

MRVRD  
VOREC Team Meeting Minutes  
July 5, 2022

Present: Joshua Schwartz, Eric Friedman, Bob Kogut, Ross Saxton, Liza Walker, Laura Arnesen

- Recap/debrief of Downtown Trail site walk held for the Waitsfield SB and public members on June 27th
  - Concerns heard from neighbors re potential run off, and also more walking traffic by property on Dugway Rd. Ross following up with those landowners
  - Chris Fish, owner of Sugarfish, will do that excavation work on that section of path
  - Possible request for engineering related to retaining wall, where Ready Block was going to be used.
  - Kingsbury Co will be doing that retaining wall section—and will be able to present directly to Waitsfield SB to make the parameters of the project clear
  - Joshua clarified Jon Caplan from AOT had done previous site walk to southern cross walk. Bob Kogut reported that Caplan said sight lines at that crossing were adequate
  - Schedule with Vtrans study on intersection 5+ years. Even if that results in a different crossing point over Route 100 or 17, the new Downtown Trail would still be used and useful.
  - Laura suggesting a Q & A to address recurring questions (i.e. what happens if Vtrans plan differs from what we are doing)
  - Question about option for path to go through Mad Meadows community on Butcher House as an option as a trail route instead of proposed Downtown Trail. Team feeling is it isn't much shorter than the current route by laundromat, and also it would route more traffic through the center of that community. People will always want to go the shortest route (aka "desire lines")
  - Speed is a real concern here. Nobody drives 30 mph currently.
    - Ross and Annie talking about Radar kits that shows the speed people are traveling and are put on existing speed limit signs (\$350 per kit)
    - Just installing a crosswalk proves to reduce speed
    - In-street crosswalk signs can also be effective
  - Talking about long term aspects of this project (how it is addressing traffic and safety for pedestrians) may help the Town and State address pedestrian safety at this intersection in the best way.
    - The work we are doing now will increase requests and demands on the town to increase pedestrian safety. This may be a challenge for SB but it accurately reflects the needs of the community. In this way it is a positive impact on quality of life.

- In Road Crosswalk Study done by MRVPD July 2021, collected information and surveyed pedestrians and motorists and led to some important learning. Study helped to change Vtrans perspective on in-road crosswalk signs too. (i.e led to change of rules on when in road crosswalk signs can be on the road, previously had been restricted only to day hours, and also potential to get them bolted into the road)
- Proposal to postpone next VR article update until July 18<sup>th</sup>, so we can have a Q & A prepared and other info
- Rescheduling Chamber Mixer meeting until Aug 10th, with site walk
- Fundraising and Financing
  - Bridge update
    - MRR got new quotes- some are over, others under. Quote for pre-fab steel bridge is actually under budget. “Blue Lam” is more expensive
    - MRR presenting two bridge options to John Morris and Laskowskis. VOREC group can consider options too.
    - Have all survey data on how bridge interacts with flood levels. Structural engineer almost done. Load analysis info will be available by end of July. All of this will finalize the Case to be shared. Bob suggests an audio/visual presentation to explain all of the background and analysis. This would be shared with DRB. State will weigh in, but DRB has authority.
  - Timing and options for fundraising
    - Other grants, like RTP, could be available- for next year. Due in May, 2023
    - Recreational Facilities Grant from BGS Facilities Grants program. This program used a lot in the Valley. Fall deadlines. Offers 1:1 match, up to \$25,000. (requires non-state or federal match)
    - For Trailhead Kiosk project, we had municipal investment that was only 30% of what we needed. After we had “proof of concept” then we were able to source a lot of other grants.
    - Larger sign upgrade project may be on the front burner.
      - Ross/MRPA going to develop a minor for Flemer field soon
      - Update sections are 8.5 x 11 are horizontal/landscape. stewardMrv preparing one regarding dog poop/leashing etiquette
      - Ross has been in touch with Johnny Adler from Riders’ Outpost, regarding their interest in a sign
      - Other signage/kiosks needed were included in VOREC grant application.
      - We may want to pursue another grant, as there is more need and urgency that VOREC could cover

- Bob willing to be lead writing Recreation Facilities Grants application
  - Next step: revisit inventory of signage needed , and figure out match possibilities
  - Tuesday 7/12 at 12:30 meeting to discuss Trailhead Kiosks
  - Joshua will reach out to Steve Sharp and Mark Haberle re CTA /MRVBC trail signage needs and see if they can attend meeting
  - Laura will announce meeting to Trail Collaborative email list
- Next VOREC team meeting 7/19 @12:30