Resolution Relating to
North Winooski Avenue Parking Management Plan and Bike Lane Installation

RESOLUTION
Sponsor(s): Transportation, Energy, and Utilities Committee
Introduced: ____________________________
Referred to: ____________________________
Action: ____________________________
Date: ____________________________
Signed by Mayor: ____________________________

CITY OF BURLINGTON
In the year Two Thousand Twenty-Two ……………………………………………………………………………………
Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, the City Council’s March 9, 2020 Resolution relating to the Winooski Avenue Transportation Study identified interim improvements for North Winooski Avenue that would advance the Study’s corridor vision; and

WHEREAS, the resolution was informed by the unanimous recommendation of a fourteen-member Project Advisory Committee that met over the course of eighteen months and heard from hundreds of members of the public before making their recommendation to add separate bicycle facilities the length of the corridor; and

WHEREAS, the resolution directed the removal of parking to make way for separated bike facilities in both directions for the entire Winooski Avenue corridor, which the resolution stated would be implemented for South Winooski Avenue in 2020, and North Winooski Avenue in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the interim improvements process laid out in the resolution also included a joint City Council-Stakeholder Committee (Committee) that would review and approve a North Winooski Avenue Parking Management Plan (NWPMP) prior to the installation of dedicated bike lanes in both directions between Pearl Street and Riverside Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the City Council resolved that the NWPMP would identify practical strategies for balancing parking supply and demand north of Pearl Street, with the goal of meeting essential parking needs while freeing up space for bike lanes; and

WHEREAS, the NWPMP study area included all of North Winooski Avenue and the side streets one block from the corridor; and

WHEREAS, parking supply and demand north of Pearl Street was based on pre-pandemic parking counts, direct community feedback through a web-based survey and Committee meetings, and national parking models for site-specific parking demand; and

WHEREAS, essential parking needs were identified as those to access social services, park within one-block for residential parking, loading for businesses, and visitors to businesses; and
WHEREAS, the NWPMP recommended practical strategies to balance on-street parking through time-limited parking regulations, tactics to reduce demand, and off-street opportunities for shared parking; and

WHEREAS, the NWPMP recommended phased implementation to include the section north of Union Street, with the existing southbound bike lane on North Winooski Avenue remain paired with the northbound bike lane on North Union Street; and

WHEREAS, by a vote of 4 to 3 the Committee approved a motion stating that the NWPMP fails to meet essential parking needs for residents, businesses, and service providers; and

WHEREAS, the Committee recommended parking removal be paused while the Department of Public Works (DPW) obtains signed agreements for shared off street parking, improve transit with 15-minute headways and amenities, pilot a bike lane north of Union Street, improve crosswalks and signage with repaving, and present a new NWPMP in collaboration with low-income and immigrant-owned businesses, social service agencies, and tenants; and

WHEREAS, the Committee recommendations conflict with the unanimous recommendations of the Project Advisory Committee and also conflict with the March 9, 2020 City Council Resolution and therefore new guidance is required for the City’s work along North Winooski Avenue;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NWPMP City Council-Stakeholder Committee completed its work and the City Council gratefully acknowledges and thanks the volunteer members of the Committee for their year-long efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City formally request the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) push back the paving schedule of North Winooski Avenue between Union Street and Riverside Avenue until 2023 to allow the community additional time to prepare for the interim improvements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City provide up to $15,000 of seed funding, allocated from the FY’22 City Council Initiatives fund, for businesses and non-profits north of Union Street to implement, expand, or access transportation demand management (TDM) services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DPW request the engagement of the Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association (CATMA) to assist participating businesses and non-profits in developing their TDM services; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council recommend funding be allocated from the Traffic Fund to operate, at a minimum, the Green Mountain Transit City Loop fare-free by July 1, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council request the DPW staff continue to be available at the request of North Winooski businesses and non-profit organizations north of Union Street to further explore off-street parking options; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DPW should advance the implementation of bike lanes in both directions on North Winooski Avenue north of Union Street in coordination with the 2023 VTrans paving project with a target completion of September 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council requests DPW proactively engage stakeholders along North Winooski Avenue north of Union Street, with a particular emphasis on businesses owned by Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, to develop recommended regulatory changes for the remaining on-street parking spaces north of Union Street that best balance the needs of the corridor’s various stakeholders.