



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

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Councilor Mark Barlow, Chair, North District
Councilor Gene Bergman, Ward 2
Councilor Karen Paul, Ward 6

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Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council
Wednesday February 22, 2023 – 5PM

Meeting starts at 5:05PM

–DRAFT MINUTES–

1. Agenda

Councilor Bergman moves to adopt agenda. Seconded by Chair Barlow. All in favor. Passes unanimously.

2. Minutes of [12/19/22](#) and [1/24/23](#)

Councilor Bergman moves to approve minutes. Seconded by Chair Barlow. All in favor. Passes unanimously.

3. Public Forum

Ashley Adams – Regarding McNeil Pannel, support TEUC's plan. Wondering about questions after the item.

Isaac Bissell – Regarding Mcneil. What are annual greenhouse emissions. Need to consider time frame when looking at this. What is relevant time frame for our carbon budget. Next 10 years are important. Bring in experts who are presenting to VT House and Senate. Need there to be a conversation not just presentations.

Chris Gish Ward 5– recognize committees effort looking into airport emissions and biomass and how it relates to Burlington's plans. Will forward biomass recommendations from similar conversations. State wide issue.

Karen Paul Joins at 5:09PM.

4. UPWP - Approval of Project List

- Nicole Losch, representatives of DPW, CEDO, BPRW, BED and City Planning
- Action
- 15 minutes
- [Memorandum](#)

Nicole Losch, DPW Grants Director – Project list available in memo. Action tonight will authorize Depts to advance projects recommended here.

Councilor Gene Bergman – What didn't make it on the list. Would be helpful to know ideas that aren't yet formal.

NL – Will provide list of candidates that didn't make it. There were none we opted to not put forward unless there was a timing issue. Can make sure we include items that didn't make it in future years.

GB – Micro transit and TMAs on N Winooski Ave, is this being worked on?

NL – Not in this year's list of potential projects. I don't think we have a clear home for that kind of work yet. Initial convo needed to see who should take the lead on this within or with partners.

GB – What is work on 127 shared use path?

Sophie Sauve, Parks – Looking at a study comparable to the 2012 study of waterfront bike path to evaluate rehabilitation needs. Fencing and guardrail along road have reoccurring damage. Also looking at connectivity within neighborhoods of existing and potential connections.

Chair Mark Barlow – Questions regarding continuing projects and the local match money.

NL – Money has already been appropriated and will be carried forward for continuing projects. Some capacity delays at RPC pushed projects back so they will be high priority in coming year.

MB – CCRPC sidewalk study?

Dayton Crites, Senior Transportation Planner – Request for matching funds to bring a consultant in to do scoping to have these streets be shovel ready for construction.

Gene Bergman makes motion to support staff's recommended projects under the FY2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and authorize each Department to pursue local match allocation within the FY2024 budget development. Seconded by Chair Barlow. All in favor. Passes unanimously.

Item ends at 5:24PM

5. Bike Share Update

- Julia Ursaki, Dayton Crites
- Information
- 15 minutes
- [Memorandum](#)
- [Attachment](#)

Dayton Crites – Proposing 200 E-Bike System. See Attachment for Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CATMA, intended to ensure City's intentions are met with future contract CATMA is heading. See a memo for key points.

Councilor Gene Bergam – Slow Zones

Rob Goulding – Slow zones disable motor when outside of boundary or bring it down to a certain milage per hour. Restricted speed on greenway to 10 mph in the past to prohibit aggressive biking.

GB – Like the idea but need more details. Miles per hour, definition of areas. Map of slow zone areas.

GB – Discounted pricing – we need to consider bike share and TDM and equity. Employment centers and large residential units all have TDM requirements. Bike share would fill a need. Need to add language about this in MOU. Would like hub at every major new development, relationship with buses so there is a true alternative transportation system. Should aim to get from a residence or business to a bus, park and ride, or mass transit.

Councilor Karen Paul – Details on waterfront and bike share process.

Rob Goulding – We had consulted with businesses and vendors. Rebalancing system to start each day is one result. Have heard from residents about importance of waterfront station so we feel this is needed. Given the new siting of Amtrak, we wanted to look into potential for a second hub. Parks is looking to

work with local vendors to have hubs at the waterfront as well. All in response to local vendors. Ongoing dialog. In past contract it was one hub. With Amtrack this contract has potential for two if needed.

KP – Do not want to further an unfair advantage with bikeshare to local vendors.

RG – Any hub locations would require further approval so there are more opportunities to engage.

GB - Don't find an adequate enforcement provision within Draft MOU. Need more explicit input on CATMA's management.

Cindi White, Parks Director – Parks recently released RFP for a rental location at waterfront. Last year DPW had a lease with North Star Sports for a space down at the waterfront. Working hard with local bike shops.

