Commissioners Present: Commissioner Barr, Commissioner Hogan (Chair), Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco (Vice-Chair), Commissioner Overby

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Bose, Commissioner Munteanu

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Hogan called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ITEM 2 – AGENDA

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco made a motion to take the Draft Minutes of 11/17/21 and the Lakeside parking removal request off the consent agenda for some discussion. Commissioner Barr seconded
Unanimous approval

ITEM 3 – PUBLIC FORUM

Liz Curry likes the bike plan for North Champlain Street. It is a very good plan for a populated area and to put parking on one side of the street is a good idea. This plan is sensitive to the people living on the street.

ITEM 4 – CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM 4.1 – Approval of Draft Minutes

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco made a motion to accept the amended draft minutes
Commissioner Barr seconded
Unanimous approval

ITEM 4.2 Parking Removal Request Lakeside Avenue

City Engineer Philip Peterson stated that staff does not recommend any changes at this time.
Commissioner Barr asked about the painted brackets on the street near the driveway asking if this did not meet the standards.
City Engineer Philip Peterson stated that we have created driveway encroachment policies. Any issues with this they need to contact parking services.

Director Spencer stated that the criteria for the driveway brackets is not met with the width of the roads. We can review the policy for putting in the brackets if needed. Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco stated if it feels like the driveway is being encroached to contact parking services to have vehicles towed. I assume when people call that it is tracked.

Director Spencer stated if this is a consistent problem, we could adjust the policy. Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco asked if there were tensions between the businesses and the residents. Engineer Peterson stated that we have not hear from any other residents.

Commissioner Overby is in support of the analysis.

Commissioner Hogan it was not clear, on what the constraint on painted brackets was and asked if this could be shared for reading.

ITEM 5 – Shelburne Street Roundabout – Locust St Regulations

City Engineer Olivia Darisse stated that Shelburne Street is progressing. We are doing installation of water and sewer lines. There is blasting of ledge since October, traffic has been detoured, and this change is traffic will continue for several more months.

We are looking at traffic regulation changes – No parking area on Locust Street beginning at Shelburne Street and extending west 150 feet.

No parking 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays on the north side of Locust Street from Shelburne Street to Caroline Street. We need to have this traffic regulation amendment to comply with federal, state and local guidelines. This will help maintain access for emergency vehicles and winter maintenance operations. This will also improve the sightlines between pedestrians and motorists that will increase safety for all road users adjacent to the roundabout. The reallocation of the existing no parking zone on the north side of Locust Street from Shelburne Street to Caroline Street to unrestricted parking will provide a parking resource need for residents in the area.

Commissioner Overby asked if we were taking parking on the east side, the north section is unrestricted. Engineer Darisse stated that at least five or six spaces would be removed.

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco made a motion to accept staff’s recommendation
Commissioner Barr seconded
Unanimous approval

ITEM 6 – University Place Parking Regulations

City Engineer Philip Peterson stated that tonight they were looking for approvals for traffic regulations. University Place in a northerly direction, with the exception of
bicycles traveling southbound in a designated contra-flow lane. To take away seven parking spaces with the exception of vehicle loading zone in front of Ira Allen Chapel and the food truck parking in front of Royal Tyler Theater. No parking except for loading and unloading on the east side of University Place in front of the Ira Allen Chapel. No parking except for food trucks on the east side of University Place in front of the Royal Tyler Theater.

These traffic amendments are necessary to facilitate parking and traffic along University Place. The next steps are to seek approval from the Board of Finance and City Council; seek approval for design and construction document from Board of Finance and City Council; seek approval from UVM board for design and construction documents and then phase 3 construction.

Commissioner Kennedy asked about the crosswalks is that the final representation of what that would be because the crosswalk that everybody that lives around me to get to campus isn’t there and was wondering if there is a possibility to change that. City Engineer Peterson stated that no as there has been a lot of discussion around University Place and it may seem that more crosswalks is better but that’s is not necessarily so there is actually too many crosswalks. We are widening the sidewalks so that will provide more opportunity to more people along the sidewalks. We do not want to have too many sidewalks there are standards around this. Will there be sidewalks on both sides? City Engineer Peterson stated yes. Director Spencer stated that not for the entire length but for the critical sections where there can be pedestrian activity to get to a formal crossing.

Commissioner Barr question for the loading/unloading spaces is that going to be Park Mobil or is that going to be assigned 30 minutes only? City Engineer Peterson stated that will be vehicle-loading zone, which will allow for vehicle and trucks to be able to utilize it. It will be strictly vehicle-loading zone only. Commissioner Barr asked if someone were to park there and not move for a while was informed, they would be ticketed. City Engineer Peterson stated that if something is not working we will come back to the commission and we will make changes. Vice Chair O’Neill-Vivanco stated the one question about the tightening turning radius from Main Street onto University Place.

City Engineer Peterson stated it tightens the turning where the island is going to go. The fire department is also reviewing these plans. The turn will be tightened but it will be easier.

