Commissioners Present: Commissioner Barr, Commissioner Bose (via zoom), Commissioner Hogan (Chair), Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner Munteanu, Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco (Vice-Chair)

Commissioner Absent: Commissioner Overby

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

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

ITEM 2 – AGENDA

Chair Hogan stated that there was a word change that need to be made to Item B on the consent agenda.
Director Spencer stated he would state the word changes when we get to that item.
Commissioner Barr made a motion to approve with word change
Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco seconded
Unanimous approval

ITEM 3 – PUBLIC FORUM

Wanda Hines, an Old North End – 88 Oak Coop has two startup businesses in it that are doing really well. The Making space program last year was for downtown businesses to expand as well as the grab and go pick up for short term parking. Homeowners are being affected in residential neighborhoods are being affected this year because this business signed up for parking stalls. There was no input from homeowners near the businesses. This program continued this summer and 20 businesses signed up for it. There was one business in the Old North End that signed up for this and there was no input from homeowners near these businesses on how they felt about the parklets being establishes and the grab and go parking. I live next to this business and vehicles picking up their grab and go food block my driveway. There are some safety concerns for pedestrians with the parklet on the sidewalk; people now have to go into the roadway to go by this area. This can be a dangerous situation for pedestrians.

ITEM 4 – CONSENT AGENDA

A. 37 Church Street on Cherry Street – 30 minute metered parking space
B. Reallocate an Accessible (ADA) parking space at 360 College Street to an unrestricted parking space

Director Spencer stated the language change to Item B in the Consent Agenda would be “to approve the consent agenda noting the revised action on Item 4B which is modified to remove the ADA Space on the north side of College Street in the second space east of South Willard Street.”

Commissioner Barr made a motion to approve consent agenda
Commissioner Munteanu second
Commissioner Bose “aye”; Commissioner Munteanu “aye”; Commissioner Barr “aye”; Commissioner Kennedy “aye”; Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco “aye”; Commissioner Hogan “aye”. Unanimous approval

ITEM 5 – FY’ 23-25 SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Martha Keenan stated the Capital Committee seeks support from the Public Works Commission for the continuation of the Sustainable Infrastructure Plan and a request of voters or a General Obligation Bond November 9, 2021.

Over the past few years we have replaced fire trucks, rehabilitated most of the Burlington Greenway, double paving and tripled sidewalk production and improved the efficiency and comfort of public buildings and much more. We need to continue the commitment made in 2016, update the Capital Plan and propose funding strategy that includes another request of the voters for investment in the City’s infrastructure.

The opportunities today for reinvestment in our infrastructure are greater than any other is. With the American Rescue Plan and the recently passed infrastructure bill, the Capital Committee is looking at what assets can be addressed in the various funding areas. These opportunities as well as a General Obligation Bond will allow us to continue the much-needed reinvestment in our infrastructure.

Martha Keenan stated that the proposed investment of dollars is a bond for 40 million to continue the initiative advantage of the funding we have. The first year of initiatives sidewalk and streets; the next 2 years is infrastructure from the federal government. This will include money for Memorial Auditorium as well.

Commissioner Kennedy was not sure what Memorial Auditorium was about. Assistant Director Baldwin stated it is a building that was built in the 1920s with structural steel with veneer overlay. The system failed and water that has been coming through from leaks in the roof have corroded the steel making this a very unstable building to be in. The wall system is compromised, the heating systems is failing. The building has been vacant since 2016.
Commissioner Munteanu asked about traffic calming versus work. Director Spencer stated we are planning four miles of paving in 2022 and with the federal money; we can do another 4 miles. Traffic calming is in planning states looking at Colchester Avenue, Pearl and Prospect Streets. Overall looking at 8 million into projects, the bond will be a small part of it.

Commissioner Bose also stated he does not understand where the amount comes from. Norm stated the Street Capital Fund and our first priority is to fund our obligations, not as much for sidewalks and paving. Commissioner Bose also agreed that something needed to be done with Memorial Auditorium. Martha Keenan also stated that there was a contingency plan until the pandemic hit and everything was put on hold. This could possibly be an aid with the high school but there are some structural issues that need to be taken care of. Or we can transition out of the building.

Commissioner O’Neill stated Memorial Auditorium is a contender for the school district what do we need to make it safe. Martha Keenan stated it would be a ten million dollar mark it is a historic building. Assistant Director Baldwin stated we have certain obligations to the building.

Sharon Bushor of the stated we need to think about our needs and desires versus what residents can afford. This is a big ask considering the tax payers of the city. There is a shit in the tax base predominantly on the resident. As far as tax bill is concerned delay for a year until you see what you get from the federal government.

Commissioner Hogan suggested some language changes.

Martha Keenan is requesting the item on a special ballot before the end of 2021 in a special election. Would like to see it done at the same time as BED holds their revenue bond election in December.

