



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 October 29, 2024 – 5:30PM** **--DRAFT MINUTES--**

Chair Barlow calls meeting to order at 5:32PM

1. Agenda

Councilor Broderick moves to adopt the agenda as written. Councilor Bergman seconds. All in favor, passes unanimously.

2. Minutes of 9/24/24

Councilor Broderick moves to adopt the minutes. Councilor Bergman seconds. All in favor. Unanimous approval.

3. Public Forum

Richard Hillyard (see end of minutes for additional email from Richard Hillyard) – Crossing Guard for the City of Burlington - Spoke on Winooski Bridge/Intersection Project – would like us to rethink pieces of the project to improve the flow with Mill St & Barret St

Eli Ogilvie – Winooski Resident – Spoke on Winooski Bridge/Intersection Project– Entire section is very dangerous. Question why we are trying to push more lanes in the intersection on the Burlington side.

Serrill Flash – Resident of Burlington - Spoke on Winooski Bridge/Intersection Project – Main concern is safety. Looking for something different.

Erik Brotz - Resident of Ward 5 – Chair of Burlington Walk Bike Council – Spoke on Winooski Bridge/Intersection Project. Acknowledge the changes that have been made for walking/biking. Main concern is speed.

Sharon Bushor – Resident of Burlington - Spoke on Winooski Bridge/intersection Project – Looking at safety. Protection/Protective Barrier needs to protect each means of transportation. Mill St – half solution.

Peter Duval – Resident of Underhill – President of the VT Bicycle Coalition Spoke on Winooski Bridge/intersection Project – Against automobiles crossing the bridge.

Jason Stuffie – Resident of Burlington – Lives on Colchester Ave - Spoke on Winooski Bridge/Intersection Project – against adding a downhill lane on Colchester Ave. Better protection for pedestrians.

Ali Hamandoni – Resident of Burlington - **Agrees** with other comments. Too big a project to make a change now.

04. Deliberative Agenda

- **4.1 Winooski Bridge / Intersection**

Division Director of Technical Services Laura Wheelock introduced the Colchester/Riverside Ave Intersection is a Burlington project combined with the Winooski Bridge replacement – Looking for a motion from the TEUC to approve and recommend to the City Council. Consultant team consist of VTrans, Burlington & Winooski Municipalities, and CCRPC. Josh Oland explained the meeting purpose to propose the base technical concept, RFP considerations and the next steps of the project. Proposed is a curved bridge with a 15ft and 12ft walking/biking path, 2 lanes coming in and out of Burlington. Pedestrian traffic will not be interrupted at all during construction. Prescriptive requirement examples are the bridge cross section, two span Bridge, Minimum Hydraulic Opening, Historic Requirements, and signalized intersection. Flexible Requirement examples are bridge is approximately 360 ft long, bridge location/alignment, girder spacing, traffic control/schedule, pedestrian phasing, utility relocation & retaining walls. City Council Decision is needed by December meeting to stay on schedule.

Councilors asked questions about shared path width, round about preference, interested in traffic congestion with roundabout, projections on one lane open each way, traffic counts, raising the entire intersection to curb level, elevate bike lanes for safety, what was the local match for Burlington as a total project, what efforts for outreach for Redstone and Chase Mill, right hand turn at Chase Mill not acceptable, night construction to alleviate traffic backups, how did meeting go with Winooski City Council, and is Mill St right turn prescriptive or flexible?

All Councilors are not prepared to make a decision at this time.

- **4.2 Water Resources Capital Bonding Update**

Water Resources Division Director Megan Moir gave an update on the outreach plans and has started to hear feedback. We really need to get things going for the phosphorus reduction (tertiary) and as growth keeps happening, be able to maintain services for the residents of Burlington. We have received final preliminary cost estimates for the WWTP project, working on a robust outreach plan and working on additional affordability enhancements. Information Manager Rob Goulding presented the outreach plan.

Councilors asked why we are waiting on a media into January, what will be asking the tax payers to bond, worried if it will pass, what the impacts will be, is March the right time, program to show residents if they don't water the lawn how much more they will save.

- **4.3 Courthouse Plaza Parking Update**

DPW Director Chapin Spencer – staff recommends continuing program to April. Division Director of Technical Services Laura Wheelock stated that some of the lack of info is from displaced residents being allowed to park for free. Displaced people at 110 Main st, Nectars Driveway, King & Church St individual parcels for the winter. Main St lot is still unavailable. Approximately 100 spaces are not available.

Councilors asked questions on use and financial summary, sessions per day and cost of recovery, what blocks do this impact, how many of the subsidized/free spaces is DPW paying for, how many spaces are being used per day.

- **4.4 Upcoming Agenda Item Planning (Flixbus, Bikeshare, etc)**

- Director Spencer -Still negotiating with Flixbus who also owns Greyhound. They have also reached out to the airport. We will be requiring them to have the same insurance requirement there.
- Bikeshare – Contract renews in mid-June – we have till mid-March to decide to give the cancellation notice.

Councilors – Update of Bike lane on Plattsburg Ave, listing of Street & Sidewalk program projects, list of big items and reoccurring items.

- **4.5 Schedule November & December Meetings**

November Meeting – 26th - December 17th 4-5:30

- **5. Director's Report**

NONE

- **6. Councilor Items**

Councilor Bergman – more testimony on benchmarking ordinance?

Councilor Litwin – Winooski Bridge Right turn only for Mill St. – More outreach needed.

Radar Speed sign – revisit data to get an idea of what speeds are like for Plattsburg Ave.

- **7. Next Meeting**

November 26, 2024

- **8. Adjournment**

Chair Barlow adjourns meeting at 8:43 pm.

Email from Richard Hillyard 10/29/24

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at this evening's TEUC Meeting.

I attach herewith the article I referred to about this longabout in Letchworth, coincidentally or not in the same town (about the same size as BTV) that built the first roundabout in England, about 115 years ago:

<https://www.livinglifemagazine.co.uk/post/navigating-the-lethworth-gate-longabout-a-unique-traffic-solution>

I introduced it to provide graphic evidence that roundabouts don't have to be round to be practical and functional, not as any sort of example for BTV, and I would advocate something a fraction of the size at COBARI, that would be designed to include Mill Street.

The Shelburne Road roundabout rightly receives much acclaim and one is disappointed that something along similar lines, but of a slightly different shape, is being summarily dismissed as an option.

Laura Wheelock mentioned that 30K - 35K vehicles cross Winooski Bridge every day. I wonder what the volume on Shelburne Road is, using the same measurement parameters?

Roundabouts are safer than traffic signals, promoting slower speeds and improving flow.

It continues to be disappointing that every Intersection design narrative is dismissive of a roundabout solution without offering compelling reasons why.

We can do better.

Thanks,

Richard Hillyard