



**CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT**  
**CITY COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY AND**  
**UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

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**Councilor Karen Paul, Chair**  
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Minutes of 8/11/2010 meeting of the City Council Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee

Members present: Chair, Karen Paul, Kurt Wright, Bill Keogh

City Staff: Dan Bradley, Joel Fleming, Erin Demers, Nicole Losch, Norm Baldwin, Ned Holt - DPW  
Barbara Grimes, Ken Nolan - BED

Others: Scott Mapes, South Winooski Avenue

Chair Paul called the meeting to order at 5:40

### **Public Forum**

No members from the public were present.

### **Agenda**

The committee voted to amend the agenda, switching item #4 - BED discussion of Smart Grid with item #5 - DPW discussion of 2010 paving program.

### **Minutes**

Minutes of 6/2/2010 were approved.

### **2010 Paving Program**

Chair Paul introduced the topic with questions about the City's paving contractor's responsiveness. Program Manager Demers explained the contractor's responsibilities and the City's leverage with the contractor as provided for in the contract and how staff was implementing the program.

Scott Mapes, resident from South Winooski Avenue, commented on the contract offering that it was a quality document that serves the public well. He stated a concern that in his view some remedial work was not being completed in a timely manner. There followed a general discussion on staffing, volume of work and contractor performance.

### **BED – Smart Grid**

BED General Manager Grimes and power supply chief Nolan described the recently awarded ARRA grant to develop a “smart grid.” A key component of the grant is the addition of smart meters and associated communications infrastructure to the BED system which will allow for future efficiencies. The total project cost is \$14M with ARRA grant providing \$7m and the remaining funds provided by BED. An educational component is written into the grant to provide information to rate payers.

Grimes commented on Office of Management and Budget and Department of Public Service rules which mitigate against what was described as sole sourcing elements of the required communications infrastructure to Burlington Telecom, stating that these items would be competitively bid.

### **Rubberized paving**

Demers offered that it would not be possible to schedule a demonstration project using recycled rubber materials in paving mix this construction season. She offered that she has been researching alternative paving materials and would entertain a demo project next season. Chair Paul suggested that there was no need then for a resolution encouraging DPW to pursue such a project this season.

### **Colchester Avenue Corridor Study and Demo**

Bradley reported that the Colchester Ave corridor study local concerns meeting of May 27 and the corridor study existing conditions report both revived interest in addressing safety concerns, congestion and high incidence of reported crashes between South Prospect Street and East Avenue. With the repaving of Colchester Ave scheduled for August/September there is an opportunity to test an alternative lane configuration between paving courses. Staff requested that RSG, our consultants on the corridor project, develop a proposal for such a test and present it to the Public Works Commission. The proposal was positively received and we will be proceeding with the test beginning the week of September 5<sup>th</sup> – beginning on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> with grinding the existing pavement.

The project will begin on Tuesday, September 7, 2010 with the grinding and removal of approximately 3 inches of the existing paving between South Prospect Street and Nash Place. This will be followed by temporary striping with the new lane configuration. The following week the first course of new pavement will be placed and the temporary striping will be repeated. This surface will remain for approximately four weeks during which time roadway structures will be adjusted. Also during this time city staff and consultants will collect data and monitor traffic. Staff will compare before and after traffic queues, safety and intersection capacity measures.

Staff has reviewed this demonstration project with the CCTA, CATMA (representing UVM, Fletcher Allen Hospital and the American Red Cross) and the Burlington Police and Fire Departments. We have registered their concerns and will make a final recommendation with their input in mind.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM