

LOCAL MOTION, BURLINGTON POLICE, AND COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER TO LAUNCH MULTI-MODAL TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE

Collaboration Will Focus on Education & Enforcement of Traffic Laws for All Modes of Transportation

Over the past two years, the Burlington Police, Local Motion, and other partner organizations have collaborated to promote traffic safety across all modes of transportation. As the summer months approach, these partners are renewing their commitment to reduce accidents and enhance safety for pedestrians and bicyclists in the Burlington area.

“While many bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists in our city abide by the rules, some fail to obey traffic signals and markings,” said Chief Mike Schirling of the Burlington Police Department. “This is unpredictable and leads to conflict and accidents.”

Traffic safety enforcement details will focus on all modes of transportation found to be in violation of State traffic laws or City ordinances. The campaign will initially focus on education, and will then shift to enforcement and ticketing and through the summer months.

“Walking and biking are part of what make Burlington a great place to live, work, and visit,” said Jason Van Driesche, Local Motion’s Director of Advocacy and Education. “Everybody needs to do their part to keep the streets safe, especially for the most vulnerable users of our transportation system.”

Through a collaboration with the Burlington Community Justice Center, people who are issued citations will in some cases be able to have their fines reduced by participating in a class on traffic safety and rules of the road. The class will give participants a better understanding of the role they can play in making Burlington’s streets safer for everyone.

“We are committed to working with Local Motion and the community to enhance safety for all users of Burlington’s streets,” said Schirling. “Our number one goal is to keep people from getting hurt.”

There are many important factors in creating safety across multiple modes of transportation. Here are some tips on how to navigate Burlington’s streets safely and legally:

- At **intersections controlled by traffic lights**, the light controls the movement of *all* modes of transportation at the intersection. This means that pedestrians and bicyclists cannot cross against the light.
- At **non-light-controlled intersections**, pedestrians crossing in the crosswalk have the right of way. Bicyclists also must yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.
- **Bicycles or skateboards in the roadway are required to follow all traffic regulations.** In most cases, they must behave exactly as a motor vehicle is required to behave.
- **Bicycles, skateboards and other non-motorized vehicles** are not allowed on the sidewalks of the inner-city fire district (bounded by Pearl Street, South Winooski Avenue, Main Street, and St. Paul Street), within City Hall Park, or upon the streets and

sidewalks within the Church Street Marketplace but are allowed on the sidewalks in other areas of the city. They must yield the right of way to pedestrians if on the sidewalk where permitted.

This initiative is part of the Safe Streets project, a collaborative effort across many community partners to reduce crashes and injuries for bicyclists and pedestrians by promoting safe behaviors on the part of all users of the streets. For more information about the Safe Streets project, visit www.safestreetsVT.org. The Safe Streets project is generously funded by the Vermont Governor's Highway Safety Program.

For more information about traffic safety in Burlington, visit www.bpdvt.org.

Please contact Jason Van Driesche, Local Motion's Director of Advocacy and Education, with questions about this press event at jason@localmotion.org or at 861-2700 x109.