



City Council - Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee

Tuesday, November 26, 2024, 5:30 PM,

Join in Person: Front Conference Room, 645 Pine St. Burlington, VT 05401

Join via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/84603122855>

To call into the meeting, including to speak during public comment:

Phone: 312-626-6799, Webinar ID: 846 0312 2855

1. Agenda

1.1. Motion to adopt/amend

2. Adopt Minutes

2.1. Minutes of 10/29/24

3. Public Forum

4. Deliberative Agenda

4.1. Great Streets Lighting Assembly Update - 5 min

4.2. 2024 Bikeshare Review - 30 min

4.3. Water Resources Rate Impact & Affordability Program - 30 min

4.4. GMT Update & Special Assessment - 10 min

4.5. Revisit FlixBus Property Use Agreement - 10 min

5. Director's Report

6. Councilor Items

7. Next Meeting

8. Adjournment



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT

CITY COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY & UTILITIES COMMITTEE

c/o Department of Public Works
645 Pine Street, Suite A
Post Office Box 849
Burlington, VT 05402-0849

802.863.9094 VOX
802.863.0466 FAX
802.863.0450 TTY
www.burlingtonvt.gov

Councilor Mark Barlow, Chair, *North District*
Councilor Gene Bergman, *Ward 2*
Councilor Evan Litwin, *Ward 7*
Councilor Marek Broderick, *Ward 8*

Inquiries:
Rob Goulding
802.881-2278
rgoulding@burlingtonvt.gov

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



**CITY OF BURLINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

645 Pine Street, Suite A
Post Office Box 849
Burlington, VT 05402-0849
802.863.9094 VOX
802.863.0466 FAX
802.863.0450 TTY
www.burlingtonvt.gov

Chapin Spencer
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation, Energy, and Utilities Committee (TUEC)

FROM: Julia Ursaki, PE, Public Works Transportation Engineer (DPW)
Laura Wheelock, PE, Division Director of Tech Services/City Engineer (DPW)

DATE: November 26, 2024

CC: Chapin Spencer, Director of Public Works
Paul Nadeau, PE, Director of Engineering (BED)
Stephen Scott, Distribution Engineer (BED)

RE: Great Streets Standard Lighting Assembly Update

Request

We are respectfully requesting that the Burlington TEUC approve the following motion:

The TEUC approves and recommends that the City Council approve the use of the lighting assembly as shown in Figure 2 for Great Streets projects in the downtown to meet new lighting standards and further, grants the Burlington Electric Commission the authority to approve changes to the Great Streets lighting assembly that are best practice or safety updates.

Summary

Great Streets Initiative

The Great Streets BTV Downtown Street Design & Construction Standards were adopted by the City Council on April 16, 2018. Under the Great Streets Initiative, the City has completed Great Streets reconstruction for two blocks of Saint Paul Street and City Hall Park. The Main Street Great Streets project is currently under construction on the blocks between Pine Street and Winooski Avenue, and Great Streets Reconnecting Bank & Cherry (including new blocks of Saint Paul and Pine St surrounding CityPlace) is under project development with anticipated construction in 2027.

Federal Funding & Requirements

The City has funded past Great Streets projects using local dollars, however, our current City

budgets make this infeasible for additional projects. In 2023 the City was awarded a \$22 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to fund Great Streets construction on Bank Street, Cherry Street, and the new blocks of Saint Paul Street and Pine Street surrounding the CityPlace development. The City has applied for federal grants for Great Streets construction on the remaining downtown blocks of Main Street and will continue to pursue federal funding to complete that project.

The Build America Buy America (BABA) Act was passed by Congress on November 15, 2021 as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and applies to all federally funded projects. This means that all materials used on the City's federally funded projects need to meet the BABA requirements.

The lighting assembly that the City has used in past Great Streets projects is from the vendor Lumec. After extensive research, the Burlington Electric Department (BED) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) discovered that Lumec does not provide lighting that meets BABA requirements, but another vendor identified in the Great Streets Standards, Spring City, can meet the requirements.

Great Streets Lighting Assembly

The Great Streets Standards specify the pole, base, arms/brackets, and luminaires to be used on streets downtown, as shown in **Figure 1**. Design constraints have made it very difficult for DPW and BED to meet both the Great Street Standards and the Illumination Engineering Society (IES) standards since Great Streets has the lights installed at a lower height than most street lights so they can also create well-lit sidewalks for pedestrians. This low height creates higher levels of glare for drivers.