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco made a motion to recommend to city council to move the request and item on the ballot for a general obligation bond for a special election in 2021. Commissioner Barr seconded. Commissioner Bose “aye”, Munteanu “aye”; Commissioner Barr “aye”, Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco “aye”; Commissioner Kennedy “aye”; Commissioner Hogan “aye”.

ITEM 6 – SOUTH END CONSTRUCTION COORDINATION PLAN

Director Spencer stated this is a follow up by Commissioner Overby to make this an agenda item.
Assistant Director Baldwin south end construction coordination plan there are a number of projects. Schedule outlines a number of projects going on in the south end that have significant impact in people’s lives and also accessing our community from the south. There are two major corridors in the south end, Pine Street and Shelburne Road that provide access from the south to the central business district. In our meetings with the public about the parkway, we heard very clearly that the public is fatigued with construction so it pushed us in the direction of thinking about what projects are in play in the south end and what is reasonable for the public to endure while these things go on.

The first phase of the parkway project is from Home Avenue to Kilburn Street. Not disruptive to access on Pine Street. Main Street great streets advance design for that and procure consultant Railyard Enterprise project. Second phase of Champlain PW Kilburn to Main Street Parkway investment Route 7 to 189.

Very pragmatic way of managing projects. Presentation that was provide to council included in packet.

Commissioner Barr 2 miles of shared use path where is it going to be. Something that already Director Spencer two additional miles.

Commissioner Munteanu bike lanes on Pine Street. Construction done by 2025 how is going to be different four years from now. Director Spencer Pine St will received substantial makeover. Entire new sidewalk east side, west side 10’ shared use path, raised intersections where there are currently intersections, new mid-block pedestrian crossing by Arts Riot and new curbing where there is marginal to no curbing. Improved draining on Pine Street. Plan is shared use path on west side will exist, southbound bike lane removed and shoulder on both west and east side of Pine Street.

Commissioner Bose – What the impact of the roundabout project is with traffic as you are developing this more integrated plan for the south end construction.

Assistant Director Baldwin stated we consider this the framework in how we think the long view in how we are going to tie perspective projects in with existing projects to the best of our knowledge and that will change, as we know more about how people will respond and how people will endure some of those things.

Commissioner Bose do like a small study two weeks in or month in.

There is a lot of coordination among our team and we are in constant conversation about where that is progressing and how it relates to the parkway and back and forth. Corey, Chapin and I are also talking with Laura and Olivia about the major projects and the Railway Enterprise.
Director Spencer we have traffic control plans during construction and they will be modified if we see the need.

Commissioner Kennedy asked about traffic calming improvement, raised intersection.

Assistant Director Baldwin stated there are a few within the city the latest being Washington Street and Barry Street off North Avenue.

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco asked public comments and Director Spencer stated that there are no public comments the final document is based on comments from the public in the draft.
Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco stated if there are updates of changes to let us know. VTRANS had updates available on their website letting people know what is going on with the roundabout.

Commissioner Hogan stated roundabout so far so good but neighboring areas are seeing increased traffic and was asking about traffic calming for the neighborhoods. Assistant Baldwin stated there is only so much that can be done. WE are open to hearing concerns from the public.

**ITEM 7 – APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES 8-18-21**

There are some edits to the minutes that need to be made from Commissioner Overby please review changes.
Commissioner Barr made a motion to approve minutes with changes.
Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco seconded

**ITEM 8 – DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Consolidated Collection will go to City Council on September 27. Staff continues to recommend the hybrid collection model, city would continue to pick up recycling and haulers would bid on zones and collect trash and organics.

Crossing guards – we are short of crossing guards and are currently looking to hire more crossing guards.

The water bills that went out this month should reflect the new rate structures and also have a different look to them.

**ITEM 9 - COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS**
Commissioner Barr stated the crew is painting looks great 90 degrees for the turn from Chase Street to Grove but inquired if it was going to be permanent. Director Spencer stated that the street maintenance division is under resourced and we are in the process of looking for a contractor to help with the installation.

Assistant Director Baldwin stated that the repaving of North Avenue from Leddy Park Road to Shore Road would take place next years, as there is some storm water improvements that need to be done prior to the paving.

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco asked if on South Prospect Street near the Redstone Campus, south of Cliff Street if we could put Park Mobil there and not resident only parking
Assistant Director Baldwin stated it was blended resident parking, short-term parking until 5:00 p.m. and the resident only at night.
Commissioner Barr stated he remember when there were 4-hour limit for parking at one point. The UVM campus now has Park Mobile across the campus the meters were taken out.

Commissioner Hogan stated School District sounds good not a lot said about the transportation issues. Potential site is Institute Road, which is on the bus line. He asked about staffing here saying one department was understaffed and asked about open jobs:
Director Spencer stated we were doing okay but across every division, there are openings.

Assistant Director Baldwin stated that people have opportunities to advance as well and make sure people are not being burned out.

ITEM 10 – ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE October 20, 2021

Commissioner Barr made a motion to adjourn
Commissioner Munteanu seconded
Unanimous approval

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.