



## **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 August 27, 2024 – 5:30PM** **--DRAFT MINUTES--**

Chair Barlow calls meeting to order at 5:31 PM

#### **1. Agenda**

Chair Mark Barlow (MB) suggests moving original item 4.1 to end given potential for executive session. Councilor Gene Bergman (GB) moves agenda as amended moving 4.1 (201 Flynn) to 4.3, moving every other item up in order. Councilor Marek Broderick (MBr) seconds. All in favor.

#### **2. Minutes of 7/22/24**

Councilor Bergman moves to table 7/22/24 minutes to next meeting. MBr seconds. All in favor.

#### **3. Public Forum**

Evan Gould, Ward 5 resident, speaks in support of speed limit change to 20MPH. Posting may make little difference but will build on traffic calming.

#### **4. Deliberative Agenda – as amended**

##### **4.1 Downtown 20MPH speed limit**

Engineer Phillip Peterson (PP) gives a short presentation on the proposal to change part of the downtown speed limit to 20MPH. Clarifies that this is not citywide.

Stu Lindsay – Birchcliff area resident. Works with local orgs to encourage people to walk more. How will education work? For instance, bike light – do people know how this works?

PP answers that we'll be going to NPAs, among others. Public Information Manager Rob Goulding added social media, earned media, other avenues to promote the "20 is Plenty" campaign. PP disseminates Local Motion letter of support.

GB asks if every travel way will be covered by 20 MPH change. PP addresses carve out, and that orange advisory signs will be out as a "work around" from the limitations. GB asks how data collection on this works and how boundary got drawn. PP said responsibility is with state. Discussion ensues on how to work with state to expand this "downtown zone." GB highlights Maple and King residents, and others.

MBr supports, no questions.

MB asks for clarification on public outreach schedule. PIM RG clarifies that NPA's are about post-approval education, not necessarily pre-approval outreach. There would be about 3 weeks between Labor Day and Commission to warn public about upcoming changes, and then another month until regulation becomes effective.

MB asks if Battery could ever be carved out for faster, given its arterial nature. PP says not necessarily given that Main also function as artery.

Stu Lindsay – member of public – asks about “inner fire district.”

Jason Van Driesche – member of public – very much in support of 20MPH change. Does not feel like extensive engagement gets people to slow down, but it is infrastructure. Suggests that infrastructure should be uncomfortable to drive on. St Paul and Maple was good example in making motorists uncomfortable.

Sarah Camille Wilson – ED of Old Spokes Home – very much in favor of 20MPH change. Structural change is necessary as well to the infrastructure.

PP references Main St being designed for 20MPH, Battery St going through scoping study.

Barbara Headrick likes 20MPH idea in downtown. Even with implementation, no enforcement happening which is major problem. Need enforcement.

#### **4.2 planBTV Walk Bike Action Plan Update**

Engineer Peterson gives update/presentation on planBTV. Clarifies that doing an update to this helps meet federal government requirement for funding opportunities (every 5 years). CCRPC funded effort. Not a “re-work”, but an update to 2017 plan.

Discusses survey, NPA, public meeting opportunities for engagement. Hoping for final plan by April 2025 for Council to review.

Stu Lindsay – public member – asks about Main St Great Streets and whether there is “defensive” furniture (terrorist attacks, etc) - submitted this to an open forum. Director Chapin Spencer says he will follow up.

Evan Gould – public – offers feedback about “Dutch junctions,” growing in popularity in Europe. Also suggests Greenway needs prioritization over cars.

Councilor MBr said that at PAC, biggest topic to address is how do we implement projects at a quicker pace. Director Spencer says that funding and staffing are biggest challenges to move quicker/do more. Preventative maintenance funding has been challenging (such as maintaining separated protected bike lane bollars; sweeping more). Also, staff development – Tech Services budgeted for 10 people, have 5 staffers. Staff is close to ‘burnout,’ encourage others to apply. Says that the team is supportive of doing more.

Assistant City Attorney Ramakrishnan clarifies that fed \$ funds capital improvements, but we still need maintenance dollars.

Councilor GB asks how Walk Bike Council fits into this project. PP clarifies a Council member is on the project PAC. GB follows up and asks for presentation that reveals what they're doing in relationship to this.

GB says more outreach about PAC meetings is necessary, and more public info about what has been done, what needs to be done, etc. GB also asks about how public private partnerships can be constructed to meet goals of plans. Akin to "Adopt a highway."

Evan Gould – public member – mentions elimination of bike fatalities by 2026

- **4.3 201 Flynn**

Director Spencer lays out timeline for approval to purchase and sale.

Councilor GB asks if DPW can provide summary for public.

DPW Maintenance Director Lee Perry gives history of CSWD and Flynn Ave parcel. Director CS gives more details on the financials with City paying \$375K for front 201 Flynn Ave parcel, roughly 1 acre in size. Finance through lease, but not through General Obligation bond. Would lead to increase in solid waste generation tax.

Councilor GB asks about future of Intervale area used by City. CS says parties are interested.

Councilor GB asks about contamination issues which CS clarifies that we are doing testing at Flynn Ave site, not Intervale.

GB moves to go into executive session due to ongoing contract negotiations, related to real estate negotiations. MBr seconds. All in favor.

TEUC moves into executive session at 6:40PM.

GB moves to adjourn. MBr seconds. All in favor.

## **5. Director's Report**

NA

## **6. Councilor Items.**

NA

## **7. Next Meeting**

Next regular 9/23

## **8. Adjournment**

Chair Barlow adjourns at 7:32 PM