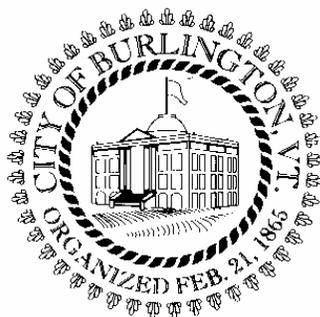


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**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CITY TO HOLD PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS ON CHAMPLAIN
PARKWAY**

*Opportunity for Public to Learn About Elements of Project and Ask Questions Prior to
Commencement of Permitting Process*

Burlington, VT – May 18, 2010. The City of Burlington announced today that it will hold four public informational meetings related to the Champlain Parkway project. The meetings will lead into the City's initiation of Act 250 permitting for the project. At its May 17 meeting, the City Council passed a resolution endorsing the public informational process and authorized the City to move forward with the Act 250 permit (the Council resolution can be found at: <http://www.ci.burlington.vt.us/docs/1988.pdf>).

Each of the four public meetings will provide information on the entire project, with each meeting also focusing on a specific element of the project:

- **Mobility Issues: Project Performance for Automobiles, Bicycles, and Pedestrians.** TUESDAY, MAY 25, 6:30 PM, Champlain Elementary School, 800 Pine Street.
- **Neighborhood and Community Issues.** WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 6:30 PM, Contois Auditorium, City Hall.
- **Economic Development.** WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 6:30 PM, Water Treatment Plant Conference Room, 234 Penny Lane (at the south end of Lake Street).

- **Environmental Issues.** THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 6:30 PM, Burlington Electric Department, 585 Pine Street.

The Champlain Parkway will construct and rehabilitate approximately 2.4 miles of roadway, pedestrian, and bicycle facilities commencing at the interchange of I-189 with US 7 in the City of South Burlington and extending westerly and northerly to the intersection of Pine Street with Main Street within the City of Burlington's City Center District (CCD). Between Home Avenue and Lakeside Avenue, new roadway will be constructed on already acquired right-of-way. From Lakeside Avenue to Pine Street and terminating at Main Street the Parkway will use existing roadways, and construction will consist of rehabilitation and improvements to the existing streets. The roadway will consist of one lane in each direction with turn lanes and traffic signals at certain intersections. Pedestrian facilities include sidewalks, shared-use paths, cross-walks and actuated pedestrian phasing at signalized intersections. Bicycle facilities include the shared-use paths and on-road components.

Burlington Mayor Bob Kiss emphasized the benefits of the project and encouraged residents to come to the meetings to learn more. "The Champlain Parkway is a project that benefits Burlington in several ways. It will provide relief to South End neighborhoods from truck traffic they currently experience and improves intersections throughout the entire route of the project, while enhancing bicycle and pedestrian access. It will create and enhance economic development opportunities in the Pine Street corridor. It complements and supports potential access to and development within the south end of the Waterfront. I look forward to continuing to move forward on the project and making the Champlain Parkway a reality after more than 40 years of planning and analysis. I hope residents come to these meetings to learn more about the project and ask any questions they may have."

The Champlain Parkway is a road project first designed in the 1960s as the "Southern Connector" with the intent of re-routing truck traffic from neighborhoods in Burlington's South End going to the Pine Street corridor and points downtown. It is one of the few remaining road projects in the country with a 95 percent federal funding share, with 3 percent and 2 percent provided respectively by the State of Vermont and Burlington. This past fall the City completed the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the project, and the Federal Highway Administration issued a "Record of Decision" (ROD) for the project on January 14, 2010, clearing the way for initiation of Act 250 permitting.

For more information about the project, go to www.ci.burlington.vt.us or call the Department of Public Works at 863-9094.