Moving Forward and Plan Implementation

planBTV has involved hundreds of residents, employers, workers, and others who live, work, create, or play in the South End. This plan provides a long-term framework for helping shape the future of the neighborhood, and represents an important step in the City's efforts to update the comprehensive plan, neighborhood by neighborhood.

The plan includes dozens of actions and initiatives– all of which are summarized here, to help us keep track of how we're doing. Some of these elements can happen quickly, or have already begun. Others may take many years to complete and may progress incrementally, in a series of steps. Many elements will require action by the City, or by state and regional agency partners. Others can be advanced by an array of stakeholders– residents, businesses, property owners, institutions, SEABA and others. Because resources like time, capacity and funding aren't infinite, we won't be able to move forward on every initiative at once. But because we have a plan, we can move forward on multiple fronts, in multiple phases, and still all be headed toward the same end goal: strengthening this neighborhood we all love.

CREATIVE & VIBRANT ECONOMY

STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITY
Advance land use policy changes to preserve and expand the value of the South End to the City.	Evaluate possible changes to the Enterprise Zoning District that will reflect and enhance the experiences created by the built environment and types of activities within and around the district. These changes should serve to: • Better protect existing businesses from incompatible uses • Protect arts and maker enterprises while also encouraging mixed use/infill	**Short Term**
Increase space and rebuild critical infrastructure in order to sustain and recruit investment, jobs, and people to support the South End.	Encourage the redevelopment of under-developed sites to create new opportunities for businesses.	**Ongoing**
	Facilitate the adaptive reuse of existing buildings in ways that keep them available to existing and potential businesses, artists and fledgling entrepreneurs.	**Ongoing**
	Re-build critical infrastructure to facilitate the continued evolution and expansion of businesses, set a high standard for environmental protection, and increase safety for all modes of transportation.	**Mid Term**
	Create new and diverse housing opportunities outside of the Enterprise District to address the demand from the South End's workforce, and create places where employees can live in close proximity to where they work.	**Ongoing**
	Consider the future role of the Shelburne Road corridor in accommodating the City's ongoing needs for transportation, housing, and employment opportunities.	**Short Term**
Preserve the South End as a place where innovation and enterprise can take root and grow.	Prepare an economic development plan/strategy for the South End as part of a city-wide plan/strategy.	**Short Term**
	Expand the economic development toolbox available to support growth.	**Ongoing**
	Communicate the South End's unique character and advantages to potential future companies and enterprises that could locate in the district.	**Ongoing**

ARTS & AFFORDABILITY

STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITY
Enhance collaboration and set up for success.	Prepare an assessment of the economic impact of the arts and identify space/ resource needs.	**Short Term**
	Form a Collaborative Working Group representing a broad array of skills and perspectives to support each other.	**Short Term**
	Continue to support Burlington City Arts (BCA), South End Arts and Business Association (SEABA), and other arts organizations.	**Ongoing**
Explore strategies for preserving and creating affordable artist space.	Evaluate models for preserving/creating affordable artist space.	**Short Term**
	Create zoning and development regulations to help expand the supply of artist space.	**Short Term**
Expand the visibility of the arts district to preserve and enhance its vibrancy.	Continue to incorporate the arts and the story of the neighborhood's history into the physical fabric of the South End.	**Ongoing**
	Communicate the South End's unique character and advantages to potential and future arts and maker enterprises/venues and their visitors/consumers.	**Ongoing**

