

Ward 4 & 7 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA):



Agenda

Wednesday 22, 2025

6:00pm

Join in person: ****RELOCATED TO**** Hunt Middle School Cafeteria
1364 North Ave, Burlington, VT 05408

Join virtually: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85494151752>

Facilitator: Sarah Diaz **Note Taker:** Anne Lawson

6:00 Sign In & Food | 20 minutes

- Turkey Pot Pie
- Biscuits
- Vegetable Pot Pie with garden-grown veges
- Vegan Plum Snickerdoodle Cake

6:20 Welcome | 10 minutes

6:30 Public Forum | 5 minutes

6:35 Ashley Parker with Clerk Treasurer's Office | 15 minutes

- Share about a request for a \$20M General Obligation Bond for the City's General Fund Capital Program

6:50 Ric Cengeri with HomeShare Vermont | 15 minutes

- Share what HomeShare has done over the last 42 years

7:05 Sarah Carpenter with City Council Updates on Charter Changes | 20 minutes

1. Redistricting
2. Allowing the City to Decide Ordinances for Rental Housing
3. Update Limit for Small Capital Projects
4. Election Boundaries

7:25 Monika Ivancic & Kendra Sowers with the NNE School Board | 20 minutes

- Update on the FY'26 School Board Budget

7:45 Megan Moir with Dept of Public Works | 15 minutes

- Sharing updates to the Water and Lake Bonds that were discussed last NPA meeting

8:00 Adjourn

Ward 4 + 7 Steering Committee:

To email the full steering committee: wards4-7npasc@googlegroups.com



BTV Thrives

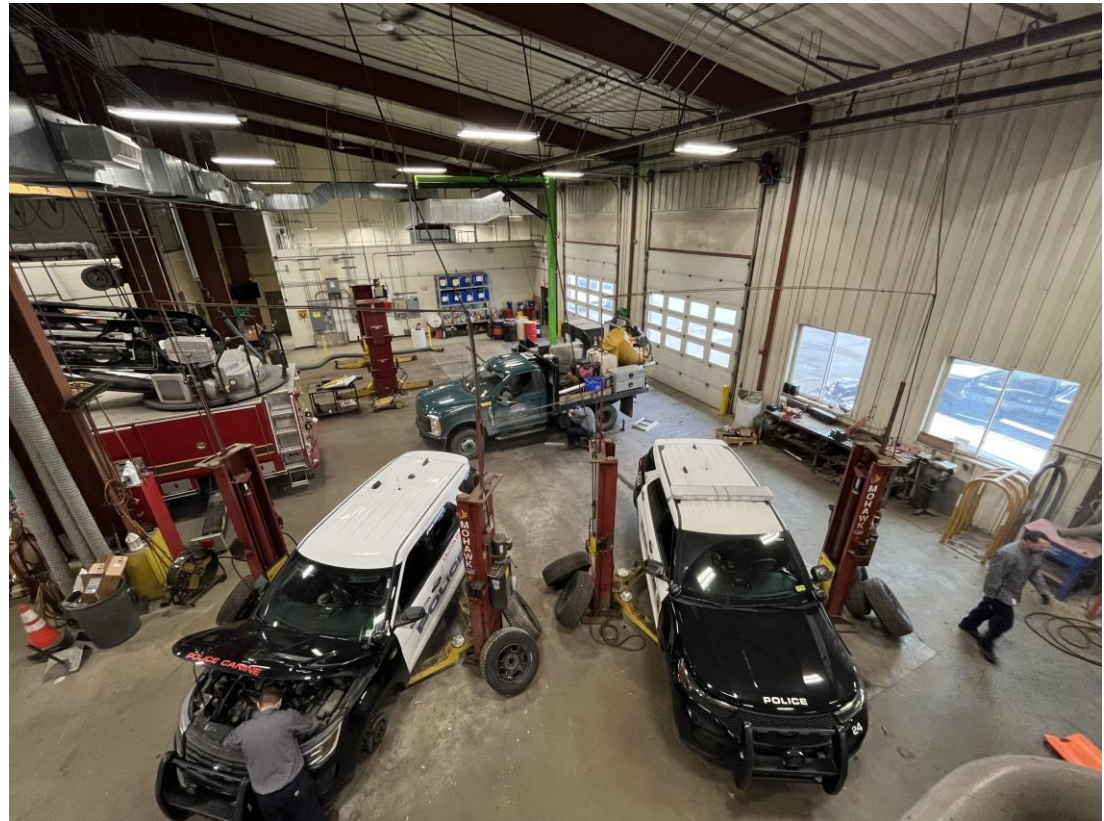
Prioritizing Affordable Public Infrastructure

January 2025



What to Expect Tonight

- Introduction to General Fund Capital Budget
- What is the Need?
- What is the tax impact?
- Next Steps





General Fund Capital Budget 101

What is a Capital Project?

- City Code of Ordinances: *“A Capital Project is one funded wholly or in part by the City of Burlington and that involves construction, renovation or remodeling of buildings, structures, or parking facilities; street improvements; streetscape improvements; or park or recreational area construction or remodeling.”*
- **Does not** include routine repair or maintenance expenditures.
- GF Capital INCLUDES: DPW, Parks, Facilities, Fire, Police, & Public Art





Prioritizing Affordable Public Infrastructure

What is the Need?



Phase Three: \$20M Bond on TMD 2025

Why do we need another bond now?

1. Without a bond the City's Charter only authorizes **\$2M/year for capital expenses**
2. To help ensure good governance the City needs approximately **\$8-10M/year** for critical infrastructure.
3. Implementation costs for infrastructure needs do not get cheaper over time.
 - **Non-Construction inflation is 10% higher since 2022**
 - **Construction inflation is 25% higher since 2022**

\$20M GO Bond Spend-out Projection

Revenue Source	FY26	FY27	FY28
Annual CIP	\$2M	\$2M	\$2M
\$20M GO Bond	\$7M	\$6.5M	\$6.5M
Total Revenue	\$9M	\$8.5M	\$8.5M



Focusing on Critical Infrastructure

General Fund Fleet Capital Assets:

- City owns 242 Fleet Assets: 30% need to be replaced; 45% of those are critical public safety vehicles (fire, police, snow removal)
- City deferred spending on Fleet in FY24 & 25



Better Sidewalks:

- City has 133 miles of sidewalk – 3 miles should be replaced annually (\$1M/mile)
- 17.2 miles are in serious/poor condition





Focusing on Critical Infrastructure

Better Streets:

- City has 88 miles of street it owns & maintains – 4 miles should be paved annually (\$1.2M/mile)
- 10.8 miles do not meet acceptable condition



Transportation Safety:

- 3 Bridges are in Capital Plan for repairs/replacement (including Winooski Bridge)
- \$300K/year = 14 new transportation calming projects (hit 75% of community requests in 3 years)





Focusing on Critical Infrastructure

City Buildings:

- City owns 19 buildings; at least \$700K in deferred needs/building
- \$2M could support at least 3 buildings



Parks:

- There are 37 City Parks; at least \$700K in deferred needs/park
- \$2M could support needs in at least 3 Parks





Focusing on Critical Infrastructure

Capital \$20M DRAFT Allocations for 1st Priority Need (FY26-28)*

Asset	% of \$20M	Notes
Fleet	min 15%	Gets City back to regular replacement schedule
Sidewalks	25-35%	With Street Capital supplement, would hit 3 mi/year
Streets	25-35%	With Street Capital supplement, would hit 4 mi/year
Facilities	13-30%	13% could support deferred maintenance in the equivalent of 3 buildings
Parks	6-10%	10% could support deferred maintenance in the equivalent of 3 parks
Traffic Safety	1-3%	With Street Capital supplement, 3% could hit 75% of community requests
Local Matches	15-20%	20% would fully fund Winooski Bridge Local Match

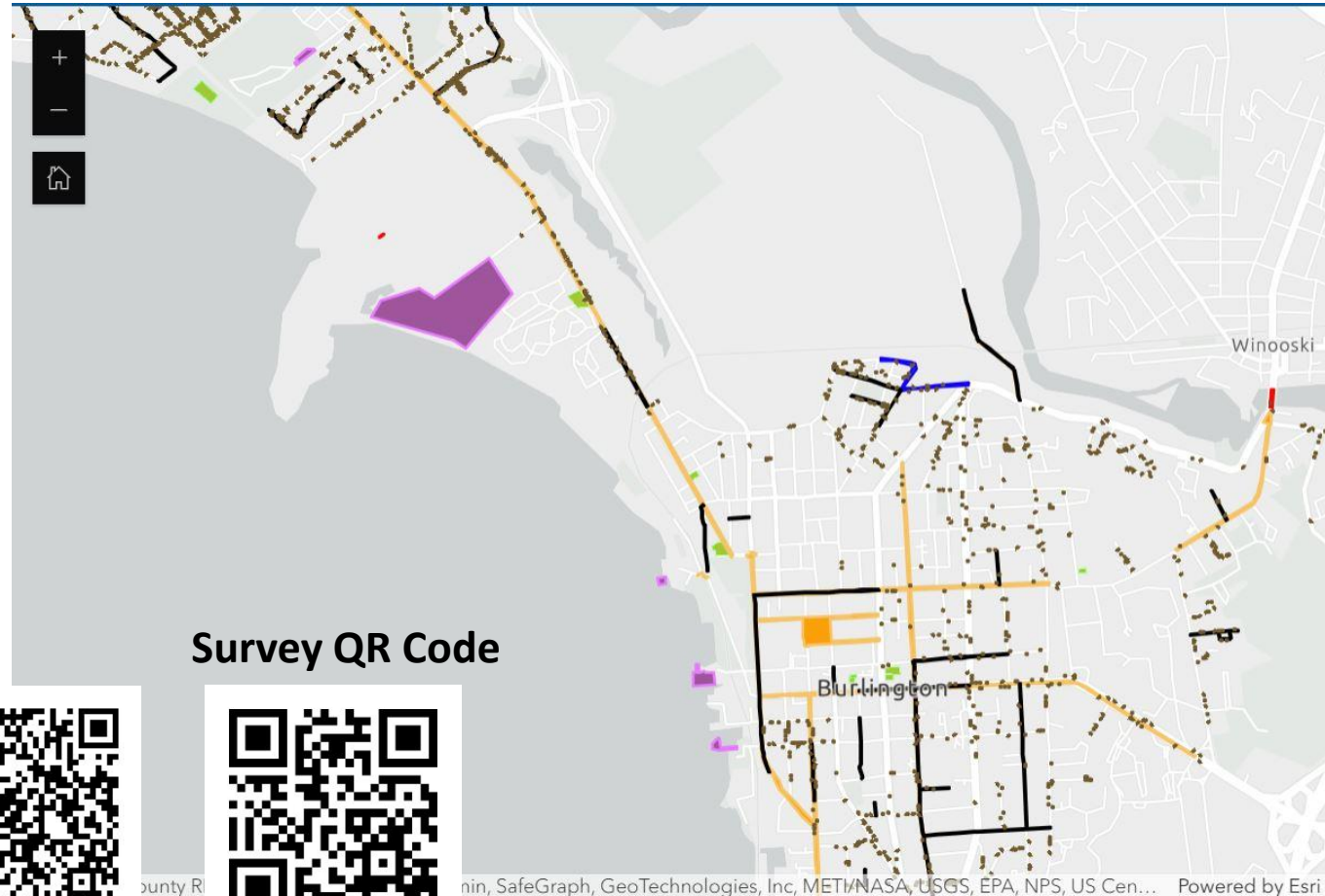
***Note:** No capital asset is guaranteed funding as the General Fund Capital Budget needs to be flexible and responsive to emergent needs, while also ensuring equitable implementation of infrastructure.



Prioritizing Critical Infrastructure

NEW Capital Planning Map: <https://bit.ly/BTVThrivesCapitalMap>

- Map depicts 6 years of GF Capital need across the City – no funding guarantees
- Long-term Planning tool
- Community Survey:
<https://bit.ly/BTVThrivesCapitalSurvey>
- Other City Prioritization Criteria:
Accessibility, Affordability, Efficiency, Equity, Sustainability, and Safety
- Map can be found on [City's Town Meeting Day Website](#)



Survey QR Code



Map QR Code





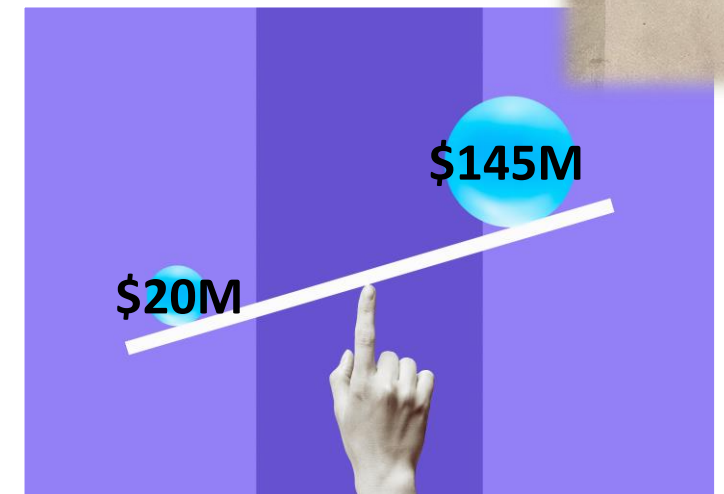
Prioritizing Affordable Public Infrastructure

What is the Tax Impact?



