



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

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Councilor Jack Hanson, Chair, *East District*
Councilor Mark Barlow, *North District*
Councilor Eugene Bergman, *Ward 2*

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Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council

Tuesday, July 26, 2022 – 5PM

–DRAFT MINUTES–

Call to order by Chair Jack Hanson at 5:03PM

1. Agenda

Councilor Bergman moved to approve agenda. Seconded by Councilor Barlow All in favor passed unanimously.

2. Minutes of 6/21/22

Councilor Bergman moved to approve minutes. Seconded by Councilor Barlow. All in favor passed unanimously.

3. Public Forum

No public comment. Closes at 5:03PM

4. GMT Strategic Planning (moved to top of agenda to accommodate staff schedules)

- Chapin Spencer, Jon Moore, Charlie Baker, Tom Derenthal, Jamie Smith
- Information

Councilor Bergman – Begin conversation regarding alignment of City’s climate change and transportation goals with work from City Reps. Net Zero Energy Road Map passed in 2019, talks about paradigm shift that needs to happen.

Chair Hanson – CC has taken a stand and supported fair free transit and expansion of transit. Looking to find better ways to coordinate with specific end goal in mind.

Director Spencer – GMT Board recognized we want to expand services and be more sustainable and reliable. Regional transit financing studies have been done for decades and have not moved forward.

Jon Moore – Presents

Charlie Baker – Discusses how communities can benefit holistically from transit. Will look into GMT state wide funding discussions at upcoming CATMA meeting.

Tom Derenthal – Significant financial pressure moving past FY24 shortcomings. Budget does not allow flexibility or investing.

Jon Moore – 1.5 million projected need in FY25 – even after factoring in the reintroduction of fares. FY24 we are looking to minimize service cuts at best.

Max Schindler – CCRPC alternate. Supports coalition building, fare free service, and mass transit expansion.

Jon Moore – For FY24 we will assume we will be charging fares because we are unsure of funding we will receive to compensate.

Chair Hanson – Budget shortcomings can change if we change the status quo. Need to work now to identify new money for FY24

Councilor Barlow – Questions on FY23 ridership projections and funding shortcuts. Covid Projections, are they returning to 'normal'. Masks required? How do we lobby early to the state?

Jon Moore – Ridership is still unpredictable. Masks encouraged. GMT lobbies early. VPTA has a lobbyist contracted for this purpose. Annual meeting for VPTA is tomorrow and we will talk about this state wide funding perspective.

Councilor Bergman – Starting tomorrow at VPTA we should be pushing for something big to present at the CATMA meeting. Report back after meeting tomorrow so we can begin to build this coalition. There should be a November meeting with legislators. Try to get a caucus. Transportation is number one emissions generator in Vermont.

Jon Moore – Status quo is a problem. Coalition building, advancing transit financing study is best shot at growing and meeting demand. Will provide update on tomorrow's VPTA meeting. Each regional planning agency could build their own coalition to then come together for the state.

Chair Hanson – Need fundraising plan and who we would go to and how we could raise money.

Jon Moore – We are looking at ways of creating public private partnerships. CATMA is one partner who is invested and we will model this agreement with other businesses.

Chapin Spencer – After years of great work, Jon Moore is leaving GMT. As a result, the Board will be focused on finding a replacement over the coming months.

Chair Hanson – Amtrak service starts Friday. Are you making changes to make connection?

Jon Moore – Not immediately. Waiting 6 months to see how train preforms and what time works best.

Chair Hanson – Asked about real time signage and tracking at the Downtown Transit Center.

Jon Moore – Previous vendor could not support this but current vendor can.

Jamie Smith – They are currently part way there with some real time signage.

Chair Hanson – Continue conversation at next meeting.

Closes item at 6:19

5. Bike Share Update

- Rob Goulding
- Information

See memo.

Chapin Spencer – Staff has worked well with other partners to explore putting together a pilot for the rest of the year but it would be a heavy lift. Need time to work with stakeholders such as the local bike shops. Would recommend we work with community and plan for 2023 but open to hearing committee members' thoughts.

Councilor Bergman – The bike shops weighed in and were skeptical. Have there been conversations with them about a local consortium they could be involved in, even if on design front?

Chapin Spencer – Previously had conversations but not since recent Bolt news. If we hold until 2023 we could better work with local community.

Rob Goulding – Worked closely with local shops to understand concerns and have worked with them on expanding bike rentals on the waterfront.

