



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, March 24, 2026 – 5:30 PM
--DRAFT MINUTES--

See video for full meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZWr4Ybiexs>

Councilors absent: None

Councilors present: Chair Barlow, Councilor Bergman, Councilor Broderick, and Councilor McKnight (zoom)

Chair Barlow calls the meeting to order at 5:32 pm

1. Agenda

Councilor Bergman moves the adoption of the agenda as posted in Civic Clerk.

Councilor Broderick seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval

2. Minutes of 2/19/26

Councilor Bergman moves to adopt the 2/19/26 minutes as posted.

Councilor Broderick seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval

3. Public Forum

None

4. Deliberative Agenda

4.1 GMT Visioning, Budget and Service Update

Clayton Clark, General Manager for GMT, Chris Damiani Director of Planning for GMT and Andrea Suozzo GMT Vice Chair presented information.

Councilor Bergman asked for more info on the thought leader question, where staff is at? What side they would be on? Interested in the State Transit Bill. **Chair Barlow** GMT is doing this everyday and should be a thought leader. What is the cost to add an extra run to Tilley Dr? **Councilor Broderick** feels there needs to be a provider for mass transit service to carry a lot of people to the most important places and appreciates GMT for filling that role. UVM is moving a lot of special services to Tilley Dr, and there is currently no shuttle by the hospital.

Councilor McKnight asked where does D.O.T. and the Governors responsibility to keep the state running fit in here?

AI generated minutes w/ slight staff revisions: The meeting focused on GMT's visioning process and budget updates, with Clayton Clark discussing the agency's transition from a joint urban-rural transit provider to an urban-focused service. Clayton explained that GMT is studying new service models including a combination of ADA paratransit and micro transit, and has augmented its planning capacity with two additional planners supported by CCRPC. The discussion revealed ongoing debates about whether GMT should serve as a thought leader for regional transit or primarily focus on service provision, with Clayton acknowledging staff capacity limitations if the agency were to take on a more leadership role. The conversation also addressed structural challenges in public transit governance, with Clayton noting that transportation committees often prioritize roads over people-focused transit needs. The meeting focused on budget challenges facing GMT, particularly regarding federal and local funding. Clayton explained that while FY27 will have a \$500,000 deficit, the more significant challenge will be FY28 when federal carbon reduction and COVID relief funds expire, leaving a \$3 million gap in a \$20 million budget. The discussion highlighted concerns about the upcoming surface transportation bill, which expires September 30, with potential 15-20% funding reductions and possible restrictions on flexing highway dollars to public transit. The committee discussed several transit service changes, including a potential rerouting of the B11 bus to serve the hospital, which requires legislative approval. They also reviewed upcoming service modifications including changes to the Montpelier link, routing adjustments for the number 5 route to better serve Social Security Administration offices, and potential elimination of the underperforming Essex route. The discussion highlighted a gap in hospital shuttle service to Tilly Drive, where patients face long wait times between limited runs, though any expansion would require hospital funding. The committee also explored opportunities for Transportation Demand Management (TDM) agreements with employers and institutions, noting the potential for innovative solutions like micro transit to serve outlying areas.

Councilor Bergman made a motion for the GMT Board members to help the TEUC members to draft a letter to find a way to find the \$500,000 shortfall that is currently anticipated and include Members of the Senate Transportation Committee. **Councilor Broderick** seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval

4.2 Industrial Pre-Treatment Briefing and Next Steps

Megan Moir, Division Director Water Resources presented information.

Councilor Bergman wants the ordinance committee to do this. Make sure what is seen is consistent with the entire ordinance, including Article 1 of chapter 26. **Chair Barlow** asked if this is predicated on S212.

AI generated minutes w/ slight staff revisions: The committee discussed implementing an industrial pre-treatment program to manage wastewater from breweries and other industries. The program aims to ensure compliance with federal regulations and prevent overburdening the wastewater treatment plant's capacity. Key points included the need for ordinance changes to delegate authority from the state and the potential for the Ordinance Committee to review the proposed updates. The group agreed to explore decoupling certain elements to meet immediate deadlines while addressing broader regulatory needs. They also discussed the importance of ensuring consistency with existing ordinance language and charter

requirements. Regarding regulations, DPW explained they are working on adopting federal changes and discussed the potential for Burlington to take on more regulatory responsibility rather than leaving it entirely to the state. Next steps include reviewing the proposed ordinance changes and preparing for potential council adoption by June 30th.

4.3 Winooski Bridge/COBRI Intersection Condemnation Process

Laura Wheelock, City Engineer & Division Director of Technical Services & Maddy Suender, Associate Engineer presented information.

Councilor Bergman said you will have to walk us through everything and have pictures. **Chair Barlow** asked if DPW anticipates this being controversial? Is any of this executive session? **Councilor McKnight** agrees with laying out who is in charge of what. Curious to hear more about the dialog process. Who is impacted by this?

AI generated minutes w/ slight staff revisions: The committee discussed a condemnation process for the Winooski Bridge intersection. For the Winooski Bridge condemnation process, Laura & Maddy provided updates on property negotiations, noting that 7 out of 10 remaining properties need to be signed, with most negotiations proceeding well. The committee discussed the upcoming April 13th City Council meeting where they will request to set hearing dates for May 21st or 28th.

5. Director's Report

Laura shared that DPW is bringing forward a similar condemnation process for Cherry Street, because it shares a similar federal funding deadline.

Director Spencer shared that DPW is working on finalizing Clean Sweep dates.

6. Councilor Items

Councilor Bergman – Pine St?

Chair Barlow reminded everyone that this is the final meeting with the current committee before reorganization on April 1, 2026.

Councilor McKnight asked if there was any news on the signal issue from this morning (Main St & S. Willard St)? What happens if it can be fixed?

7. Next Meeting

Tentatively April 28, 2026, 5:30 pm at 645 Pine St.

8. Adjournment

Chair Barlow adjourns meeting at 7:26pm.