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## **Burlington Bike Path Task Force to be Announced**

*Initiative Will Help Set Course for Path's Future*

**When:** Friday, November 5, 11:30am

**Where:** ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center, 1 College Street, Burlington Waterfront

### **Bike Path Task Force (BPTF) Kicks Off Year-Long Process**

On Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Bob Kiss, along with Chapin Spencer of Local Motion and Kelly Devine, BBA will announce the 13 members of the BPTF. The BPTF was created by a City Council resolution, with members appointed by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The BPTF will kick-off their first meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup> and complete their work within a year.

**Task Force Charge:** The Task Force is charged with making recommendations for future improvements and changes to Burlington's Bike Path, which winds for 7.5 miles along Lake Champlain and is a major community feature and tourist attraction. The group will update the path's capital plan, review funding options, and engage the community on the question of the bike path's future, in the context of Burlington's network of on-street paths and other bicycle amenities.

### **25 Years Since Inception, the Bike Path is at a Crossroads**

**Need for Comprehensive Rehabilitation:** When the Burlington Bike Path was built, it was one of the first multi-use paths in New England. Today it is the busiest multi-use trail in Vermont.

**A Local Treasure:** The Bike Path is a key recreation resource for our community. It is our gateway to Lake Champlain. Burlington residents enjoy it for recreation, staying fit, scenic viewing and commuting.

**A Regional Corridor:** The Bike Path is the potential spine of the region's network of bike paths, connecting Burlington to South Burlington, Colchester, South Hero and beyond.

**The Bike Path Generates \$4.5 Million in Tourism \$:** A recent study by the University of Vermont Transportation Center confirms the Bike Path's impact on the local economy. Thirty percent of trail users come from beyond Chittenden County and they spend \$4.5 million locally each year. Strategic improvements would increase the trail's economic impact.

**Links to Plans:**

- 2002 Burlington Bike Path Study: [www.enjoyburlington.com/Parks/BikePath1.cfm](http://www.enjoyburlington.com/Parks/BikePath1.cfm)
- 2005 Island Line Sign & Amenity Plan: [www.localmotion.org/programs/islandline/reports](http://www.localmotion.org/programs/islandline/reports)