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**PRESS RELEASE
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BURLINGTON UNVEILS INTERACTIVE “GIS” MAP

Feature allows public to access a variety of information through City website

Burlington, VT – September 17, 2010. The City of Burlington announced today that a GIS (“Geographical Information System”) feature is available on the City’s website. GIS integrates a variety of informational categories, or “layers,” with an interactive map of a particular geographic area. For example, within Burlington’s GIS feature, one can choose to show all of the real estate transactions in the City over the last 12 months; clicking on a specific property will show the property address, sale date, and sale amount. “Layers” on Burlington’s GIS feature include Census block tracts, current building permits, ward boundaries, the City’s FY11 street paving plans, and the location of parking garages, parking lots, and electric vehicle charging stations, among many other categories of information.

“As a City we’ve continued to look for ways to improve access to information and the availability of GIS on the City’s website offers a wealth of information in an easy to use, graphical form,” said Mayor Bob Kiss. “It’s a feature that will enhance the public’s access to information, offer opportunities for better and more efficient inter-departmental communication, and in general help to promote all the things Burlington has to offer.”

The City’s Director of Information Technology, Tim Barden, also cited increased access to information by the public through GIS, as well as the collaboration by multiple departments to develop the feature. “We’re pleased to have developed GIS as it is the ongoing goal of the City and the IT office to make public information in an electronic form as accessible and easy to use as possible. The layers that are available as of today are just the beginning. Hard work by IT staff, the involvement of Planning and Zoning, and the participation of several City departments made this possible.”

The GIS effort was led by Scott Duckworth of the City's IT office which is part of the Clerk-Treasurer's Office. "Scott did a fantastic job of developing a state of the art GIS implementation for the City" Barden said. Features were also incorporated by Planning and Zoning staff. Among other things the effort required gathering information from City departments that could be incorporated into the program. IT staff will continue to review available information for incorporation of additional "layers" into GIS.

The City's GIS efforts were praised at a recent conference of municipal and county software users. At a session devoted to website presentation, Burlington's GIS site was featured as a prime example of utilizing GIS to display a broad range of information.

Burlington's GIS can be accessed directly through <http://www.ci.burlington.vt.us/gis/> or going to the City's homepage <http://www.ci.burlington.vt.us/> and clicking on "Geographic Information Systems" at the top right of the homepage.