Councilor Barlow – Questions about Bolt equipment, is City in possession of everything?

Rob Goulding – We are in possession of any bike left in the City ROW that we have seen. We have vast majority that were still in operation in Chittenden County.

Councilor Barlow – What will happen to all the equipment?

Chapin Spencer – Usually we auction but could consider some sort of repurposing. Maybe some entity could give them new life in the area.

Councilor Barlow – Is there any City financial liability from this right now?

Rob Goulding – Some resources gathering equipment and staff time. Believe Contract language removes liability from our half, can talk to attorney to confirm.

Chair Hanson – Was anything spelled out in the contract to plan for this?

Rob Goulding – Unsure. We want to evaluate best use for these bikes at the end of these 30 days.

Chair Hanson – What are next steps? My interest is to patch something in, in the meantime to not lose critical time with summer months and colleges coming back. Less robust process because this is a short-term pilot and circumstantial. Years of input from TEUC so you have the background of where council stands on this.

Councilor Bergman – Curious as to how realistic this is?

Jack Hanson – Authorizing, not mandating. Showing partners if we want to make this happen, the City is on board. If there is an entity that is ready to roll then we should be open to that to fill need and get a pilot that can inform longer term solution.

Chapin Spencer – Direction of giving us the option to move forward if possible is friendly. We have communicated with three vendors to explore a pilot option.

Councilor Barlow – Supportive of, as soon as reasonably possible, replacing bikeshare. Wondering if we have been in contact with other communities that were left by Bolt to see what their ideas are?

Rob Goulding – CATMA and CCRPC have helped with this coordination. Have been in contact with four communities that have recently been left by Bolt.

Item closes at 6:45 PM.

6. Long-Term Control Plan Presentation

- Jenna Olson
- Information

See presentation.

Councilor Bergman – Budget Council passed has all this work included? Financing?

Jenna Olson – FY23 budget passed accounts for what is currently under way and short term. We are aggressively perusing state level financing.

Chapin Spencer – This is historic time with federal funds to act now.

Jenna Olson – Green infrastructure systems in south end and those going in the ONE were funded by \$1 mill grant at the end of 2018. Match free dollars from the state.

Councilor Barlow – Storage tank at Calahan. Impacts to programming?

Jenna Olson – We are working very closely with Parks to continue to work to minimize disruptions. There will be some impacts with the scale of project. Timing with Parkway to minimize construction and traffic impacts. We have plenty of time to plan and be deliberate and give adequate notice.

Councilor Bergman - When are you looking to contact users of two fields? Suspect the fields are scheduled a year out.

Jenna Olson – Still in preliminary design. Suspect more directed outreach will come when we are close to 90% design and we have some construction phase plans in mind. Providing as much notice as possible.

Item closes at 7:12PM

7. Committee Mission Statement

- Jack Hanson
- Action

The Transportation, Energy, and Utilities Committee studies and makes recommendations to the City Council on issues concerning all modes of transportation, and interrelated development issues; ~~energy plans, rates, and other issues;~~ issues related to energy and the City's Net Zero Energy Roadmap, and utility matters regarding, but not limited to, electric, water, sewer, and telecommunications.

Closes at 7:20PM

8. Director's Report

Chapin Spencer - Looking at long term Water Resources capital needs. Our wastewater plants have not had substantial capital work since the mid-90s. Significant needs at all plants. Planning to come to August Council meeting to request authorization to apply for State Revolving Funds to pay for Preliminary Engineering. Estimated price is ~\$1.2 million for the preliminary engineering. State revolving funds are available and favorable for this review and upgrade of wastewater treatment facilities. REP – Have gotten close to refining three alternatives. Will meet again with stakeholders in next three weeks and then have public meeting to inform a preferred alternative.

Councilor Barlow – Question about LTCP and funding.

Chapin Spencer – We are taking a broad look at our upcoming needs holistically. Will come to you with a good sense of what all these investments will require.

Bergman – Would like to know impact on rates.

9. Councilors' Update

Councilor Bergman – N Winooski Bike Lane issues going in August to NPA?

Chapin – NPA reached out and asked us to present. There were questions about if we would go in August or September. We have been reaching out to try to get a meeting with BHA and update from CHC. We want to come when there is substantial news. TBD on date.

10. Next Meeting 8/23/22

Front Conference Room not available. GMT potential location. Councilor Bergman remote.

11. Adjourn

Councilor Bergman motions to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Barlow. Passes unanimously. Meeting ends 7:30PM