

Cambridge Economic Development Advisory Committee (CEDAC) Special Meeting Re: Crossing To/From LVRT & Jeffersonville Village

Date: September 13, 2016 @ 6:00

Location: Cambridge Town Offices (above Jeffersonville Post Office)

Participants: Fonda Ripley (CEDAC), Justin Marsh (CEDAC), Deb Nevil (CEDAC), Liam McKone (Adhoc Cambridge Rail Trail Committee), Mark Mahoney, Bernie Juskiewicz (Lamoille Representative), Laurie Cartwright (CEDAC), Bruce MacMillan (CEDAC), Mark Schilling (Town Clerk), Jeff Coslett (CEDAC), Ron Elliot (CEDAC), Don Lange (Jeffersonville Village Trustee), Laird McDowell (Cambridge Greenway Committee), Terry Shaw (Jeffersonville Village Trustee)

Agenda:

- Follow-up discussion and planning for safe near-term crossing solution

Meeting objective was to identify potential short-term solutions to promote safe crossing between the Greenway/LVRT and Jeffersonville. Rob Moore and Seth Jensen from Lamoille County Planning Commission were unable to attend the meeting, but provided information and guidance for the group via email prior to the meeting. This included identifying 6 potential crossing options located throughout the village area:

Location 1 – near the VT15 Lamoille River bridge near the Village office

Location 2 – near the Mobil and the old Jana's

Location 3 – near the timber joinery shop

Location 4 – at the roundabout

Location 5 – about half way between roundabout and VT15 Brewster River Bridge

Location 6 – near the VT15 Brewster River Bridge

The group provided input on each potential crossing location, considering factors such as safety, efficiency, regulatory, physical and environmental constraints, role/opportunity to promote village economy, and timeline for establishing the solution. Other points, questions, and considerations raised during the meeting included:

- May be necessary/best to have multiple crossing locations
- What role does VTrans play in enforcement
- RT15 crossing for Long Trail in Johnson is a good example of what is being considered for location 5
- Is there a deeded right away off Church street to extend crossing beyond deeded property?
- No crosswalk to get from Maple street to Church street; no sidewalk for crossing from one side of Church street to other side of Church street
- Location 1 options would drive people through the village; promote economy
- Greenway goes beyond parking lot near location 1 option, and is clearly marked that there is no parking available for Greenway.
- Location 6 could be an inexpensive, quick, and very safe solution, but is not accessible for all (e.g., wouldn't be ADA compliant). It would be a rough passage and will flood. Steep grade for bike passing; not practical but could be improved. Also potential private property issue
- LVRT is ADA compliant, Greenway is not

- Jeffersonville village is planning to go ahead with a gravel path in field between Old Main Street and RT15 (funded by a Brownfield grant). This would facilitate location 5 crossing. Trustees are waiting for a map from Peter Ingvaldstad. *Mark Schilling provided a map by email following the meeting.* This trail will go on the edge of the field around/outside of the area where the Jeffersonville Farmers Market is currently held.
- There will be construction on the bridge that crosses the Brewster river on the Greenway. This is planned for April 2017. The bridge will be removed, making this impassable and therefore no access to the LVRT via the Greenway and the crossing locations aiding access to the Greenway/LVRT during this time. It is not clear yet what the timeline for completion of this project is. More to be understood on the construction design as well.

The group came to consensus on pursuing safe crossing options at location 1, near the VT15 Lamoille River bridge near the Village office, and location 5, about half way between roundabout and VT15 Brewster River Bridge. To pursue location 5, private land owners, Greg and Dawn Tatro, need to be engaged to discuss public use for crossing on their property. Additionally, for location 5, the group agreed moving forward with signs to indicate pedestrian crossing would aid safer crossing. For location 1, signs to direct people from the Cambridge Community Center trail head through the village and to the Greenway would be needed to move forward with this option.

Mark Schilling followed up with additional considerations for these locations:

- Location#1 is the existing ROW for the Cambridge Greenway. My observation is that this area has overgrown and requires cleaning, gravel and possible shoring in the grass area, plus gravel under the bridge.
- Location 5 requires installation of a gravel path on both sides of the highway. The area on the north side (Tatro's) should be wide enough to use outside the existing fencing, but would still require Tatro's permission. There is a slight grade toward a drainage ditch which would have to be regraded flat.

Next Steps & Considerations

- CEDAC will share with the select board the recommendation to establish safer crossing between Jeffersonville and the Greenway/LVRT in the near term by moving forward with crossings at location 1 and location 5. Fonda will attend an October select board meeting to share this recommendation.
- David Blackmore from VTrans clarified that VTrans can assist with the permit and authorization process when the community reaches a final decision on crossing location(s), and would need a letter from the select board in support of the request.
- The select board clarified their preference as the point of contact and interface with VTrans and Tatro's regarding pedestrian crossing to and from the Greenway/LVRT. Moving forward with crossing options will be per the select board's decision and identified process.

Lastly, there is need for a formally organized group to address issues related to the Cambridge section of the LVRT and Greenway, which is outside of scope for CEDAC. These include:

- Considerations for medium and long-term solutions to safe crossing to and from the Greenway/LVRT and Jeffersonville
- Extending Greenway to Cambridge village
- Greenway erosion behind Cupboard