



29 Church St., Suite 305
Burlington, Vermont 05401
802-863-1175

The Burlington Business Association, founded in 1978.

Our mission is to enhance and promote the economic vitality of Burlington, Vermont, and to assure that the City of Burlington continues as the cultural, social, political, educational and economic center of northwestern Vermont.

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May 3, 2018

To: Laura Wheelock, Project Manager, DPW, Kristen Merriman Shapiro, SHED, Senior Policy and Projects Specialist, CEDO
From: Kelly Devine, Executive Director - Burlington Business Association
RE: Bank & Cherry Street Design

Please accept the following feedback on the proposed redesign of Bank and Cherry Streets from the Burlington Business Association on behalf of the Burlington business community. We understand and have heard from our members that even amongst our group there exists a range of sometimes competing interests as it relates to the redevelopment of Bank and Cherry Streets. Generally, our group is unified in our support of downtown revitalization and streetscape projects which meet the following goals:

- Increase downtown vibrancy, especially on side streets and the waterfront
- Improve the downtown experience for visitors, residents, employees, and community members
- Connect downtown with the waterfront
- Well position our downtown as a leading 21st Century City

We ask that the City look for creative solutions on both Bank and Cherry Streets to improve safety for both bicycles and pedestrians while maintaining on-street parking to the fullest extent possible.

Specific to the proposed changes on Bank and Cherry, I refer to our existing adopted Masterplan: PlanBTV Downtown and Waterfront, as well as, Burlington's Bike Walk Masterplan and ask that those in leadership follow the directives of that plan when making decisions specific to downtown improvements including streetscapes.

Our business community is united in calling out the need for improvement in the condition of sidewalks, the green strip and streets downtown including Cherry and Bank. We understand the importance of a walkable, livable downtown and appreciate the City of Burlington's efforts to move us forward in that direction. The proposed plans generally support more vibrant sidestreets. In particular, we support the plan's inclusion of the following:

- Healthy and well-maintained street trees and plantings
- Wider sidewalks which could include opportunities for public benches, sidewalk cafe and retail sale space
- Pedestrian friendly crossings at the new Pine and St. Paul Street intersections assuming other locations are available for access by service and delivery vehicles
- Improved stormwater management features
- Retaining on-street parking close to Church Street, as businesses along Church Street do not have on-street parking available
- Additional trash and recycling receptacles

We submit the following comments addressing specific concerns on as to the proposed plan:



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- Inclusion of Parklets: we assert that any proposed parklets must be managed and maintained by either abutting businesses or a future downtown improvement district to be successful as public spaces
- Parklets are not needed so close to Church Street as that street provides a large number of such amenities.
 - A parklet and reduced turning radius needs to be eliminated at the loading zone entrance for CVS on Cherry Street.
- Any seating features should adhere to the City's current policy on public seating and benches. Seating and respite areas should have clear site lines for safety and security reasons.
- Parking Kiosks: BBA has reached out to the Department of Public Works to discuss the use of kiosks for downtown on-street parking. We ask that the City accept additional comment from BBA and DPW jointly on this feature and allow time for us to meet and review this feature in context of the Downtown Parking & Transportation Management Plan adopted by City Council in December of 2015
- Bicycle Parking: while we support additional bicycle parking, we ask that any decision on location take into consideration the recommendations on locations for additional bike parking in downtown submitted to DPW as a part of the Downtown Parking and Transportation Management Plan
- Recycling/Trash Receptacles: these are a welcome addition to the location. As many as is manageable should be included in these areas
- Street Lighting: new street lighting should have a consistent design with existing street lighting. It should also accommodate decorative lighting with working outlets and street banners
- Bus Traffic Patterns: the plan should include eliminating any bus routes which include navigation over Church Street to improve pedestrian safety and quality of experience
- Loading Zones and other speciality purpose parking spaces should be configured to allow for public parking in the evenings and overnight.

This represents the sum of our comments on this proposed plan. We look forward to working with the City and stakeholders on improvements to this plan that will meet the needs of local businesses. Please feel free to reach out to Kelly Devine, director@bbavt.org or 802-863-1175 with any questions relating to this document.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kelly Devine'.

Kelly Devine

Questions and Comments

Submitted Time

Message

outdoor dining and entertainment events in the new Bank/Cherry Street designs.

The City has a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers to find the most efficient and economically productive use for its space. I fear that metered street parking--\$1.25/hr and free on Sundays--will not bring as much revenue to the city and overall economic activity as using that space for dining/entertainment. The administration could negotiate favorable lease agreements with restaurants and bars in the new CityPlace to lease space that would be otherwise used for street parking. We would then bring in even more incremental revenue thanks to the city's 2% meals and liquor/beer/wine tax.

5/4/2018 15:19 With the development being in a TIF district the City Council and administration needs to look at other ways the new CityPlace development can bring in revenue and then plan our infrastructure project in a way that optimizes incremental (a and of course non-property tax) revenue growth so residential taxpayers are not burdened.

5/6/2018 11:22 These designs are great! As a pedestrian who usually avoids walking on Cherey Street, I welcome a design that maximizes green space and a clear pathway for bikes. It's refreshing to see a city design that balances the needs of local businesses and every day people living in the city. I support his redesign and look forward to seeing how this plan develops.