



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

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**Councilor Mark Barlow**, *North District*

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**Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council**

**Tuesday, April 27, 2021 5:00 PM**

**–DRAFT Minutes–**

**Chair Hanson: Call to order at 5:10 PM.**

**1. Agenda**

Councilor Barlow moved to approve agenda. Seconded by Chair Hanson.

All in favor passed unanimously.

**2. Minutes of 3/23/2021**

Chair Hanson moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Councilor Barlow.

All in favor passed unanimously.

**3. Public Forum**

**Gene Bergman** – Supports Municipal consolidated collection, in public interest and discourages monopoly while building jobs and maintaining low cost. Would contribute to City's economic health.

**Tiki Archambeau** – Public Works Commissioner. Supports consolidated collection. Municipal ownership requires resources from DPW but could ensure this is done equitably.

**Cameron Scott** – Starter of No Waste Compost, local household compost hauler. Entire business would be effected. In favor of municipal option. Franchise monopolization possibility is concerning and hidden costs not considered. Knows the operation and management of the business and believes the City can and should take this on. Frustrated that compost was not consolidated ahead of this transition when it now becomes complicated and costly. Private haulers held off with investments due to lack of policy decision.

**4. I-89 Corridor Study Update (See Attachment)**

- Nicole Losch, DPW
- Information

Presenters:

Eleni Churchill – CCRPC Transportation Program Manager. Project Manager for I89 Study.

Jason Charest – CCRPC Senior Transportation Planning Engineer

Charlie Baker – CCRPC Director

**(See slides for presentation)**

**Eleni Churchill** – Ready to make final decisions on improvements that will lead to further study. Genesis of study was from ECOS plan in 2018. Model for 2050 shows issue for I-89 showing gridlock at exits. I-89 study includes all interstate through Chittenden County. Currently between task 4 and 5 with this process. May 19th will have advisory committee and present results to stakeholders. This study will accomplish three things - minor capital improvement, operational, and major capital improvement investments. Major investments would go through NEPA process and use federal funding and be very long term projects.

**Jason Charest:**

- 12B exit would require new bridge, widening, sidewalks, multi-use path, three new signals or roundabouts on 116, northbound ramps would intersect with Tilley Dr and require a signal or roundabout. Black dotted lines show future proposed connections in South Burlington.

- Exit 13 - hybrid option would have U-Turn ramp and new northbound on and off ramp making this a full interchange. Yellow dotted line would be new shared use path over the interstate that could link up with proposed path on Spear St.
- Exit 13 SPD1 – decommission existing eastbound side and move adjacent to westbound side. Would reduce the number of assets - remove two bridges and existing ramps. Would have more direct bike/ped connection than hybrid
- Exit 14 DDI – large consolidation. Clover ramps removed. Same design moving forward at Exit 16. Remove left turns improving safety. Signalized crossing at each intersection for bikes and pedestrians. 14' shared use path through the middle.
- Exit 14 Enhanced clover leaf – improved geometry for safety. Reduced radii for slower speeds. Separates weaving movements from main traffic. Additional northbound lane on ramp.

Full evaluation available on <https://envision89.com/>

**Chair Jack Hanson** – Does input at this meeting help inform the process?

**EC** – public meeting on Thursday and will be accepting comments until May 7<sup>th</sup>. Can comment on website or send email to DPW or CCRPC.

**Charlie Baker** – TEUC can have as much of a role as they choose in this process. Discussion will continue and be significant in the fall when there is more holistic findings.

**Nicole Losch** – No TEUC action tonight. Still time for a TEUC action or comments as needed.

**JH** – advocates that the council weighs in on this.

**Councilor Mark Barlow** – Mentioned between Exit 14 and 15 it was over capacity. Which enhancement would address this?

**EC** – The capacity issues identified were in 2050 with assumptions in model. The interchange does not effect this.

**CB** – The next phase would look into this.

**MB** – Would current potential federal bill funds impact this at all?

**CB** – Funds potentially could be used if we identify improvements, such as sidewalks, bike paths, safety improvements. Bigger investments unlikely.

**JH** – Has concerns to share outside of this meeting.

No public comment.

**CB** – Any groups interested please get in contact.

## 5. Water Resources Rate Study (See Attachment)

- Megan Moir, DPW – Water Resources
- Action

**(See slides for presentation)**

**Megan Moir** – updates since April 14:

- Protect essential water for homeowners
- Under current proposal, not charging commercial customers as much as we could in their volumetric rate (on a cost of service basis). However, establishing class based rates means that the increase cost of service for those customer could, in the future, be recouped in the volumetric rate with the approval of the City Council.
- Lifeline Tier Program changed for triplex and duplex
- FY22 budget has room for rebates for filming of private sewer laterals so homeowners can be aware of condition and plan accordingly. Would give City data for condition and could turn into grant opportunities in the future.
- Conservation Assistance Rebate – up to \$75 per household to help reduce water usage and bill to hopefully bring resident to first tier.
- Fix Fee Waiver – Currently only applies to single family properties. Added the fixed fee for nonprofit, affordable housing, senior, etc. This misses renters. If we provide the waiver to landlords they may

not pass savings on to residents. Multifamily units often share meters which causes problems. Many water utilities have struggled to bridge this gap. DC recently rolled out a program to try to get to this issue. By April 2023 we want to bring options back to the Council for more options we can provide.

