



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
CITY COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY & UTILITIES COMMITTEE

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Councilor Maxwell Tracy, Chair, WARD 2
Councilor, Tom Ayres, WARD 7
Councilor William “Chip” Mason, WARD 5

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Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES:

Wednesday, November 12th - 2014 at 4:45 PM

**Burlington Public Works Department – Front Conference Room
645 Pine Street – Burlington, VT**

Members present: Chair, Maxwell Tracy (TEUC)
 Tom Ayres (TEUC)
 Chip Mason (TEUC)

Others present: Pat Buteau, DPW
 Guillermo Gomez, DPW
 Nicole Losch, DPW
 Laura Wheelock, DPW

Chair Tracy called the meeting to order at 4:53 pm.

1. Agenda

Chair Tracy moved to approve the agenda with the removal of item # 7. Mr. Lunderville is unable to attend the meeting.

All in favor

2. Public Forum

3. Minutes of 10/08/14

Councilor Ayres moved to approve the minutes from the 10/08/14 TEUC Meeting.

All in favor

4. Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan – UVM Students

UVM students and bike advocates gave a presentation about Bicycle Master Planning.

Students: We are UVM students and bicycle advocates. We support the development of a better bicycle network for the City and equal access to roads. We are here to share some information based on our participation in community events, personal experience and research in what is being done in other cities.

We recently attended a City Council meeting where residents showed up and gave their opinion, mostly supporting the North Avenue Corridor study. Our major takeaway from this meeting was the concern from lack of safety for riding bicycling, and how protected lanes would significantly improve this. There are also safety concerns at intersections. We have personal experience from observing how many vehicles don't look before turning. This has caused many accidents, including a bike-vehicle collision from a friend. And from what we have observed, there is definitely demand for improved bicycle infrastructure in the City.

Some of the improvements that we envision include providing protected bike lanes and bike paths. Bike boxes could be implemented at intersections.

We saw common elements in what has been done in other cities for success:

- Significant citizen outreach.
- Use of multiple funding sources
- Significant data collection efforts
- Applying for grants from multiple government agencies and organizations
- Some cities opted to create networks to connect with adjacent municipalities

There is a vast array of options for funding: FHWA's bike initiative, TIGER grants, EPA sustainable transportation grants.

Ayres: How have other cities gained support for bicycle infrastructure, in particular from opponents?

Students: Framing the issues in terms of safety.

Ayres: Bike safety instruction is key to help with opponents.

Students: Many bike riders feel left out of their say on what happens on roads.

Enforcement is also important. Many municipalities impose fines for not following the rules.

5. Update on Sidewalk Inventory and Pedestrian Improvements – Guillermo Gomez & Laura Wheelock, DPW

Gomez: Sally Swanson Architects (SSA) is the name of the firm that was retained to do the sidewalk inventory for the entire city. Staff members from SSA have been surveying sidewalks in the city for the past few weeks. So far they have completed data collection on the South End, Downtown and the Old North End. A total of 55 miles of sidewalks have been surveyed, as well as features at 363 intersections and 1,214 curb ramps and 182 pedestrian push buttons and crosswalks at signalized intersections. They will be completing data collection in the next couple of weeks. After that there is a significant post processing effort. SSA is on track to have a deliverable for the end of January 2015 for the inventory. After this, work will continue in the development of a Transition Plan for the City, where they will identify the deficiencies in accessibility and will develop a long term plan to correct these deficiencies.

Wheelock: An additional \$50,000 was added to the sidewalk program to hire a contractor to complete short run sidewalk repairs at multiple locations throughout the City. This work was recently completed.

Gomez: With the hard data that we collect with the inventory, we will be able to have the hard data to know the state of our pedestrian infrastructure. We will be able to have a more transparent way to plan our sidewalk projects. Additionally, we will have the data to better identify our funding needs to have a sustainable pedestrian network.

Tracy: Could you tell us about the Mayor's 10-year Capital Plan?

Spencer: We should have a draft of the plan by late November/December for Bob Rusten. This committee should review the plan and guide the final form of the Capital Assessment.

Tracy: This item should be in next month's agenda.

6. Feedback from Parking Changes in Downtown – Pat Buteau, DPW

Buteau: Parking changes came into effect in Downtown Burlington on November 1. We chose not to issue tickets during the first three weeks after implementation of these changes. We have been issuing warnings. Based on the feedback received, people in general are thrilled about the new payment options. Currently, up to 50% of the revenue is being generated by credit cards. There has been also an increase of almost 100% in revenue, although the slower months are coming ahead. We are now on the trial period of the payment kiosks, where payments are made using the license plate number, without the need to go back to the vehicle and putting the ticket on the window.

Mason: Is the holiday shopping season parking program happening?

Buteau: It will happen this year, but we will need to have a conversation about what is going to happen in the future.

Spencer: We will follow the recommendations from the parking study.

Ayres: Have you received any feedback from businesses or restaurants?

Buteau: Haven't heard much. Most restaurants and businesses understand the changes needed and how these changes would benefit them. With the new changes, most employees end up parking outside the downtown core, opening up spaces for customers. We are seeing more turnover. We will develop more statistics. All these changes are part of Phase I. We will be reviewing the price of parking tickets and we will roll out the pay by cell phone option in Phase II.

7. Councilors Updates

Ayers: Can we briefly discuss the formation of the Task Force for the North Avenue Corridor?

Spencer: We are looking at late winter/early spring for the selection and appointment of the Task Force for the North Corridor, so the City Council can appoint this Task Force.

Tracy: One constituents has contacted me regarding the time when the signals start flashing mode and he is having trouble crossing Colchester Avenue (at Mansfield & Prospect)>

Spencer: We can look at the option of having the lights go flashing at a different time to deal with this issue.

8. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM

The next TEUC meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 17th at 4:45 PM