



February 19, 2019

TO: Transportation Energy Utilities Committee of City Council

FROM: Nicole Losch, PTP, Senior Planner

RE: Parklet Pilot Program Introduction

Recommendations

No action is requested at this time.

Introduction

The Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Community and Economic Development Office (CEDO) are starting a parklet pilot program this year. A Request for Proposals (RFP) has been released as we seek proposals from a business or group of businesses for the creation of a parklet. Applications with design concepts are due on March 4, 2019 and parklets may be installed from May 1 – October 1 this year.

Parklets are public spaces created from a platform at sidewalk level that extends the pedestrian zone into the parking lane. They will cover one or two parking spaces and include an open, accessible place for people to sit, rest, gather, eat, and socialize. For the pilot, parklets may be designated for use by patrons of a particular establishment or group of businesses during their operating hours and open to the general public during all other hours, or may be open to the public at all hours. Applicants are encouraged to document support from nearby businesses and partner with others to support the design, programming, or outreach that will make the parklet successful.

A team of City staff and community partners will review and score parklet applications to select the proposals that have the most potential for success, the most demonstrated support, and balance the locations of parklets within the Downtown and Old North End. If proposals will impact metered parking, the Commission will be asked to consider parking meter removal for the duration of the pilot program. DPW and CEDO staff will return to the Commission at an upcoming meeting to consider this request.

Piloting parklets for one summer allows the City to gauge the public appetite for creating outdoor seating in place of parking. The pilot program is soliciting proposals for multiple parklet locations (up to 10 parking spaces total), both in and out of the Downtown area. The pilot will help inform the policies that should be in place to have a successful Parklet Program, and we hope that the City, as well as the applicants, will be able to learn from this experience to inform any future Parklet Program that may follow.

More information on the RFP, the design guidance, and examples of parklets can be viewed at <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/rfp>. DPW and CEDO staff will present additional information at the February 2019 TEUC meeting.