

WHEREAS, the city of Burlington possesses the compact patterns of development, the mix of commercial, institutional, and residential uses, and the interconnected street grid that, in older communities like ours, are inherently conducive to travel by foot and by bike; and

WHEREAS, Burlingtonians enjoy walking and biking and do so regularly, as evidenced by Burlington's exceptionally high 20% walking commute mode share and 5.5% bicycling commute mode share as of 2012; and

WHEREAS, Burlington offers infrastructure for walking throughout many parts of the city, but the Department of Public Works has identified a significant gap between the current and desired condition of our sidewalk network; and

WHEREAS, the city of Burlington has a valuable recreational, transportation, and economic asset in the form of the Lakeshore Bike Path, but lacks comparable bicycle infrastructure or a comprehensive bicycle network throughout the rest of the community; and

WHEREAS, Burlington residents strongly desire additional investment in infrastructure for safe and convenient walking and biking, as evidenced by the prominence of walk- and bike-related comments in PlanBTV and other similar initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the City of Burlington has signaled its commitment to reaching a much higher level of walk- and bike-friendliness via the Mayor's leadership of the Go for Gold initiative, which has been meeting since mid-2014 to explore strategies for securing gold-level recognition for Burlington as a Walk- and Bicycle-Friendly Community; and

WHEREAS, PlanBTV identified "Transportation Choice" as one of seven themes that "reflect the character and spirit of the City of Burlington," with major sections of the plan calling for substantial improvements to walkability and bikeability; and

WHEREAS, the City of Burlington's Climate Action Plan notes that half of Burlington's carbon footprint is transportation-related, and that reaching our goals therefore will therefore require a shift in transportation patterns towards less energy-intensive forms of travel such as walking and biking; and

WHEREAS, becoming a highly walkable and bikeable community would enhance health and quality of life for Burlington residents by creating opportunities for daily physical activity as well as improve the functioning of our transportation system by diversifying our options for mobility; and

WHEREAS, walk- and bike-friendliness have emerged in recent years as key economic drivers for cities of all sizes, strengthening the local economy by attracting business investment and skilled workers that have the option to locate anywhere;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council establishes a collaborative public-private Walk-Bike Master Planning Initiative with a vision of rapid transformation of Burlington into the best small city for walking and biking on the East Coast; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the mission of the Walk-Bike Master Planning Initiative is to launch a process of creative and flexible planning and experimentation that honors and acts on the desire held by a strong majority of Burlington's residents for streets that make walking and biking easy and safe for everyone; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Walk-Bike Master Planning Initiative shall be guided by the following principles:

1. Creation of a blueprint for dramatic improvement in conditions for walking and biking citywide through a coordinated series of changes to infrastructure, policies, and programming
2. Adoption of the most innovative approaches and designs from communities worldwide so as to position Burlington for decades of leadership in walk-bike friendliness
3. Establishment of specific targets for increased walking and biking, improved safety, and other key metrics and creates mechanisms for tracking progress over time
4. Inclusion and engagement of all city residents, workers, and businesses in both planning and implementation of improvements
5. Rapid implementation of demonstration projects and pilots as part of the planning process that are coupled with careful performance monitoring and adaptive management so as to maximize the ratio of results to planning; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Working Group shall be established to closely manage the Walk-Bike Master Planning Initiative, that consists of representatives of the following entities:

- The Department of Public Works
- The Department of Planning and Zoning
- The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront
- The Community and Economic Development Office
- Local Motion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a broad-based Advisory Committee shall be established to provide strategic direction, that includes representatives from the following entities:

- An owner, manager, or official of a Burlington-based business, as selected by the Burlington Business Association
- One resident from each of the 8 wards with demonstrated interest and expertise in walking and/or biking, as selected by the city council delegation from each ward
- A representative of the Burlington Walk-Bike Council, as selected by the Council chair
- A representative of the Burlington Police Department, as selected by the Chief of Police
- A Public Works commissioner, as selected by the Chair of the Public Works Commission
- The chair of the Transportation, Energy, and Utilities Committee of the City Council
- A Regional Planning Commission official, as selected by the Executive Director of the CCRPC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Advisory Committee shall vote to elect a Chair and Vice Chair at its first meeting (to be held no later than April 1, 2014; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Advisory Committee shall meet at least quarterly from April 2015 until the completion of the Walk-Bike Master Plan and undertake the following tasks:

- Provide input to the working group on short-term demonstration and pilot projects and review data on performance of such projects
- Provide policy guidance on key issues that arise as part of the development of the Bike Master Plan

- Have members serve as liaisons in outreach and communication efforts, including regular updates to the Neighborhood Planning Assemblies
- Send the Bike Master Plan to the City Council once a majority of the Advisory Committee members vote affirmatively that the plan is ready for adoption; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Burlington Walk-Bike Master Plan will be presented to the City Council for adoption no later than June 2016.