



City of Burlington
Department of Public Works

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Memo

Date: November 24, 2020

To: Transportation, Energy, and Utilities Committee (TEUC)

From: Phillip Peterson, Associate Public Works Engineer *PCP* 11.24.20

CC: Chapin Spencer, Director of Public Works
Norm Baldwin, P.E., City Engineer/Asst. Director – Technical Services
Laura Wheelock P.E., Senior Public Works Engineer

Subject: University Place Street Improvements Preferred Alternative

Recommendations to the TEUC:

The Department of Public Works respectfully requests that the Transportation, Energy, and Utilities Committee (TEUC) approve the following motion:

To recommend to the City Council approval of the "Enhanced Design" concept as the preferred alternative to the University Place Conceptual Design phase as outlined in the Agreement between the City of Burlington and University of Vermont and State Agricultural College regarding the Participation in the City's Ten Year Capital Plan.

Background:

The Department of Public Works (DPW) in partnership with the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College (UVM), is working with consultants on developing two conceptual designs for the project area that includes University Place, a City of Burlington accessible public street, and the associated right of way. The Campus Master Plan reads, "University Place is pre-eminent amongst the priority projects for the historic and iconic nature of the buildings involved, its visual prominence, and location at the heart of the campus." University Place is also identified in UVM's Active Transportation Plan UVMoves as a signature project recommendation, specifically stating "University Place Conversion into a multi-modal street." Both UVM and the City are interested in improving safety on the street for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other active transportation users.

The University Place Street Improvements project is broken into three (3) phases; currently we are finishing up Phase One. Phase One – Conceptual Design (30%): The first phase will include two (2) 30% conceptual designs and permitting for University Place. Conceptual design will be in accordance with standards adopted by the City of Burlington as well as planning documents

adopted by both UVM and the City of Burlington. The two concepts will be in two categories; basic and enhanced.

The University Place basic concept would involve basic street reconstruction with minimal changes to the streetscape and curb line. The enhanced concept will include the same reconstruction elements as the basic concept, and could include curb line changes, sidewalk improvements, a crossing plaza, and other enhanced materials. Phase One work started in March of 2020 and is scheduled to conclude in December 2020 with an approved concept.

Public Input:

During Phase One the University Place design team presented the University Place concepts to the TEUC, DPW Commission, the Ward 1/8 Neighborhood Planning Assembly, and held a standalone public meeting (see Attachment-1). During these meetings input was taken from local Burlington businesses, residents, and the broader UVM community. Additionally, the University Place design team collected feedback through an online survey for both concepts (see Attachment-2). The general sentiment from these stakeholder meetings was to have the City and UVM to advance the enhanced concept as the preferred alternative. Reasons included:

- The additional safety enhancements with the enhanced concept are necessary to creating a complete street and inclusive project design.
- There are a range of options (from finishes to phasing) under the enhanced design to manage costs in the short-term.
- Constructing the basic design would make it highly unlikely that comprehensive enhancements would be made in the coming decades as it would necessitate removing of much of the previous investment.

Financial:

Within the Agreement between the City and UVM it outlines parameters around which the street would be reconstructed. If the Basic Design concept was chosen the City would be 100% responsible for construction costs \$360,000. If the Enhanced Design concept is selected the cost sharing is a little more complicated but best summarized as:

The first \$130,000 would come from City funds

The next \$1,000,000 would be a 50/50 split of UVM/City funds

Remaining costs above \$1,130,000 are entirely UVM responsibility

The estimates coming out of the Conceptual Design phase are showing that the Basic Design will cost around \$350,000 to construct, not including engineering or inspection which will bring the total cost closer to \$500,000. This would all be City costs

For the Enhanced Design the costs for design, construction, and inspection are estimated as follows:

Design	\$ 327,000
Construction	\$ 790,000 (without any add alternatives)
Inspection	\$ 60,000
<u>Contingency</u>	<u>\$ 180,000</u>
Total	\$1,357,000

Next Steps:

1. Seek approval for the Enhanced Design concept from Board of Finance and City Council, at the respective December meetings.
2. Seek approval by the UVM Board for the Enhanced Design concept in December.
3. Phase Two – Design and (100%) Construction Documents: The second phase will develop design, engineering and construction documents for University Place. This phase of work will follow Phase One and will take the approved concept and move it through design drawings for bidding in the Fall of 2021.
4. Phase Three – Construction: The third phase will be for construction of the proposed improvements. The current schedule has this work occurring in 2022.

Attachments:

1. University Place Concept Presentation.
 2. University Place Concept Survey.
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