



## **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 January 28, 2025 – 5:30PM** **--DRAFT MINUTES--**

**Councilors absent: None**

**Chair Barlow** calls meeting to order at 5:31 PM

#### **1. Agenda**

**Councilor Bergman** moves to adopt the agenda.

**Councilor Broderick** seconds.

**All in favor, Unanimous approval..**

#### **2. Minutes of 12/17/24**

**Councilor Bergman** moves to adopt the minutes as presented.

**Councilor Broderick** seconds.

**All in favor. Unanimous approval.**

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

**Ali Hamedani** – Resident of Ward 2 – Shared a couple of thoughts of the Battery Street Re-Design Project. One – Last meeting suggested to have 2 or 3 of the parking spots in front of one of the stores. Worried about pedestrian safety. Two – Crosswalks on Pearl St & Battery intersection 4 way work well – can all of the future walk signals work like them.

**April Cornell** – Business owners on Battery Street worried about her business going out of business due to making a decision that is not connected to the women in the community.

**Steve Goodkind** – Member of Stop Vermont Biomass – Reduce CO2 Emissions from McNeil Plant. TEUC has been passed by the City Council to collaborate with a bunch of stakeholders, including B.E.D. and put together some important studies. Create a simple spreadsheet to see how it's going.

**Jak Tiano** – Ward 5 – Battery St Scoping study – Feels the transportation planning process is kind of failing Burlington overall. Need to think ahead on how to make it safer for everyone.

**Andy Tracy** – Battery Street Scoping Study – always things to be improved. Good 1<sup>st</sup> Step.

**Hans Van Weer** – Westport Hospitality - Battery Street – Correction needed for option 2 - Fire lane is needed. Aesthetic perspective think about ways to make it more spectacular.

**Ashley Adams** – Burlington Electric Rate payer and a member of Stop Vermont Biomass – Burlington Electric missed deadlines on potential timeframes to transition away with the need for conventional wood chip combustion as a single power source for the City of Burlington. Feels community deserves to know if the project is moving forward.

#### **04. Deliberative Agenda**

##### **• 4.1 GMT FY 26 Assessment & Special Assessment**

**Clayton Clark** from GMT - Special Assessment - Governors budget released today – it will let them know the baseline for potential reductions in June. Special Assessment in order for it to be binding all Urban Members have to approve it. Total cost is \$308,000. Burlington's portion is \$170,000.00. Assessment breakdown is \$240,000 for driver buyouts, \$50,000 set aside for assessment reform with CCRPC, Lobbying presence \$18,000. Everything is still up in the air. Option 1 is the maximum. The range at highest is 2.28 and the lowest is 2.017 which equals about \$260,000 difference in assessment options. If reduction of force is needed driver buyout in June of 2025. Decision needed on the fund fair free service on route 11.

**DPW Director Chapin Spencer** GMT is looking at some service adjustments that may dramatically change route 11 – continue as is until the service changes happen in June. College Street Assessment is showing around \$243,000.00.

**Chris Damiani Director of Planning GMT** – Route 1 & 2 are the most popular routes on a monthly basis when colleges are in session approximately 50-60 thousand folks a month. 11 Route is much smaller. Since May 2024 - 40% of all rides covered by some sort of agreement.

**Councilors** asked questions about number of cents in an increase in taxes? What is the timeline on the driver buyout decision? Besides TEUC are you working with Mayor's and CAO's Office in terms of budget implications? How heavily is route 11 used? Is the bulk of 11 travel between the hospital and downtown? Is the elimination of the number 8 & 11 still on the table? If you find the funding for the shortage, will there be no reductions in service? Micro Transit - what is better for consistent service?

##### **.4.2 Battery Street Scoping Study Preferred Alternative Presentation**

**Public Works Engineer Julia Ursaki** turned the presentation over to **Drew Gingras** of **VHB**. He spoke about the purpose of the Battery Street Scoping Study - to identify and prioritize short- and long-term improvements that provide equitable, safe, low-stress, and accessible transportation for all along and across Battery Street, regardless of age, ability, or mode of travel. Folks want a safer Battery Street. Alternative 2 is favored.

**Councilors** asked questions about what will happen with the Railyard Enterprise Project and Southern Connector? Does the Crosswalk need to be at Monroe & Battery St? Looking for clarification on if fire lane is still needed? Clarification on April Cornell needs regarding the 13 spaces? What are the impacts to Battery Park? How is Storm water getting addressed?

**Public Comments - Member of the Public** – Lives on lowest block on Battery concerned with taking away all of the parking in that area. What are we doing with the bike path? Railroad Tracks? Feels option 2 doesn't work.

##### **4.3 Parking Service License Plate Reader Briefing**

**Director Chapin Spencer** – mentioned the Mayors Modern Gov initiative and us looking at ways to offer new parking products to the public. **Parking & Traffic Division Director Jackie Esperti** – spoke about the City implementing this technology to achieve the goals of making parking more seamless for the end user by offering a broader range of products, making enforcement more efficient, financial contribution to the General Fund, and assisting the Parking Services financially through fine revenue. No intention to take jobs away. Startup cost \$50,000.00. Yearly cost is \$15,000.00

**Councilors** asked questions about Issues raised about the union? Data that is collected protection? Helpful to get data as it comes in. On Average shift how many plates can someone type in? How many plates per hour does it read? What is the cost? How many cameras? What about Vermont Strong Plates or dirty cars? Authority from the State?

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

**Director Chapin Spencer** – Updated the bike share transition – Bird bikes are not coming back. Opportunity for local vendors. Fatal crash on RT 127 – still waiting for crash report from Police Department. Looking into Automated Traffic Enforcement.

**Councilor's responses and questions-** Bike share – are they remaining in the outlying towns? Feel that we should encourage local providers for Bikeshare. Wants to do what they can to help improve beltline safety.

#### **6. Councilor Items**

**Councilors–** Transportation plan – looking for written response – What is happening? What's the timeline? Planning process, connection of it and plan BTV, what departments involved and their roles? Making sure Burlington Electric Dept. is not overlooked. Connection with GMT, transportation options & management with impact fee statement. Spreadsheet on Agenda Items – important to have a listing, where things are at and see if we can schedule them. Needs to be part of every meeting. More protocol management.

#### **7. Next Meeting**

February 20, 2025 at 645 Pine St at 5:30 pm

#### **8. Adjournment**

**Chair Barlow** adjourns meeting at 8:24 pm.