



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 Becca McKnight, *Ward 6*
Councilor Marek Broderick, *Ward 8*

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Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council
Tuesday, September 30, 2025 – 5:00PM
--DRAFT MINUTES--

See video for full meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJSNk7D4Yck>

Councilors absent: None

Councilors Present: Chair Barlow, Councilor Broderick via zoom, Councilor Bergman & Councilor McKnight

Chair Barlow calls meeting to order at 5:11 PM

1. Agenda

Councilor Bergman moves to approve the agenda as posted.

Councilor Broderick seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval

2. Minutes of 8/19/25

Councilor Bergman moves to adopt the minutes as presented noting that AI has a few errors.

Councilor Broderick seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval

3. Public Forum

Sharon Bushor – Comments regarding communication regarding public Utility & Compliment to PlanBTV about how to reach out.

4. Deliberative Agenda

4.1 PlanBTV 2050 Mobility (Transportation Plan)

Phillip Peterson, Senior Transportation Planner, & Parsa Pezeshknejad, Transportation Planner presented information.

Zoom AI Summary: BTV2050 Transportation Plan Updates

The meeting focused on updates and planning for Plan BTV2050, a comprehensive city plan encompassing transportation, housing, economic development, and parks. The transportation

component, led by DPW, aims to update the existing plan from 2011, considering significant changes and future developments. Key goals include integrating transportation with land use and housing, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and preparing for uncertainty through scenario-based planning. Public engagement is a priority, with visioning workshops planned before and after consultant selection, and the team is actively seeking consultants through a request for qualifications process with proposals due October 8th.

Burlington Transportation Planning Separation

The group discussed the need to separate transportation planning discussions for different areas of Burlington, particularly between the South End and Hill sections, due to distinct transportation challenges and residential concerns. They emphasized the importance of including various stakeholder groups in the planning process, such as neighborhood associations, businesses, and educational institutions like UVM and GMT, to address specific transportation issues like parking and traffic flow. The team also highlighted the need to make the RFQ and planning documents easily accessible to the public and discussed how community input would help shape transportation goals, with a focus on balancing space allocation for different modes of transportation.

Information only

4.2 Emissions Reduction / Energy Efficiency Review

Darren Springer, General Manager of BED, Brad Williams Senior Operations Engineer of BED presented information.

Zoom AI Summary: Comprehensive Planning and Emission Reduction

The committee discussed the comprehensive plan, emphasizing the need to include student voices from UVM and Champlain College, and addressed the importance of long-term public transit planning. They also discussed the integration of open space plans and the need for scenario planning around transportation systems. The visioning workshops were outlined, including plans for surveys and open-ended questions to gather community input. Finally, Brad presented an update on evaluating opportunities to reduce emissions at the McNeil plant, highlighting the progress made in characterizing the plant and identifying potential initiatives for emission reduction.

McNeil Plant Carbon Reduction Assessment

The meeting focused on the assessment of potential initiatives to reduce carbon emissions at the McNeil plant by 25% and 50%. Brad explained the baseline emissions level was established as the average of the past five years, and various solutions, including RNG blending, ammonia blending, and carbon capture, were evaluated for their technical applicability, efficiency, and economic implications. The team modeled most initiatives and expected to complete the project in about a month, providing a detailed report on feasible options, including cost and reduction levels. Councilor Bergman inquired about the inclusion of an implementation schedule and the role of battery storage and solar expansion in the report, to which Brad confirmed these topics were part of the ongoing assessment.

Information only

4.3 Forestry Third Party Review

presented information.

Zoom AI Summary:

Burlington Electric's Wood Residue Management

John Bryant of K2QC Consulting presented a forestry report on Burlington Electric's wood residue management system, highlighting the efficient operations at the Swanton Yard and the collaborative relationship between loggers and BED foresters. He noted that BED foresters primarily work in a compliance role rather than procurement, and praised the system's attention to environmental concerns like bat habitats. The report addressed the RFP requirements and documented the diverse approaches of logging contractors in Vermont's challenging terrain.

Vermont Forest Management Report

BED presented a comprehensive report on Vermont's forest management practices, highlighting areas of compliance and offering recommendations for improvement. Key recommendations included supporting professional logger training through the Northeast, encouraging annual workshops on AMPs (Best Management Practices), updating education materials on rare species protection, and developing alternative bioproducts facilities. The report also suggested reviewing Vermont's Act 250 and considering a chain of custody process for wood residues. Betsy, the Chief Forester, confirmed that 72% of Vermont's wood production is burned for firewood, correcting an earlier misunderstanding. The discussion touched on the challenges of tracking wood markets and the impact of McNeil's operations on wood residue management.

Information only

5. Director's Report

Chapin Spencer, DPW Director stated the department plans to present a report on the city's recycling program in October, with a recommendation to continue municipal recycling services. Director Spencer addressed concerns about the new bike lanes on Main Street, explaining the design and addressing safety concerns.

6. Councilor Items

None

7. Next Meeting

October 29, 2025 at 645 Pine St at 5:30 pm

8. Adjournment

Chair Barlow adjourns meeting at 7:09 pm.