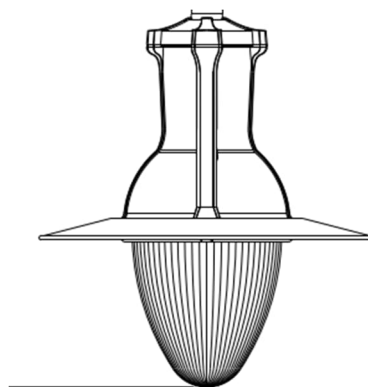


Figure 1. Current Great Streets Luminaire

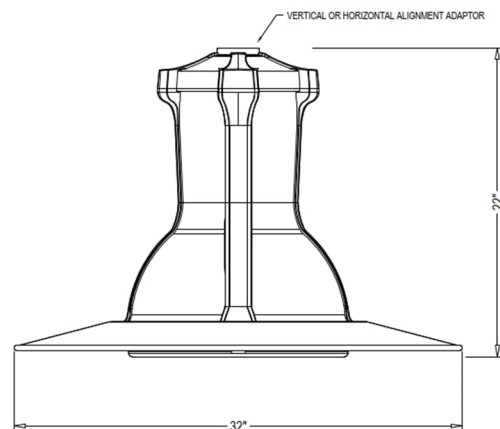


Figure 2. Proposed Great Streets Luminaire

BED has worked with Spring City to find a lighting assembly that fits within our Great Street Standards. In this review, however, BED found that the teardrop luminaire specified in the Great Streets Standards does not meet the Illumination Engineering Society (IES) standards because it

An Equal Opportunity Employer

This material is available in alternative formats for persons with disabilities. To request an accommodation, please call 802.863.9094 (voice) or 802.863.0450 (TTY).

cause too much glare. For this reason, BED and DPW are proposing to use the luminaire shown in **Figure 2** instead.

For consistency, BED and DPW would like to use the same lighting assembly throughout downtown. This makes it easier for BED to keep extra in stock in case one needs repairs and also provides a consistent aesthetic in the downtown. If approved, BED will eventually replace the existing Great Streets luminaires on Saint Paul Street with the proposed luminaire too.



Bird Electric Assist Bikeshare: FY25 Q1 Reporting

Serving Burlington, South Burlington, Winooski

Provided by CATMA

November 15, 2024

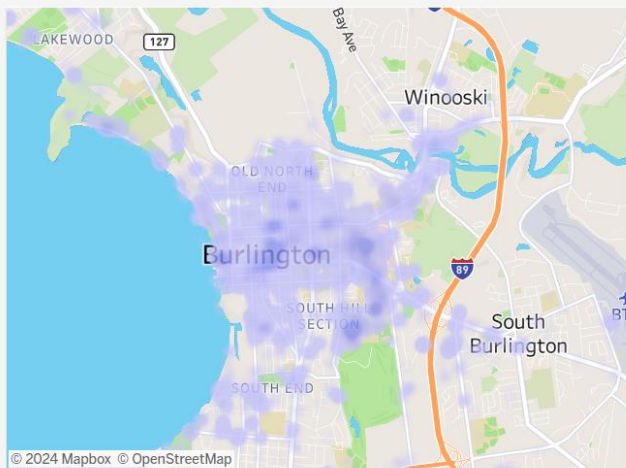
FY25 Quarter 1 Reporting: July – Sept 2024

Totals									
Day of Date	Unique Users	Total Rides	Total Distance (mi)	Total Distance (km)	Avg. Avg Distance (mi)	Avg. Avg Distance (km)	Avg. Avg Duration (min)	Avg Birds in PROW	Rides per Bird
July Totals	2,253	3,349	5,323	8,566	2	2.5	12.2	162.9	0.7
August Totals	1,982	2,693	4,036	6,495	1.5	2.4	11.5	159	0.6
Sept Totals	2,262	3,165	3,933	6,330	1.25	2.00	9.81	109	1.0
Totals	2,166	9,207	13,292	21,391	1.42	2.27	11.16	144	0.75

Users	
Total number of new user sign ups (Q1)	1,842
Total number of users in system (all time)	9,017

Community Pricing	
The number of local residents signed up for Community Pricing (Q1)	0

Ride Start Heat Map



Ride End Heat Map



Data Since Launch, June/July 2023		
Total # of rides since launch		47,577
Total Miles traveled since launch		61,240
Avg distance traveled per ride since launch		2.07
Avg ride duration		10.38

Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association

20 West Canal St, Suite C9 Winooski, VT 05404

802-881-0283 | info@catmavt.org | catmavt.org

Managing Poorly Parked Bikes:

Instituting a fee for improperly parked bikes (requested by City of Burlington):

When bikes are reported as "parked inappropriately" or Fleet Managers self-report when managing the system, the last rider will be notified of improperly parking the bike. Users will first receive a "warning" message, 2nd report \$10 fine, 3rd report \$20 fine.