CONNECTIVITY & MOBILITY

STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITY
Improve on- and off-street walking and biking connections for the full range of users.	Reinforce the target speed of 25 mph for all streets in the South End.	**Short Term**
	Address weak and missing links in the South End sidewalk network.	**Ongoing**
	Develop a City policy on locating and designing mid-block crosswalks.	**Mid Term**
	Continue to expand and enhance bike infrastructure within the South End.	**Ongoing**
	Establish a South End Neighborhood Path—a neighborhood pedestrian and bicycle route linking residential areas to neighborhood parks, schools and other destinations.	**Mid Term**
	Improve walking and biking conditions at and to Champlain School.	**Ongoing**
	Seek opportunities to create new pedestrian and bicycle links to Lake Champlain and the future Barge Canal park.	**Mid Term**
Expand infrastructure to address connectivity, traffic and parking challenges.	Add new street connections.	**Long Term**
	Adopt land use policies that limit block size or perimeter, allowing future development flexibility in how it provides connectivity, but ensuring a well-connected urban street grid.	**Short Term**
	Address key intersections to improve safety and alleviate traffic congestion.	**Short Term**
	Conduct a Shelburne Road corridor study.	**Short Term**
	Explore potential to increase transit frequency and improve service.	**Underway**
	Provide appropriately-located, amenity-rich bus stop areas.	**Ongoing**
	Continue to explore potential for transit-oriented park-and-rides or intercept lots.	**Mid Term**
	Plan for parking.	**Ongoing**
Streets as places to reinforce neighborhood character.	Incorporate stormwater management features into streetscapes.	**Ongoing**
	Continue to incorporate the arts into the physical fabric of the South End.	**Ongoing**

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS & OPEN SPACES

STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITY
Create and enhance neighborhood public spaces.	Establish the Barge Canal park, transforming the Barge Canal Superfund site into a publicly-accessible urban wild—an open space destination for passive recreation uses which celebrates the industrial heritage and educates the community on the ecological sensitivity of the site.	**Long Term**
	Explore potential for a new public waterfront park and expanded waterfront bike path at the Blodgett site.	**Mid Term**
	Create a Linear Arts Park along Pine Street, featuring interactive sculptures, murals, creative use of landscaping and more, both along the street edge and in front of Pine Street buildings.	**Mid Term**
	Incorporate pocket parks, plazas and other open spaces into new developments in the Lakeside Avenue area.	**Long Term**
	Explore the potential for a South End community center providing indoor recreation opportunities and neighborhood gathering spaces, potentially as an addition to the Champlain School.	**Mid Term**
Increase connectivity to neighborhood open spaces.	Create a new entrance to Calahan Park along Pine Street, improving access and opening up the Park's activity on a less-than-exciting stretch of Pine Street.	**Short Term**
	Address weak and missing links in the sidewalk network that connect residents to open spaces.	**Ongoing**
	Seek opportunities to create new ped/bike links from Pine Street to Lake Champlain as part of the Barge Canal park.	**Long Term**

BARGE CANAL & BROWNFIELDS

STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITY
Provide necessary assistance to support redevelopment of key brownfields.	Finalize plans underway for key South End brownfield sites.	**Ongoing**
	Provide technical assistance to owners of brownfield sites.	**Ongoing**
	Pursue federal and state funds for evaluation and remediation of sites.	**Ongoing**
	Complete remediation and begin redevelopment.	**Mid Term**
Continue to advance clean-up and reuse of South End brownfield sites.	Prioritize the reuse of the Barge Canal site and the land around it.	**Long Term**
	Infill development along Industrial Parkway.	**Short Term**
	Identify other priority sites for further studies.	**Ongoing**

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITY
Expand stormwater capacity within the neighborhood.	Plan it as a system.	**Ongoing**
	Rethink the role of parks and open spaces.	**Ongoing**
Reduce neighborhood runoff.	Minimize paved areas, which are the primary source of runoff.	**Mid Term**
	Slow the water down with measures that will disperse runoff rather than concentrate the flows.	**Short Term**
	Flow restoration for Englesby Brook.	**Mid Term**
Improve water quality.	Treat the water to remove phosphorous and other pollutants before it heads to the lake.	**Ongoing**

HOUSING & THE SOUTH END

STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITY
Increase supply and diversity of housing in the South End.	Develop housing outside of the Enterprise Zone, where it's currently allowed by zoning.	**Ongoing**
	Evaluate the appropriateness of zoning of sites adjacent to the Enterprise Zone.	**Short Term**
	Explore partnership opportunities and housing models which will advance the development of affordable and workforce housing in the South End.	**Mid Term**
Continue the conversation.	Continue community discussion regarding housing in the South End.	**Ongoing**
	Monitor the impact that development and policy changes have on the South End and the Enterprise Zone.	**Ongoing**