One space within garage to be 15 minute loading only.

Entry gate time-limited parking space

Parking Kiosk

Restricted parking area for Champlain College Use, including CarShareVT

Parking Kiosk
One space within garage to be 15 minute loading only

Parking Kiosk
MEMORANDUM

TO: Miro Weinberger, Mayor
    Burlington City Council

FROM: Tiki Archambeau on behalf of the Public Works Commission

DATE: June 11, 2018

RE: Public Works Commission Annual Report for FY2018

**2017-2018 Year in Review**

This was the first full year of the Department managing a substantially-increased capital project workload under the Sustainable Infrastructure Plan – funded in part by two voter-approved bonds in November 2016. With this increased work and associated disruption, DPW staff and the Commission have worked to enhance communication on this work. Multi-year paving and sidewalk reconstruction lists have been compiled by staff and reviewed by the Commission – and the Department has developed a Construction Portal to make this and other capital project information available to the public.

Common themes emerged regarding all facets of the Public Works Commission’s undertakings.

**Adaptability**

Coming off the Plan BTV Walk/Bike guide, projects like the Old North End Greenway (“The Wiggle”) emerged. This project is important in connecting a west-east bike corridor to accommodate the city’s increasing year-round bicycle traffic. The proposal to remove parking was controversial and a number of Commissioners, residents and City Councilors expressed a desire for staff to conduct additional public engagement prior to Commission action on these types of projects. After additional outreach and multiple meetings, a revised approach emerged that met the project goals while balancing the needs of impacted community stakeholders. Significantly, this project showed a department willing to be flexible despite approval of staff’s initial plan. It also demonstrated an even-handed approach under the heat of controversy. Coming out of this process, a City Council resolution called on the Department to develop public engagement standards that resulted in the Public Engagement Plan.

Other achievements under the adaptability theme include reducing enforcement hours for downtown meters, developing shared taxi stands and truck loading zones in the busy downtown core, revisiting the citing of accessible spaces for practical purposes throughout the city, and temporarily rearranging parking to accommodate the Lower Downtown Capital Project (Maple Street-Pine Street area).
By shifting project solutions to meet unforeseen needs or give voices a fair chance to be heard, the DPW and its Commission has instilled in the community a sense of belonging and shared responsibility in building the city’s infrastructure as a team.

**Routines**
The Commission continues to undertake routine practices that encompasses staff and deliberation time at monthly Commission meetings. This included hearing appeals regarding Inspection Services and Code Enforcement, approving fees for meter encumbrances especially around downtown projects like CityPlace Burlington and nearby development, reviewing the annual Paving and Sidewalk construction program, reviewing the department’s annual Key Initiatives, and voting on requests for service such as parking restrictions or placement of street signs. One off projects are a common practice for the Commission as well. This year included deliberating details around the sale of the Pearl Street public lot, approving Water Revenue Bonds for much needed capital improvements in that Division, and active input on the reconstruction of Cherry and Bank Streets in the downtown core.

As volunteer stewards from the community, each member of the Commission treats routine and semi-routine tasks as mentioned here with the care and deliberation they deserve each month.

**Progress**
As part of the Commission’s policy governance approach to conducting business, the year has been active with forward looking projects and policy discussions. For example, curb cut specifications were highlighted as a need to provide consistent policy direction for property owners, developers and the City itself. This took multiple sessions to conclude as the city looked to state standards and explored how to best adapt those to the city’s needs.

There was the aforementioned Public Engagement Plan to ensure the proper level of community participation depending on the project at hand. A review of Great Streets Standards gave the Commission and community a chance to weigh in on the vision of Burlington’s infrastructure. There was oversight of the enhanced paving program attributed to increased attention on infrastructure issues. This ties into overall Capital improvement plans which regularly requires Commission attention and debriefing.

**Looking Ahead**
As stated, the DPW staff and Public Works Commission has increased efforts to tackle the city’s pressing infrastructure needs. Much more remains to be done and the Commission will remain engaged in these efforts. Additionally, significant attention is expected in the following areas on top of projects already in the pipeline:

1. **Wastewater discharge** – High publicity events of late combined with a recent state law mandating transparency when wastewater discharges above permit thresholds is released into the lake have raised public concerns. There are multiple solutions to explore and implement, and the Commission expects to use its chartered advisory role to help facilitate the discussion.
2. **Residential Parking** – Staff is preparing to bring proposed ordinance changes to the Commission in the next few months that will implement many of the recommendations in the 2015 Residential Parking Management Plan. The Commission will review these proposals and adopt ordinance that will offer clear, balanced and effective management solutions.
3. **Narrow Streets** – The Commission has asked staff to come forward with comprehensive on-street parking recommendations for narrow streets within the City using the recently developed Narrow Streets Policy. The Commission will weigh competing input from stakeholders to make regulatory decisions that balance emergency access, city-wide circulation, and quality of life.
I look forward to presenting our report at an upcoming City Council meeting with Director Chapin Spencer. Don’t hesitate to contact us with any questions.