

## Burlington Planning Commission

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**To:** Burlington Development Review Board  
**From:** Burlington Planning Commission  
**Date:** May 11, 2023  
**RE:** 2023-2028 Joint Institutional Parking Management Plan

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The Planning Commission has recently completed its review of the 2023-2028 Joint Institutional Parking Management Plan (JIPMP) submitted by Champlain College, University of Vermont and the University of Vermont Medical Center to meet the requirements of Article 8 of the Comprehensive Development Ordinance. During its review, the Commission noted four topics that it recommends the DRB consider in its own review of the JIPMP.

### 1. Margin of Error: UVM Parking Demand

One of the JIPMP's primary tasks is to document existing and anticipated parking demand for each of the institutions. The JIPMP calculates demand using two methodologies: utilization counts and survey data. CATMA and their consultants VHB describe these two methods as providing high- and low-end "bookends" in understanding parking demand. Regarding the survey data that estimates parking demand, the margin of error (MOE) noted in *Table 12: University of Vermont Current Parking Demand* is approximately 21 percent, which is excessively high. For reference, this same demand calculation in the previous JIPMP was just 4 percent. When questioned on this high MOE, CATMA explained that the cause for such a high MOE is an altered survey method as dictated by UVM's Office of Institutional Research and Assessment that resulted in a response rate that is lower than in previous years. While CATMA insists that the actual demand is more consistent with utilization counts and is on the lower end of the "bookends," the Commission recognizes that this is cause for uncertainty in understanding actual parking demand and that the DRB should seek clarity on this issue now and mitigate similar concerns in future JIPMPs.

### 2. JIPMP intent and reduced parking demand

According to the CDO, managing the Institutions' parking impacts on adjacent neighborhoods is a primary intent of the JIPMP. The current JIPMP shows raises concerns that demand may be outstripping supply within the Institutions' campuses. However, the Commission feels strongly that the focus of the JIPMP and related transportation planning should not be on increasing parking supply but reducing demand. To that end, the Commission would like to understand better what a healthy parking surplus would be at each of the institutions.

### 3. Transportation Demand Management and the JIPMP

As Burlington has removed minimum parking requirements and implemented parking maximums, the Commission feels that the intent of the JIPMP as stated in the CDO should be revised to reflect better an evolving transportation planning landscape. Rather than focus on a minimum supply of parking, the JIPMP should focus more on transportation demand management practices (TDM), which are a range of tools that the institutions employ to reduce vehicle miles traveled, decrease reliance on cars (especially single-occupancy vehicles), and encourage active transportation modes. To this end, the Commission feels that future JIPMPs should incorporate more objective data illustrating the impact of existing TDM practices and how those may be improved. Additionally, this goal should consider how the City's ongoing TDM revamp will inform future JIPMPs. Ultimately, these demand-side measurable standards should provide the basis for year-over-year comparisons of planning success.

### 4. Efficiency-based standards

On page 19, the JIPMP states that “the updated ordinance and recommitment to broader transportation demand management at the city scale represent a shift towards efficiency-based standards.” The JIPMP defines efficiency-based standards as the “provision of optimal parking supply in an efficiently managed system.” The definition is circular and it is the Commission’s opinion that a new, non-circular definition should be provided in this and future JIPMPs. Future JIPMPs should also explain the ways that efficiency-based standards inform the methodology, analysis, and conclusions of the report.

Thank you,

Andy Montroll, Chair

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