

**Bristol Town Administrator**

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**From:** Porter Knight <knight@gmavt.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 21, 2021 3:46 PM  
**To:** Jessica Teets  
**Cc:** Bristol Town Administrator  
**Subject:** Safe Roads Residents' Proposal

Me again,

Valerie sent me the proposal (kudos to you for working on a Sunday afternoon, Valerie! Thank you)

Jessica, this proposal is great.

First of all, I'd love to be a resource for your (I hope soon-to-be-formed/formally continued) committee. I'm not a patient committee person and have a lot of other commitments so am not a good candidate for committee "member" per-se, but my passion for trail and my broad enthusiasm for the economic vitality of Bristol certainly have me vested in safe bike/walk routes! Another great resource for this (if you haven't already connected w her) is Michele Gilbert, (RiseVT Program Manager 802-989-0096, mgilbert@portermedical.org)

A couple of areas I see as priorities that aren't already in your very good proposal:

1. Airport road – it utterly galls me that we encourage kids to walk to school but the sidewalk from West Street turns up Airport Road and ENDS, so kids have to walk in the street to get to Mt Abe (or at least to get to the sidewalk bordering the north end of the Rec Park linking Liberty St and Mt Abe). I'd really like to see a sidewalk there and have been lobbying for it for years. But even street striping would help. Valerie and I have talked about this before and I know it is on her radar screen.
2. Basin Street – The Bristol Trail Network starts at the bottom of this street, and I'd like to see massively improved access, including safe sidewalk (I know something is already happening there, but don't understand what). I'd also like to see public parking at the bottom for trail access. The town owns a sizable piece of land there which is the village block septic, but I think there's room.
3. South Street – there is parking there, but it needs improvement to be safe. Also, ideally, we could improve the parking such that there could be one space fully ADA accessible and I can create accessible trail entry to (at least the very first part) of the Coffin foundations with access to view the river. The sidewalk down the hill is lousy and needs attention. Also, I try to get people to cross the street close to the bridge so that there is a safer line of sight, and would like to install one of the "pedestrian crossing" signs with flashing lights. Lastly (and this is big and probably super expensive) I'd like to make that South Street Bridge safe for bike/pedestrian crossing. We have opportunity to create trail on the south side of that bridge, but I shudder at the thought of people walking/biking across the bridge as it is now because cars go SO fast there and the lines of sight are terrible.

Those are my big additions to the good list of ideas you already proposed, all of which I strongly support.

As an aside – another factor I think that gets drivers to slow down and drive safely is visible police. I attended a community meeting that Chief Nason held this summer and complained about the new vehicle (the Ford F150) being unmarked (it had a "Vermont Strong" plate in front instead of a red municipal plate, and I thought it had no "Police" insignia, though it turns out it did have a very subtle black-on-black *police* stencil on the side). I said I feel that when people see a police vehicle they automatically check their speed and slow down, so I feel all vehicles should be marked. I feel that unmarked vehicles are sneaky and only serve to GOTCHA! in a speed trap situation, and behavioral research is consistent that people don't modify behavior because of penalties (but we all know we modify behavior when we SEE a

cop). To his credit, the chief was VERY responsive, not at all defensive, agreed that his goal is safety, slower speeds, and driver education. He went right out and got big white decals and a red municipal plate for the truck! I was so impressed.

I love Bristol ❤️

I look forward to hearing how the SB responds to your proposal. Please let me know how you move forward from here, and I hope I can support you and your committee.

Best,

Porter