

Sept 13 2017

TEUC Meeting Comments

I would like to start by acknowledging and thanking the DPW, and Chapin Spencer in particular, for their willingness to listen and consider alternatives during the implementation of the ONE Wiggle. This level of cooperation is greatly appreciated and will prove invaluable as the city moves forward with Implementation of Plan Walk Bike BTV.

The implementation phase of the ONE Wiggle has demonstrated that the Walk Bike BTV Plan needs a proactive effort to develop creative solutions in advance of further implementation to avoid unnecessary community resistance.

To help avoid problems and create an atmosphere of collaboration within the community as the Walk Bike Plan is implemented, I would like to advocate for the creation of an interdepartmental team to focus on developing and implementing strategies for solving parking issues in Burlington's. This team will be comprised of **representatives** from the city's departments and the various **stakeholders** groups within the city (UVM, Champlain College, Property Owners, Business Owners, Landlords, Tenants, etc.). The mission for this group will be to research, brainstorm, and propose strategies for mitigating increased parking pressures in the short term, and for reducing the need for parking within the city in the long term, as Burlington transforms towards a more pedestrian, biking, and environmentally friendly community.

While there are limited **opportunities** to create new parking on our city streets there are many possible options for reducing parking pressures. Rolling out some of these parking strategies in conjunction with the Walk Bike Plan will help prevent heightened tension for the already stressed local residents while creating low stress biking opportunities.

I have a handout with some preliminary solution concepts for this team to consider, and I would like to volunteer my time to assist in this process in any way.

I am sure that a collective effort by the city, residents, and property owners can develop solutions that work as we transition away from a car-centric community. Please make this problem solving a requirement for moving forward with implementation of Walk Bike BTV.

Some preliminary concepts for consideration:

- Prevent long term on street parking in areas with critical parking needs. This could be done by identifying and utilizing underused parking within the city (on street, and in lots like Perkins Pier, North Beach, shopping center lots, etc.) and implementing a program to help individuals who use their vehicles occasionally to utilize those spaces, while implementing a 24 hour parking limit, except for weekends, in the high need areas.
- Identifying high density and low density residential areas and creating resident parking zones that balance the parking loads within the neighborhoods.
- Engage UVM and Champlain College in developing strategies to reduce the parking pressures caused by Student vehicles.
- Create satellite parking areas around the city and develop some transportation option to encourage residents to satellite park.
- Paint parking spaces on N. Union (and other streets where parking is in high demand). We have frequently seen poor parking where one car is in two spaces. This could result in additional parking spaces in the immediate term.
- Investigate strategies used by other municipalities to reduce parking pressure.
- The local responses to Walk Bike BTV have not been in opposition to the establishment of better biking networks, but rather to the hardships that are created in the process and the lack of sensitivity towards those hardships, as well as a lack transparency in the implementation process. Additionally, the lack of community involvement in the specific areas of implementation has led to unnecessary anxiety in the community and has hampered the opportunity for problem solving specific concerns. This will continue to be the case unless a concerted effort is made to develop solutions that can address the very real issue of parking pressures within the city.