



Memo

Date: January 31, 2020

To: Transportation, Energy, and Utilities Committee

*CC: Chapin Spencer, Director
Norm Baldwin, P.E., Assistant Director – Technical Services / City Engineer*

From: Nicole Losch, PTP, Senior Planner

Subject: Winooski Avenue Transportation Study and Implementation Plan

Recommendation

We respectfully request the Transportation, Energy, and Utilities Committee sponsor the attached Resolution for City Council requesting the Department of Public Works implement the recommendations of the Winooski Avenue Transportation Study and provide bi-annual updates to the TEUC and area Councilors.

Introduction to the Winooski Avenue Transportation Study and Implementation Plan

The Winooski Avenue Transportation Study is a corridor study for complete streets on Winooski Avenue. It considers strategies to develop multimodal improvements that address safety, capacity, and connectivity along this nearly two mile corridor stretching from Riverside Avenue in the Old North End to Howard Street in the South End.

The study was guided by the Project Advisory Committee (PAC), with representatives from City and community entities invested in the corridor. The study was also guided by the community in a series of public meetings, active workshops, stakeholder interviews, and online interactions. With input from the community, the PAC established the vision for the corridor:

- Traveling along and across Winooski Avenue will be **safe, inviting, and convenient** for people of all ages and abilities using any mode of transportation.
- **Walking and bicycling will be viable and enjoyable** ways to travel this corridor. Improvements will encourage active travel and alternatives to personal vehicle use.

- **Businesses along and near Winooski Avenue will flourish** with an activated streetscape and convenient access.
- The **mobility and parking needs will be balanced** for property owners, residents, businesses and the greater transportation system.
- The street can **adapt** to changes to the transportation system and land use

Thirteen alternatives were developed for infrastructure improvements that could mitigate existing deficiencies and address challenges and issues identified by the community. These alternatives were evaluated for their ability to align with the vision of the corridor, including bicycle level of stress, pedestrian quality of service, changes in parking spaces, street trees impacted, change in green belt width, cost, neighborhood access, vehicle operations and safety, and transit quality of service.

The recommended alternative was presented to the PAC in October 2019 and the community in November 2019. It was then refined based on PAC and community input. At their meeting on January 28, 2020, the PAC reached unanimous consensus on the preferred alternative for City Council to consider. This includes interim improvements that are to be completed in 2020, short-term projects that are to be built in 2020 if possible, short-term projects that are to be built in 2021, and longer-term projects that are to be implemented as funding is identified after 2021. The recommended preferred alternative and implementation timeline can be viewed in the draft Winooski Avenue Transportation Study Report, Chapter 6, and described in the draft Resolution.

If the Transportation, Energy & Utilities Committee votes to sponsor the Resolution at its February 4, 2020 meeting, it would be staff's intention to bring the Resolution to the full City Council on February 18, 2020.

Councilors are encouraged to read the draft Winooski Avenue Transportation Study, available on the project website: tiny.cc/WinooskiAveStudy. Please don't hesitate to contact me in advance of the meeting with any questions (nlosch@burlingtonvt.gov).