



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: Julia Ursaki, Technical Services, Public Works
Chapin Spencer, Director, Public Works

CC: Dayton Crites, Senior Transportation Planner, Public Works
Cindi Wight, Director, Parks, Recreation & Waterfront
Rob Goulding, Public Information Manager, Public Works

DATE: May 3, 2023

RE: E-Bikeshare Update

Update:

CATMA is in the process of negotiating their contract with Bird. Through their discussions, they have further clarified how the e-bikeshare system will work throughout our service area. In our communication to the TEUC in February 2023, we indicated that “this e-bikeshare system will be a ‘hybrid’ system, resulting in no physical infrastructure build in the right of way and storage controlled by geofenced hubs establishing drop-off and pickup zones.” While this is still generally true, we want to provide additional detail about how the system will work:

- In higher pedestrian areas, such as downtown Burlington, UVM and Champlain College Campuses, and the Waterfront Park, there will be geofenced “nests” where users are required to park the bike
- In other areas throughout Burlington, the bikes will be dockless and not need to be parked in specific nests, with prompts from the Bird App encouraging thoughtful parking locations in the ROW, and fleet managers ensuring proper parking.

This approach is intended to make bike parking more convenient for residents, commuters, and students. While we anticipate there will be an adjustment period for this type of bikeshare system in Burlington, we ultimately believe this is a good way to provide a transportation-oriented bikeshare system that serves our community.

The Department of Public Works is also working with the Burlington Walk Bike Council to explore where additional bike parking would benefit the City, in anticipation of the additional bikes that will be on our streets from this bikeshare system. The launch of this program is still scheduled for spring 2023. Director Spencer and Staff will be available to answer questions during the Director’s Report.