

Burlington Walk Bike Council (BWBC)

October 4th, 2023 Meeting Notes

The monthly meeting took place 5:30- 7:00 pm via Zoom and at the DPW Office.

In-Person Attendees: Faith Ingulsrud - Host (Ward 6), Ryan Thorton, Jak Tiano, Sophie Sauve' (Parks), Jon Adams-Kollitz (Parks), Bob Leidy, Olivia Darisse (DPW), Julia Ursaki (DPW)

Online Attendees: Gordon Dragoon (Ward 4), Jason Stuffle (Ward 1), Peter Keating (Ward 6), Laura Wheelock (DPW), Jonathan Weber (Local Motion)

1. Introductions, Announcements, Updates and Public Comments (10 min)

- a. Bob Leidy completed a report on Burlington in a walking advocate course with America Walks and shared some of his recommendations:
 - i. Make the Main Street project more "Vision 0" orientated, and has distributed a proposal for the following:
 - ii. Turn more pedestrian crosswalks into "scrambles," a crosswalk that stops all vehicle movement enabling pedestrians to take over the intersection with longer walk times and diagonal crossing.
 - iii. Eliminate vehicles on Church street on the block south of Main street connection as it is dangerous for pedestrians and no need for vehicle access.
 - iv. Include taller trees and rain gardens along the corridor
 - v. Bob will be happy to share his report with anyone interested
- b. Jason gave an update on Winooski Bridge design project
 - i. Project Advisory Committee (PAC) is not going to consider separated walk/bike facilities - staying with the multiuse path design
 - ii. They will also not revisit the roundabout on the Burlington side of the bridge
 - iii. He is disappointed that the consultants are focussed on outreach, but not taking feedback about those key components that are important for better bike/ped safety and comfort.
 - iv. Laura provided some clarification, **also proposed a discussion on the Winooski bridge at a future BWBC**
 1. The grant for the bridge design is for implementing the recommendations of the scoping study and the parameters of what can be changed at this point are pretty narrow.
 2. But that doesn't mean there can't be some changes
 - v. Bob said that the goal is to finish construction by 2030, so he wants to avoid any action that might slow things down further.

- vi. Jason agreed that we don't want to have to re-apply for the grant, or slow things down but wants to make sure we understand the thresholds for what can be changed.

2. Great Streets Main Street Update (20 min)

- a. Olivia presented a recap and overview of plans for Main St. - [Project overview](#)
- b. Bids opened September 19th, expect construction to begin by November
 - i. SD Ireland won the bid
 - ii. Contract says it should be done by November 2026
 - iii. Held to unit pricing that they had in the contract, so they shouldn't go over hypothetically
- c. Sewer, water, and stormwater improvements will begin this fall and continue through Summer 2025
- d. Roadway/streetscape construction begins Summer 2025 and continue through October 2026
- e. There will be a neighborhood meeting in early November - to be announced soon.
- f. Any comments, questions should be directed to the outreach consultant - Natalie Boyle - dedicated to the Main St. project.
 - i. nboyle@eivtech.com
 - ii. (802) 855-3893
 - iii. Will invite people to sign up for regular updates
- g. Bob would like to have a conversation on the SB pedestrian bridge project, and how that connects to this Main Street project
 - i. Julia: 89 Bridge connection project is still underway in SB, but in Burlington, we haven't decided on how to connect to the bridge. A scoping study is needed and on the DPW to-do list
- h. Jak: Connecting Main Street to the bike path (greenway) is out of scope on this project, but it really should be more formally accessible in the future. Others also pointed out the dangers for biking onto Lake Street.
 - i. Olivia: Challenge with this project is that the downtown TIF district is what is funding Great Streets and the TIF District ends Main and Battery Street
 - ii. DPW is trying to remove parking in front of April Cornell right now, hoping that at least helps with sightlines
 - iii. Laura: They are definitely advocating for a better transition from Main to Lake, but funding is limited

3. Discussion of Walk Bike Issues with Parks Department (55 min)

- a. Jon: Parks is working with Local Motion to organize the 14th annual Halloween bike ride, Sunday 10/29, 1:30-2:00 PM.

