



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

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Councilor Mark Barlow, Chair, North District
Councilor Gene Bergman, Ward 2
Councilor Hannah King, Ward 8

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Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council
Tuesday February 27th, 2024 – 4:00PM

DPW Front Conference Room
645 Pine Street, Burlington, VT 05401

–DRAFT MINUTES–

Chair Barlow calls meeting to order at 4:01pm

1. Agenda

Councilor Bergman moves to approve the agenda. Councilor King seconds. All in favor, passes unanimously.

2. Minutes of 1.23.24

Councilor King moves to approve the minutes. Councilor Bergman seconds. All in favor, passes unanimously.

3. Public Forum

Marek Broderick – Discussion of Climate policy moved from City Council agenda related to BED. Supports this item being discussed.

Closes at 4:04PM

4.1 GMT Fare Free Policy Review (Routes 11 and 8)

Clayton Clark (GMT) – GMT does not want to have any fare free routes due to equity considerations, safety concerns from bus operators, and expenses. This includes the College Street shuttle and City Loop. GMT has to fill a \$3 million funding gap. This could potentially result in significant service reductions.

Councilor Gene Bergman – Who has GMT been in contact within the Burlington State House delegation?
CC – Earlier today spoke with the progressive caucus, including Mulvaney-Stanek. Senate Transportation Committee twice and House Transportation Committee. Combined legislative and municipal meeting in mid-March.

GB – City Council Action/Resolution would be very important. This month will have the most impact. Need particulars about fiscal cliff and what GMT needs from the legislature. Would like TEUC to be active in bringing this forward.

CC – Materials for this meeting do not cover fiscal cliff, GMT is working on gathering that information.

Councilor Hannah King - Letter from the teamsters warrants further discussion. HK will reach out directly to teamsters.

GB – Collective action is important too. Perhaps a special TEUC meeting in mid-March for draft proposal. Bring together labor and climate action.

Councilor Mark Barlow – Formalize the ask in a resolution. Need to understand particulars from GMT. What is GMT's schedule for outreach?

CC – Legislative breakfast April 3rd. GMT sending invitations to municipalities and legislatures to walk through fiscal concerns March 25th. Press conference on March 13th.

MB – GMT needs Council action prior to April 3rd. Can TEUC work on this without quorum issues?

GB – May need working meeting of City Councilors interested in mass transit rather than a TEUC initiative. Councilors come together out of committee structure to support public transit.

MB – TUEC can also have a special meeting, even if virtual, to deliberate on a resolution for the City Council.

MB – Why was there the delay in resumption of fares to April 1st?

CC – App is not ready yet to be available for download due to delays in App development.

CC – Organizational assessment showed charter is showing signs of age. Burlington contributes \$1.9 million (51% of urban assessments) but only has 14% of votes on the GMT Board. Thinks there may need to be a charter change to address this in the future.

Item ends 4:28PM

4.2 Shelburne St Roundabout Year 1 Evaluation

Julia Ursaki, DPW

Julia Ursaki gives an overview of roundabout evaluation for year 1. Overall it is performing well. DPW will continue to monitor traffic data and wants to pause on collecting public input unless the traffic data shows an issue.

Councilor Gene Bergman – Has DPW shared this with Councilor Paul? She was very interested in this project and if she has a desire to have a different type of public input, GB would strongly consider this.

JU – will share with Councilor Paul.

Councilor Mark Barlow – Asks technical question about LOS. Is A the best?

JU – yes, however we do not always design for LOS A which would result in overbuilding. LOS E is acceptable for side streets in urban contexts, which the CCRPC proposed as the benchmark for this evaluation plan.

MB – Will this be shared with the full council?

JU – Yes as a communication.

Item ends 4:37PM

4.3 TDM Update

Charles Dillard, OCP

See presentation.

Charles Dillard gives an overview of the Transportation Options Study (TOS). Partners have limited capacity, OCP is looking for funding to provide to partners to improve TDM coordination. Burlington has a more balanced mode split than the rest of the county, as expected since it is the urban center. Survey shows there is significant interest in transit use, bicycling, and walking if these were incentivized. Lower income residents, service and shift workers and, new immigrant communities have biggest challenges getting to work. Helping provide transportation options for workers at manufacturing facilities through programs such as micro transit will be a focus of the TOS.

Councilor Gene Bergman – Let's break down all silos to the greatest extent possible across City departments and partners

CD – Committed to breaking down silos within the City and regionally.

MB – Has questions but needs some additional time to digest this info. Was there any demographic data associated with the public survey?

CD – Some with the City data, but do not have access to this info for the CATMA survey. Difficult to reach those who do not have time to engage. Equity will be a major focus of the TOS. Need to also focus on education.

GB – Will you send this info to the TEUC? Is there an analysis of the current compliance rate with current TDM ordinance?

CD – Will send materials to the TEUC. Will need to work with DPI to understand TDM ordinance compliance in the TOS.

GB – Wants raw data. Number of developments, number of developments subject to TDM, exceptions or variations, and what developers have implemented. Need to track metrics to understand this. Can we have a follow up on this presentation?

MB – Come back when OCP has the final report in May?

CD – Happy to come back to the TEUC. Will have a draft matrix of recommendations in March and could come back then.

Item ends 5:06PM

4.4. Bikeshare Written Update

See attached.

Julia Ursaki gives an overview of Bird's plan to re-launch the week of March 18.

Councilor Gene Bergman – "Duty to Remove" section of operating agreement does not cover parking requirements

JU – There are other provisions in the operating agreement for parking, this was to show provisions in place if Bird were to go under while bikes are still on the streets

GB – Can staff look at the operating agreement and MOU to make any modifications if bike parking issues are not covered?

Chair Mark Barlow – Julia provided MOU and Operating Agreement to Councilor Barlow, who sent it to Councilors Bergman and King.

GB – If there is a need to update it, staff should review and the agreement should be updated.

JU – Operating agreement is between Bird and CATMA, will request they come to a future TEUC meeting

HK – Specifically in my ward, bikeshare bikes were beneficial but there are critical concerns. Interested to see another round of Bird bikes if there is improvement.

MB – Concerns about Bird continuing to operate. Contract automatically renews as written with 90 days notice to cancel. How can we be assured that Bird will continue to operate through solvency?

HK – Agrees. Personally uses car share program. Having consistency is critical since there is a learning curve. Don't want another bikeshare program to be stripped away from the community.

JU – Will request the Bird/CATMA attends TEUC to discuss bankruptcy, how bikeshare will look, and what their general plan is to operate in Burlington

HK – what happens to regional bikeshare if Bird stops operating?

JU – Bird has to remove bikes or provide funds to CATMA to remove bikes. Regional discussion about whether or not CATMA/partners would pursue another bikeshare program.

Item ends 5:19PM

4. Councilor Items

GB – What are future TEUC items?

MB – Airport discussion

GB – Can we have a look at the list so TEUC can understand schedules?

Item ends 5:20PM

5. Next Meeting 3/26/24

At 5pm in the DPW Front Conference Room at 645 Pine Street. Last TEUC meeting of this council.

6. Adjourn

Meeting adjourns 5:21 PM