

1 **Town of Richmond**
2 **Special Selectboard Meeting**
3 **Public Informational Meeting**
4 **Minutes of February 10, 2025**

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6 **Members Present:** Bard Hill, David Sander, Jay Furr, Lisa Miller, Adam Wood

7
8 **Absent:** None

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10 **Staff Present:** Planning Director Keith Osborne.

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12 **Others Present:** MMCTV Erin Wagg, Lisa Kory, Erin Farr, Engineers from WSP Erik
13 Maki and Annabell Dally and Jason Charest, Martha Waterman, Susan Wells, Cara
14 LaBounty, Jean Haskin, Lisa Kory, John Kart, Maria Brown, Keith Jennings, John
15 Rankin, Diane Mariano, Tom Butler, Trevor Brooks, Kyle M, June Heston, Veronique,
16 Vicky LaPlant, iPhone (52), Jon, Nick

17
18 **MMCTV Video:** Recorded by MMCTV by Erin Wagg
19 [https://youtu.be/mJT51xJew4Y?si=vjwkj03XZJE_c- u](https://youtu.be/mJT51xJew4Y?si=vjwkj03XZJE_c-u)

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21 **Call to Order:** 7:03 pm

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23 **Welcome by:** Sander

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25 **Public Comment:** None

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27 **Additions or Deletions to Agenda:** None

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29 **Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present**

30
31 **Presentation by Engineers from WSP from Scoping Study of Cochran Road**

32 Timestamp: 0:01

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34 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/1_Richmond](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/1_Richmond_Scoping_Study_Draft_Alt_Pres_Notice.pdf)
35 [_Scoping_Study_Draft_Alt_Pres_Notice.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/1_Richmond_Scoping_Study_Draft_Alt_Pres_Notice.pdf)

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37 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/02/2_Richmond](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/02/2_Richmond_Cochran_Road_Scoping_Study_Alternatives_Public_Presentation_02-10-25_Final.pdf)
38 [_Cochran_Road_Scoping_Study_Alternatives_Public_Presentation_02-10-25_Final.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/02/2_Richmond_Cochran_Road_Scoping_Study_Alternatives_Public_Presentation_02-10-25_Final.pdf)

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41 People who participated in the discussion: Osborne, Maki, Sander, Hill, Charest,
42 LaBounty, Miller, Wood, Furr, Wells, Waterman, Haskin, Kory, Kart, Jennings, Brown,
43 Rankin

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45 Maki gave a presentation of the power point (link above) regarding the scoping study
46 WSP engineers have conducted on Cochran Road. Some ideas involve adding sidewalks,
47 widening the roadway, changing signage, adding a bike path, and lowering speeds. Maki
48 mentioned prices per foot and per mile, ranging from \$100,000 to over \$2.5 million. Hill

49 warned that for a Town like Richmond where the total Town Budget is \$4.3 million, this
50 is a lot of money to spend on one road.
51 Miller mentioned that mixing pedestrians, bikes and automobiles isn't a good idea. Furr
52 concurred and said that the speed humps have helped some on Cochran Road, but the cars
53 still go too fast and it's not a safe road to walk on. Miller believes we should look at more
54 than one option presented by WSP. Wood believes improving the walking path along the
55 river at Volunteers Green would be a cheaper option. Hill wondered if there were portions
56 of this study that taxpayers would be interested in pursuing. Charest mentioned there are
57 some grants available for some of these types of improvements. LaBounty suggested
58 some presentation improvements and she feels Stormwater issues will occur by adding
59 impervious surfaces and that cost was not included in the cost calculations.
60 Wells indicated that lots of people use Cochran Road and often park near the Round
61 Church where she feels it's important to get better crosswalks. Waterman thinks the study
62 shows some exciting options for improvement of safety. Haskin believes in using the
63 Police and ticketing people for speeding rather than having speed humps. Osborne read
64 letters from residents who were complaining about the speed humps. Kory likes the speed
65 humps, but she thinks it's important to remember the reasons why the study was deemed
66 important initially and that the number of cars and bikes is increasing on this road and she
67 feels much safer once she reaches the sidewalks on Bridge Street when she walks into
68 Town.
69 Miller wants the similarities of the three recent studies done in for the Town in recent
70 years to be combined and completed as part of the solution. Kart concurs with Miller; he
71 was previously on the Transportation Committee and says that intersections were not
72 improved despite studies done in that case also. Jennings was also on the Transportation
73 Committee, which isn't active and he isn't sure he wants to continue serving on that
74 committee because of the lack of follow through. Brown does not think enough people in
75 the Town are engaged in this conversation, because it's an expense that will have to be
76 paid by taxpayers. Furr pointed out that the sidewalk study and intersection study was
77 done prior to the flooding and the need to pay for flood damages superseded following
78 through on either of those studies. Hill said time and money was depleted due to the
79 floodings.
80 Miller emphasized that all three studies are important and not abandoned, and parts of
81 this Cochran Road study could be chosen to be completed relatively cheaply. Jennings
82 emphasized that taking the next step to move this project forward is needed. Wood stated
83 that community input and future volunteers may be needed. Osborne asked for suggestions
84 regarding next steps, which Wood replied should include a discussion with the Highway
85 Department and figuring in feasibility of completing any portions of the study. Osborne
86 pondered if an ad hoc committee needed to be created.
87 Charest stated they would be taking the feedback given tonight and organizing the study
88 in a way that makes sense and any improvements they suggest should be applicable to all
89 seasons. Osborne said he needs more input to create a Town plan. Charest wondered why
90 parking was restricted on the eastern end of Cochran Road, to which Rankin stated that
91 parking near Wes White Hill is not permitted, but parking is permitted near the Jonesville
92 bridge.