Commissioner Overby stated this plan would slow down vehicle traffic. Is the area in front of Ira Allen actually a cut out so that it will be out of the way of the bike lanes? City Engineer Peterson stated yeah. The food truck as well will be. Commissioner Overby stated on the other side there are some of the old carriage steps and there was a question about what was going to happen to those historic stone steps. City Engineer Laura Wheelock stated those will be removed, because this is a roadway project they are not accessible crossing so we are required by PROWAG to provide accessible crossing at every place we do designate a crosswalk. This will be documented
and photographed but ultimately removed. You do not know what they look like underneath or what they are constructed of or how durable they are going to be. Commissioner Overby I think it is a great opportunity for someone to make use of them. What is the plan to remind people when this goes into effect that there is going to be no southbound traffic. Some kind of signage needs to be put up.

City Engineer Peterson stated we are reviewing the signage package right now with the consultants actually.

Commissioner Barr made a motion to accept staff’s recommendation
Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco seconded
Unanimous approval

ITEM 7 – North Champlain Street Protected Bike Lane – Regulatory Changes

These are the following recommendations from staff for the North Champlain Street protected bike lane
Repeal redundant parking regulations or non-existent signs – no parking anytime on west side of North Champlain Street between Pearl Street and Monroe Street. No parking any time on the east side of North Champlain Street between Sherman Street and Peru Street; 15 minute parking between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. parking space in front of 31 North Champlain St. Parking space north to Monroe Street on the east side of North Champlain Street. On the east side of North Champlain Street in the single space beginning 300 feet north of Peru Street. Where parking is restricted no parking in the parking space southerly to Peru Street on the west side of North Champlain St. 15-minute parking space in front of 44 North Champlain Street.
Allow traffic regulations for a stop sign for southbound bicycle traffic as it approached Pearl Street.
Create loading zones during business hours – North Street replaces 15 minute parking to support Nunyuns and Thai Phat. Near 100 North Champlain to support Vermont Paint. 15 minute parking north of Peru Street is adjusted to match existing business hours. Fire lane designated at 10 North Champlain Street.
The bike lane will transform North Champlain Street into a one-lane street with a protected bike lane in place on the western travel lane and the existing 5’ western bike lane

Commissioner Barr need to keep fire lanes for safety and rest seems logical. I would like to hear comments. At this point, I am in agreement.

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco the space across from Vermont Paint because reading comments from people those spots will still be available for parking for residents when it is not the loading zone right.
Elizabeth Ross stated this would be designated as vehicle loading so the truck deliveries could be made for Vermont Paint and that people who need to go into Vermont Paint or run into their house, vehicle loading is very short term.
Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco so after 5:00 p.m. it is open for residents coming home from work to park until seven o’clock in the morning. That is correct. That is trying to accommodate the business. We did try to get more specific time frame for their deliveries and we were unable to get any more specific than that. Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco I guess with clear signage and waiting for feedback on how it’s all working. It sounds like you’ve done a pretty good job of addressing the concerns about the businesses and balancing the needs of the residents.

Commissioner Overby I think you’re working hard to make this happen and I’m generally supportive of any of these improvements to add bicycle lanes. I feel like it’s a good thing to make these changes.

Commissioner Kennedy in support of this plan.

Commissioner Hogan can we talk about the proposed loading zone on North Street, mixed responses to that proposal from the adjacent businesses? I’m curious about the timing there. The ordinance says a loading zone, it’s not immediate obvious from that read that it’s acceptable to park there and run in. Elizabeth Ross stated that through conversations with parking services we understood that they essentially treat vehicle loading and places designated as such similar to 15 minute parking. They would come back to enforce that if they are seeing someone who, the car has been parked and empty for a longer period of time or if they receive a complaint. If we sign it as vehicle loading it can accommodate both. Commissioner Hogan clarify the current loading practices at Vermont Paint Company? Nicole Losch stated they are parking on the bike lane and left travel lane. On the connections southbound on a bicycle and shows up on Pearl Street can you talk me through what they do there? Nicole Losch treat this a self-controlled stop intersection. They wouldn’t have a push button or anything like that at this location. Northbound in the bike if they get to North Street or even Manhattan and you want to turn right you’ll be positioned on the left. Do you dismount and go over to the curb and push the pedestrian signal? Nicole this one we are actually proposing to rephrase the signal, bicyclist can use the pedestrian signal but it would be on a cycle.

Director Spencer the Commission has heard over time concern about the Park and Manhattan intersection and part of this proposal does tighten that intersection.

Soran Taylor resident at 10 North Champlain Street. Has 17 parking spots. 3 visitor parking spots in the facility that are only allowed for 90 minutes. I have family in Morrisville to come visit I have a placard for parking on Pearl Street. By eliminating the parking on Pearl Street means, I cannot visit my family for any more than 90 minutes at a time. The bus company uses the parking stalls that say for police parking only. Why
we can’t use some of that parking, that’s for court purposes but I have never seen or very rarely seen a police car there. I’m wondering if we can’t take those five stalls from Champlain and transfer them over onto Pearl so we can use our placards there to have our family visit us.

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco so you’re suggesting moving that fire lane to Pearl Street as opposed to North Champlain.

