

Burlington Walk Bike Council (BWBC)

March 6th, 2023 Meeting Notes

The monthly meeting took place 5:30- 7:00 pm via Zoom and at the DPW Office.

In-Person Attendees: Erik Brotz (South End), Nolan Rogers, Gordon Dragoon, Bob Leidy, Julia Ursaki (DPW), Phillip Peterson (DPW), Maddy Suender (DPW), Jak Tiano

Online Attendees: Serrill Flash, Jonathon Weber, Jason Stuffle

1. Introductions, Announcements, Updates and Public Comments

Started with introductions from everyone.

- Julia: Maddy is going to talk about current year sidewalk work, going to hold off that discussion to the Cross Discussion
- Jonathon: Battery Street study public meeting is coming up March 13; Jonathan is BWBC's & Local Motion's representative on the advisory committee
- Bob: He recently took a course on walkability that was sponsored by AARP. They want to do a walk audit on the Winooski Bridge project
 - Julia confirmed that she had a discussion with the old east end coalition
- Nolan: Offering feedback on the committee. Happy that it exists alongside Local Motion.
 - While he is happy with a lot of the biking infrastructure we have, he thinks the bike lanes are a bit overfilled with cars and/or trash.
 - Jonathan reminded us that SeeClickFix exists.
 - Jason confirmed that the sweeping is still occurring and was curious if proactive sweeping was a possibility.
 - The full city Clean Sweep happens in mid-May, Jason thinks it should happen sooner
 - Enter See Click Fix to get lane swept - Colchester Ave Bike Lane Sweeping SCF -
<https://seeclickfix.com/issues/16171779-sweeping-needed>
 - North Union bike path south & north has somewhat poor paving but the reflective bollards were removed and they were definitely better than nothing. Specifically advocated for Jersey barriers.
 - Erik: There were maintenance issues with those bollards
 - Julia: They were taken down before she started, but there were some safety concerns around icing and puddles. They are hoping to pave North Union in the next few years.
 - Phillip: There are some issues with "ponding" and brown water, but this is on the to-do list.
 - Thinks the plan for Main Street is awesome, but thinks more bump-outs should exist in other locations for walkability.
- Jason: When are bird bikes coming back

- Julia: March 18th
- Serrill: Unclear on some elements of the Winooski Bridge project. Specifically what the city council did or did not approve
 - Maddy: They approved specific criteria on the bridge a couple years ago. Some things are set in stone because of that criteria.
 - We didn't have a good takeaway on this sadly, "clear as mud"
 - Jason: Next PAC meeting is on the intersection specifically and not the bridge

2. 2024 Project Updates (30 minutes)

See presentation also posted with these minutes

High-level projects

- 1) Battery Street Scoping
 - a) Creating a multi-modal street
 - b) In the outreach phase currently
- 2) Shelburne/Home Ave Scoping
 - a) Focused on short-term safety improvements
 - b) In the development phase currently
- 3) NNE Sidewalk Scoping
 - a) Study on costs for new sidewalks, scoping study needed
- 4) Waterfront Connectivity
- 5) planBTV Walk Bike Safety Action Plan
 - a) This is what used to be vision 0, but this was changed to focus on meeting the requirements for federal funding opportunities for walk/bike projects
 - b) Kicking off in April
- 6) Main Street Bicycle Scoping (Gap)
 - a) Feasibility and cost to connect Great Streets project to Bike/Ped bridge over 1-89
 - i) Regional Connections
 - b) Awaiting CCRPC project approval

Traffic calming and bike/ped projects

- 1) East Ave
 - a) Raised crosswalks and medians/chicanes
- 2) Ethan Allen Parkway
 - a) School and high speeds and crash history means this will be a priority **next week**
- 3) Old North End Greenway
 - a) Quick build conversion to hard-construction this fiscal year
- 4) RRFB at Pearl & Williams
 - a) New mid-block crosswalk
 - b) RRFB on Pearl/William
 - c) This summer
- 5) Staniford Road

