



Office of Mayor Miro Weinberger

MEMORANDUM

To: City Council
From: Mayor Miro Weinberger
Date: April 10, 2015
Re: Preliminary 10-Year Capital Plan Overview

Since my State of the City address in 2014, one of the Administration's major focus areas has been the creation of a comprehensive 10-Year Capital Plan. This plan is intended to enhance the City's ability to maintain and invest in its public infrastructure – a core responsibility of local government that has an enormous impact on the quality of life and economic development in our City. The plan will bring greater rigor to our decision-making regarding our physical assets, allowing us to: identify areas of under-investment; prioritize and co-ordinate across different types of assets to improve the quality and cost-efficiency of our infrastructure investments; and manage the cumulative cost of our infrastructure so that its impact on taxpayers is predictable and stable.

This has been a major effort involving considerable engagement from almost every department and the commissioning of numerous independent assessments of different elements of our public infrastructure. I appreciate the leadership of CAO Bob Rusten and Capital Projects Manager Martha Keenan on this effort, and excited that we have now reached the stage where we can begin discussing the challenges and solutions ahead with the City Council and City Commissions.

The City Faces an Immediate and Long-Term Public Infrastructure Funding Challenge

As the attached documents make clear, our work to this point has identified an immediate FY16 challenge that will require our focus over the next two and a half months as we complete the budget. Our current projections also show an approximately \$60 million funding shortfall over the next decade simply to maintain our existing infrastructure, and an even larger funding gap if we choose to pursue enhancements.

It is important to understand that while these challenges are substantial, the City has a number of different options available to address them. Together, we must look for efficiencies, consider reducing some infrastructure commitments, and explore for new strategies for funding investments. It is my expectation that we will pursue many different solutions and substantially reduce the projected funding shortfall before the possibility of any new municipal bonding is considered. Given the undue pressures property taxpayers have experienced in recent years, my goal is to meet our responsibilities as good stewards of the public's assets while minimizing property tax increases.

I look forward to reviewing the assumptions behind our revenue and expenses projections and exploring different solutions with the City Council and City Commissions in the months ahead. If we succeed at this collaboration the people of Burlington will enjoy steady improvement to our roads,

sidewalks, and public parks, and buildings over the next decade and future generations will continue to enjoy the outstanding public infrastructure we are so fortunate to have inherited from our predecessors.

Thank you.