



**CITY OF BURLINGTON
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Chapin Spencer
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

MEMORANDUM

To: City Council Transportation, Energy & Utilities Committee
From: Chapin Spencer, Director
CC: Grace Ciffo (CEDO), Norm Baldwin P.E. and Susan Molzon P.E. (DPW), Cindi Wight (Parks)
Re: Waterfront Rail Update
Date: December 12, 2019

This is an update on waterfront rail issues that were discussed at the November 4 City Council and the November 19 Transportation, Energy & Utilities Committee (TEUC) meetings.

Questions for VTrans: Based on November 4 Council input, the Mayor sent a letter dated November 19 to VTrans seeking additional information from the Agency. VTrans replied on December 3 and their correspondence is attached.

Questions for Vermont Rail System: At the November 19 TEUC meeting, City Councilors had a number of questions for Vermont Rail System (VRS) and City staff was asked to invite VRS to the December TEUC meeting. VRS replied that they would be unable to participate, but they provided a detailed correspondence that details their operational needs (see attached).

Vermont Rail Council: The Vermont Rail Council met on December 3 and reviewed and ranked potential Amtrak servicing and storage sites including the new potential site adjacent to the McNeil Generating Station in Burlington's Intervale. The McNeil site was the top ranked site from the Vermont Rail Council members (see attached).

City Input: VTrans has requested the City weigh in with our preference on an Amtrak overnighting and servicing location by the end of 2019 – though there was discussion with VTrans at the November 19 TEUC meeting of potentially asking for a one month extension. My suggestion is that we seek a one month extension and we use the December TEUC meeting to identify whether there are any outstanding questions for VTrans and VRS – and then have the TEUC meet mid-January to discuss taking a position that would be taken up at by the City Council in late January. We are still trying to coordinate a site visit to Rutland to observe the nighttime servicing of the Amtrak train – and are trying to accommodate this around holiday schedules.

Feel free to reach out with any questions.