



Winooski Transportation Plan Community Dinner Public Meeting #1 Meeting Notes

DATE: Thursday, October 22, 2015
TIME: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
PLACE: O'Brien Center, 32 Malletts Bay Avenue, Winooski
PRESENT: Please see end of document

The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) sponsored the dinner at 6:00PM followed by the program at 6:30PM.

1) Welcome and Study Overview

Peter Wernsdorfer, Winooski Director of Public Works, and Marshall Distel of the CCRPC welcomed everyone and talked about the role of both organizations in developing the update to the Winooski Transportation Plan.

2) Presentation of the Study Activities

Dave Saladino of VHB made a presentation (available at: <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/winooskitransportationplan/>). He discussed the transportation element of the Winooski Municipal Plan, a vision for transportation in Winooski, the plan schedule, and existing conditions for vehicle traffic, pedestrians, bicycles, and transit. He summarized input based on feedback received so far from community members and businesses. Dave encouraged participants to complete an online or paper survey for a chance to win Shaw's gift cards.

3) Community Input and Questions & Answers

Bike Lanes: East/West, safe access, proper side of road, keep bike lanes clear.

Burlington-Winooski Bridge: Congestion on bridge, widen sidewalk on one side, Potential "road diet" with bike lanes, trail/path choices (Colchester Avenue/Riverside Avenue intersection scoping study is upcoming later this year), eliminate travel lane/expand inbound sidewalk to provide continuous access into Burlington. Need to get bike lane on right side and widen, bikes on sidewalk on bridge, base of rotary to bridge.

Safety:

- Colchester Avenue: bike lane ends.
- Bernard Street(?): Difficult to exit to Route 15, long wait for left-hand turn, insufficient traffic control, bad sight distances, short traffic signals on Spring Street.
- Main Street: Left-turn onto Union on a bike is dangerous.
- Left-hand turn from school: Hard to see crossing guard at school entrance, dangerous situation for children. Better equipment for crossing guards.
- Street signs not maintained: Some people don't follow them, Hickok/River Street poor sight distance, more signage?

Safety (continued):

- More pedestrian flashing lights: Intersection of Pine Street and Malletts Bay Avenue is targeted for new rapid flashing beacons by the City.
- Keep sidewalks clear in winter

Circulator/Downtown

- *More enforcement for speed on Route 15 and in general at the circulator. Police presence at Abenaki Way during peak hours.
- Northbound ramp to 89?
- High speed limit around circulator.
- More free short-term parking in front of post office?
- Speed bumps in the circulator
- Divider between lanes in circulator: Drifting within circulator, safety improvements within circulator are in the works for April 2016!
- Confusing at bottom of circulator: Maintain markings and more signs.

Transit/Other

- CCTA service to Costco/Shaw's
- Bus service on Sundays
- Red light/speed cameras
- Access to grocery stores
- East Spring from Route 15: Short signal.

(Special thanks to Olivia Darisse of VHB for taking notes at the meeting)

Participants

Last	First
Anonymous	
Armstrong	David
Becker	Stephanie
Bundy	Jonathan
Burns	Nate
Burns	Meg
C.	Jason
Dlugolecki	Laura
Doyle	Ed
Duncan	Jim

Garceau	Alger
Gregoire	Linda
Griffin	Fiona
Hausman	Ethan
Hock	Dan
Hostetler	Greg
Leonard	Seth
Manley	Hunt
Miller	Robert
Prim	Dylan
Ross	Jordan

Ross	Johnny
Stotyn	Ron & Mary
Sweeney	Brian
W.	Gabe
Ware	Addam
Watson	Barbara
Weill	Gillian
Weinstein	Jason
Willard	David
	Anthony
	Rene

Others: Prem Bhattarai and Fatuma Maalim, Translators; Peter Wernsdorfer, Winooski DPW; Marshall Distel and Christine Forde, CCRPC; Dave Saladino and Olivia Darisse, VHB; Diane Meyerhoff, Third Sector Associates.

**Winooski Transportation Plan Community Dinner Evaluation Form
October 22, 2015, O'Brien Community Center, 6:00-8:00PM: 7 Evaluation Forms Received**

1. How did you hear about the Meeting? (check all that apply)

a) Email from Friend/Colleague	2
b) Email from Sponsors	
c) Email from Other	
d) Flyer	

e) Front Porch Forum	1
f) City Website	
i) WCSPC	
j) Other: Word of Mouth-1 ; WCSPC- ; Senior Center-1	

2. Please rate the following aspects of the meeting:

Aspect	Fantastic	Very Good	Good	OK	Poor	Terrible
Dinner		4	1	1		
Presentation	1	2	2	1		
Community Dialog	2	1	1		2	
Physical facilities for this event	4	2	1			
Amount of time allowed for input	3	2	1			
Overall value of this event to you		2	2	1		

- You went with the flow! Winooski has too many hills – LOL.
- Knowing it is hard to control personal opinion, I would still like to see some effort to control feedback. Time for suggestions and time for complaints. Way too much complaining.
- Better control of content of conversation so it does not become a forum for complaint, better conversation for effective change.
- It's about time we were able to have a discussion like this – but we need to discuss more ways of improving ped/biking across Winooski itself.

3. Anything else you'd like to share with us? (Feel free to use the back side!)

- Sidewalks into the downtown area should be for walking on – but it's very difficult when the restaurants are using the sidewalks for their tables – that then push peds into the parking and street areas!
- Many stop signs in the Lafountain area are routinely ignored. This creates danger for pedestrians and law-abiding drivers. Speed enforcement within residential areas is also needed.
- It's obvious that Winooski is a through way for commuters heading to Burlington, but no one is discussing what can be done with the State to get commuters using the Interstate exchanges designed to get them there. I would suggest looking into ways that make commuters from Essex or Colchester to use the southbound Interstate, especially Essex, the second (south) exchange is fit for this. If the Interstate became faster (with Burlington exits becoming less congested), and Winooski was less a convenient through way, traffic would lessen.
- A great start to the discussion. Where is the take-away? Card w/website? Can we have a site with problems known; and the public can suggest solutions. Public can also pose issues but no whining, this should be curated by those running the project.
- Need more wheelchair access, bumpy sidewalks. I take brother to dog park, dirt road is OK, smooth can't go any farther (Riverwatch excellent). Some parks have curbs around no smooth surface for wheelchair.
- Any efforts to reduce rush hour auto traffic are greatly appreciated!