Rick Sharp – Want to thank everyone for responding well to local concerns. Our Proposal is for 12 E bikes at the foot of College Street that will not be point to point bike share system. Looking to rent the bikes for use to causeway and back. Appreciate opportunity. Have made a lot of progress. Where are Boltz's E bikes now?

RG – We turned them over to CATMA RPC consortium that was managing these. Can follow up with what has happened with these E bikes.

RS – Need to ensure that does not happen again with language in this new contract.

Item closes at 5:50PM

6. GMT Funding

- Clayton Clark
- Information
- 30 minutes

Clayton Clark, New GMT General Manager – Here to give overview of Burlington's contribution to GMT with local assessment, overall GMT budget and Zero Fare.

Burlington's contribution is the highest, 1.8 million for next year, 11% increase from last year. Primary increase is paratransit program, user based which allows for volatility so we are looking to steady this out. Paratransit increase was 45% which contributed to the 11%.

GMT's covid relief funds are ending which is why our board is contemplated collecting fares again to generate \$2 million dollars of revenue. Discussion from legislature whether to continue with zero fare. Legislature does not seem as willing to fund us to go back to fare free for another full year. GMT would like to extend zero fare after July 1 for several reasons, equipment no longer supported so hoping for more time to get new equipment installed. More time for education for payment to public. Concerned with staffing, labor scarcity with drivers and mechanics which causes forced overtime. Down 12 drivers out of 70. We are dropping routes on a regular basis.

Councilor Gene Bergman – What are you saying to legislature regarding sustainable funding and particularly the study. Who is participating in these conversations and who would you like to be there? Who is receptive to seeing this need? Where is administration with this? How do we progress?

CC – Chittenden County is different scale than the rest of the state. Board has been presenting to the State. Provided feedback that H101 bill, providing potentially \$1.2 mil to extend zero fare, is not sustainable for future years. New fare boxes cost \$800k to implement, 90% paid for by federal gov. Hard to commit funding if future of fare isn't certain. Local motion, Sierra club, others arguing for zero fare.

GB – Convene meeting with sympathetic parties including legislators, to plot a path forward. Need to dedicate resources. Representative of this committee could be there. Need to expand service.

Councilor Karen Paul – Hope we continue conversation. Do not want to be losing routes.

Chair Mark Barlow – Please use us as a resource. Engage us here or at council. Is UPWP transportation workforce development project a potential solution for workforce?

Gillian Nanton, Assistant Director, CEDO – There is potential here.

GB – It would be helpful for you to send us thoughts and who and what would be helpful and we could set a special meeting to bring people together to have this conversation.

Item ends at 6:15PM

7. McNeil Symposium Update

- Councilors
- ~~Information~~ Action
- 5 minutes

See attachment:

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/sites/default/files/Agendas/SupportingDocuments/McNeil%20Questions.pdf>

Chair Mark Barlow – Providing an update about how to move forward with this. Plan to come up with questions and then figure out who we would like to answer those questions. Stakeholders would be able to suggest speakers. Structured in a way so that people could present in the context of answering some of these questions and then have some respectful interaction.

Councilor Gene Bergman – Isaac's point regarding time frame that we are looking at for netting, burring and sequestration is important. Appreciate what Chris said about timeframe. I have been very strong supporter of McNeil since it started but need sustainability. My goal is to have respectful conversation. Could be a model for how these conversations happen on larger scale.

Councilor Karen Paul – What is timeframe for meeting? Do we need to have conversation sooner to iron out details?

MB – Special meeting in neutral venue. Not sure on exact dates.

GB – Neutral place like UVM. Ask Burlington Electric Dept (BED) and stakeholders who to invite. There may be budgetary concerns, do not want BED funding. Biggest consideration is having presenters able to speak to what is happening in this region.

MB – Want to get people to weigh in on questions to make sure we have covered everything. There is economics involved in this. Need to have info about rate payers etc.

KP – Thought there was a state wide group that has been working on this. Will follow up to see who it was and what their requests were when they last reached out to Council.

MB – Next step is to finalize and share questions and then think about names and groups to join.

GB – Move that the committee supports a reformulation of questions with input thus far and then we send this to BED and STOPBTBBIOMASS@gmail.com care of Ashley Adams and the VT Climate Council and solicit additional questions or comments.

Seconded by Councilor Paul. All in favor. Passes unanimously.

MB - Will share edited questions more broadly before next meeting.

Ends 6:37PM

8. Director's Report

Director Chapin Spencer not present.

9. Councilors' Update

No updates.

10. Next Meeting 3/28/23 5PM

11. Adjourn

Councilor Barlow moves to adjourn. All in favor. Passes Unanimously.

Meeting ends 7:34PM