Investing Affordably and Transparently

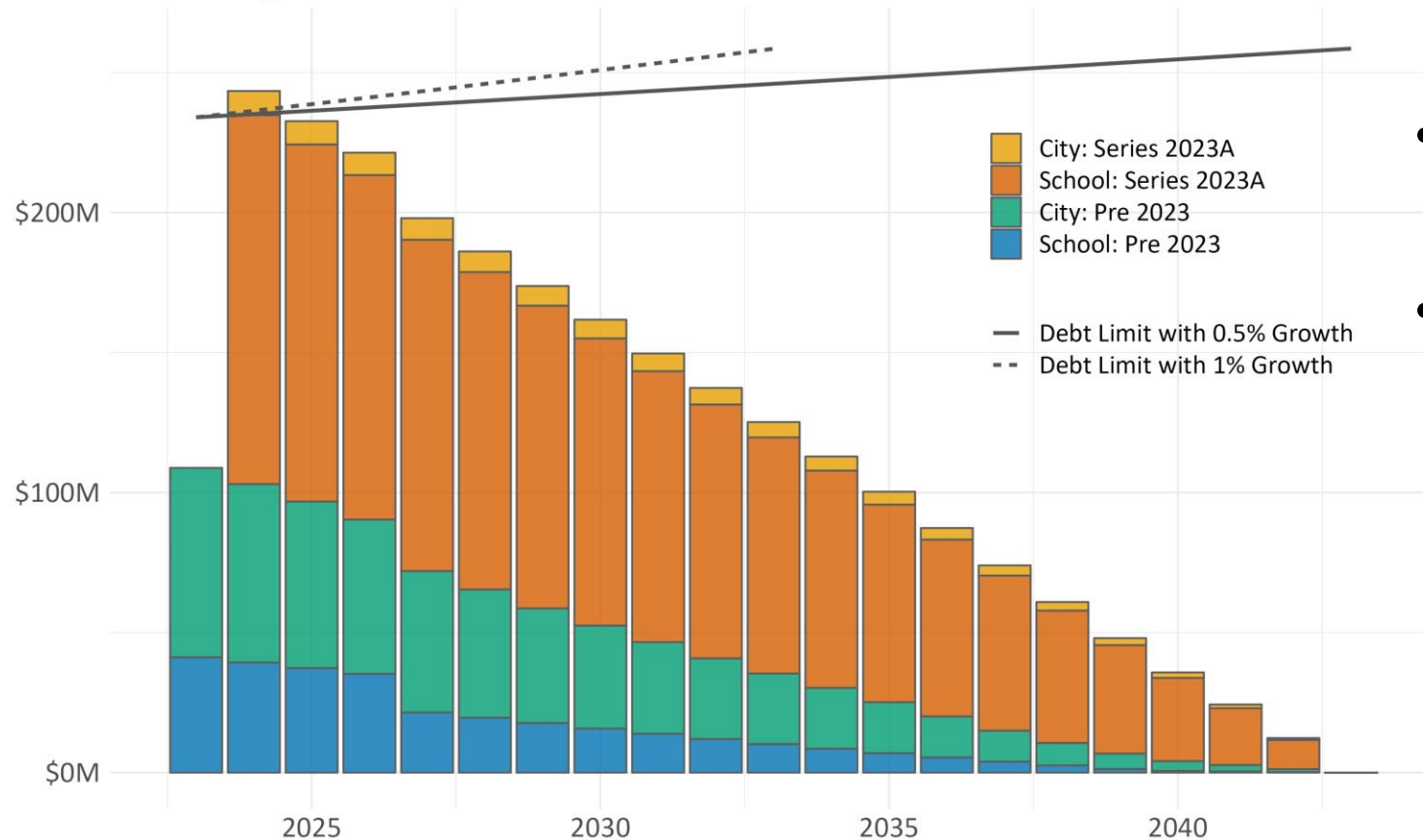
- **Affordability is critical to the Administration**, and we are working to balance responsible investment in City assets with ensuring Burlingtonians can afford their property tax bills.
- The FY26 Budget Process is underway - with goals for efficiency and better planning of maintenance expenditures.
- Capital Plan forecasts opportunity to leverage bond revenues with additional grants.
- **Waiting won't help – prices just go up & deferred maintenance only gets worse and more expensive over time.**





Phase Three: Fitting in with Debt Policy

Outstanding Debt with Debt Limit



- City recalculates existing debt annually per our policy
- Due to growth of grand list and paying down principal & interest faster than originally projected, there is now \$20M of debt capacity that has freed up



Effect on Tax Bills

- The \$20M bond would be repaid through a small increase in municipal property taxes starting in FY26.
- We anticipate the increase to be approximately:

Assessed Home Value	Monthly Expected Tax Increase
\$300,000	\$6.92
\$500,000	\$11.58
\$700,000	\$16.18
\$900,000	\$20.83

\$20M GO Bond Spend-out Projection

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- The effect from this bond will not be more than the amount listed on this slide; it could be less over a payback period of 20 years.



Next Steps

1. Continue community conversations including:
 - **TODAY, 1/6:** Town Hall in City Hall
 - visiting NPAs January-February 2025
2. BOF/CC Vote – January
3. Vote by Community – Town Meeting Day, March 4, 2025





Questions?



Thank you!

For more information, please contact
Ashley Parker, Capital Program Director:
aparker@burlingtonvt.gov.

