

Main street

The Main Street Corridor encompasses the blocks along Main Street between Battery and Union Streets. It is an active mixed-use corridor and gateway for entering the downtown and accessing the Lake Champlain waterfront.

1. Passenger Train Station

Union Station's central location on Burlington's waterfront offers tremendous potential for the return of passenger rail, connecting the city with larger metropolitan areas to the north and south. A new civic square, with short-term parallel parking around its perimeter is proposed in front of the station.

2. streetscape improvements

Main Street is a major connection between the Waterfront and Church Street. Infill of storefronts with active uses, as well as streetscape improvements, are needed to entice pedestrians to make their journey up and down the hill. Proposed streetscape improvements include back in diagonal and parallel parking, green street standards (e.g. flow through planters), additional street trees, wayfinding signage, benches, public art, and cycle tracks.

3. City Hall park

The re-design of City Hall Park should ensure that this important civic space retains its park-like qualities while enhancing its ability to be activated with people, street vendors, events, sculpture, and outdoor dining. The park should serve as a central gathering space for the City and become more accessible to the public, with connections and amenities that will draw people from Church Street towards the waterfront and vice versa. Spaces should be designed for safe active use and public events, as well as quiet contemplation and respite. The strategic location of the park is significant as an important transition point in the City, mediating between the East-West corridors of Main and College streets and the North-South corridor of Church Street. Its location helps to connect much of the downtown to Union Station and the Waterfront. While it may be impractical today, the park could even someday sit on top of an underground parking structure much like the Boston Common.

4. Main street gateway & Memorial Auditorium Block

The re-development of the block at the intersection of Main Street and South Winooski Avenue will help to act as both an anchor and gateway to the downtown. A renovated and/or re-purposed Memorial Auditorium and possibly fire station would serve as a destination at the eastern end of the activated Main Street. The corner parcel could be transformed from a parking lot to a new mixed-use building with ground-floor retail, creating a more interesting and activated street to help encourage pedestrian activity. Upper floors could be used for offices, apartments, or student housing. The same type of redevelopment could also occur on the south-east corner to strengthen the entire intersection.

5. Parking garage at periphery

The plan shows one potential location for a parking garage that could serve Church Street and future demand generated by the redevelopment of the City's Memorial Auditorium Block. Parking in locations like this, on the periphery of the downtown, will help to reduce downtown congestion and the amount of space dedicated to parking within the core of the retail district. A proposed new parking structure in this general location would replace existing surface parking lots, opening up opportunities for more infill development of underutilized lots. Another nearby opportunity for a new parking facility could be at the Edmunds school across the street. Here proposals have been made for a parking structure to be built under the current playfield.

NOTES for TPUDC

- On page 89, number 5 on the top map doesn't show well... fix that.
- Add taller buildings rendering on page 90, show both options.
- Legend for map – Dark brown = Potential Buildings instead of “proposed”