



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
CITY COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY & UTILITIES COMMITTEE

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Councilor Franklin Paulino, Chair *North District*
Councilor Jack Hanson, *East District*
Councilor Jane Stromberg, *East District*

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Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council

Minutes – Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:30 PM

Attendees: Franklin Paulino, Jane Stromberg, Jack Hanson (arrived at 5:45pm)

1. **Meeting called to order by Councilor Paulino and started at 5:34 PM.**
2. **Agenda accepted as published by Councilors Paulino and Stromberg.**
3. **Public Forum**
 - There were no public comments made.
4. **Railyard Enterprise Project**
 - Norm Baldwin (DPW), Susan Molzon (DPW)
 - Joined by Eleni Churchill from the CCRPC
 - DPW requests the TEUC recommend to the City Council to advance the preliminary engineering phase of the project using 80% Federal, 10% State, and 10% City funds up to \$20M.
 - After some advocacy, the City now has a commitment from VTrans to move forward with preliminary engineering in FY'22 pending Legislative approval, confirmed in a November 10, 2020 VTrans letter to Director Spencer.
 - The City's 10% contribution on a \$20M project would be \$2M.
 - Purpose of project is to support economic development in the area, improve livability, enhance travel connectivity, and improve connections to Burlington Railyard.
 - Prior to incurring any costs associated with project, DPW staff will return to City Council to seek authorization to enter a Cooperative Agreement with VTrans that will outline financial obligations and responsibilities of each party. Timeline: Spring or Summer 2021. After RFP, plan to award design consultant contract Fall 2021.
 - Key component to preliminary engineering phase is completing the Federal environmental permitting process in compliance with NEPA. This process will select a preferred alternative based on evaluation of environmental, social and economic effects.
 - Councilor Discussion
 - Councilor Paulino: Does all of this work bring us back to where we were with project pre COVID-19?
 - Director Spencer: This is a continued discussion we have been having with VTrans prior to COVID, but yes, the federal process will have us reviewing the various alternatives in the NEPA process.
 - Councilor Stromberg: What is the timeframe for the \$2M to the City? Project timeline?
 - Norm Baldwin: \$2M commitment is over the life of the project. Total project timeline could take 5-10 years but hopefully 3-5 years.
 - Councilor Paulino: Excited to move forward with this project.
 - Director Spencer: As we get further into the project we will continue to keep the Council updated. Project is a high priority for the City and hopes to advance the project expeditiously.
 - Councilor Paulino: Are we getting a good deal?
 - Norm Baldwin: 10% is a good match. Gave overview of presentation again as Councilor Hanson just arrived.
 - Councilor Hanson: Could you give me an overview of where the funding is coming from for local match?
 - Norm Baldwin: Funding resources within Capital Fund. The draft FY'22 Capital Budget has funds allocated for our 10% match.

- Councilor Paulino moved to support the Railyard Enterprise Project and to recommend to the City Council to advance the preliminary engineering phase.
Seconded by Councilor Stromberg.
All in favor. Passes unanimously.

5. Old North End Connectivity Scoping Study – Final Report

- Nicole Losch (DPW)
- Informational and requires no action from the TEUC. Final report to be shared to City Council.
- DPW solicited assistance from the CCRPC through their Unified Work Program to evaluate and make recommendations to make walking and biking safer in the southwest section of Burlington's Old North End.
- Project is funded by CCRPC and includes preferred alternatives and cost estimates for streets in the Old North End.
- Goal: Provide low stress bike options, modify streetscapes and intersections for pedestrian and bicycle safety, and identify opportunities for water infiltration through green stormwater infrastructure.
- Studied areas include: North Ave. and North St. intersection, North Ave. and Sherman St. intersection, and Park St, Battery St. Pearl St. intersection.
- Public participation supported by meetings and online platforms including Wards 2 and 3 meeting, online survey, and Zoom presentation.
- Both quick-build and long-term projects are recommended, including cost breakdown analysis.
- Priorities and Implementation: Quick-build within 2 years and long-term within 2-10 years. Both recommended alternatives made for all three studied areas.
- Councilor Discussion
Councilor Hanson: Excited for improved bike safety. Interested in knowing more about the diagonal bike crossing path and potential for road diet on battery Street.

6. Director's Update

- Water resources team is preparing an update on the Water Resources rate study. This will be presented to Board of Finance in January.
- The waterfront rail and bike path project continues to go well with extensive coordination between VT Rail System, VTTrans and the City. We are working together to finalize Finance & Maintenance Agreements, a lease and the 2021 construction plans. We will provide an more comprehensive update at an upcoming meeting.
Councilor Stromberg: Asked about the amount of construction activity in 2021 and when the area will be closed.
Director Spencer: DPW will likely be bringing this item to the TEUC in January with more detail.
Councilor Hanson: Excited for Amtrak. Still fall 2021 or spring 2022? Looking to hear more details from DPW.
Director Spencer: That is still our current timeline.

7. Councilor's Update

- No updates from Councilors

8. Next Meeting

- Tuesday, January 25, 2021. 5:30 PM

9. Meeting Adjourn

- Councilor Stromberg moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilor Hanson at 6:31 PM.
All in favor passed unanimously.