Burlington Water Resources Capital Planning

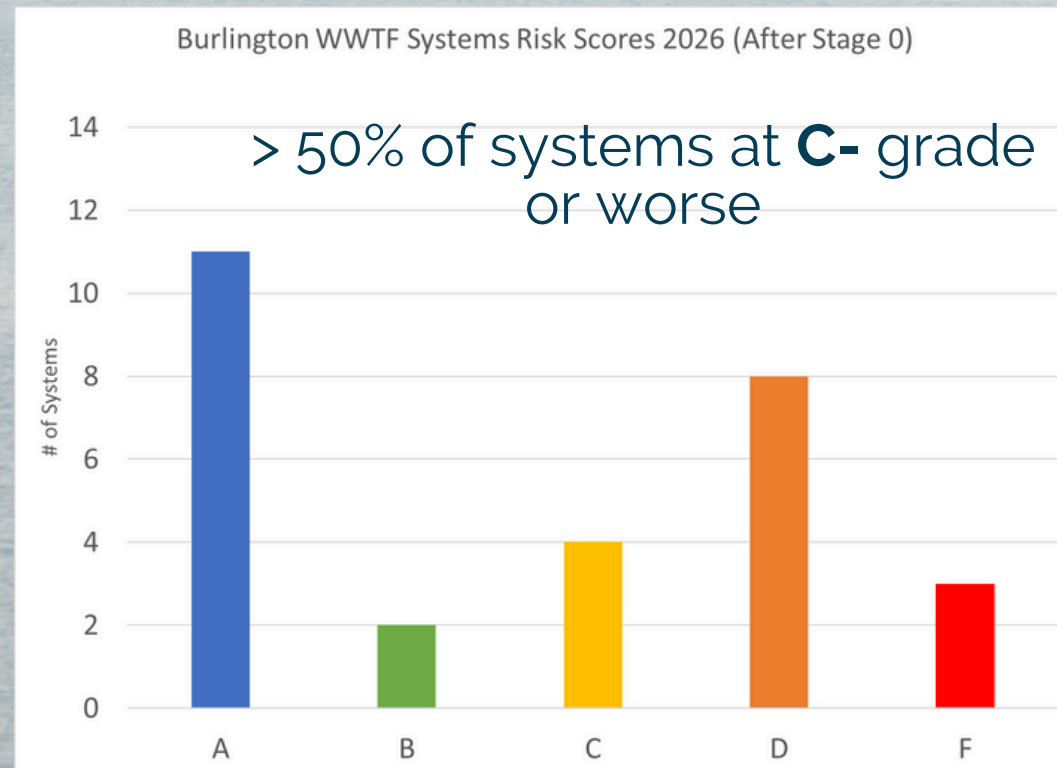
Proposed March 2025 Bond Requests

Town Hall Meeting
January 6, 2025



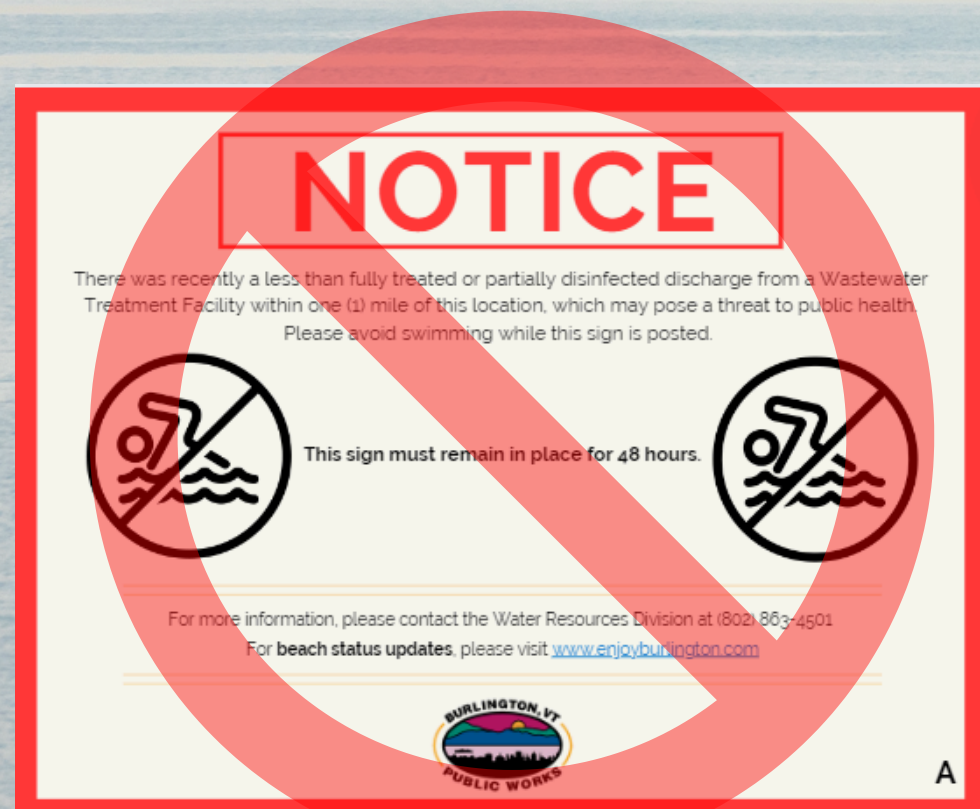
WHY IS MORE INVESTMENT NEEDED?

- To provide reliable and sustainable drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services to the **current** and **future** Burlington
 - Replace aged infrastructure that is at significant risk of failure
 - Ensure that there is sufficient capacity for housing and other growth
 - Improve resiliency against climate change
 - Address safety/code upgrades to protect and retain workers



WHY IS MORE INVESTMENT NEEDED?

- To protect the Lake by meeting/exceeding our water quality improvement requirements
 - Infrastructure resiliency and redundancy = meeting water quality standards = avoid **preventable** beach closures
 - Reduce phosphorus discharges from Burlington and help VT meet the Lake Champlain TMDL
 - Continue to reduce combined sewer overflows



