

Comments on the South End BTV Plan – Submitted 9/30/15

The main problem with the BTV Plan for the South End is the same as the entire BTV Plan. Citizens have no real input into the decisions. TRUST has been lost.

All laws in America are built on English Common Law. Back in England, with the King, whom was always considered an honorable personage, with His Divine Right to Rule, was deemed to be acting with the best intentions for all his subjects. Of course, the Lords and Ladies did better than the peasants.

The past three decades set the stage for fewer, and fewer people knowing what was going on behind closed doors. Starting in the 1980's, over 30 million has been spent on the "Highway to Nowhere" in the South End, and one does not know what millions have been sunk into planning, design, property acquisition and legal expenses. Hint: How many taxpayer's dollars has the City of Burlington send to McNeil & Company?

Mayor Weinberger recently stated he will no longer support housing in the South End. This was AFTER an Educator spoke at NPA Ward 6 meeting of here being no more space for students at Champlain Elementary School. Why are IMPORTANT FACTS not mentioned in the impressively printed DRAFT for the South End? Two of Burlington Schools are at full enrollment. Details are messy, but necessary. Why not plans for additional needed classrooms.

On the Barge Canal, a bike path, is being planned. It is a Superfund Site. Worst definition of land the EPA has. It is right next to Lake Champlain. A new law nicknamed "Dirty Dirt" was passed late in this past legislative session, which will allow developers to save money processing polluted soil. To say that Burlington is a developers' dream is an understatement of how far the City of Burlington is making citizens and employees bend over.

Regarding the many Brownfields High pollution/Medium pollution risks in Burlington, how many people are aware of the 90 million spent by Burlington Community and Economic Development (CEDO) since the 1980's on city/developer projects? EPA Brownfields monies are now in the Governor Shumlin's Office, under the Agency of Community and Economic Development (ACCD). All of Brownfields' money is hidden now as one of the more than 230 exemptions to the Vermont Public Records Law. WOW.

Without housing planned, more parking lots may be planned. Park and Rides are becoming popular. Since DPW has final say on parking, can they sell these lots to developers, or are they focused only on selling away parking directly in front of people's homes. Are driveways next????

Burlington has great potential. It will realize this potential when it deals directly with the number one problem. It is not a kingdom. There is no divine right on the Mayor's throne. Burlington has lost the trust of the most valuable commodity: The Citizens of Burlington, and by extension the Citizens of Vermont no longer TRUST WHAT THEY ARE TOLD. More than two thirds of the City Finances are hidden from public view. There is an out of state Auditor. We have a redeveloper as Mayor who has placed a for sale sign everywhere in the City of Burlington. Additionally our Governor, has placed for sale signs on Vermont and our two Vermont Senators seem too closely aligned with the largest developer in Vermont.

There will be no TRUST, until the financial records are open, clean and clear to all the people.

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September 28, 2015

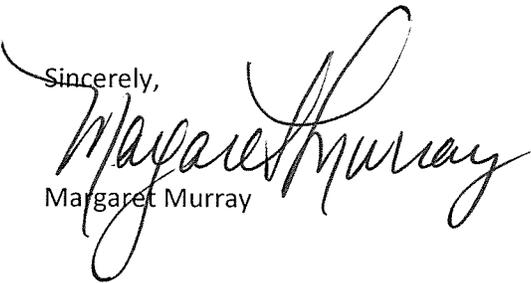
William "Chip" Mason

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Enclosed is a copy of my comments for the draft of BTV South End.

Sincerely,


Margaret Murray