

November 18, 2019

VTRANS is proposing to separate Burlington from its Lakefront. The most significant corridors to the Lake, down King Street, and down College Streets would be blocked by the expansion of the rail-yard beyond Echo, blocking Union Station, and as well as compromising access to the Ferry.....

As proposed this rail-yard extension, falsely associated with the return of Amtrak, will mean double tracks across King Street continuing all the way with double tracks across College St.. On these tracks the Vermont Railroad is planning throughout the day frequent freight train activity to make up, sort, and bang together its freight cars causing newly mandated railroad street gates to interrupt traffic, inevitably causing backups onto Battery Street as the cars try to get through to the ferry dock, and as cars, people, and the bus try to get down to the Echo Center and Park.

It is even proposed that Amtrak be over-nighted and serviced at Union Station. Such proposed servicing of Amtrak would mean trucks backing off of College Street from the Echo Circle, and on top of this danger to pedestrians, will be a constant threat of contaminating the area with raw sewage and diesel fuel. But this nightmare second track scenario is not the "fait de complete" some would have you believe it is.

Amtrak's Ethan Allen can come to, and leave Union Station on the tracks that are there right now. The Station's loading platform does have to be raised 8 inches, but that is it, that is the "fait de complete" that offers the city a return to passenger rail service without the loss of its lakeshore, its views, its open and safe access. And contrary to what some are telling us - VTRANS will listen to the recommendations of the Burlington City Council.

Your voice matters, and raising it will determine what the landscape on Burlington's waterfront is for the generations to come.

Respectfully submitted-

Rick Moulton

Rick@rickmoulton.com