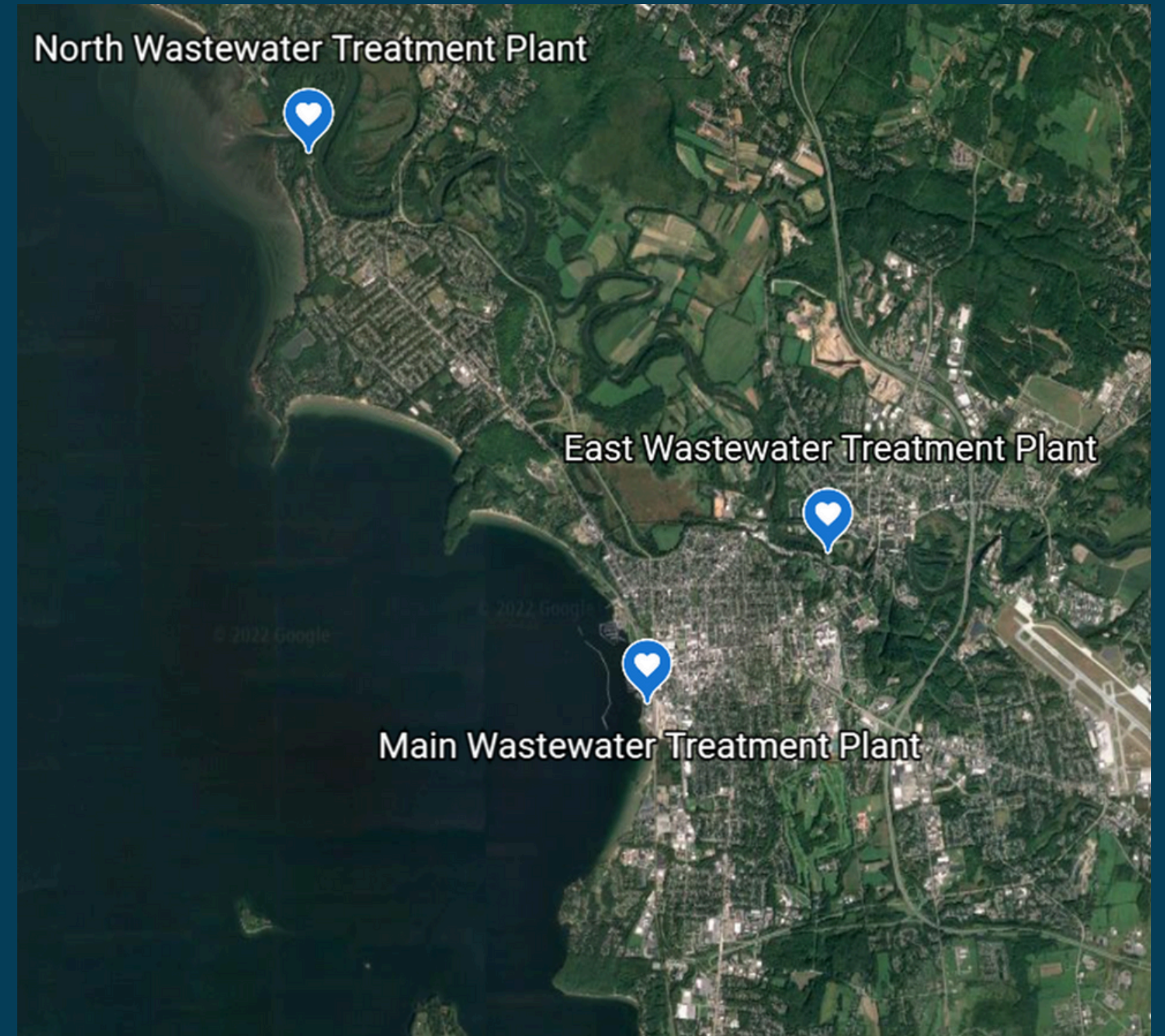
WWTP Improvements Project

Burlington's Commitment to the Lake and
Sustainable Housing Growth



BURLINGTON'S 3 WASTEWATER PLANTS

- Main WWTP built in 1953
- North WWTP built in 1961
- East WWTP built in 1965
- Due both to increased regulations and the harsh impacts of the wastewater environment on equipment, all three plants were then subsequently upgraded in:
 - 1973 - improved pollutant treatment
 - 1994 - improved nutrient removal and added wet weather treatment to Main WWTP



Improve and Modernize WWTFs for Burlington's Future



Resiliency

Ensure existing systems continue to function; Increase resiliency of critical wastewater equipment through improved design and redundancy



Environmental

Improve ability to meet water quality standards for Lake Champlain



Capacity

Increase capacity of Main WWTF to accommodate growth within the community



Work safety

Improve working conditions for City staff



Odors

Reduce off-site odors from Main WWTF

Reservoir Improvements Project

*Water Supply Resiliency
for Burlington*

BURLINGTON'S DRINKING WATER RESERVOIR AND HIGH SERVICE PUMP STATION

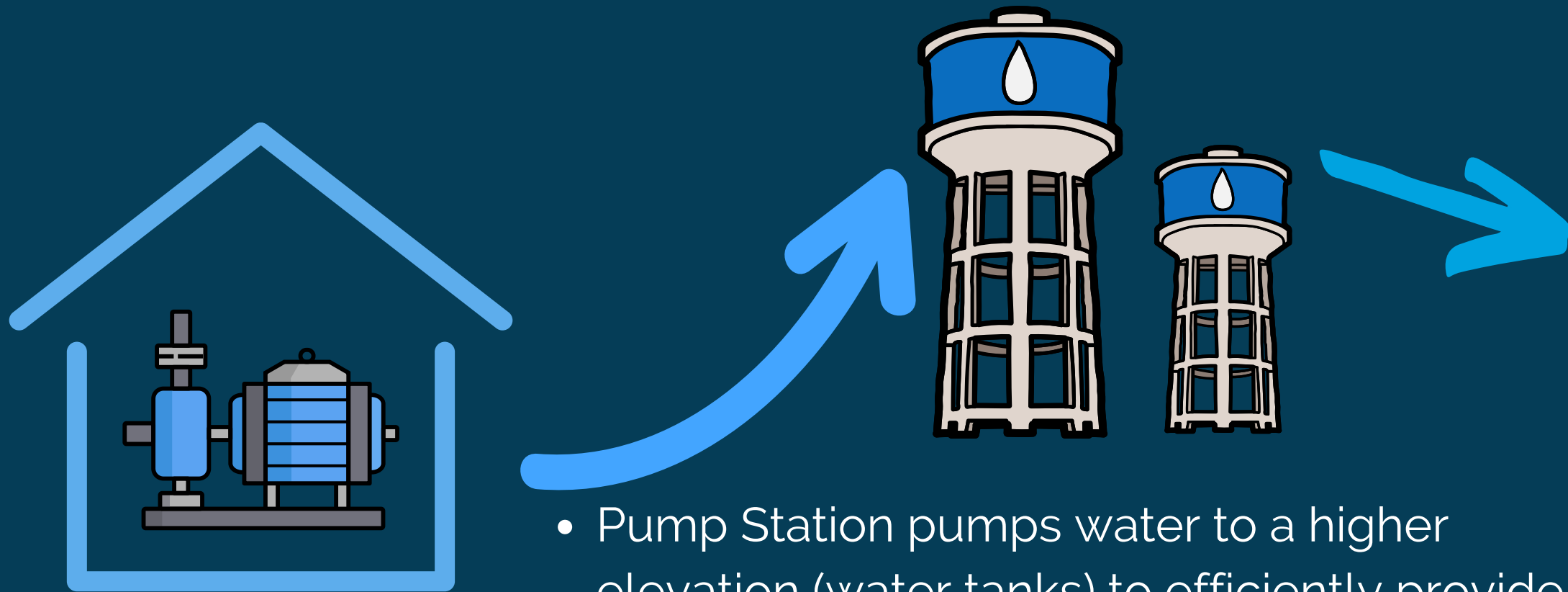


Figure 7.18: Main Street reservoir, drained of water and under renovation, circa 1890
(Courtesy Burlington Water Department)

