



**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, August 19, 2025 – 5:00PM**  
**--DRAFT MINUTES--**

See video for full meeting: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FooouA3m8o\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FooouA3m8o_w)

**Councilors absent: Councilor McKnight**

**Councilors Present: Chair Barlow, Councilor Broderick, Councilor Bergman via Zoom**

**Chair Barlow** calls meeting to order at 5:00 PM

**1. Agenda**

**Councilor Broderick** moves to approve the agenda as posted.

**Councilor Bergman** seconds.

**All in favor, Unanimous approval**

**2. Minutes of 7/24/25**

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

**Councilor Broderick** seconds.

Councilor Bergman would like more detailed minutes

**All in favor, Unanimous approval**

**3. Public Forum**

**Quinton Zanderan - Policy Director from One on Climate - Online**

**4. Deliberative Agenda**

**4.1 GMT Assessment Methodology Study**

**Peter Plume & Michele Hobbs**, of Reframe Lab and Clayton from GMT presented information.

[Zoom AI Summary:](#)

**Strategizing GMT's Sustainable Future**

The meeting focused on evaluating GMT's current municipal assessment methodology and strategic path forward to ensure sustainability of transit service in the region, equity

across municipalities, and fiscal stability. Participants discussed the value and future role of GMT in Burlington, highlighting its importance in providing transportation options, reducing private auto use, and supporting economic development. They also explored GMT's funding model, considering regional funding options and barriers, and emphasized the need for more frequent service and route adjustments to accommodate future development. The study is in its initial phase, with several months remaining for further input and planning.

## **Public Transit Funding and Governance**

The meeting focused on discussing funding models and governance structures for public transit, particularly Green Mountain Transit (GMT). Gene and DPW expressed uncertainty about the current funding model's intricacies and called for more detailed information to improve proposals for innovation. They emphasized the need for regional collaboration and suggested convening a larger roundtable to exchange ideas. Gene highlighted affordability concerns and the importance of engaging communities deeply in transit planning. DPW advocated for a regional approach to funding and governance, suggesting collaboration with existing county-level structures. The group discussed potential barriers to changing the funding approach, including perceived threats to Burlington's dominance and the current assessment methodology. They agreed on the need for better education about transit's value to build public support.

## **4.2 BED Synapse & Building Electrification Institute Presentation**

**Darren Springer, General Manager of BED, Shelley Kwok & Philip Eash-Gates Of Synapse Energy & Caytie Campbell – Orrock of Building Electrification Institute** presented information.

### **Zoom AI Summary:**

The meeting focused on two main topics: a regional transit study and building electrification policies. For the transit study, DPW announced that municipal meetings would be completed by early September, with proposed recommendations and a strategic roadmap to be developed by mid to late October, and a full report expected by year-end. Regarding building electrification, Shelley and Philip from Synapse presented analysis of three Burlington buildings, showing that while electrification measures reduced energy use intensity across all buildings, the economics varied significantly depending on building type and system age. The analysis found that gas heated buildings with rooftop units could electrify with minimal incremental costs, while high-temperature central boiler systems faced more challenges. The presentation concluded that Burlington would be the smallest community in the country to adopt such a policy, presenting both opportunities and administrative challenges.

## **Transit and Building Electrification Updates**

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reduced energy use intensity across all buildings, the economics varied significantly depending on building type and system age. The analysis found that gas heated buildings with rooftop units could electrify with minimal incremental costs, while high-temperature central boiler systems faced more challenges. The presentation concluded that Burlington would be the smallest community in the country to adopt such a policy, presenting both opportunities and administrative challenges.

### **Weatherization Cost Analysis and Trends**

The meeting focused on a presentation about weatherization and energy efficiency measures, with Shelley explaining the cost calculations for different building systems. Gene raised questions about the cost breakdowns, which Shelley clarified by explaining the methodology for calculating levelized costs over a 15-year period. Darren and Chris discussed the current incentive landscape for heat pumps, noting uncertainty about future rebates due to ongoing regulatory processes. Philip presented a national perspective on air-source heat pump costs and trends, suggesting that while costs are slowly decreasing, performance is improving. The group agreed that more data is needed to inform future policy decisions, particularly regarding the affordability of air-to-water heat pump technology for commercial buildings.

### **Burlington's Building Performance Standards**

Caytie presented on building performance standards, explaining that Burlington would be the smallest city to implement such a policy and emphasizing the importance of pairing it with technical support and job requirements. She outlined key components including benchmarking data management, compliance pathways, and the need for clear guidance and support for building owners. Caytie recommended finalizing the benchmarking ordinance, engaging stakeholders, and ensuring adequate time for policy design and implementation, while acknowledging Burlington's existing climate policies and the need to balance multiple requirements.

### **Energy Performance Standards Policy Discussion**

The committee discussed policy approaches for building energy performance standards, with Caytie presenting options including individual percentage reductions and cohort targets. The group explored how these approaches could be implemented in a bureau ordinance, with Philip and Caytie noting that Boston uses both methods while Cambridge successfully employs percentage reductions. The discussion concluded with agreement that Burlington should gather benchmarking data before determining the best approach, and John Bryant provided a brief update on the forestry study which is expected to be completed in September.

#### **4.3 BED Forestry Study Update**

**John Bryan owner of K2QC Consulting** presented information.

**Zoom AI Summary:** John Bryan provided an update on his forestry assessment analysis for the McNeil Generating Station, highlighting his observations and progress over the past six weeks. He visited 12 logging sites in Vermont and New York, reviewed BED documents, and found the logging contractors to be diverse and passionate about maximizing wood value. John plans to complete his report by September 30th and aims

to present it at a future meeting. The committee expressed appreciation for his work and discussed scheduling the next meeting to accommodate John's presentation.

#### **4.4 Downtown Parking Item**

**Jackie Esperti, Parking Services Operation Manager** presented information.

**Zoom AI Summary:** The meeting explored the possibility of public-private parking partnerships in Burlington, with Jackie presenting examples of existing arrangements and discussing revenue sharing options. Gene and other counselors expressed concerns about potential conflicts with private property owners and the need to avoid subsidizing parking, while Jackie emphasized that the initiative is aimed at preparing for future parking shortages due to new hotels and developments. The committee agreed to continue discussions and gather more data on parking projections and private lot usage before making recommendations.

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

#### **Stormwater Agreements and Union Contract**

**Zoom AI Summary:** The meeting covered several key updates and decisions. The group approved stormwater agreements with homeowners' associations, including a minor tweak for Strathmore HOA regarding stormwater facility responsibility, which will be presented to City Council on September 8th or 9th. The Board approved a 3–4-year collective bargaining agreement for urban drivers that provides financial stability but may lead to service cuts being evaluated by GMT in November 2026.

### **6. Councilor Items**

**None**

### **7. Next Meeting**

September 30, 2025 at 645 Pine St at 5:00 pm

### **8. Adjournment**

**Chair Barlow** adjourns meeting at 7:28 pm.