**David Fox** – Overtime, low volume customers will be less impacted with future iterations.

**MB** – What is percentage of low tier customers?

**MM** - %16 of residential customers.

**MB** – Per unit usage was less for duplex vs single family home, why?

**MM** – Those numbers come from median. Generally a duplex has two smaller units than single family home

**MB** – Are updates included on website?

**MM** – Will make sure it is posted tonight.

**MB** – Plan addresses affordability and sustainability.

**JH** – What are duplex and triplex rates for owner occupied or rentals?

**MM** – Rates applied to those properties but this will be up to landlord to pass on benefit in most cases.

**JH** – Disparity among low volume customers underscores need to get families enrolled. How will we make sure this happens for those who need it?

**MM** – Working on translations of all of this information. Plan to do another post card and have this direct customers to complete packet fully translated online. Open to suggestion. New program coming with potential funding that will reach renters that are missed with this program.

**JH** – There is a need to get at renters. Outreach so far includes postcards and community groups.

**MM** – FPF, NPAs, and standard outreach, possibility of radio, open to new types of outreach. Tried to keep qualification as low burden as possible. People will have to reapply annually. Seniors just need to show proof of age and it would be clear that it is for those having trouble paying bills while still being welcoming.

**JH** – Is there ongoing metric to monitor?

**MM** – With billing system we will see how many customers qualified for fixed fee and compare it against estimates.

**JH** – Supportive and excited.

**MB** – Moves to recommend that the City Council approve and adopt the 2021 Water Resources Rate Restructuring and Affordability Program Proposal.”

**JH** – Seconds. Motion unanimously passes noting Jane Stromberg is not here.

## **6. Consolidated Collection (See Attachment)**

- Lee Perry, DPW, Maintenance Division Director

- Information

**Lee Perry**– Recap of March meeting regarding consolidated collection. Reworked opt out options. See chart in memo. Looking for recommendation at May meeting to proceed to City Council.

**JH** – Received communication from Damion Gilbert, president of local AFSCME union, who expressed support of municipal option.

**Cameron Scott** – Timeline for when final decisions will be made so the free market can move forward with this and invest accordingly.

**Director Chapin Spencer** – Goal to do initial research and share in advance of TEUC and Public Works Commission in May. At that point it will be City Councils deliberation. Pandemic does raise the question of adequate outreach. Look to have recommendation from TEUC in May and brought to June City Council meeting for their decision.

**JH** – Would need to determine timeline of implementation.

**Director Spencer** – GBB study pointed out that under either model there is significant time between Council decisions and implementation, 18mo – 2 years until implementation

**JH** – Would expect Council to make decision in June or within a month or so. Supports municipal option but wants it to be done properly, implementation does not need to be rushed.

**MB** – Would like to understand impact to local businesses who compost haul, trash haul, etc.

**LP** – No feedback from bigger outfits. When I reached out to compost collectors, a couple gave the idea that they weren't interested in bidding on franchise option if the opportunity arose. No idea of losses currently but could do outreach. Every compost hauler in area was emailed in advance of meeting, not many showed up.

**JH** – Happy that haulers are aware and have opportunity to weigh.

**MB** – Business stakeholders need to be made aware of potential impacts.

**Cameron Scott** – Has been in contact with haulers in regards to this and happy to provide info if needed.

**Director Spencer** – Will have one more big push for public input

**JH** – 7:07 closed item

### **7. Director's Report**

**CS** – Construction season underway. Touring NPAs in coming months with work overviews. Shelburne St Roundabout under construction this season for next two years, more info online. Parks working with waterfront businesses regarding bike path relocation and detour surrounding rail project. Bike share is about to be expanded within the next week – fleet doubled and all electric. Senior engineer Susan Molzon is leaving the City.

**JH** - Closes item 7:10

### **8. Councilors' Update**

**MB** – Unused property at the end of Van Patten that constituents wanted to use. Part of Route 127 construction. Neighborhood residents want to use it as small park space.

**CS** – Effort largely led by Parks, no recent update from them. Looking at cost to move fence and maintenance. DPW is looking at operation and maintenance agreement from Limited Access Highway.

**CS**- One item that we would like to bring to the council is an update on the new streets surrounding CPB, at Pine and St Paul. Aim for full council meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**JH** – Update on Winooski Ave and Colchester Ave improvements?

**CS** – Spring painting line work is mid-May after clean sweep to reinstall long line markings in City. Looking at bike enhancements – N Champlain St two-way bike facility. Shared use path on Mansfield Ave. Parking management plan on N Winooski Ave is underway and looking to be done mid-summer. Will check back with update. Colchester ave is now set for May to go to TEUC and will confirm it goes to Public Works Commission as well.

**JH** - Closes item at 7:19

### **9. 2021 Committee Goals**

**JH** – Typical monthly meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. Propose adding up to one special meeting a month on specific topics that currently aren't discussed, for example residential solar. Special meetings then roll into regular meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. Special meetings informational only ('hearings' as done in state house), no decisions. Would make it easier on staff.

**MB** - Supportive of idea. Special meetings would be topical and as needed to collect input to bring back to full TEUC to process.

**JH** – Issues in mind for special meeting: residential rooftop solar, pedestrian safety, CPW, Railyard enterprise, GMT issues, Rail service between south end and downtown (station near HULA), Plan BTW, Walk Bike Issues, item designated in council resolution –ending City's investments in fossil fuel. TEUC to see how money divested gets invested locally.

**MB** – Bus transportation issues in the far corners of the NNE. Generally getting busses into less served areas of the City.

### **10. Adjourn**

Councilor Barlow moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilor Hanson. All in favor passed unanimously.

Adjourned at 7:35 PM.