



*A study by the City of Burlington Department of Public Works in conjunction with the  
Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission*

**Project Advisory Committee Meeting #1 Meeting Notes**  
**Wednesday, May 2, 2018, 6:00 PM – 7:45 PM**  
**Fletcher Free Library Community Room, 235 College Street, Burlington**

**1) Welcome, Introductions, Changes to the Agenda**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Chapin Spencer, Director of the Department of Public Works (DPW). Chapin discussed the importance of Winooski Avenue for the City; there are many ideas for how to improve mobility and the overall user experience. This is an opportunity to take a step back and clarify our goals and the PAC is a critical to that effort. He thanked the CCRPC for their support of this project.

Nicole Losch of DPW reviewed the agenda. There were no changes.

**2) Public Comment Period**

Jon Slason of RSG opened the public comment period by saying that he'd like to have an informal meeting and committee members should feel free to ask questions at any point. The public will have a 10-minute comment period at the beginning of all PAC meetings, but the consultant team is available for calls, emails, etc.

Glen Eames, former bicycle business owner, has lived in Burlington for 30 years and has seen the cycling traffic quadruple. People are choosing to bike - there are full bike racks at 3 Needs, Radio Bean, and City Market. It's time to improve Winooski Avenue.

Tony Redington noted that Plan BTV and the Walk/Bike Master Plan provide a context for this study. Tony is interested in pedestrian safety. The section between Pearl and Main is a "Death Valley" where there is one pedestrian crash every year. Kurt McCormack is interested in a roundabout in front of his house.

Max Tracy, Ward 2 City Councilor, is excited this process is getting underway. He would like to take advantage of social media, advertising, etc. to promote all the meetings, including PAC meetings, with as much notice in advance as possible. There is intense interest in this corridor.

Alissa Faber lives on Crombie Street and regularly bikes this corridor. She has been in minor accidents on Winooski Ave. and is interested in having a voice in the project and hearing about possible improvements.

### **3) Future Meetings – Scheduling Preferences**

Diane Meyerhoff from the consultant team asked that everyone complete the scheduling form to help choose the best time for our next meetings. Bryan Davis of the CCRPC offered stipends through his agency as a way to make it possible for more people to participate by helping to pay for transportation, childcare, etc.

### **4) Committee Roles & Responsibilities**

Nicole reviewed the Committee's Roles & Responsibilities (see attachment). The core task is for members to represent the group that asked them to serve – both to share our information with your group and to bring their thoughts back to us. If members are unable to attend, we ask that you send someone in your place. We encourage members to attend the public meetings and events. The committee can appoint a Chair; the group can decide at the next meeting, if interested Councilor Jane Knodell supports the consultant team chairing the meetings. If at any time committee members feel they are not being heard or have suggestions for better committee management, they should bring those concerns to Jon.

Bryan noted that a series of stakeholder interviews will take place and would like PAC input on the list of interviewees. The list will be distributed for PAC input.

### **5) Introduction to the Winooski Avenue Study**

The presentation is available online at: [www.tiny.cc/WinooskiAveStudy](http://www.tiny.cc/WinooskiAveStudy)

Jon provided an overview of the project, beginning with the Organizational Chart. The PAC guides the whole process and the Steering Committee (DPW, CCRPC, and consultant team) will manage the study. Jon reviewed the consultant team's experience and roles in the project.

The study is a comprehensive transportation study of the entire Winooski Avenue corridor (from Riverside to Howard), to develop multimodal improvement strategies that address safety, capacity, and connectivity. The final deliverable is an actionable implementation plan with near-term and longer-term recommendations.

Jon reviewed the scope and schedule. Councilor Karen Paul expressed concern that a public meeting was scheduled for August – this is a bad time for public events as many people are on vacation. In order to increase participation, Erik Brown-Brotz would prefer to see multiple events over a few weeks rather than one event on one day. He also expressed concern that the public isn't involved until the end of each block of activity. He would like to see the public involved in the middle of the process. Jon responded that there will be many opportunities for input – including mapping, online surveys, and a website feedback loop. Public input will be solicited throughout the process. In addition, input from every public meeting will be addressed and incorporated into the study.