- a) Upgrade speed tables as part of paving
- b) Using template from Birchcliff Parkway
- c) **Jason:** What is the criteria for a speed hump versus a speed table change?
 - i) Julia: They are trying a lot of new things and updating designs
 - ii) Locust St. speed tables were not aggressive enough
 - iii) S. Prospect St speed humps were apparently too aggressive
 - iv) Newer Birchcliff speed tables are as high as S. Prospect but longer so they aren't as jarring

Quick Build / Demos

- 1) Archibald & Intervale
 - a) Curb extensions with paint, bollards, and planters
- 2) North Champlain Street
 - a) Demonstration project of lane removal to prepare for protected bike lane installation
 - b) Still seeking funding for protected bike lane project

Engineering Projects

- 1) Intervale Road Path
 - a) Shared use path
 - b) In the design phase, expected 2026
- 2) Lake Street Path
 - a) Shared Use path connection at the waterfront
 - b) Design phase, construction expected 2026
- 3) Queen City Park Road Path
 - a) Shared use path
 - b) Design phase, construction expected 2027
- 4) Railyard Enterprise Project
- 5) Colchester Riverside Barrett Intersection
 - a) Intersection redesign, happening with Bridge rebuild
 - b) awaiting VTrans project kick-off
- 6) Winooski Bridge
 - a) You know what this is
- 7) Great Streets Bank & Cherry
 - a) Design phase, construction 2026

Active Construction

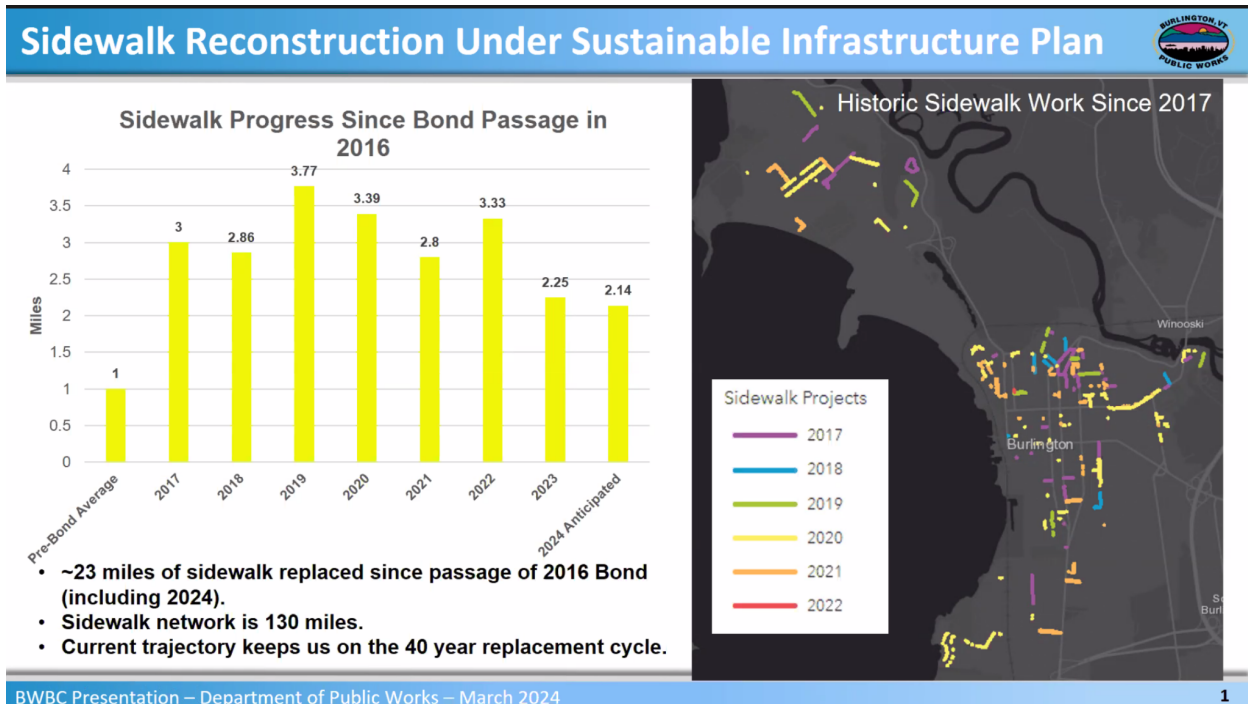
- 1) Main Street Great Streets
 - a) City is seeking grant-funding for corridor to the west
- 2) Champlain Parkway
 - a) Phase 1 is underway, expecting April/May finish