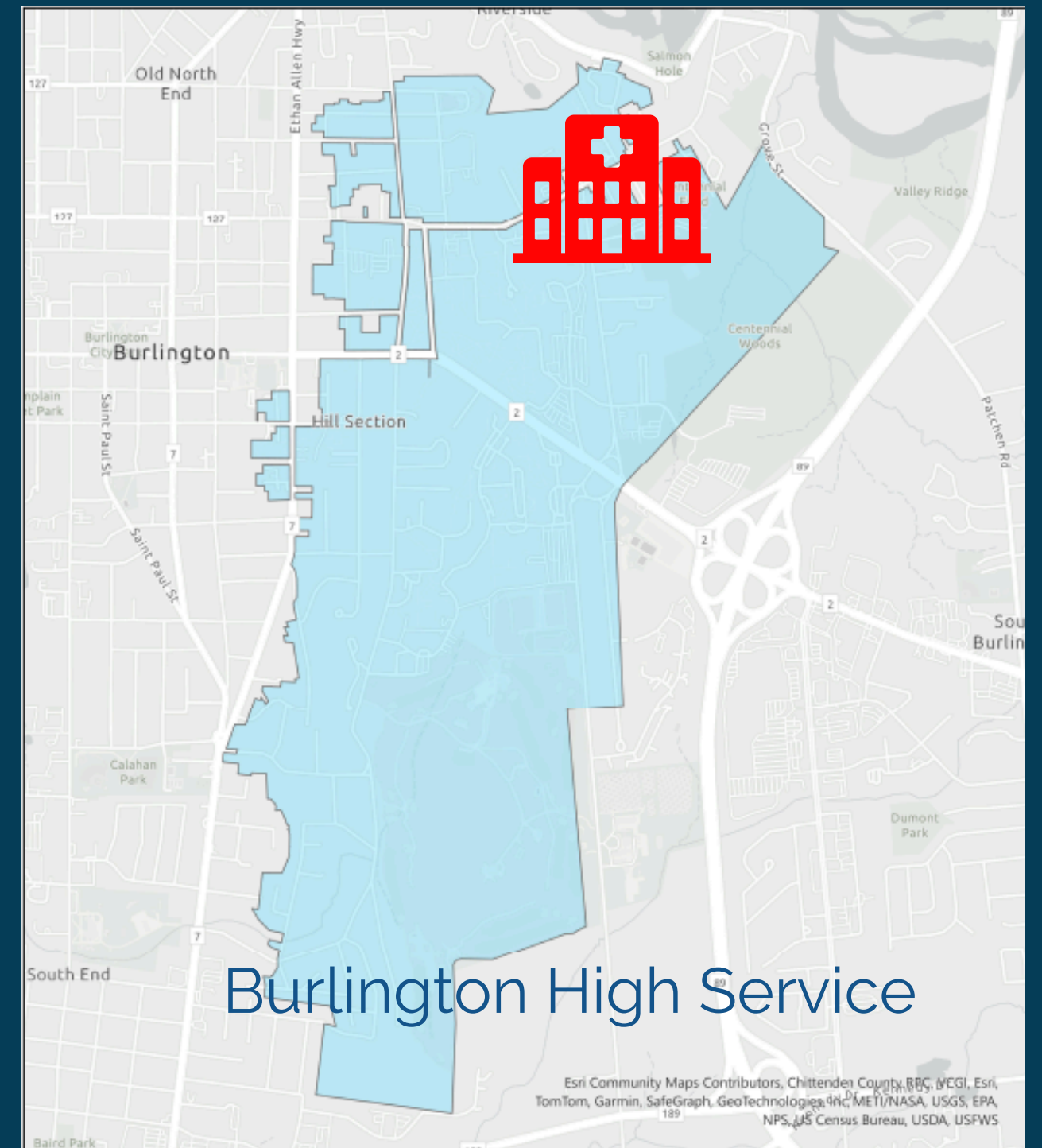
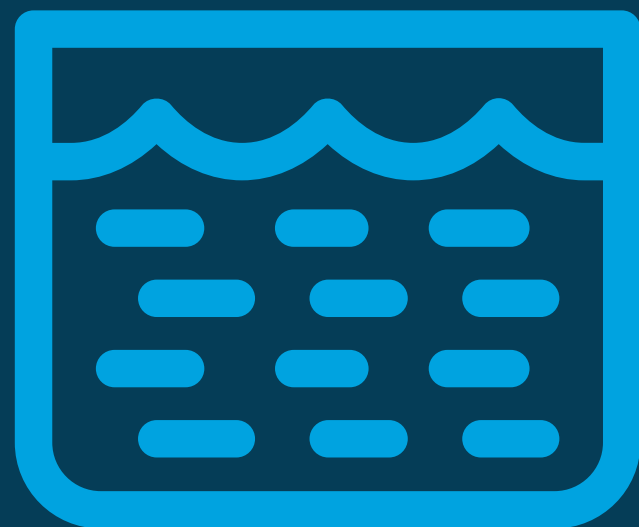


- 7 Million Gallon Treated Drinking Water Storage
 - Originally Built in 1867
 - Expanded in 1888 and lined with brick/stone
 - Covered in 1981
- 1867 Gate House Building
 - In service as a Pump Station starting in early 1880s

THE RESERVOIR AND PUMP STATION ARE CRITICAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE

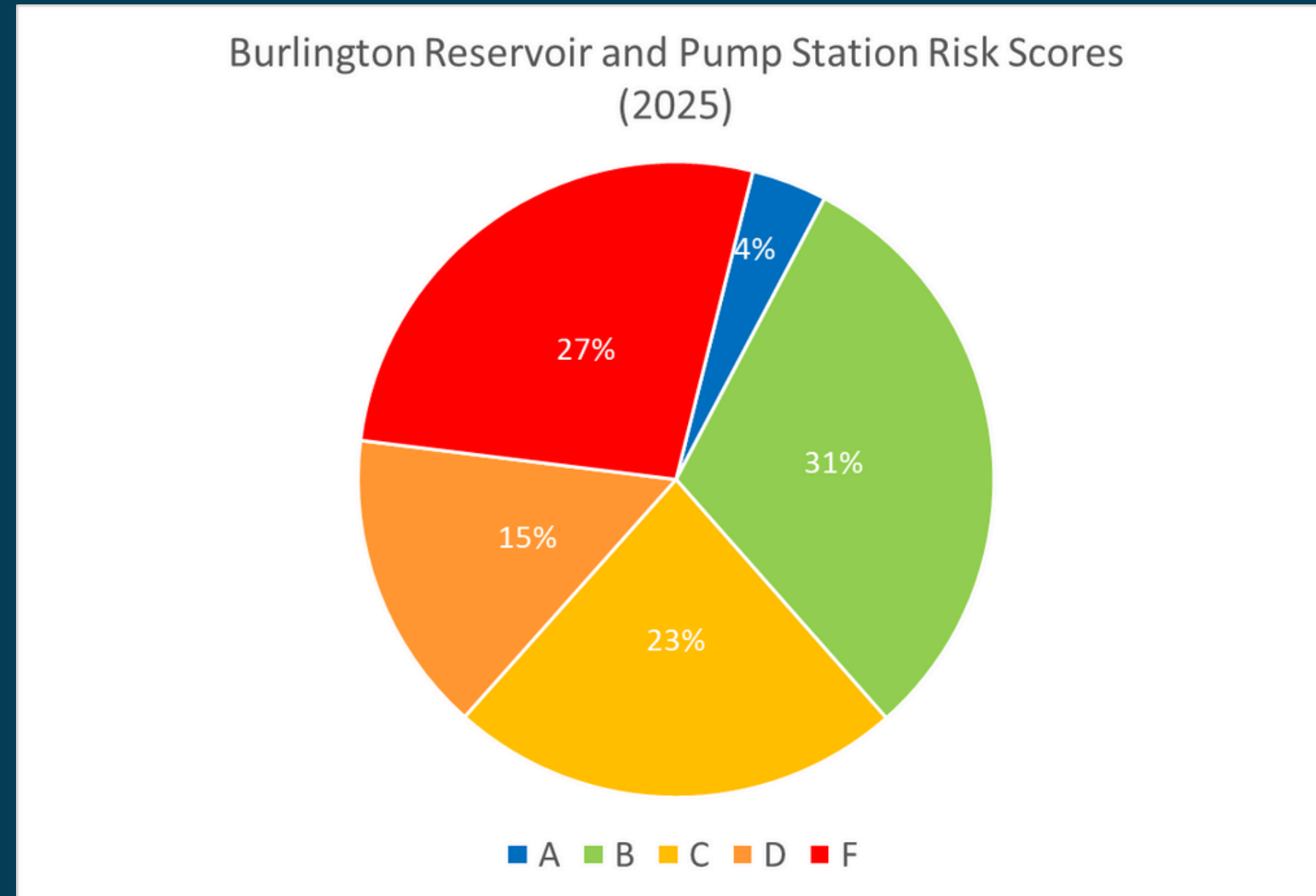


- Pump Station pumps water to a higher elevation (water tanks) to efficiently provide sufficient pressure to properties generally east of Willard Street
- **These pumps are REQUIRED for supplying water to the UVVMC** and rest of high service area
- The reservoir itself is critical to providing **demand fluctuation and emergency storage** for the rest of the City