- i. Adding a walking option this year
 - ii. City Hall Park 2:00 PM -> Roosevelt Park 3:00 PM
- b. Sophie discussed a number of the park master plans starting with the 2 year-old plan for Calahan park (See image #1)
 - i. Lots of interest in making it easy to walk/bike through the park so the plan recommends improvements throughout.
 - ii. The cut-through from Birchcliff neighborhood can't be improved by the City because the land is owned by a neighborhood association that no longer exists. A group of neighbors is looking in how to turn the land over to the City.
 - iii. Questions about the homeless community that lives there, Parks considers it a city-wide challenge
 - iv. Jonathon: Is there going to be improvement for bike parking along with this project?
 - 1. Parks hasn't gotten to that scale quite yet
 - 2. Has an inventory of bike parking at parks and a \$10,000 annual budget for bike parking
 - v. Bob gave kudos for the Master Plan
- c. Master plan for Leddy park
 - i. Remove the loop drive to improve safety and give more space to greenery, bike park,
 - ii. Better walking loop around park and in general fewer but better paths around the park (lots of informal/redundant paths).
 - iii. Not shown: A better drop off in the main parking lot (similar to smaller loop shown in image)
 - iv. Bob: Need more pickleball courts
 - v. Jason: May be outside of the scope, but is a good connection with Ethan Allen park being considered?
 - 1. DPW will make that connection happen
 - vi. Gordon: At least sharrows on the last part of Leddy Park road?
- d. Question - At intersections on the Greenway, could the Greenway have priority instead of the vehicles crossing?
 - i. Jon: Explained that the Park intersections between with Greenway at Leddy, Oakledge and College/Eco are designed as plazas and asked if they work for people right now?
 - 1. Jonathan: Never had trouble at the Leddy arena, but it's somewhat dependent on the season. Also the College Street crossing works alright
 - 2. Bob: Signage is huge for this, letting people know they do/do not have priority

- e. Roosevelt Park Plan currently underway
 - i. Nov 8 is the first public hearing
 - ii. Safe access is an issue as there is no sidewalk around the perimeter and Boy/Girls Club across the street uses the park for after school programs
- f. Stop signs at Greenway
 - i. At the beginning of the bike path concept (2011), the bike path task force had an intersection scoping study done. Scoped all of the intersections of the greenway, analyzed in terms of traffic counts and the type intersection. Further construction design tried to make it visually continuous while still adhering to engineers standards for stop signs. Knows that there is a strong sentiment to have cars yield to bikes, but there is a belief that they currently handle themselves
 - ii. Gordon: We should change this, drivers are not the ones at risk
 - iii. Jon: We'll have to have an engineer look at it
 - iv. Jonathan: I see confusion at the intersections, which makes things fairly safe. As of right now it is fairly mixed. Stop signs for car traffic would probably be clearer
 - v. **Jon: A coordinated request coming from BWBC would possibly push this if we desired it**
 - vi. Jason: Would like it to be consistent, sometimes it is painted/sometime it's not, sometime it's stop/sometime it's not
 - vii. Jon: They certainly tried to be consistent
 - viii. **Apparently Eagle Bay has the ability to terminate the easement to the city at any time**
- g. Closure of the Greenway during events at Waterfront Park
 - i. Gordon: Closure doesn't seem necessary for the events that close the Greenway and it is confusing and inconvenient for people walking and biking.
 - ii. Jon: Closure is not automatic - it requires a request and approval. Closure isn't taken lightly. If requested, the **Parks Department might look into adjusting the policy into the process of greenway closure to see if it needs to become a bit more stringent.**
- h. Trees and Greenery
 - i. Street trees are maintained by the city arborist, one of the rare instances on where Parks has involvement in the street rights-of-way

- ii. Keeping other vegetation from properties intruding on the sidewalk are the property owners' responsibility.
- iii. Code can be enforced and reported through SeeClickFix.

Faith thanked the Parks Dept representatives and closed the meeting at 7.

Calahan Park Master Plan



Leddy Park Master Plan

