



**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 Gene Bergman**, *Ward 2*

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

**Tuesday, August 23, 2022, 5PM**

**–MINUTES–**

**Meeting called to order by Chair Jack Hanson at 5:03PM**

**1. Agenda**

Councilor Bergman moved to amend and adjust the order of the deliberative items to switch GMT and REP and approve agenda as posted with the items switched. Seconded by Councilor Barlow. All in favor, passed unanimously.

**2. Minutes of 7/26/22**

Councilor Bergman moved to approve minutes. Councilor Bergman requests when there is a reference to presentations add a link. Seconded by Councilor Barlow. All in favor, passed unanimously.

**3. Public Forum**

No public comment. Closes at 5:05PM

**4. GMT Strategic Planning**

- Chapin Spencer, Jon Moore
- Information

Director Chapin Spencer – Board discussing regional funding if we wish to expand services. Will need to happen in advance of next legislative session.

Jon Moore – Timing with transitional activity at GMT is not great. Other organizations have expressed interest in this study, CATMA, T4VT Coalition, VT Public Transportation Association. Proposed VPTA take lead legislatively with this study. GMT still an active role. Need state wide support.

Councilor Gene Bergman – Would like to hear more about CATMA conference and the state wide group.

JM – CATMA conference, Stephen Falbel - author of CCRPC study - will present study to provide info to larger stakeholder group. Think there will need to be a committee that comes out of that conference to push this forward. State wide association meeting discussed all transit operations in VT experiencing similar issues to GMT with the lack of local match impacting service operations.

Chair Jack Hanson – What is transition timeline for general manager position at GMT?

JM – Leaving end of October. Interim hire then permanent. Within next 30 days likely an interim person. Interim person could apply for permanent position. There will be a separate recruitment. Have yet to post permanent position.

JH – Feels new GM needs to be prepared to expand transit by working with partners throughout state. Is this being incorporated into search process?

JM – Was not a part of interim interviews yesterday. Looking for public sector management experience which is similar idea. Interim will likely be short term so may not be highlighted as much but expect as we

move to permanent procurement it will be high priority. GMT search committee is just finalizing the job posting so will make sure to highlight this study to make it a high priority.

Councilor Mark Barlow – In terms of continuity of revenue, how can City Council be most helpful?

JM – Reaching out to legislators or resolutions.

CS – Municipal partners and all GMT Board members are in support of this mission.

Item closes at 5:28PM

#### **5. Railyard Enterprise Project**

- Olivia Darisse, Corey Mims, Norm Baldwin
- Action

Chapin Spencer – Public meeting with key stakeholders on Sept 7<sup>th</sup>

See Presentation from Corey Mims – posted in supporting documents here under this meeting date:

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CityCouncil/TEUC>

Greg Goyette, Stantec – Significant contaminated soils and property impacts. Alternate 1B most feasible.

Councilor Gene Bergman leaves at 5:41PM

Councilor Mark Barlow – Of three Pine St configurations, do traffic studies indicate what is preferred and do we have ROW for roundabout?

Corey Mims – No, we do not have current ROW.

GG – Traffic study shows all three will significantly divert traffic and decrease traffic heading north on Pine. There is a slight difference, T diverts least amount of traffic, Y diverts most, roundabout in between. Differences in benefits are not significant. All significant benefits.

Olivia Darisse – We have been in contact with most property owners already and they have been briefed and are aware of impact. They have given feedback for operations and impacts.

Chair Jack Hanson – Cost between different options?

CM – \$20 million allocated to project.

GG – Alternative 2 and 5b will cost substantially more due to additional construction, contaminated soil, superfund future mitigation, and ROW taking. In terms of 1b there are unknown costs to consider, ROW taking negotiations, construction, contaminated soil investigations, VT Rail impacts. 1b lowest cost.

CS – Original supplemental scoping, 1b was \$18-22 million depending on type on intersection. Difficult to bring 1b in within \$20 mil project budget.

JH – Where is \$20 mil from and where is funding from if over budget?

CS– Cooperative Agreement with state and federal dollars. Once we get to preferred alternative with better cost estimates we can talk about strategies to get more funds. We are 3 years away from funding.

JH – Multimodal aspect lacking. Especially where there's one 8' shared path. How did we end up here and how can we make it better. If we are building a new road, we need to build it will different transportation system in mind.

CM – We looked to keep ROW wider for uninterrupted bike/ped facilities. With ROW constraints from Historic sites/buildings, Rail, this was all that could fit.

OD – VT Rail wouldn't allow us to move forward with ped/bike facility on west side given their operations.

GG – Have had several conversations with stakeholders to minimize impacts of their properties and there will still be substantial impacts. This roadway will have shared lanes which will be a continuation of what is on Pine St. Shared use path will accommodate cyclists that are more comfortable off the road.

CS – We can discuss stakeholder interests and how we landed here. 8' path is not optimal though within design standards. Can talk through these tradeoffs offline.

JH – How much of \$20 mill is local?

CS – 10%+ non eligible costs like contaminated soils.

MB – Supportive, essential piece of South End construction. Wants to be aware of funding issues.

Item closes at 6:16PM

## **6. Director's Report**

Chapin Spencer -

- Public meeting tonight about East Ave traffic calming.
- N Winooski Ave: Ongoing meetings with businesses regarding parking. Actively working with CATMA. Have draft timeline for deploying \$15k for supporting impacted businesses. See attachment posted in supporting documents here under this meeting date: <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CityCouncil/TEUC> . Mobility and Transportation Innovations grant available to apply for funds that could support TDM efforts if we want to seek additional funding. Thought is to proceed with allocating \$15k first and not let potential grant slow things.

Chair Jack Hanson – Behind on city wide TDM so this is the priority. Don't think we need additional grant specific to N Winooski as we have citywide need.

CS – Will check with legal about approval needs.

JH – Should encourage applicants to come to this meeting to allow for questions. Want to give ideas for low-cost ways TDM. Flier should have 'what is TDM' and some simple ideas. Would love to help.

CS – Will circulate draft flier for input. Help with networking and awareness would be great.

## **7. Councilors' Update**

Chair Jack Hanson – Acknowledges Tony Redington's passing and his active role in this work. Would like to follow up on the idea some community members brought to the council to get his name in the Shelburne St Roundabout.

Chapin – Conversation should start with the Council. City will need to discuss the proper way to recognize his substantive contributions. Will need to see what Council is thinking to move forward.

## **8. Next Meeting 9/27/22**

## **9. Adjourn**

Councilor Barlow motions to adjourn. Seconded by Chair Hanson. Passes unanimously. Meeting ends 6:35PM