RISK REPORT CARD

PUMP STATION AND RESERVOIR



Conclusion

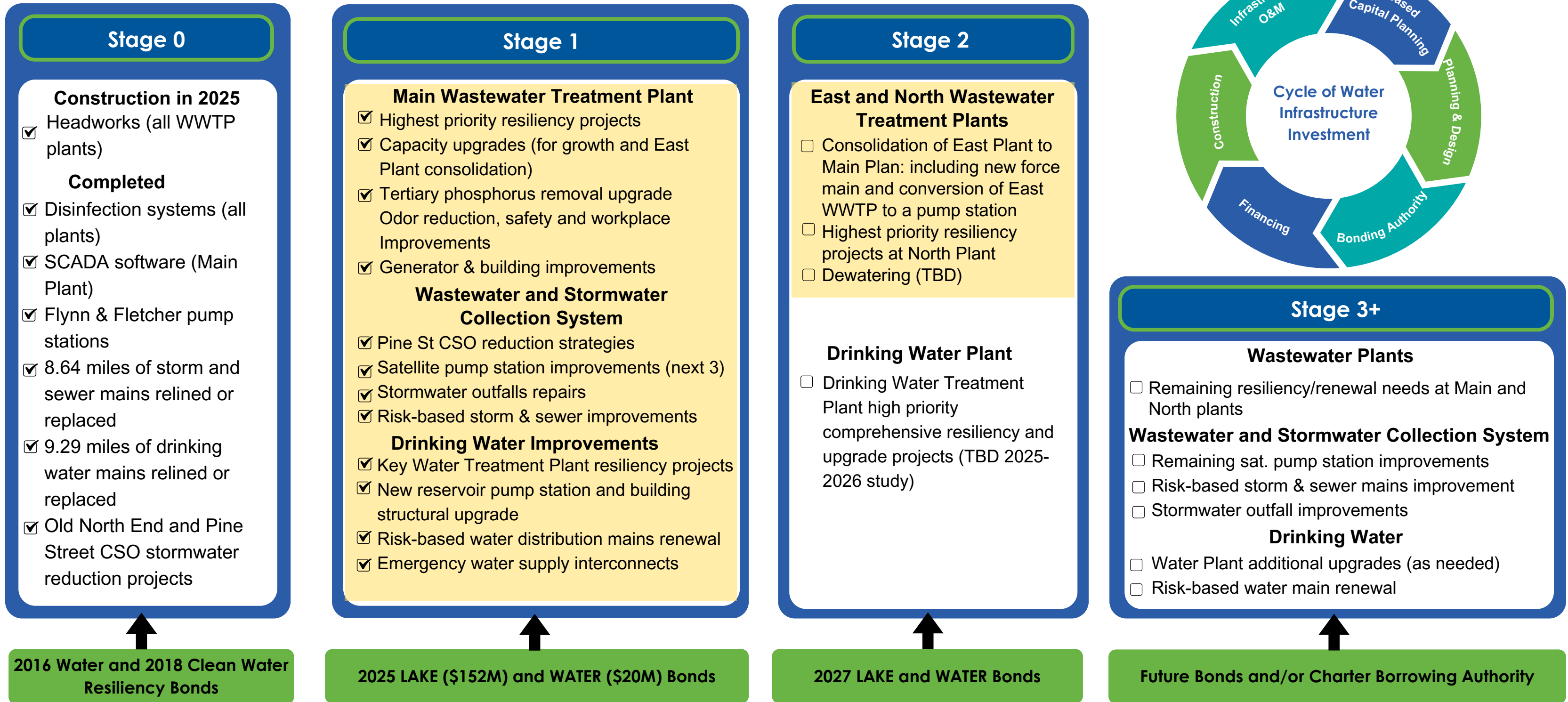
- 65% of systems are at a C grade or worse, with 42% at D (replacement needed in 1-3 years) or F (needs immediate replacement)
- This condition presents a great deal of risk for Burlington's ability to supply water to the high service

Water Resources

Sustainable Infrastructure Plan: The 2025 LAKE & WATER bonds

Original November Bond Proposal

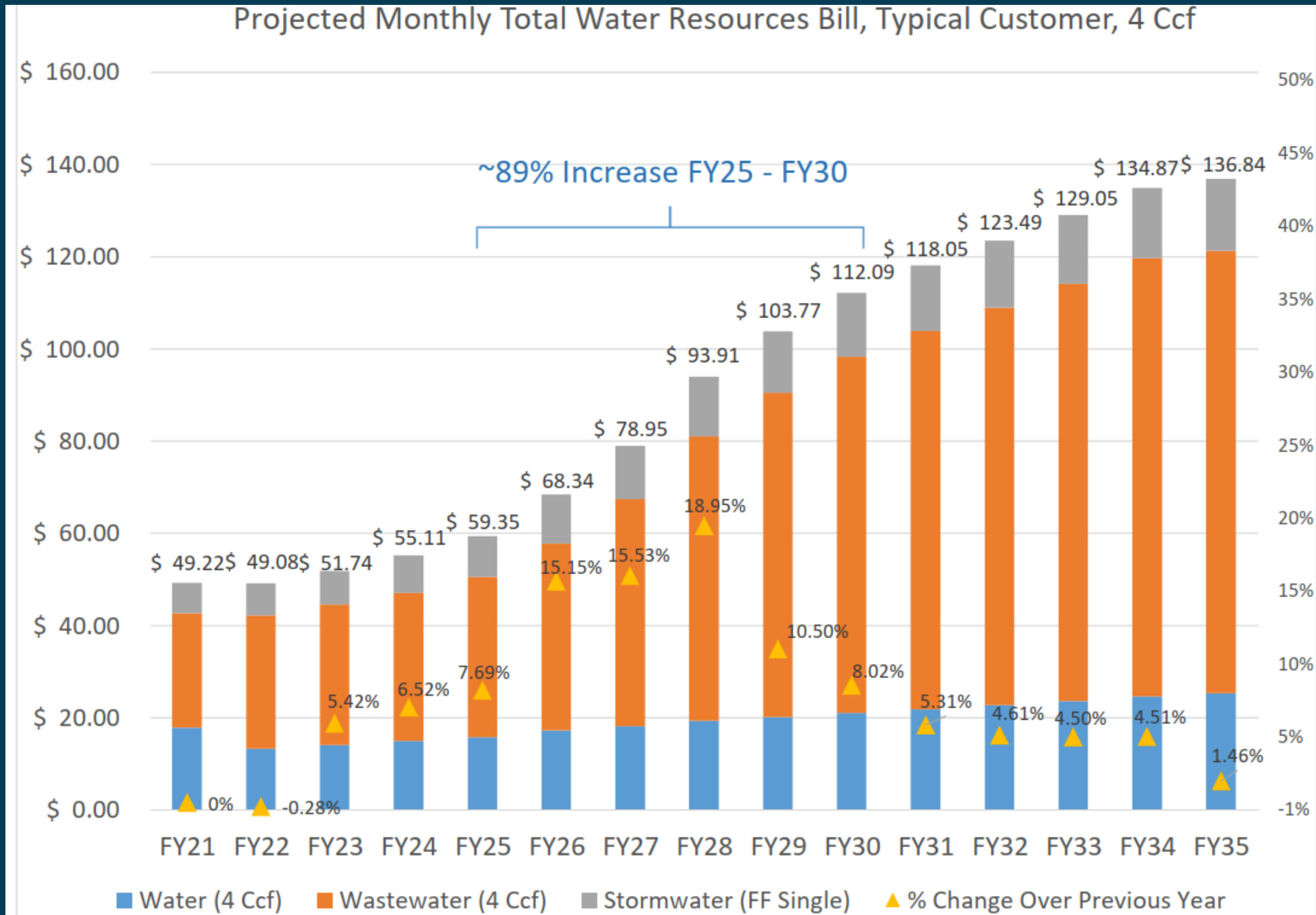
How does this phase of investment fit in with the overall plan?



