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**Chapin Spencer**  
Director of Public Works

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members of the Transportation, Energy, Utilities Committee

**FROM:** Chapin Spencer, Director, Public Works  
Robert Goulding, Public Information & Customer Service Manager, Public Works

**CC:** Cindi Wight, Director, Parks, Recreation & Waterfront  
Julia Ursaki, Technical Services, Public Works  
Laura Wheelock, Technical Services, Public Works  
Sandy Thibault, Executive Director, CATMA  
Joshua Katz, Program Analyst, CATMA  
Bryan Davis, Senior Transportation Planner, CCRPC

**DATE:** December 19, 2022

**RE:** Regional E-Bikeshare Update

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### Update:

A regional bikeshare system continues to be an important policy tool in Chittenden County's transportation portfolio – with the goal of using these systems for purpose driven “last mile” trips like commuting or grocery shopping. While nationwide transit ridership dropped 81% between 2019 and 2020 due to pandemic trends, docked bikeshare declined only 24%. Bloomberg [reports](#) that “bikeshare has almost completely bounced back” from a decline during the pandemic. The industry continues to have potential to help transform the way we get around our communities. At this time, Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association (CATMA) plans on taking a lead coordinating role in pulling interested municipalities and institutional partners back together, issuing an RFP responsive to our needs and hopes to have a new system on the ground by late spring 2023.

### Lessons Learned:

Our original vendors Gotcha and then Bolt showed promise of flexibility, local hiring and responsiveness, but the industry has changed rapidly and unforeseen factors like the pandemic have shown that the young industry faces headwinds as it matures.

- With that in mind, we will be looking for demonstrated operational success, available inventory and flexibility for a new bikeshare system.
- We will continue to coordinate with local recreational vendors (e.g., bike shops, etc) so that they are aware of the RFP, have an opportunity to apply or are made aware of other ways to grow their

footprint inside of Burlington. For instance, there is a contract in place for two local bike shops to rent a DPW facility on the waterfront for rental storage, as well as an adjacent parcel for rental sales. Our colleagues in Parks, Recreation & Waterfront have had other discussions to help facilitate waterfront access for other vendors.

- CATMA has committed that the City's previous priorities will be a part of any exclusive contract with a future bikeshare operator. This includes: geofenced speed and motor restrictions; equity and customer service commitments; waterfront hub management, and data sharing.
- License agreements and further City Council approval will be necessary for any right-of-way spaces; Parks and Church Street Commission approval will be necessary for any parcels on their properties.

### **Moving Forward:**

The DPW Director and DPW Public Information & Customer Service Manager have led the communications with CATMA and the regional bike share team over the past six months given the open positions in the DPW Technical Services' team. Now that the two DPW transportation planning positions will be filled in the coming weeks, Technical Services will be the point of contact again for the City's role in this regional effort in 2023.

It is our understanding that CATMA will be releasing the Request For Proposals (RFP) within the next week or so. The DPW requested this item be on the Transportation, Energy & Utilities Committee (TEUC) agenda before the RFP was released so that the committee members and the community could be briefed and offer feedback.

We look forward to the conversation at the upcoming TEUC meeting. Feel free to reach out in advance with any questions.