



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 **Monday February 24, 2025 – 7:00PM** **--DRAFT MINUTES--**

Councilors absent: None

Chair Barlow calls meeting to order at 7:00 PM

1. Agenda

Move item 4.4 Institute Road Sidewalk discussion to the front of the meeting as 4.05

Councilor Broderick moves to adopt the agenda as amended.

Councilor Bergman seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval.

2. Minutes of 1/28/25

Councilor Broderick moves to adopt the minutes.

Councilor Bergman seconds.

All in favor. Unanimous approval.

3. Public Forum

Sharon Bushor (online) – Comments about TDM. Define Mobility Hub. Was involved a little bit in Winooski Ave pilot project. Feels pedestrians do not have equal footing in these conversations and TDM falls short on that. Walking is least expensive, the most environmental friendly and can be done at any age. Parking benefit districts. Concerned about movement going toward more increased cost for parking. Residential parking came into existence to alleviate parking being taken up by nonresidents. Concerned about increased permit cost. AARP needs to be aware of need for pedestrian access and people with disabilities. Parking spaces elimination – you aren't allowing for guests or visitors. Reading about spaces around institutions possibly being available to be sold to business for employees to park. Doesn't seem logical. Ward one constituents concerned about employees getting to have paid spaces on residential streets.

Barbara (online) – Concerned about draft TDM document. Many proposed metrics and actions that are counterproductive to the TDM goal of reducing SOV use and pollution. Like to see the decision makers evaluate each metric against and each action against if it's going to increase or decrease pollution. If it increases pollution please take it out of the TDM report. Focus on where pollution is created and how to reduce it. No to vehicles miles traveled metric. Yes to SSTA.

4. Deliberative Agenda

4.05 Institute Road Sidewalk

Erik Ramakrishnan, Assistant City Attorney spoke about the sidewalks along North Ave & Institute Rd in places don't fall exactly within the City right of way. Once the sidewalks are built and meet City standards Schools will dedicate them to the city on behalf of the public so they can be used like any other sidewalk in the city. Looking for recommending approval of the acceptance of resolution to City Council.

Chapin Spencer, DPW Director wants to make clear that this is only the sidewalk paralleling North Ave & Institute Rd.

Councilor Broderick made the motion to approve and recommend that the City Council waive the reading and adopt the proposed resolution accepting the schools dedication of sidewalks to be located at the high school property along North Ave & Institute Rd.

Councilor Bergman seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval

4.1 Transportation Demand Management Action Plan

Charles Dillard AICP, Director looking for input and direction for the plan. One step is to hire a fulltime TDM coordinator. The goals are to evaluate the City's TDM program and transportation needs, identify opportunities to expand beyond new development and explore models for neighborhood-based TDM.

Councilors are not ready to make a decision but need to get updates to look at details and ordinance. Want most effective and efficient TDM on books. Nervous about advancing quickly. How will you engage advisory committee in updating the TDM? Explore Micro transit with the Airport.

.4.2 Battery Street Preferred Alternative Approval

Public Works Engineer Julia Ursaki - based on direction from the TUEC at the January 28, 2025 meeting, the Battery Street Scoping Study project team revised the Alternative 2 graphic to show parking on both sides of the street between King Street and Main Street, retaining the existing pull-off area in front of the Marriott Hotel, Left turn pockets for turning into the hotels between College and Cherry Street, Updated the report to include more narrative around the engagement with April Cornell and subsequent changes to the design, reached out to April Cornell describing the design changes made to Alternative 2 to accommodate their concerns, Met with Jak Tiano to discuss his comments from the January meeting about protected bike lanes and the planning process in general.

Councilors asked about Curb cut issue? Adjust redline to include pedestrian safety and safety at the intersection. Feel proposed amendment makes sense. Footnote about continuing review for safety. Three lanes will slow traffic down now.

Director Spencer – City's approach is to build relationships.

Councilor Broderick moves that the TEUC approves and recommends the City Council approves the Battery Street Scoping Study Project Advisory Committee's selection of revised Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative for this study and further recommends that the Department of Public Works reviews the curb cuts along the entire corridor to further enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety during future phases of this project.

Councilor Litwin seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval.

4.3 Courthouse Plaza Parking Agreement Modifications

Director Chapin Spencer – Staff is proposing that we restart negotiations to lease half of the 85 spaces. IT would lower the City's costs and still serve the public. Looking to get an agreement extension through October but cheaper.

Councilors asked when the Main & Winooski intersection is being reopened. How much further east is the construction going? Reducing is advisable. Helpful to have usage reports.

4.5 Future TEUC Agenda Setting Work Session

Chair Barlow – Council Ability List, DPW List, 2024 Committee list and 2025 committee list. Need to organize. Listed as Council Action, certain things need to happen and they haven't. Update due dates.

Chair Litwin – Agrees it's a good plan, Public safety missing, Beltline 127 Safety, how do you chart out McNeil Updates?

Chair Bergman – Need to figure out sequencing. Make sure we are dealing with the bigger priorities of councilors. McNeil Stuff, Solar review, TDM, Safety of Beltline.

Chair Broderick - Ensure bus stop accessibility to everyone in snow issues.

5. Director's Report

Director Chapin Spencer – DPW Commission approved the City's Unified Planning Work Program application. New major initiative is a New Transportation Plan. Solar updates – DPW met with encore last week. Each site has challenges. Reservoir needs a new roof- waiting for town meeting. Manhattan Drive Landfill – need to know how to assess methane gas collection system. Need to make sure system is in good shape. Budgeted in 2026 for repairs.

6. Councilor Items

Chair Barlow – GMT is underfunded and is short again this year. Draft resolution with 3 options on how to proceed on this. Schedule a short zoom meeting. Approve something as a committee for March 4th or Work as councilors for a GMT funding resolution on 3-10-25 council agenda. Changes or amendments bring to him.

Councilor Litwin – not worth an extra meeting.

Councilor Bergman – February 27th or March 3rd only days to do a special meeting. Circulate to everyone, get co-sponsors and proceed.

Councilor Broderick – doesn't feel special meeting is required.

7. Next Meeting

March 25, 2025 at 645 Pine St at 5:30 pm

8. Adjournment

Chair Barlow adjourns meeting at 8:57 pm.