



Dufresne Group
54 Main Street
PO Box B

Windsor, Vermont 05089

Tel: (802) 674-2904 Fax: (802) 674-2913

E-mail: info@dufresnegroup.com

Home Page: http://www.dufresnegroup.com

Memo

To: Meeting Attendees
From: Christina Haskins, PE
Date: August 20, 2015
Re: Proctor Bicycle and Pedestrian Scoping Study – Local Concerns Meeting

On August 19, 2015, a public Local Concerns Meeting was held at the Proctor Town Office to discuss the project and obtain public input. The following individuals attended:

<u>Individual</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Stan Wilbur	Town of Proctor, Town Manager
Dale Christie	Steering Committee Member
Steve Follett	Steering Committee Member
Susan Schreibman	Rutland Regional Planning Commission
Chrissy Haskins, PE	Dufresne Group
Robert (Bob) Stein	Resident & Cyclist
Kathryn Milillo	Resident & Cyclist
Warren A. McCullough	Resident & Former Road Commissioner
John Anderson	Property Owner
Dan Colton	Rutland Herald

I have prepared the following summary of my notes taken at the meeting:

1. Chrissy started with a PowerPoint presentation. Introductions were made and the project funding, project area, purpose and goals were summarized. Photo examples of bicycle and pedestrian facilities were presented to provide an idea of what types of facilities this project could include.
2. The meeting was then opened to public comment:
 - a. Kathryn started with multiple comments:
 - i. Drivers don't always understand what obstacles are for bicycles. Small potholes, stones, road kill, etc. can be easy for a vehicle to handle, but very difficult for a bicycle.
 - ii. Proctor is a phenomenal area for cycling.
 - iii. Route 3 is great outside of the Village. It would be beneficial to provide some warning or notification to drivers of cyclist activity in the Village.
 - iv. A bicycle loop would be a great asset to Proctor.

- v. People can park at the Marble Museum and take a bike tour of Proctor.
- b. Bob added the following comments:
 - i. Marble sidewalk is not useable for a bicycle as it is too slippery and uneven.
 - ii. A white stripe on the road with a 2 foot shoulder would be great – nothing fancy is needed.
 - iii. It is tight in the Village area. A shared lane may not work for all areas.
 - iv. Route 3 and West Proctor Road are popular biking roads.
 - v. Route 3 has a huge shoulder and it would be beneficial to sign Route 3 as a bike route.
 - vi. The outside 2 feet on both sides of West Proctor Road have cracks (similar to an area with a concrete road base). Warren responded that West Proctor Road doesn't have a concrete road base.
- c. Warren noted that West Proctor Road is only 20 feet wide and doesn't leave much room for bicycles.
 - i. Bob responded that it isn't highly traveled so bicycles can safely travel with vehicles.
- d. Steve added a few comments:
 - i. Education is an important piece to safe cycling in Proctor.
 - ii. The local roads are great for cycling.
 - iii. There are a couple choke points – Route 3 from the cemetery to the bridge and the bridge.
- e. Bob asked what the plan was to get to Beaver Pond.
 - i. Chrissy responded that since it is early in the study, there isn't a plan yet; however there have been two routes discussed so far. These include Florence Road or the cross country path to the south end of Beaver Pond.
 - ii. Bob noted that the cross country path would be great.
 - iii. It may be possible to create a loop at Beaver Pond.
 - iv. Bob asked if the cross country path was included to have a "trail" or because it was there. Chrissy responded that since it was an existing trail, it was being looked at as an option.
- f. Chrissy noted that improvements may not necessary require constructing a new bicycle or pedestrian facility or replacing an existing facility. Improvements could also include signage and pavement markings in areas that are already sufficient for bicycles and pedestrians.
- g. Steve mentioned the cross country route from the Church to the bridge, noting the challenges included the steep hill up to the bridge and the private properties.
- h. Bob suggested that the Marble Museum could offer parking for visitors and possibly be a key point of interest on the route.
- i. Bob suggested looking at an app called "Map My Ride" for bicycle routes in Proctor. The West Proctor to East Proctor loop is very popular.

- j. Susan noted that the RRPC has a regional bike map that she could bring to the next meeting.
- k. Bob and Kathryn asked if there was any program that connects towns (instead of just looking within the town). They noted that inter-town bike routes could bring visitors and money into the region through bike tours (like in Europe).
- l. Steve stressed that Proctor needs to be more accessible and bicycle friendly in order to bring more cycling visitors to town.
- m. Bob and Warren asked what the process was, how much money does the town have and what can it be used on?
 - i. Stan discussed the funding, noting that a grant of \$27,000 was received from VTrans and there was a \$3,000 local match from the Town. This funding is for the study.
 - ii. Chrissy discussed the process from scoping study to construction and noted that the scoping study funding will be used to develop a plan. This plan can then be used to apply for additional grant funding to design and construct various projects. The proposed improvements can be constructed in phases.
- n. There was further discussion on the Village area and choke points. Steve, Bob and Kathryn all noted that they did not feel unsafe when cycling in the Village.
- o. Steve asked if the marble sidewalks could be removed. Warren noted that they were mostly gone and the remaining marble sidewalks are in poor condition. Bob added that they are trip hazards and can be slippery. Stan noted that any sidewalk replacement would be 5 feet in width.
- p. Steve noted that the bridge may require cycling on the sidewalk. Bob indicated that experienced cyclists can ride in the road; however children should ride on the sidewalk.
- q. Chrissy noted that the study should focus on both cyclists and families out for a recreational bike ride. The study should also focus on both cycling and pedestrian activity.
- r. Bob indicated that there are a lot walkers on Route 3 and suggested that Route 3 from the cemetery to the bridge should be a priority.
- s. Bob asked if cost estimates would be provided in the study. Chrissy responded that cost estimates would be provided for the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative could be costly, so phasing suggestions will also be included and the costs will be broken out into different areas and components.
- t. Bob suggested two main capital projects: the cross country path to Beaver Pond and some type of facility on Route 3 from the cemetery to the bridge. Signage and markings should be considered in most other areas.
- u. John noted that he was hoping to see a map of a route, but thought the project was a great idea. Chrissy responded that there would be potential routes presented at the next public meeting.

- v. There was additional discussion on educating cyclists and drivers. Susan indicated that the State funds a private program called Local Motion, which provides education on cycling. There is also a Safe Routes to School program through VTrans, which educates children on how to walk and bike safely. Proctor is not currently active in this program. Susan noted that it would take a champion at the school to bring this back to Proctor. Stan added that every Wednesday morning, there is a “Walk to School” program where the students meet in the Village and walk to school.
- 3. Chrissy noted that there is a survey on-line and urged everyone to participate and share with other residents. The survey is not just for cyclists, but for drivers and pedestrians as well. The survey will be posted on the Town’s website.