



Memo

Date: December 26, 2018

To: Transportation, Energy, and Utilities Committee

From: Nicole Losch, PTP, Senior Planner

Cc: Ian Jakus, Jesse Freedman, Kirsten Merriman-Shapiro, and David White, CEDO; Meagan Tuttle, Planning & Zoning; Nina Safavi and Cindi Wight, BPRW; Laura Wheelock, Ashley Toof, Elizabeth Gohringer, Norm Baldwin, Patrick Mulligan, and Chapin Spencer DPW

Subject: FY2020 Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission's Unified Planning Work Program Projects

Recommended Motion

We respectfully request the Transportation, Energy, and Utilities Committee approve the following motion:

Authorize the Departments of Public Works; Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront; and Community and Economic Development to pursue local match allocation for Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) projects within the FY2020 budget development.

Background

The UPWP is the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission's (CCRPC) annual work program for planning activities. The UPWP is the mechanism to implement the regional strategies outlined in the ECOS Plan (www.ecosproject.com) and also helps the City implement local plans.

The majority of UPWP funding is Federal and is provided by the US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Administration. As such, most funding is available for projects with a transportation nexus, including transportation planning, land use planning, and stormwater planning. UPWP projects are conceptual in nature and funding is for planning assistance only, which excludes the cost of municipal employees, detailed design or engineering, right-of-way acquisition, construction, and capital implementation. Requests for assistance can be for projects or for technical assistance. The UPWP is concurrent with the City's fiscal year.

For FY2020, the CCRPC anticipates having \$800,000 available for project requests. Some of this funding will already be allocated to additional phases of current projects. UPWP projects generally require a 20% local cash match from a non-federal source. Regionally-significant projects usually do not require a cash match. Small transportation projects that can be completed by CCRPC staff usually do not require a cash match, but small non-transportation projects that exceed more than 12-hours of staff time are charged \$50 per hour.

To be considered for assistance, project applications must be submitted by January 18, 2019. The City may submit more than one application but must prioritize all projects in case funding is limited. The CCRPC’s UPWP Committee then determines the selected projects and the allocation of local, state, and federal funds which advance their planning programs. The UPWP development process includes input from the public, stakeholders, interest groups, and CCRPC member communities.

All applications and local match commitments must be presented to and approved by the local governing body. The purpose of this meeting is to inform the community about the project requests, to solicit public comments, and confirm the availability of local matching funds and staff time. In previous years, the Transportation, Energy, and Utility meetings have fulfilled this requirement for the CCRPC.

Additional information on the UPWP can be found on the CCRPC’s website:
<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/commission/annual-work-plan-budget-finances/>

Project Candidates and Local Match Requirements

The City’s UPWP projects are developed by the various departments engaged in community planning: Public Works; Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront; Planning and Zoning; Community and Economic Development; City Arts. In addition to the individual project requests, the City must prioritize all projects to assist the CCRPC as all requests may not be funded due to financial constraints.

Projects are still being considered by each Department and cost estimates are being developed with guidance from the CCRPC. At the time of this memo, the City is considering (listed in no order of priority):

PROJECT		DESCRIPTION	MATCH SOURCE	PRIORITY
Continue FY19 Project	Winooski Avenue Transportation Study	Continue the current planning study to engage the community and identify alternatives for transportation improvements to the Winooski Avenue corridor between Riverside Ave and Howard St	DPW – Transportation	Very high
New Regional Project	Queen City Park Road and Bridge Scoping	With South Burlington, identify improvements for pedestrian safety along the roadway and bridge	n/a	High
Counts & Inventories	Pavement inspections	1/3 of system – recurring annual request	n/a	High
	Pavement inspections in Parks		n/a	High
	Traffic counts and ped/bike counts	Various locations determined by DPW to measure traffic calming impacts, identify baseline data for future projects, and/or establish baseline data	n/a	High

Technical Assistance	Land Use Infill Assessment	Identify opportunities and sites for infill development of parking and/or Accessory Units	TBD	TBD
	Traffic Inventory and GIS map	Inventory and map parking meters, parking spaces, and traffic signal characteristics.	DPW - Traffic	Medium
New Local Projects	Connectivity Across Route 127 and North Avenue	Identify options to connect New North End destinations west of North Avenue (Arms Forest, Rock Point, Burlington Greenway) with points to the east. Consider access to the "bridge to nowhere" across Route 127 at Ethan Allen Park and alignment and materials for the pedestrian bridge across the Intervale to Riverside Avenue.	BPRW and Wildways Coalition	High
	Sidewalk Gap Analysis	Identify street characteristics and constraints on streets without sidewalks. Apply prioritization system developed for sidewalk maintenance program. Combine these assessments to develop a prioritized list for new sidewalk construction.	DPW – Street & Sidewalk Capital	High
	Green Streets Opportunity Map	Continue the work of the Stormwater Integrated Planning effort. Overlay soils maps, potential transportation projects, and street characteristics to identify opportunities for stormwater treatments and improvements.	DPW – Stormwater	High
	Lake Street Drainage and Sidewalk	Prepare for paving after 2020. Identify ways to improve drainage on Lake Street and connect the Lake Street extension sidewalk to Depot Street	DPW – Stormwater and Street & Sidewalk Capital	Very High
	Battery Park / Old North End Greenway / Lakeview Terrace Greenway Connectivity	Identify routes and options to connect the Battery Park path with North Avenue and the Neighborhood Greenways to the north and east.	DPW – Transportation BPRW – Parks	High
	Colchester Avenue Protected Bike Lanes and East Avenue Intersection Scoping	As recommended in the 2011 Colchester Avenue Corridor Study and the 2017 planBTV Walk Bike, identify options to improve the intersection of Colchester Ave / East Ave and add protected bike lanes on Colchester Avenue.	DPW – Transportation	Medium (due to staff capacity with other projects)