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95 **Adjourn**

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97 *Hill moved to adjourn. Miller seconded.*

98 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Miller, Wood, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

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101 **Meeting adjourned at: 9:02 pm**

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103 **Chat file from Zoom:**

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105 None 00:41:18 Jean Haskin: Make a river walk path along the river

106 00:41:59 Jean Haskin: Put sidewalks up Wes White Hill

107 00:42:20 Jean Haskin: What about street lights?

108 00:55:24 Jean Haskin: The speed humps have slowed people down


109 01:00:56 Jay Furr:

110 https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/htm/2009/part3/fig3b_29_longdesc.htm \

111 01:20:25 Jean Haskin: Added cost to maintain the sidewalks?

112 01:22:45 Jean Haskin: Turn the green into a parking lot

113 01:30:56 Keith Jennings: None of the low-cost solutions from the THCB
114 intersection discussions and the Richmond Village Bridge St. bike/ped safety meeting
115 have been implemented

116 01:31:26 Lisa Kory: Reacted to "None of the low-cost..." with 

117 01:33:03 Cara: Reacted to "None of the low-cost..." with 

118 01:36:01 Cara: Is there a reason the road could not shift to one side and have one
119 recreation path, rather than both sides?

120 01:38:25 Erin Farr: I'm putting kids to bed so I can't comment, if we could
121 make a sub committee to explore the zillion dollar sidewalk on the west side of route 2,
122 could we make a sub committee to make proposals for Cochran Road, which in my
123 opinion is a larger issue

124 01:47:30 Erin Farr: Seeing the timeline, I think it is important that the
125 feasibility study is done when all the mountain bike trails are open. In the spring they are
126 often closed for mud and that drastically changes the amount of travel between Cochran
127 Road trails and Chamberlin hill. I also mentioned timing of the travel studies for the
128 TCHB being during the school year and they did the study in the middle of the summer
129 when there was no traffic obstacles which in my opinion is not an accurate study.


130 01:48:26 Martha Waterman : Richmond residents have already voiced support for
131 a walkway when surveyed for ARPA

132 01:54:01 Cara: Walkway support was not based on a \$ amount, that is the missing
133 detail.

134 01:54:48 Erin Farr: The incremental approach will also help us to start by
135 serving the RESIDENTS of Richmond with smaller changes, (example Susan crossing to
136 her home safely) and then we can expand to serve the biking/rec communities that are
137 NOT RESIDENTS and come here specifically for recreation

138 01:54:49 Cara: I do agree, there is support. I was on the ARPA committee

139 01:55:59 Cara: There are no sidewalks around Round Church green, so sidewalks
140 to nowhere are the issue for some people.

141 01:56:18 Erin Farr: Reacted to "Seeing the timeline,..." with 

142 01:57:24 Erin Farr: Thanks Jay also my previous comment

143 01:58:29 Erin Farr: That was it thank you!

144 02:00:07 Erin Farr: That would also need to be run by the Richmond Land
145 Trust because they own the Bombardier Meadow