

Cambridge Economic Development Advisory Committee (CEDAC) Special Meeting Re: RT 15 Crosswalk

Date: August 24, 2016 @ 6:00

Location: Cambridge Town Offices

Meeting Participants

1. Fonda Ripley, CEDAC
2. Laurie Cartwright, CEDAC
3. Zeke Zucker, Adhoc Rail Trail Committee
4. Peter Ingvaldstad, Adhoc Rail Trail Committee
5. Bernie Juskiewicz, Lamoille Representative
6. David Blackmore, VTrans
7. Ernie, VTrans
8. Josh Schultz, VTrans
9. Bruce MacMillan, CEDAC
10. Mark Schilling, Town Clerk
11. Jean Jenkauskas, Jeffersonville Planning Commission
12. Deb Nevil, CEDAC
13. Justin Marsh, CEDAC
14. Jeff Coslett, CEDAC
15. Rob Moore, Lamoille County Planning Commission
16. Seth Jensen, Lamoille County Planning Commission

Meeting Notes

Fonda Ripley convened the meeting just after 6:00 upon confirming 5 CEDAC members were present, representing a quorum. The group clarified the meeting objective was to discuss options for getting people safely to and from the Cambridge Community Center trail head and the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT), and/or also to and from the village of Jeffersonville and the LVRT.

Rob Moore from LCPC shared short, intermediate and long-term options for consideration that will allow pedestrians to safely access the LVRT and Jeffersonville village:

- **Short Term Crossing/Access:** [1A] “troll” trail under Brewster river bridge or [1B] west end of Greenway Trail behind Cupboard or under Lamoille River bridge; or [2] existing laws to get people to and from LVRT/Jeffersonville village from two existing roads *not sure my notes are accurate, to be clarified during next meeting. F.R.*

- Peter suggested a 3rd short term option might be culverts to allow pedestrians to cross under the road. Dave indicated the flood mitigation project will result in a 15 foot culvert near Northwood Joinery area of the Greenway. There will also be a

culvert placed on the east end. Seth Jensen, LCPC, project manager of the culvert project, shared additional information. The box culvert is not currently planned nor designed for pedestrian use. It is being funded by FEMA and some state resources to mitigate flood damage. The culvert will be put in place in summer 2017. Issue of needing to demonstrate cost-benefit, i.e., cost of project is less than benefit of flood mitigation. To change design to formally accommodate pedestrians the cost-benefit ratio would be exceeded and so funding would have to come from another source. A pedestrian culvert design will involve much more excavation and therefore cost. Town could consider this as an option, but Seth encouraged the group to be thoughtful in where is a safe place for people to cross/access LVRT and Jeffersonville village. Furthermore, consider how we would like for Cambridge/Jeffersonville to formally advertise and promote crossing safely....likely not via the culvert intended for flood mitigation, although a suitable informal crossing.

- Josh from VTrans imparted additional information for consideration regarding a crosswalk. Josh clarified that a crosswalk cannot currently be incorporated into the round-about as it was not designed to facilitate people into the round-about for crossing. It is not pedestrian friendly and we want to discourage pedestrian use. There is potential for future pedestrian accommodation, not in the round-about, but just before or after, pending many warrants, including:
 - Pedestrian facility on both sides of crosswalk
 - Speed limit 40 mph or less
 - Adequate site distance on either side
 - No other crosswalk within 200 ft
 - Vehicle volume
 - Pedestrian volume
 - No parking within 20 feet of crosswalk

- Peter suggested the existing path from Old Main street to and across 15 on the west side of the Brewster river bridge. People are currently crossing there and likely will continue to, thus some safety measures are needed. Perhaps signage indicating pedestrian crossing. Josh could provide additional guidance here, pending more information. The group needs to determine how to proceed regarding short, medium, and long-term solutions.

Intermediate Term Crossing/Access: LCPC is working with Cambridge town, Jeffersonville village, and Cambridge village to define and implement a plan to enhance pedestrian and bike options. A solution to access LVRT/Jeffersonville village may be determined during this process.

Long Term Crossing/Access: Bridge that crosses Brewster river will need to be replaced in the future. When this occurs, the town/villages could plan for a design that facilitates

safe and easy crossing. For example, the width of the bridge could be expanded to support pedestrian and bike traffic. Dave from VTrans noted the replacement date for this bridge is long way out on the list.

Summary:

- ❖ Group needs to convene again to consider how to promote safe crossing to/from LVRT and Jeffersonville village and how we want to divert people into and around the village.
- ❖ Near term options include [1] signage on existing dirt path from Old Main Street, across 15, and to Greenway and/or [2] directing LVRT users parking at the Cambridge Community Center trailhead through Jeffersonville village and under the Lamoille river bridge to access the west end of the Greenway.
- ❖ VTrans can provide guidance once the group determines an appropriate plan. Contact Dave Blackmore when next steps are identified. John Kaplan is also a resource from VTrans who can provide guidance regarding bike and pedestrian traffic. Rob Moore will reach out to John Kaplan to participate in the next planning meeting.
- ❖ Jim Cota is a good resource for the group to include in planning/brainstorming.
- ❖ Fonda will schedule another followup meeting for mid-September to continue planning.