- b) Hoping to get the 2nd phase underway by July
- 3) Rockpoint Bridge
 - a) Rebuilding bridge over the bike path
- 4) CityPlace Public Improvements
 - a) Sidewalk & amenity zone on blocks adjacent to CityPlace Development
- 5) Annual Sidewalk
 - a) North Ave, Shelburne St, and more
- 6) Annual Paving
 - a) North Ave, Staniford Road
- 7) Annual Patching
 - a) Archibald, Cliff, Fairmont, Intervale, Robinson, Woodbury
 - b) Expect the list to grow as the year goes on
- 8) Annual Cracksealing
 - a) Pearl, South Union, Winooski, St Paul, Loomis, Howard, North Ave

Discussions

- 1) Jonathon offered Local Motion's service in installing some of the cones and such
- 2) Serrill was curious as to the completion date of the East Ave project
 - a) Julia confirmed the end date is June 30th
- 3) Serrill: Thinks the signaling needs to be improved at the East Ave & Main St. intersection. He wants more roundabouts in the area
 - a) Julia: They have been talking about a roundabout
- 4) Nolan: When multi-use paths are paved, do they get the same subsurface treatment as roads
 - a) Yes, but it isn't the same size generally.
 - b) If you do it in concrete it'll last 60 years (as opposed to asphalt's 20 years)
 - c) Phillip confirmed that we do have some subsurface issues with a lot of our streets, all new streets they are trying to make sure it lasts a long time (mill & fill is how maintenance is done)
- 5) Jak: What is the criteria for raised crosswalks and where are they?
 - a) Julia: A few on Mansfield, Birchcliff, Locust currently have them, Ethan Allen should have them in the near future. Expect to use more in future
- 6) Gordon: Are bump outs on Staniford viable?
 - a) Phillip: They would be better, but would require additional public process. Upgrading speed tables doesn't need to go back to public comment because just upgrading what's already there.

3. Cross Discussion (30 minutes)



- On roughly a 40 year cycle on side walks
- \$23.8 million 2022 TMD bond allocated up to \$900K each year for the next three years for long-run work
 - \$560K of Street Capital Funds for DPW in house ROW crews to complete ~1 mile
- Cost of work
 - Contractor Concrete Cost: \$150/LF
 - In-House Concrete Cost: \$125/LF
 - More cost efficient to use in-house, but their work is less focused so it gets done slower
- About 2 miles of planned work for this year. Work plan below:

CY24 Sidewalk Work Plan



Street Name	Limits of Work	LF of Sidewalk
North Ave	Industrial – Lakeview Cemetery (east side)	1500
North Ave	Cayouga – Fairmount (east side)	600
Hickock Pl	All, North Side partial	600
Hungerford Terr	Pearl – Buell (east side)	480
Howard St	All	960
Shelburne St	Clymer – Prospect Pkwy (east side)	420
ONE Greenway Hardscaping		

