

Resolution Relating to

RESOLUTION 3.47

THE RAILYARD ENTERPRISE PROJECT –
SUPPORTING SUPPLEMENTAL SCOPING OF THE
PROJECT PHASE 2 ALTERNATIVE 1B TO EVALUATE
FEASIBILITY OF A LOCAL/STATE PROJECT

Sponsor(s): Shannon, Mason
Introduced: 11/28/16
Referred to: _____
Action: adopted
Date: 11/28/16
Signed by Mayor: 12/01/16

CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Sixteen

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

1 That WHEREAS, the City Council at an October 2012 meeting unanimously passed a resolution
2 “express[ing] its full support for the new Railyard Enterprise Project and authoriz[ing] the Mayor and CEDO
3 staff to commence work with the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) on scoping for
4 the project;” and

5 WHEREAS, the Railyard Enterprise Project’s partners – the City, Vermont Agency of Transportation
6 (VTrans), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and CCRPC – completed an enhanced scoping
7 process under the Every Day Counts/Planning and Environmental Linkages (EDC/PEL) FHWA initiative; and

8 WHEREAS, through the scoping process the purpose of the Railyard Enterprise Project was
9 established to develop a network of multimodal transportation infrastructure improvements in the Pine Street
10 and Battery Street area, which incorporate the principles of complete streets, and to: 1) support economic
11 development in the area; 2) improve the livability of the surrounding neighborhoods; 3) enhance multimodal
12 travel connectivity between the Pine Street corridor and Battery Street in the Burlington Waterfront South
13 area; and 4) improve intermodal connections to the Burlington Railyard, a National Highway System (NHS)-
14 designated intermodal facility; and

15 WHEREAS, the Steering Committee that was formed to provide guidance and general project
16 oversight (whose names are listed in the accompanying memo) recommended at its October 29, 2015 meeting
17 that the City Council support the advancement of three Phase 2 Alternatives (1B, 2, and 5B), that have wide
18 ranging benefits and impacts, into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); and

19 WHEREAS, public input during the process including the REP public forum on December 9, 2015
20 and the City Council meeting on December 21, 2015 raised topics including concerns about impacts to
21 existing buildings in the project area, a desire to have more local control, and interest in developing the project
22 in a timely manner to reduce traffic impacts in the King St. and Maple St. neighborhoods as soon as possible;
23 and

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ORIGINAL

DISTRIBUTION:

I hereby certify that this resolution has been sent to the following department(s) on

RESOLUTION RELATING TO

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Adopted by the City Council

....., 20.....

..... Clerk

Approved....., 20.....

Attest:

..... Mayor

Vol. Page

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THE RAILYARD ENTERPRISE PROJECT – SUPPORTING
SUPPLEMENTAL SCOPING OF THE PROJECT PHASE 2 ALTERNATIVE
1B TO EVALUATE FEASIBILITY OF A LOCAL/STATE PROJECT

24 WHEREAS, the City Council approved the December 21, 2015 resolution advancing the three REP
25 Phase 2 Alternatives, but the resolution also stated that the Council “strongly supports build alternatives...that
26 connect Pine Street and Battery Street with the least impact to private property and existing businesses;” and

27 WHEREAS, upon summarizing public and Council input for the REP scoping report, staff from
28 VTrans, the City and the CCRPC began discussing whether this project could be developed in a more modest
29 fashion, more quickly, for less total cost, and with more local control if funded without federal dollars; and

30 WHEREAS, it was quickly evident that additional assessment would be needed to determine whether
31 a project relying exclusively on City and State funding would be feasible and could reasonably contain risk for
32 project partners; and

33 WHEREAS, of the three REP Phase 2 Alternatives, City and VTrans staff have determined that
34 Alternative 1B would be the most viable as a local / state project because it impacts the fewest number of
35 private properties, has the fewest lane miles of new roadways, and appeared to have the most support through
36 the public process; and

37 WHEREAS, project partners have developed a scope of work for a supplemental scoping of
38 Alternative 1B that will provide the necessary additional information to determine its feasibility as a local /
39 state project; and

40 WHEREAS, the CCRPC has agreed to manage this supplemental scoping process and the City’s
41 Department of Public Works (DPW) will lead the City’s participation in this effort; and

42 WHEREAS, the CCRPC will fund 80% of the supplemental scoping consultant work in FY 17 and the
43 City will provide a 20% local match; and

44 WHEREAS, the City’s staffing costs, local match, conceptual stormwater planning and legal costs for
45 the project are included in DPW’s FY’17 budgets;

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council expresses its support for conducting a
47 supplemental scoping of REP Phase 2 Alternative 1B to evaluate whether a local / state approach that does not
48 utilize federal funds is feasible; and

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council reconstitutes the project Steering Committee whose
50 names are listed in the accompanying memo for the purposes of overseeing this supplemental scoping, and
51 should any member of the Steering Committee choose not to serve during this phase, the Mayor shall appoint
52 a replacement who represents the same stakeholder group; and

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council requests a thorough report upon completion of
54 the supplemental scoping effort so that the Council can determine whether to proceed with advancing

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1B TO EVALUATE FEASIBILITY OF A LOCAL/STATE PROJECT

55 Alternative 1B as a local / state project without NEPA review or proceed with advancing the REP Phase 2

56 Alternatives 1B, 2 and 5B into a Federal Environmental Permitting Process (NEPA).

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60 lb/EMB/Resolutions 2016/DPW – Railyard Enterprise Project – Supporting Supplemental Scoping Phase 2 Alternative 1B to Evaluate Feasibility
61 11/21/16

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DPW Director Spencer

RESOLUTION RELATING TO

The Railyard Enterprise Project - Supporting Supplemental Scoping of The Project Phase 2 Alternative..B..to..Evaluate..Feasibility of a Local/State Project

Adopted by the City Council
November 28, 2016
[Signature] Clerk

Approved December 12, 2016
[Signature] Mayor

Attest:
[Signature]
Lori Olberg
Licensing, Voting and Records Coordinator

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