



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 Evan Litwin, *Ward 7*
Councilor Marek Broderick, *Ward 8*

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Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council

Tuesday April 23rd, 2024 – 5:00PM

645 Pine St – DPW Front Conference Room

–DRAFT MINUTES–

Chair Barlow calls meeting to order at 5:05PM

1. Agenda

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

2. Minutes of 1.9.24

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

3. Public Forum

Evan Gould – Resident Parking Rate update. New rate proposed should be higher. Look at how Montreal structures resident parking based on vehicle emissions and number of vehicles which encourages shift away from single occupancy vehicles. Should be income sensitive. Think about how to move towards more of a paid parking model throughout entire city to help with budget deficit and mode shift.

4. Deliberative Agenda

4.1 Committee Schedule, Priorities and Goal Setting

Fourth Tuesday of the month generally works with supplemental meetings as needed.

Exception for next week: May 23rd at 5PM 645 Pine St

Councilors to consolidate list of upcoming items and prioritize.

4.2 GMT City Loop Fare Policy in Burlington

Clayton Clarke, GMT – provides overview of current GMT funding status and legislature process. May 20th fares return. Goes over resolution proposed.

Councilor Evan Litwin – interested in Route 11 ridership and what percentage is UVM.

CC – UVM has an agreement with CATMA for all students/faculty to ride for free. This is substantial benefit for GMT because it can be used as local match. Primary users for CATMA free rides are on routes 1 and 2. Downside to fare free is not getting ridership data. New system will give us data on fare routes. Route 11 will not collect data as is.

EL – Would like some way of tracking who is using all routes

CC – It is financially beneficial for GMT to keep this route fare free.

Councilor Marek Broderick – Wonder if it would be more beneficial to have data earlier than a year so we are able to consider this going forward and how implementing fares is impacting ridership and GMT
CC – Very different ridership patterns over the course of the year. This gives us time to work on the following year's assessment. Could provide data summary on a quarterly basis to committee.

Councilor Gene Bergman – Could there be a card that could be scanned that would reflect that there is not a charge for fare free routes so we could collect data. Do not want to implement fares on route 8 if we can deal with budgetary conflicts for City and data collection.

Chair Mark Barlow – Supportive of this but also want the data on these fare free routes.

CC – Will look into this.

CC – Will be asking for a special assessment in FY26

MB – would like to see what GMT can scan for zero cost riders and how this impacts resolution before passing anything.

EL – Hearing security and safety concerns. Do we have anything to support fares will increase ridership for safety increase reasons?

CC – Not many examples of this happening elsewhere. Receiving more comments from public to implement fares than to not. Have lost employees and riders over safety concerns. Concerns with one route being fare free concentrating bad behavior.

CC – Will go back to pre-pandemic normal and keep working on continuing/expanding fare free service. Will continue to look into free fare passes with vendor.

Councilor Bergman moves that the TEUC request that GMT investigate the technological ways that they can collect ridership and other data on routes that are fare free and that we also ask GMT to come back to the TEUC to give a report on a quarterly basis regarding the ridership as it relates to the reinstitution of fares and other issues including increased opportunities for employers, human service organizations, and other organizations to pay fares, and how GMT is actively working to promote these programs in the hopes of limiting the number of riders paying out of pocket for fares.

Seconded by Councilor Marek Broderick.

Councilor Evan Litwin - do you know who is a CATMA rider if they have the app?

CC – Yes, we will get all emails for CATMA and then cross reference this with app.

EL – Supportive of motion as stated knowing this.

All in favor, passes unanimously.

Item ends 6:53PM

5. Director's Report

Chapin Spencer discusses the following:

5.1 Winooski Bridge & Intersection Councilor Question Follow Up - Written Update

5.2 User Fee Update

Administration is looking at ways to increase revenue. Heard from a resident today about increasing RPP based on study of comparable cities. Looking at parking violation fees, excavations fees, overweight truck fees, etc.

Licence Plate Recognition technology being reviewed. Working with union. No decision to implement yet. Could help with budgetary constraints.

Solar on landfill – providing a scope of work.

Bird Bikes – two concerns, improperly parked bikes and too many bikes on waterfront. Working to address with partners. 4k rides to date since March.

Shares FY24 Goals as part of appointment process. No action needed.

Item ends 7:02PM

6. Councilor Items

Councilor Marek Broderick - REP public meeting May 1 6PM at City Hall or virtual

CS – Project is moving into preliminary design and getting public feedback as we refine design.

7. Next Meeting

May 23rd at 5PM 645 Pine St

8. Adjournment

Chair Barlow adjourns at 7:04PM