Sidewalk Inventory Scoring

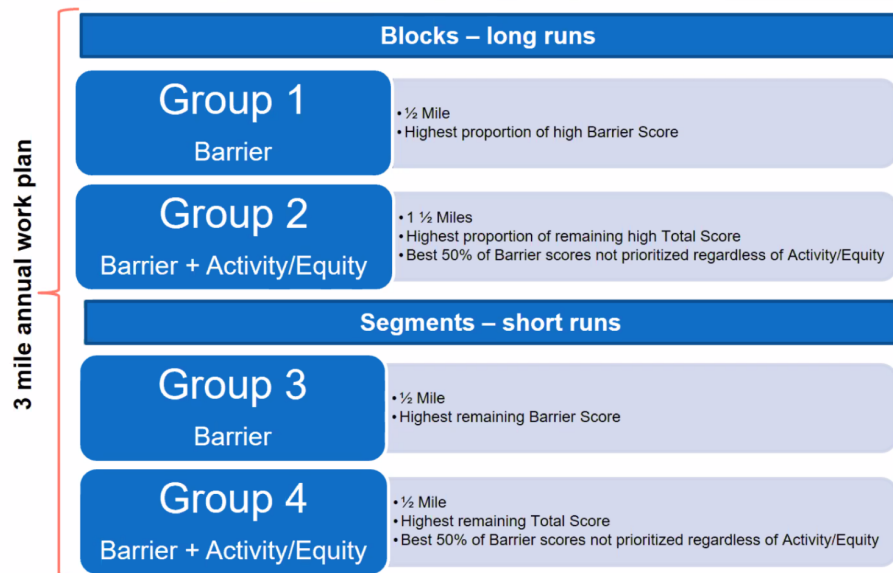
Sidewalk Condition Index = Barrier Score + Activity/Equity Score

Barrier Score = Raw Condition of a Sidewalk Panel

Equity Score is focused on how much sidewalks are used and how necessary those sidewalks are for those that are using them.

