



TOWN OF RICHMOND

RICHMOND TOWN CENTER

203 Bridge Street, P.O. Box 285
Richmond, Vermont 05477



July 2, 2024

Secretary Joe Flynn
Vermont Agency of Transportation
219 North Main St.
Barre, VT 05641

RE: Transportation Alternatives Program, Richmond TAP Grant # CA0752

Dear Mr. Flynn,

The Town of Richmond was awarded a Transportation Alternative Program grant in the amount of \$256,000.00 for construction of a sidewalk on the east side of Bridge St. This project was the southern section of a sidewalk project, which together with the northern section (funded separately), would create a continuous sidewalk on the eastern side of Bridge St. from the intersection with Rt. 2, south to the Volunteers Green park / Bridge St. bridge, which would encompass the majority of the portion of Bridge St. located in the village north of the Bridge St. bridge. This section of Bridge St. is heavily traveled by cars, bicycles, and pedestrians. I mention both segments of sidewalk because from the public's point of view this was one sidewalk project.

As final design progressed for both sections of the sidewalk members of the Richmond community expressed the following concerns to the Selectboard regarding the entirety of the sidewalk:

- The potential for loss of some parking spaces, including one ADA (handicap), at the Northfield Savings Bank (23 Pleasant St.) due to expanded use of the Right of Way.
- The potential for loss of some or all parking spaces in front of the Richmond Community Kitchen (99 Bridge St.) due to expanded use of the Right of Way and potential safety concerns with aligning parking and a sidewalk, which could have resulted in the closure of the business.
- Potential to not have a large enough turning radius for tractor trailers to turn off of Bridge St. onto Railroad St. (at 42 Railroad St.) once a new sidewalk is installed.
- Potential for the sidewalk to disturb human remains in the area of the Richmond Village Cemetery (151 Bridge St.). This cemetery dates back over 200 years, thus there may be burials outside of the present-day boundary.
- The potential loss of two ADA (handicap) parking spaces in front of the Richmond Free Library (201 Bridge St.)

Due to the concerns the Selectboard has decided to stop work on the sidewalk projects.

In response to the termination of this project the Selectboard received the attached letter from Ross Gouin, VTrans Municipal Assistance Project Manager, requesting reimbursement of \$10,111.70 in federal & state funds that have been spent to date on this project. This total includes payments made to the Town as well as VTrans' time spent on the project to date. The total includes \$8,104.45 that was paid to the town for expenses incurred to date and \$2,007.25 for administrative expenses from VTrans.

In addition to the \$10,111.70, the Town had a second reimbursement request of \$16,349.35 which was about to be submitted as the project was stopped.

With the sidewalk project terminated, the Selectboard is currently exploring other changes to Bridge St. to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety. The Selectboard held a special meeting on Monday, June 24, 2024 to discuss this topic with residents. Potential new safety devices include rectangular rapid flashing beacon crosswalks, flexible delineators in the crosswalks, improved lighting on the crosswalks and sidewalk, adding texture to pavement to alert drivers of crosswalks, installing speed tables at crosswalk locations, installation of bump outs for crosswalks, installation of traffic calming infrastructure, and more.

The Selectboard is requesting retention of the \$8,104.45 paid to date, payment of the second reimbursement request of \$16,349.35 and forgiveness of the \$2,007.25 administrative expenses fee. The Selectboard would use the \$24,453.80 in funds toward traffic calming solutions on Bridge St.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



David Sander
Richmond Selectboard Chair