New data is provided in the FY25 Q1 report:

Fine Data			
Fines for poorly parked bikes were implemented on March 2024	Total number of warnings	Total number of fines	Total dollar amount of fines
	15	2	\$20

How Bikeshare Bird Bikes are regulated on the Waterfront:

As noted in the Bird App, the Waterfront Park is a "no parking zone" including all racks in the park. Bird Fleet Managers will not "nest" bikes within 600 feet of Waterfront Park (they can nest a maximum number of bikes in this area but have decided to steer clear when possible). Bikes parked outside of Waterfront Park but within 600 feet of the park will be monitored and relocated in a timely manner by FMs but in most cases by other users.

City of Burlington System Goal				
A goal of this system is that 80% or more trips need to be other than roundtrip waterfront trips. A roundtrip waterfront trip is defined as a trip that begins and ends at the same waterfront station.	Day of Date	Total Trips START*	Total Trips END*	Monthly Trips
	July	267	300	17%
	August	194	186	14%
	September	113	114	7%
	*Trips within 600ft of Waterfront Park			

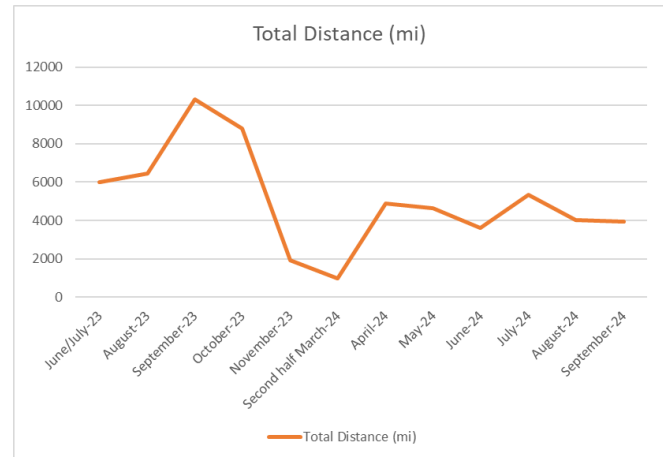
Bird Responding to Complaints

When Bird receives a complaint via vermont311 email address and/or Community Mode in app, they respond to them within 24 hours, in most cases just a few minutes or hours.

New data is provided in FY25 Q1 report:

Community Reporting					
Reporting Data (Q1)	total	reporting through Community App	Largest type of reporting	Smallest type of reporting	Reporting resolved within 2hrs (must be within 24hrs)
	128	55%	Damaged bikes	Bad parking	10 of 14

Comparison Data: Trips Month to Month Q1 over Q1 of the previous year



Outreach Materials, Data and Contact Information:

As a reminder the best way for public to get in touch with Bird is through the In-App Community Mode communications icon OR by email at vermont311@bird.co ([Infographic Methods of Contact Flier - Burlington VT.pdf](#))

For more information on pricing, parking requirements and getting in touch w/ Bird, check out [CATMA's bikeshare landing page on our website here](#).

Summary:

The Bird bikeshare system relaunched in mid-March 2024. We saw a strong start to the season in the spring, with the system supporting our community as the weather warmed up and as the Burlington area saw a large influx of people for the eclipse. However, rides began to decrease in the summer and didn't make the rebound in August and September as expected. Analysis shows a decrease in rides during Q1 over Q1 of the previous year.

In August, Bird lost one of its two Fleet Managers (FMs) and therefore reduced average PROW by 50 bikes by September. This resulted in more rides per bike, a healthy sign for the system as it was experiencing a decrease in rides over the summer. Bird decided to hold off on hiring an additional FM or Infield Bike Coordinator due to maintaining a healthy use of the system (success is an average of 1.5-2 rides per bike).

No update on implementing more bike parking/racks (understand Cities goals and plans).

Bird continues its commitment to service our regional system and strengthening our partnership, noting that they will reach full capacity in the spring again with additional FM.

As a reminder, for more information on pricing, parking requirements and getting in touch w/ Bird, check out [CATMA's bikeshare landing page on our website here](#).