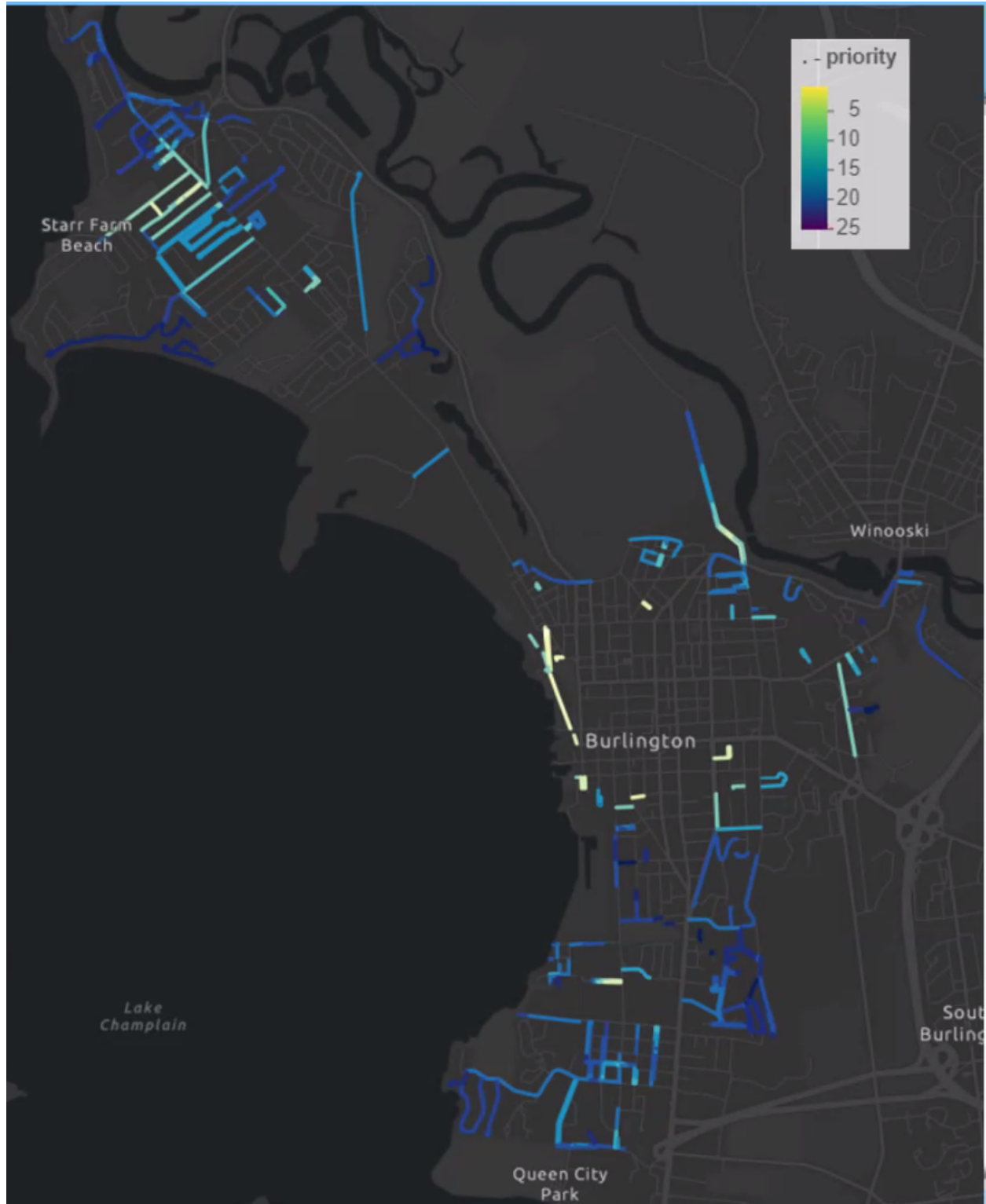
How the work is broken up image below

Sidewalk Work Plan



- Erik asked about why this year we are only hitting 2 miles instead of 3.
 - It's because inflation has dramatically increased cost.
- Bob asked about stonework instead as it's a little better for the economy
 - DPW wasn't aware why it isn't an option, they want to potentially look into it
 - Serrill: Has some anecdotal evidence on stone being cheaper
- Serrill asked about shaving the greenbelt between sidewalk and road to improve drainage
 - Some areas can't be shaved on the greenbelt, notably when they are in the drip zone of trees, but it is standard when possible

New Sidewalk map for 2024, prioritized by activity/equity score (and where there is a sidewalk on only one side of the street)



Jonathon: What happens when the current bond expires? Will we be “caught up” on sidewalks at that point or will we fall behind?

Maddy: Is not part of the high-level funding conversations right now. The short-run program is quite helpful for the city and we will probably still need to find some extra funding.

Next year the bond should expire. It seems that we'll need to find some additional sources of funding.

Nolan: How do we determine what height the sidewalks should be put at?

Maddy: We always want the sidewalk to be above the street level to help with stormwater runoff (and safety)

Bob: Lots of pooling coming down the hill from Shelburne, what are we supposed to do with the water that leeches off the hill?

Maddy: Huge puddle in Edmunds is on the short-runs for this year. Residents can't actively discharge water, it's something we need to deal with using our infrastructure

Guidelines for Pedestrian Crossing Treatments

Maddy - State standards for crosswalks don't work for Burlington, so Burlington created its own

Crosswalk analysis of what is required uses

- Vehicle speed
- Peak hour vehicle volume
- Peak hour pedestrian volume
- Geometry
 - Pedestrian crossing distance
 - Stopping site distance
 - Proximity to other crossings

Discussion

- Erik: What's the timeline on a request coming in to something being updated
 - Depending on timing, the middle of winter is always a bit difficult. Funding can also slow things down.
 - Seems like it's more of a guidance than anything where they try to have X time turnaround
 - Do analysis to determine whether crosswalk is justified, but then often wait for opportunity to do it along with other work in the same area.
- Erik: On SeeClickFix there were some instances where requests were acknowledged, but then radio silence. Thinks that there should be an occasional update so users know what's happening and that they were heard
 - Phillip: They get 1000s of messages so it's really difficult to get back in the way that we and DPW would like
 - Jak: Wonders if progress could be automated, get attached to things
 - They use something called VWorks to tie things to the more public facing SeeClickFix

4. Open Streets BTV 2024 (15 minutes)

- Julia - This hasn't happened since 2019, not sure what the process is. The understanding is that BWBC and Local Motion are involved.
- Erik - Was previously involved, but wasn't the lead. We think that Parks & DPW were leading that project.
- Jonathan - Wasn't involved when Local Motion was part of it last time. But Local Motion was a strong part of it. It's a ton of work apparently. Focus more on the car-free event than multiple blocks. Focus on a limited area to gain some expertise in the field.
- Bob - Should be more mechanisms to close a street
 - Jak - It is currently possible, but it was a pain in the butt. Thinks that there should be a lot of smaller closures instead of the really small ones.