



**CITY OF BURLINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

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TO: Transportation, Energy, and Utilities Committee

FROM: Norman Baldwin, P.E.
Assistant Director-Technical Services

**RE: AGREEMENT WITH SOVERNET FIBER CORP. TO ACCESS & USE EXISTING
CONDUIT ON THE WINOOSKI BRIDGE**

The Department of Public Works has been approached by Sovernet a telecommunications company seeking to establish a fiber optic link between the two adjacent communities of the City of Winooski and the City of Burlington.

A necessity in seeking to establishing this communication link between the two communities, Sovernet would need to establish a fiberoptic presence on the Winooski Bridge.

As background information, the Winooski Bridge is jointly owned by the two host communities of Winooski and Burlington. The mid-section of the Bridge is the dividing line between the two communities. Sovernet was successful at gaining the City of Winooski's City Council approval to occupy the City of Winooski's portion of the bridge. At the same time Sovernet has been working with the City of Burlington Department of Public Works and the City Attorney's Office to develop an agreement that suitable to address Sovernet's needs while seeking to preserve and protect the City of Burlington's interests.

It is understood any occupation and placement of a utility's equipment within the public right of way can only be authorized under a city wide franchise agreement or under a explicitly written agreement approved by the full City Council.

As City staff working on the City Councils behalf with Sovernet, we believe we have developed a draft agreement that is ready for the serious consideration of the Burlington City Council. More specifically we are offering our support for Sovernet's proposal and the draft agreement as written.

In presenting this proposal before the Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee we(Norm Baldwin-Public Works, Eugene Bergman-City Attorney's Office, Paul Sisson, CAO) are seeking the TEUC's support for the draft agreement. If the Members of the TEUC have comfort with the proposal we would like the TEUC's vote of support that will allow this proposal to advance to the next stage of the process by going to the Finance Board and hopefully onto the Full Council for their consideration.

City staff(myself along with the Assistant City Attorney Gene Bergman)will be at the next meeting to discuss this proposal and answer any questions you may have. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration. Please do not hesitate to call if you have questions.