

Resolution Relating to

ADOPTION OF THE GREAT STREETS DESIGN AND
CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS FOR DOWNTOWN
BURLINGTON

RESOLUTION _____

Sponsor(s): TEUC

Introduced: _____

Referred to: _____

Action: _____

Date: _____

Signed by Mayor: _____

CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Eighteen

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, starting with the 1996 Municipal Development Plan that called for street design standards and then the 2011 Transportation and the planBTV Downtown & Waterfront Master Plan, the City has engaged in many years of community planning that confirmed broad agreement for a well-designed, multi-use, multi-modal downtown street network linked to a more vibrant and inviting public realm at the heart of the City; and

WHEREAS, this effort has culminated in the Great Streets Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the *Great Streets Design and Construction Standards* are the part of this Initiative which will ensure that Burlington’s downtown streets are built to endure for decades and reflect Burlington’s values; and

WHEREAS, the Standards have been developed to create a balance among users and uses of the right-of-way, to ensure that all modes of travel are accommodated in a safe and adequate way; and

WHEREAS, the Standards will serve as a defensible set of standards which will ensure a consistent and predictable, minimum level of quality and performance, and will guide the selection of materials and furnishings that will result in unified public streetscapes throughout downtown as projects are constructed over time; and

WHEREAS, the Standards have been developed to reframe the center of downtown by investing in streets that frame City Hall Park and connect downtown to the waterfront; and

WHEREAS, the Standards will assist the City with more efficiently and effectively procuring materials and equipment, maintaining streetscapes, and enhancing the level of comfort and usability of the City’s downtown streets; and

WHEREAS, the Standards do not provide specific designs for each street, but do draw upon recommendations of a variety of adopted plans as well as local, state and federal standards to create a single, comprehensive resource for downtown street design that will not only provide information about street elements which are required, but also those preferences that help implement community-wide goals; and

WHEREAS, the Standards envision minor changes in how the public right-of-way is allocated among street users and functions (e.g. utilities, stormwater, trees) in order to leverage major improvements to safety and accessibility for all users, adequate soil volumes for healthy

trees, and space within the streetscape to manage stormwater runoff which is critical to the health of Lake Champlain and the achievement of the City's stormwater permitting obligations; and

WHEREAS, the Standards make recommendations for minor changes to the line and grade of the road to be considered during project development but do not sanction the changes without City Council approval; and

WHEREAS, these Standards will be used alongside the public engagement plan for projects of various sizes to guide the technical layout, design and placement of elements within the right-of-way based; and

WHEREAS, the Standards are primarily a technical document and over ten different departments of the City have been involved in developing it; and

WHEREAS, the Standards were also presented and received comments through the Great Streets Initiative public process and through the consideration at the Public Works, Parks, and Burlington Electric Commissions; and

WHEREAS, on December 5, 2017 the Parks Commission unanimously approved and adopted the sections of the Great Streets Standards relevant to the planting of trees, the planting and maintenance of Green Belts (area between the curb and the street line on each side of the street not used for a sidewalk), and the arrangement of elements within the sidewalk zone to protect tree health and recommended City Council approval of these sections of the Great Streets Standards; and

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2017 the Public Works Commission unanimously approved and adopted the Great Streets Standards relevant to the parking, operation, and speed of vehicles and pedestrian and vehicular traffic, including the equipment and systems regulating the parking of vehicles, the erection of guideposts, street signs, and street safety devices which are under the jurisdiction and authority of the Public Works Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Commission further recommended the City Council adoption of the Great Streets standards, including those sections relevant to the grade and width of the streets and sidewalks and construction thereof, all of which are under the City Council's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2018 the Burlington Electric Commission recommended the City Council support the section of the Great Streets Standards relevant to the installation of electric utility facilities and decorative street lighting, which has been approved by the Department and the General Manager per the Commission's adopted Street Lighting Policy; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2018, the Transportation Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council approved and recommended adoption of the Great Streets Design and Construction Standards by the City Council; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby approves the adoption of the Great Streets Design and Construction Standards for Downtown Burlington, and particularly adopts those sections related to the grade and width of the streets and sidewalks, and the construction thereof; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council hereby approves of where necessary the individual Commissions and Departments to make periodic updates to these Standards per their individual authorities within the City Charter and resolutions.