TOWN MEETING DAY 2025: HOW MUCH \$?

System	Final TMD 2025 Bond Request	Final <u>Cost/Borrowing</u> Determination
Drinking Water	\$20 M	Determination of other funding for City transportation projects; Congressionally Delegated Spending Grant Award
Wastewater	\$138 M	Final due diligence on WWTP costs; Determination of other funding for City Transportation Projects; Pollution Control Grants; NRBC grant; Pine Street CSO sewer separation final cost
Stormwater	\$14 M	Pine Street CSO reduction final cost; Determination of other funding for City transportation projects; Pollution Control Grants

WATER, WASTEWATER, STORMWATER RATE IMPACTS



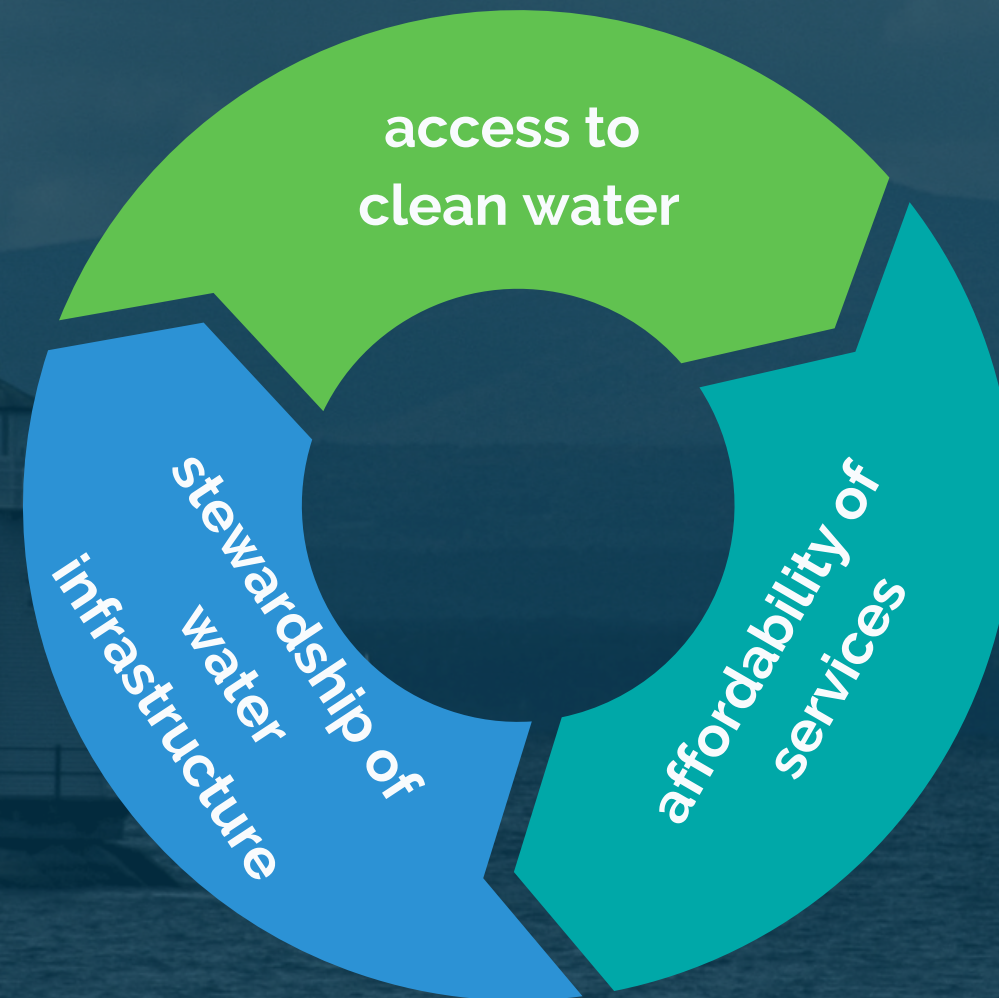
- **Conservative** estimate (based on best available information) of bill impacts:
 - Does not include possible grant funding
 - Does not include revenue from potential growth
- Final borrowing portfolio and availability of SRF loan will play a big role
- Includes Stage 2 Wastewater Treatment Plant costs
 - East Plant Consolidation
 - North Plant High Priority Resiliency Upgrades
- Debt service for included projects ramps up through FY2034, with the steepest rate increases in FY26 - FY 30.

CURRENT RATEPAYER AFFORDABILITY MEASURES

"...an affordable water bill is one that the household can regularly and successfully pay on time without compromising its ability to meet other essential needs." (NRDC Water Affordability Advocacy Toolkit)



- **Fixed Fee Waiver**
 - Low-income
 - 65+
 - Non-Profit Housing Organization
- **Rebates**
 - Sewer lateral inspections
 - WaterSense fixtures



RATE STRUCTURE ADJUSTMENTS

- **Lifeline** rate tier on water side
- **User class**-based rates

Water Resources will work with City Council to develop additional affordability and assistance programs for implementation prior to significant debt issuance.

SUMMARY

- Request for ballot items in March 2025 for
 - Up to \$20M **WATER** bond
 - Up to \$152M **LAKE** bond
- Capital investment is necessary for a resilient Burlington with capacity for growth and a healthy Lake Champlain
- Typical residential bill projected to increase approximately 89% over next 5 years, bringing it into the realm of some other New England communities' projected annual bills

Water reliability
Advancing water main replacement
Treatment plant improvements
Emergency supply contingency
Reservoir upgrades

Leverage modern technology
Advance & repair key infrastructure
Keep our federal & state commitments
Enhance water quality & worker safety



THANK YOU. QUESTIONS?

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Chapin Spencer
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(cspencer@burlingtonvt.gov)

<https://burlingtonvt.gov/2025waterbonds>

