



City of Burlington
Department of Public Works
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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 Manager, Public Works
Elizabeth Ross, Transportation Planner, Public Works

DATE: July 26th, 2022

RE: E-Bikeshare Update & Next Steps

Public Works' staff recently learned through CATMA that Bolt was planning on ceasing operations. In consultation with our City partners, we directed our team to remove all bikes in the public right of way, at any parks and on Church Street Marketplace.

There has been no further communication from Bolt despite attempts by CATMA and DPW to reach representatives, including their CEO. Per direction from Burlington's Office of the City Attorney, we have asked Bolt to confirm their operating status and have informed them we are storing their property for 30 days. At that point, we will consider it abandoned which allows us to dispose, auction or donate the equipment.

We are incredibly disappointed given the recent contract amendment our regional partners and us signed with Bolt. We recognize that e-bikes and e-bikeshare are growing, but rapidly evolving industries. Given the public interest in Burlington's e-bike purchase subsidy and the potential for no-cost bikeshare, we would like to seek direction from the TEUC on next steps. Options to consider:

- Authorize DPW to enter into a regional partnership for a short-term e-bikeshare pilot for the remainder of 2022. We would seek this authorization at the August 15th, 2022 City Council meeting.
- Evaluate and include which operating conditions are important to include in any short-term pilots. E.g., speed restrictions, price considerations, location requirements, etc.
- If a pilot is considered successful, implement a public RFP process for a new permanent regional bikeshare system

There has been a lot to learn during these first few years of bikeshare. Given its growth in other communities, we think there is value in moving the next phase of bikeshare forward. We welcome your feedback and questions. In the meantime, do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.