

City of Burlington
Clerk Treasurer's Office
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Martha Q. Keenan
Capital & Special Projects Director

Date: August 20, 2021
To: Transportation, Energy and Utility Committee
From: Martha Keenan, Capital & Special Projects Director, Clerk Treasurer's Office
The Capital Committee – Chapin Spencer, Cindi Wight, Norm Baldwin, Sophie Sauve,
Deryk Roach, Brian Pine, Katherine Schad

Subject: Informational - Continuing the Sustainable Infrastructure Plan

REQUEST:

The Capital Committee seeks to provide information and garner support from the Transportation, Energy and Utility Committee for the continuation of the Sustainable Infrastructure Plan and potential request of voters for a General Obligation Bond.

BACKGROUND:

In March 2014 the Mayor presented his goal to create a 10 year Capital Plan by the following Town Meeting Day in 2015. The City created a multi-departmental committee, since named the Capital Committee, to create and understand the Infrastructure Needs of the City of Burlington. In September 2016, the City Council formally accepted the Capital Plan and, among other funding strategies, approved putting a request for \$27,500,000 in General Obligation Bonds to the voters to address the first five years of Capital Reinvestment in the City of Burlington. In November 2016, the voters overwhelmingly approved this request with a 78% vote.

With this support, the City of Burlington has worked hard to address the deferred maintenance of our infrastructure and reinvigorate our City. Together, we have replaced fire trucks, rehabilitated most of the Burlington Greenway, doubled paving and tripled sidewalk production, improved the efficiency and comfort of public buildings and much more. Now is the time to continue the commitment made in September of 2016, update the Capital Plan, and propose a funding strategy that includes another request of the voters for investment in the City's infrastructure.

As in 2016 the current need surpasses the available funding, however, continuing a balanced reinvestment in all of our assets will allow the City of Burlington to maintain its initiative and continue creating a vibrant City.

The opportunities today for reinvestment in our infrastructure are greater than any time in this Administration. With the federal American Rescue Plan and the recently passed Infrastructure Bill, the Capital Committee is looking at what assets can be addressed in the various funding areas. These opportunities as well as a General Obligation Bond will allow us to continue the much needed reinvestment in our infrastructure.

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If you have any questions, please contact Martha Keenan at mkeenan@burlingtonvt.gov or 802-557-2988.