

Committee/Group/Individual Requesting Funding: Resident (proposing for Town)

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Date: Jan 27, 2023

Proposal Name/Brief Description:

Name: Underhill Center sidewalk construction materials

Brief description:

The Town Plan endorses designing and constructing a sidewalk “within Underhill Center and between Underhill Center and other notable attractions, such as Moore Park, the Town Pond, Underhill Central School and Casey’s Hill” (p 78). In addition, the Town Plan references the Complete Streets Law (VT Act 34), which encourages “adding and maintaining sidewalks that are connected to public services.” This aim would be realized by a sidewalk connecting Underhill Center to the VTrans bus stop near the intersection of Park Street and River Road.

Because a Center Sidewalk would greatly benefit the safety, convenience, social interaction and health of Underhill’s residents, the Selectboard is actively pursuing this plan. On January 12, 2023, the Selectboard authorized Nick Atherton, town zoning administrator, to submit a request to the CCRPC to fund an \$80,000 feasibility study for a sidewalk from Casey’s Hill to Park Street (where it would meet the existing sidewalk). Upon completion of a feasibility study, whether funded by CCRPC or not, the Town will begin concrete planning the actual construction. Part of this will involve seeking funding from the State or Federal government to help meet the considerable expense that construction of such sidewalk will entail. Even if the efforts to obtain funding are successful, the Town will have to pay for a substantial part of the project cost from its own budget. This is likely to necessitate an increase in the tax rate. To reduce this expense to the Town’s budget, this proposal would devote ARPA funds to meet some of the cost of the sidewalk. More specifically, the proposal is to purchase materials that can be stored until needed for sidewalk construction. As estimated below, the total cost of materials for the entire Center Sidewalk project (Casey’s Hill to Park Street) is about \$700,000. Therefore, I propose that the Town devote the entire ARPA award of \$696,228, minus other projects deemed by the Selectboard to be of similarly high priority, to the Center Sidewalk project.

Estimated Cost/Description of Estimate Process (use the space here and attach additional pages and any supporting documents):

Estimated cost: \$696,228 less funding of other ARPA projects that the Town deems to be of similarly high priority.

Estimation process: The estimation process is described in detail in §1 of the “Elaboration” section at the end of this proposal.

Please Answer the following questions by marking the answer in the space provided.

Benefit to Town of Underhill

YES NO Not Sure

Does this proposal

Invest in the town without creating a need for additional or ongoing revenue or expenses? Is this a one-time expense?	X ¹		
Benefit a population that was disproportionately impacted by the pandemic?	X		
Benefit a population underserved prior to the pandemic?	X		
Mitigate and/or help the Town adapt to the effects of climate change?	X		
Improve or create infrastructure for Underhill? Ex. Natural resources, pedestrian access, transportation but not limited to	X		
Align with or impact the goals and priorities of the Town Plan? LINK	X ²		

Comments: ¹Please see §2 in the Elaboration section below.
²Please see p 78 of the Town Plan.

Feasibility of Project

YES NO Not Sure

Can this proposal

Be fully planned, estimated and obligated to the Town by December 31, 2024?	X ³		
Be fully completed and paid for by the end of 2026?	X ⁴		
Be used to leverage or match other grants, funds or projects?	X		

³Please see §3 in the Elaboration section below.
⁴Please see §4 in the Elaboration section below.

Please attach estimates, quotes, drawings, or supporting documents or elaborate in any way you would like. Please note that the ARPA Advisory Committee only recommends projects to the Selectboard and the Selectboard has the ultimate authority to allocate the funds. 17 V.S.A. § 2664

[§1. Details of cost estimate.](#)

The cost for sidewalk materials was roughly estimated based on the Vermont Agency of Transportation’s (VTrans) “Report on Shared-Use Path and Sidewalk Costs”; [https://vtrans.vermont.gov/sites/aot/files/highway/documents/ltf/VTrans%20Path%20and%20Sidewalk%20Cost Report 2020.pdf](https://vtrans.vermont.gov/sites/aot/files/highway/documents/ltf/VTrans%20Path%20and%20Sidewalk%20Cost%20Report%202020.pdf) .

According to this Report, excavation, gravel and cement for a cement sidewalk without granite curbs costs about \$65/foot, and if granite curbs are added costs about \$110/foot. If about half of those prices are excavation, the material alone cost about \$30 and \$55/foot, respectively. If the Underhill Center sidewalk is built on the edge of the right-of-way of Pleasant Valley and River Roads, the side facing the street should have granite curbstones for safety reasons. In addition, BTrans states “Granite curbing has superior durability and aesthetic qualities and is the preferred curbing treatment in Vermont.” The materials cost would then be $$(30+55)/2 =$ about \$45/foot.

The Center Sidewalk plan comprises four segments, with lengths roughly:

Mountain Road to Central School	3000 feet
Central School to Krug Road	2000 “
Krug Road to Sand Hill Road	2500 “
Sand Hill Road to Park Street	8500 “
TOTAL LENGTH	16,000 feet

Thus, the total price for materials (gravel, cement and granite) for this sidewalk is roughly $16,000 * \$45/\text{foot} = \$720,000$

§2. Need for additional or ongoing revenue or expenses?

The Center Sidewalk project is a major, one-time expense for the Town, of which construction material is only one component. The Town will seek funds from State and Federal sources to complete the project. A temporary increase in the Town tax rate may be required. The use of ARPA funds to cover some of the project expense will reduce the need for outside expenses and minimize the tax burden of the project.

§3. Estimated and obligated to the Town by December 31, 2024.

The Town finished the Underhill Flats sidewalk in 2022, so should be able to use the knowledge gained in that process and help from VTrans to solicit bids from suitable suppliers, contract for materials, accept delivery, and pay by the end of 2024. I assume the Town has or can lease suitable storage sites for the materials.

§4. Completion by the end of 2026.

The full sidewalk project will take considerable time to realize and may not be completed by December 31, 2026. Acquiring necessary materials for the project, however, represents a major expense and could feasibly be done soon. Therefore, this proposal is limited to purchase of some necessary materials for the project. Furthermore, as I understand Finance Officer Jennifer Silpe-Katz’s comments during the January 12, 2023, Selectboard Meeting, specific components of the project that can be completed prior December 31, 2026, can be considered separately and therefore are appropriate for ARPA funding.