

Rutland Public Works Committee

May 12, 2022 Meeting

Members Present: Alderman Neary, Alderman Gillam, Alderman Etori (late)

Others Present: Alderwoman Davis, Chief Kilcullen, Commissioner Rotondo, Gordon Dritschilo

Minutes

Vice-chair Neary called the meeting to order at 5:35PM.

The first item on the agenda was the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program grant application for rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB) at the West Street pedestrian crossing near the multimodal transit center. The referral was made by the full board following a unanimous vote from the Traffic Safety Committee.

The issue of this mid-block pedestrian crossing was first identified by a local business owner who notified Alderman Neary of several "close-calls" with heavy duty trucks and pedestrians crossing West Street. The crossing is located on West Street between Merchants Row and Cottage Street and is the main access to the transit center. The city did improve the crossing by adding some curb extensions several years ago, but due the high vehicular speed and volume, enhanced visibility is necessary to promote pedestrian and traffic safety. Commissioner Rotondo and Chief Kilcullen both spoke in favor of the safety countermeasure, describing the benefits of the system. Commissioner Rotondo also provided some cost estimates from another recent RRFB project in Allen Street. The committee reviewed the quote and agreed not to exceed \$20,000.00 with funding from the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Grant with a 50% match due June 8th.

The committee voted unanimously on a motion to recommend the full board support a VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program grant application for the installation of rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) at the West Street crossing to the multimodal transit center not to exceed \$20,000.00.

The second item was not on the warned agenda but was an intended item of the referral from the full board and included a request for a city-wide traffic study. This referral was also made following a unanimous vote from the Traffic Safety Committee, which has been discussing the need for a study for the past year. The committee discussed the need for a comprehensive traffic study, which will include but not limited to; traffic volume and speeds, 4/7 and Strongs Ave/7 intersections, bicycle and pedestrian routes, cross walks, and more. Alderwoman Davis informed the committee that several existing studies addressed some of the components, such as complete streets and 4/7, but needed updating. The committee agreed that the selected consultant for the study would need to review past studies during the existing conditions analysis. Commissioner Rotondo and Chief Kilcullen both spoke in favor of the safety countermeasure, describing the benefits of the much-needed study. There was also some discussion around the

estimated cost of the study, which was settled at \$75,000.00. The study would be funded by an 80/20 grant from the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program and due June 8th.

The committee voted unanimously on a recommendation the full board support a VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program grant application for a city-wide traffic study not to exceed \$75,000.00

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Alderman Devon Neary