



Meeting Notes

Place: CCRPC – Large Conference Room

Date: August 24, 2017

Notes Taken by: E. Quallen

Project #: 57981.00

Re: Amtrak Storage Kick-Off Meeting

ATTENDEES

David Saladino, Scott Burbank, Erica Quallen (VHB)
Nina Safavi, David Allerton, Susan Molzon (City of Burlington)
Peter Keating, Eleni Churchill (CCRPC)
Paul Libby (VTrans)

Purpose of Study

- Project Goal: To identify an overnight storage and servicing location for the future Amtrak passenger train in the greater Burlington area
- City of Burlington raised concerns over storage of Amtrak trains overnight adjacent to ECHO:
 - The Waterfront is already very busy
 - Visual obstruction of Lake Champlain
 - Concern over noise and other aesthetic impacts
 - Would necessitate relocation of bike path to west side of tracks
- Under a separate project, VTrans and VHB have determined Amtrak train would fit between King St and College St along existing bike path alignment
 - Siding stops before College St
- Expected Amtrak arrival date – Mid to End 2020

Scope of Work

- Scope of work developed by VHB and commented on by CCRPC and VTrans
- This project is not looking at sites within the railyard (VRS confirmation needed)
- VRS involvement
 - Unsure if Chapin Spencer has talked to VRS
 - Collaborate with VRS to identify potential Amtrak storage locations before beginning the evaluation

Evaluation Criteria

- Evaluate with an objective scoring method (e.g. 1-10, low-high, etc.)
- Noise Impacts
 - Quiet zone from Shelburne to King Street
- Add bike path impacts to evaluation criteria
- Site requires 3-phase power

- Need facility access for deliveries, septic, water, etc.
- Diesel idling all night may upset residents and business
- Acquire a copy of Amtrak requirements for overnight train storage facilities

Potential Locations (Up to 4)

- One location decided on (Adjacent to ECHO between King and College Street)
 - More than required 673'
 - Extends from Local Motion to Creamee stand
- Barrett's Shed (Flynn Street)
 - Unsure if salt shed is staying in current location
 - Second salt shed has been moved to Shelburne Transload but Barrett's may keep the Burlington shed in place
 - The salt shed staying doesn't necessarily preclude train storage here
 - Talk to VRS about intentions regarding shed
 - Find out how much of the property to the east of the tracks is owned by City Market
- Area near Blodgett Ovens and Lakeside Ave (City Market Area)
 - Building under new ownership
 - City has thought of moving bike path closer to lake
 - Opportunities for siding in this site
- Between Burton and Future Champlain Parkway (Home Ave)
 - Overhead utility lines could be a conflict
 - Nearby roads for access
- Burlington Railyard
 - VTrans has started negotiating with VRS
 - Worth asking about their interest
- Additional site just south of Queen City Parkway (Behind Hannaford)
- Shelburne Transload site

Stakeholder Involvement

- If the bike path needed to be realigned, would VTrans help pay for it?
 - Need to look at the language in the previous lease agreement
- Contacts for future stakeholder meetings
 - Amtrak, VRS, NECR (Genesee & Wyoming), Local Motion, Blodgett Property, City Market, Burton, Trey Pecor

Train Logistics

- Point of clearance to point of clearance 673feet (siding length)

- 5 cars and a locomotive
- Clearance distance – 13 feet minimum centerline to centerline (need approval from FRA and Amtrak)
- Sidings need to be on tangent sections
- 300' platform needed
- Drop off people at Waterfront then go and park overnight elsewhere
 - May not need a second track
- Bike Path most likely needs to move so they should go ahead with design of getting path to the west of tracks

Next Steps

- Logistical coordination with Amtrak, VRS, and VTrans
 - Early September
 - Include Paul and Dan from VTrans
- TIGER Grant obligation requires Amtrak to arrive by 2020
- Next TAC Meeting in Mid to Late-September before evaluation gets underway
 - Report back on Amtrak and VRS meetings