



PRESS RELEASE – updated 6/22/16

~~June 20, 2016~~ June 22, 2016
Burlington, VT

The Burlington Department of Public Works is pleased to announce that installation of the North Avenue Pilot Project will start on June 22.

The North Avenue Pilot Project involves signal improvements and temporary restriping and intersection changes to enhance safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists along North Avenue between Washington Street and Plattsburg Avenue.

For those who wish to provide input, public comments are welcome throughout the pilot period. Contact DPW via email at: northavepilot@burlingtonvt.gov, or via phone at: 802-863-9094 x3.

The pilot includes:

- The 4-lane segments of North Avenue will be reconfigured to 3 lanes
- The intersections at Shore Road, Ethan Allen Shopping Center, Ethan Allen Parkway, and the VT 127 will be made more pedestrian-friendly and more efficient with new vehicle detection
- The signal at the intersection with VT 127 will be adjusted to increase safety by closing the high-speed northbound ramp and the free-flow westbound right-turn movement
- Bike lanes will be added and existing bike lanes will be improved
- Drain grates will be repaired or replaced with bike-friendly grates
- Parking on North Avenue between Institute Road and VT127 ramps and between Shore Road and Plattsburg Avenue will be swapped with bike lanes

These changes were recommended in the North Avenue Corridor Study as the first phase of a three-phase process for making North Avenue a “Complete Street.”

“Team DPW is working hard to maximize the safety and efficiency of our streets for all users. This pilot offers our community a first-hand opportunity to experience concepts that came from residents during the North Avenue Corridor Study. We will be collecting data, reviewing public input and making adjustments along the way. As a pilot, your feedback will help form our recommendation to the City Council this October as to whether to keep the pilot in place over the winter,” said Chapin Spencer, Director of Public Works.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING INSTALLATION:

June 22-25 (weather dependent):

Machine removal of paint road markings will take several nights. Night work will begin on June 22, no earlier than 7p.m. and will conclude no later than 6 a.m. each morning.

Please expect significant construction noise and construction lights in the work zone. Project noise is expected to be highest the first night.

After grinding occurs, there will be temporary markings in place. Please use caution while driving on North Ave during this time.

Beginning June 27 23 (weather dependent):

Preparation for pavement markings will begin between 9a.m. – 3p.m and pavement markings will be applied between 7p.m. – 6a.m. This work will involve moderate construction noise from paint machines and night lighting.

Please use extra caution while driving on North Ave as everyone adjusts to the new configuration.

We are aware that this work is an inconvenience and we sincerely appreciate your patience and cooperation.

The city hopes that these pilot measures will decrease the number and severity of crashes, calm traffic, reduce speeding, and make North Avenue safer for cars, pedestrians and bicyclists, while still providing efficient traffic flow.

Results from the pilot will determine whether the middle section of North Avenue should ultimately be designed with three or four lanes. This determination is important as it will direct the design of future improvements called for in the corridor study, including signalization, transit stops, crosswalks and bike facilities.

This is a pilot. All the modifications that will be made are reversible. DPW will adjust or remove modifications that are problematic.

HOW TO PROVIDE INPUT:

DPW is committed to actively listening to community members' comments and concerns, and convened a public forum in the New North End on June 7. The forum recording and presentation can be viewed on the [project website \(www.burlingtonvt.gov/dpw/north-avenue-pilot-project\)](http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/dpw/north-avenue-pilot-project).

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DPW will host another public forum in September, and will conduct a public survey in mid-to late-September to gauge resident's opinions regarding the pilot measures. Input will be solicited through printed, online and randomized phone surveys.

DPW will then present data and recommendations to the City Council at their October 17 meeting

The City thanks the North Avenue Task Force members for their time, effort, and commitment to collaborating with the DPW.

For more information, including a timeline and answers to frequently asked questions, please visit the [DPW website \(www.burlingtonvt.gov/dpw/north-avenue-pilot-project\)](http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/dpw/north-avenue-pilot-project), or contact DPW at 802-863-9094 x3 or northavepilot@burlingtonvt.gov.

Media Contact:
Nicole Losch
(802) 865-5833
NLosch@burlingtonvt.gov