Nicole discussed the vision of Complete Streets for Burlington. She also outlined previous plans and studies that will be integral to the Winooski Avenue work and Jon provided additional detail. The PAC will receive a summary of these plans. Erik asked if Union Street is part of the study area. Jon responded that we don't yet know how it will be incorporated into the study; this will be determined as the study progresses.

Jon provided a map of the City's capital projects, noting that there is little work to be undertaken on Winooski Avenue in the near-term. This allows us to take the time to define our goals and lay out our priorities.

Jon described the Public Participation Plan for the study, which will be provided to the PAC. The public will be engaged during every stage of the study using a variety of tools and formats. There are four elements: stakeholder interviews, PAC, public forums, and continuous communication.

Jon reviewed existing conditions including space use and connectivity (curb-to-curb widths, travel lanes, bike accommodations, parking), traffic volumes, high crash locations (vehicles, pedestrian/bicycle).

## **6) Next Steps**

Jonathan described the next steps:

- Draft Vision and Goals for PAC review at mid-July meeting
- Get people on the mailing list
- Share review of previous studies and plans with the PAC
- Initiate various forms of online public engagement
- Steering Committee will begin stakeholder interviews

## **7) PAC Feedback**

The group broke into two groups to discuss the following questions:

1. Other stakeholders we should interview?
2. Why is this project important to you?
3. What are your goals for this study?
4. How can this study and its outcomes be most useful?
5. Specific issues or opportunities that we should know about?

Mike Lydon of StreetPlans summarized one group discussion:

- Concern about pedestrian access and safety
- Must include all corridor users in the study
- Strong patterns of behavior of one-way streets – concern about two-way bike travel on one-way streets
- Winooski Avenue changes will impact intersecting and parallel streets
- Protected bike lanes preferred
- Involve school community
- We need a holistic corridor plan with strategies and actions in the near- to mid-term
- Need to prioritize improvements to activate the corridor
- East-west connections need to be considered, especially for pedestrians

Jon Slason summarized the second group discussion:

- Goal to develop a plan whereby residents and adjacent property owners can walk away proud and happy that they were engaged and involved. Realizing that they may not get their way, but that the process is transparent and visible to those interested in participating.
- Connect Winooski Avenue to the other heart of the City, Church Street. By fostering greater connectivity and safer multimodal travel, the City can use Winooski Ave to open up the downtown.

Karen Paul noted that City Market is discussing reconfiguring their parking lot. This is an opportunity for this study to work with them.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM.

## Attendance

### Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Members

Erik	Brown-Brotz	Walk Bike Council
Jane	Knodell	City Council
Kirsten	Merriman Shapiro	CEDO
Karen	Paul	City Council
Charles	Simpson	Resident of South District
Meagan	Tuttle	Planning & Zoning
Derik	Wrightson	Burlington Business Assn.
Jess	Hyman	ONE Arts & Bus. Network
Rachel	Kennedy	GMT

### Stakeholder Group/Consultants

Eleni	Churchill	CCRPC
Bryan	Davis	CCRPC
Nicole	Losch	DPW
Mike	Lydon	Street Plans
Corey	Mack	RSG
Roxanne	Meuse	RSG
Diane	Meyerhoff	Third Sector Associates
Jonathan	Slason	RSG
Chapin	Spencer	DPW
Ursaki	Julia	Dubois & King

### Members of the Public

Max	Tracy
Tony	Redington
Karen	Yacos
Glenn	Eames
Alissa	Favor
Laura	Jacoby

### Study contacts:

Jonathan Slason, RSG, [jonathan.slason@rsginc.com](mailto:jonathan.slason@rsginc.com) (802-861-0508)

Bryan Davis, CCRPC, [bdavis@ccrpcvt.org](mailto:bdavis@ccrpcvt.org) (802-861-0129)

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**Attached: Roles & Responsibilities (DRAFT)**