Commissioner Barr leave the fire lane but use the displaced parking for Pearl.

William Bissonnette just need clarification on the timing of when these signs, on the corner of Rose and North there are two signs vehicle loading and unloading 7:00 to 12:00 p.m. and under that sign 15 minute parking 12 to 10. So in front of North Street where they are proposing to add the vehicle loading and unloading thee is presently 15 minute parking. I just wanted some clarification to understand what the timing might be on these signs that they are going to incorporate.

Justin Conan I do know multiple people against that decision but I don’t think it’s been fully relayed to them. Is there anyway to be able to have a secondary discussion on this to where can kind of be involved in it.

Commissioner Hogan for clarification is this for the loading on zone near Vermont Paint Company?

Justin exactly.

Commissioner Hogan invite staff response to clarification on Rose and North area?

Nicole Losch I’m trying to scan our traffic regulations because I don’t know what is on North and Rose but at this location we aren’t proposing to change the time. Right now it is signed as 15 minute parking between eight and six so we are proposing to keep that the same we’re just changing it from vehicle parking to vehicle loading.

Elizabeth Ross the recommendation that we’re bringing tonight was out of conversation with Nunyuns and Thai Phat. Nunyans had expressed that they do currently use bike lane for loading. Thai Phat deliveries are on North Champlain Street in the bike lane. We are trying to support them not getting deliveries in the bike lane.

Commissioner Hogan there is no mention of the residential parking ordinances. I gather the fire lanes, proposing fire lanes in what is residential parking today does there need to be a corresponding ordinance change about the residence parking and is that a conversation for another meeting where we might consider alternate locations for that?

Elizabeth Ross I know there is existing residential parking on Monroe Street, it is separated by street. Any request to share residential parking between streets has to come from residents.

Commissioner Hogan could you remind of the outreach plan and prior public meetings?

Elizabeth Ross all letters attached to packet were areas where we were making changes tonight.
Nicole Losch our most recent public meeting was in March with a mailing to let people know the meeting was happening. Had a web base survey, meeting recorded and available and front porch forum notice. We did not have the specific parking recommendations at that time.

Elizabeth Ross I also wanted to mention that the one hundred foot stretch on North Champlain in front of 10 North Champlain where the fire lane would be going in I want to clarify that it would not be removing all of the parking on that block.

Commissioner Barr removing parking for the fire lanes and if not taking all but some of the Pearl Street parking? I believe when some of the police cars that park there have court dates.

Elizabeth that is my understanding his question was to take the loss parking and put it on Pearl Street. That is not something that we’ve explored up to this point. I don’t know how that would work but they have that to go to the courthouse.

Commissioner Barr if we could look into that and make a consideration if not all but some.

Commissioner Overby make a motion to accept staff’s recommendation
Commissioner Kennedy seconds
Unanimous approval.

ITEM 8 – DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Director Spencer thanked everyone for getting the word out for the recruitment and retention strategies. We have hired some more crossing guards, parking ambassadors and have several new applicants for seasonal street maintenance position and parking services position.

Champlain Parkway we are expecting Federal Highway to issue the project’s Record of Decision in the next four to eight weeks.

We have had man request from the public for radar speed feedback signs lately. We have ordered three additional pairs of signs which will give us the opportunity to deploy this technology in more places at the same time.

Planning in January 2022 commission meeting with an update on our integrated planning and permitting efforts for the city’s wastewater and storm water utilities.

DPW is working on the next steps for the general fund capital. Without the additional local capital funds our budget will be significantly restrained limiting paving and sidewalk program.

Our Holiday hours will be posted. We will be closed on December 24th and December 31st in observance of Christmas and New Year’s.

The Christmas tree pick up is scheduled for January 10, 2022. Trees have to be out by 7:00 a.m.
ITEM 9 - COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco process for resident to know, Overlake to Cliff cannot get out of driveway, request no parking signs. City Engineer Norm Baldwin stated they should make this a traffic request.
Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco feels Public Works should be a part of the process for the designing of BHS, especially near Institute Road and North Avenue intersection. Prioritize bus access to the school.
City Engineer Norm Baldwin stated we have reviewed the previous project and if it continue as plans, get revised the slope design to access the building.
Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco stated there should be student engagement go to BHS once per quarter to get feedback from the kids.

Commissioner Overby stated, regarding the recent $40 M bond vote, only a small portion of the citizens voted on this. It is concerning that with low voter turnouts, just 13% of our community can authorize the City to commit to major debt load increases like this.

Commissioner Kennedy had a citizen ask about adding a stop sign to South Union and Adams Street.
City Engineer Norm Baldwin stated this should be put in the system as a traffic request.

Commissioner Hogan asked about traffic enforcement, reduction in traffic safe environment. City Engineer Norm Baldwin stated there is a lack of police enforcement people are going to run stop signs and signals. We are doing our best.

ITEM 10 – ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE January 19, 2022

Commissioner Barr made a motion to adjourn
Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco seconded

Unanimous approval

Meeting concluded at 8:20 p.m.