>Bridge Street Redesign - Complete Streets</b>	2020-2024	New sidewalk on Bridge St. between Rt. 2 and Jolina Court along with multi-modal improvements to Bridge Street corridor. Technical and financial support from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.	Village
<b>Bridge Street - East Side New Sidewalk</b>	2021-2024	New sidewalk on Bridge St. between Jolina court and Esplanade Street/ Volunteers Green. Secured ~\$211,000 in VTrans TAP grant and \$64,000 in ARPA funds. Scoping/design technical and financial support from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.	Village
<b>Intersection of THBC roads</b>	2020-2024	Improve safety for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists at the Thompson Rd, Huntington Rd, Cochran rd, Bridge St intersection. Technical and financial support from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.	Village
<b>Cochran Road Corridor Study</b>	2023-2024	Evaluations of Cochran Road: 1) Corridor Study for on and off road improvements; 2) Scoping Study for Richmond village and Jonesville segments; 3) Permanent traffic calming priorities throughout entire length. Technical and financial support from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.	Cochran Rd
<b>Huntington Road to Johnnie Brook trail</b>	2021	Develop options for a path/sidewalk along Huntington Rd from Farr Business Complex to the Cross Vermont Trail/Johnnie Brook trailhead. Technical and financial support from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.	Huntington Rd
<b>Jericho Road Western Sidewalk Project</b>	2021	Development of design option for a new sidewalk on Jericho Road from the school entrance to 1) Southview; 2) Valley View Road. Technical and financial support from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.	Jericho Rd