



Memorandum

Date: September 19, 2022
From: Jon Rauscher, DPW Director
To: City Council
Subject: **2022-2023 Policy Priorities and Strategies Update: Municipal Infrastructure**

Per the Council adopted 2022-2023 Policy Priorities and Strategies and the accompanying monitoring plan, we present the first Municipal Infrastructure update. Below you will find a chart of the adopted priorities with current status and description.

Key

	= proceeding as planned		= started but not proceeding well
	= proceeding but slower than planned		= not started yet

A. Must Do Priorities:

Status

Prepare a City-wide ADA transition Plan	Curb ramp inventory complete – see details 1) below.
VTrans FY22' Capital project coordination (US 2/7 and Rt 15 Street resurfacing, Exit 16 DDI)	Resurfacing project targeted for completion this fall – see details 2) below
Update Chapter 29 Tree Ordinance - ordinance update associated with state statute revisions	Not started - Tree Committee has shared draft language recommendations.
Main Street Revitalization Project Pending bid results, contract award, public outreach and project construction start	See additional details 3) below
Complete Lafountain/Dion Street Scoping Study	CCRPC is in the process of soliciting consultants for this work.
West Allen Street Park Plan	Led by Community Service- pending OCC sale coordination
Create a City-wide Bike-Ped Masterplan (FY23 UPWP)	CCRPC has selected Dubois & King to prepare the plan. The scope of work recently finalized. DPW is providing support to the Planning Department who is the lead on the project.
OCC/St. Stephens visioning and planning	OCC planning in progress, see details 4) below; St. Stephens dependent on their timeline

B. Recommended Priorities:	Status
Winooski/Burlington Bridge Planning	See additional details 5) below – upgrade to “must do”
Historic Preservation Regulations and Strategies	Planning Commission review
Update Chapter 23 Stormwater Ordinance	
Revisit Traffic Impact Fees	
Identify proposed City energy goals and possible development incentives	Municipal Infrastructure Commission is in the process of reviewing potential goals.
Parking Updates Associated with Parking Study	
Explore Protection of Natural Areas	

C. Priorities Discussion

1. ADA Transition Plan

This work is being supported by a Unified Work Plan grant from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC). To-date, CCRPC intern staff have completed an inventory of ADA curb ramps city-wide for compliance. We are currently reviewing the GIS data. The next steps will include additional inventory work and procuring a consultant to prepare the plan.

2. Vtrans Project Coordination

US2/7 Roadway Resurfacing

The US 2/7 roadway resurfacing project is nearing completion. DPW staff have worked closely with Vtrans and the contractor on utility issues and development coordination. Remaining work includes the final roadway painting scope and the rapid-flash crosswalk beacon installations at Dion and Manseau Street.

The revised corridor layout was adapted from the City approved “short-term improvements” outlined in the “East Allen Gateway Corridor Scoping Study” <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/transportation/current-projects/scoping/east-allen-street-gateway-enhancements-scoping-study/>

As shown in the long-term improvements plan, the main focus of the study includes a future traffic signal at Hood’s Crossing. This improvement would need to be incorporated into the city’s Capital Improvements Plan for implementation.

Exit 16 Diverging Diamond Interchange

On August 22, Vtrans awarded the phase 1 project scope to SD Ireland. This work will mainly consist of utility relocations and retaining wall construction. We expect the bulk of this work to be starting in the spring. We will continue to work closely with the DDI team to coordinate the Main Street project construction and traffic control impacts.

(For Exit 16 DDI Updates: <https://www.exit16ddi.vtransprojects.vermont.gov/>)

3. Main Street Revitalization Project

Project Status

We are looking to bid the project this winter to accommodate grant financing obligations and allow for a preferential bidding window for contractors.

Our target date to complete the right-of-way easements process in October 31st. Of the 65 parcels along the corridor, only 6 have not responded or provided approval. If we cannot contact or obtain approvals from these remaining properties, we will adjust the proposed design as needed (ex. limit excavation work, relocate electrical equipment, etc.).

For future Council approvals, we expect to bring forward an engineering services agreement amendment for bid phase and construction services in October. We are currently just waiting on the Agency of Natural Resources to complete their review. USDA has completed their review of the agreement.

Project Costs

On August 24th, the City was awarded a Northern Border Regional Commission grant in the amount of \$817,908 to support General Fund related expenses on the project. This will significantly help to provide financial buffer against the current construction market volatility and inflation cost increases. Based on our most-recent engineering estimate (June) the total estimated project cost (not including grants) is ±\$23M. This value is up from ±\$21M in December. Please note, given the current volatility in the construction market, influx of projects and lack of local contractors the bid prices may be higher than the engineering estimate.

4. O'Brien Community Center

The O'Brien Community Center project has crossed an important threshold – the anchor tenant, Community Health Centers of Burlington (CHCB), has decided to stay within the existing building rather than build a new one on the lot. Next, CHCB, city staff, and Champlain Housing Trust have to arrive at an internal plan we can all live with; from the City staff perspective, that means considering current and future community needs. We have been discussing what else should be done with the rest of the lot. City staff and CHT agree on the importance of whatever it is that it not add additional parking pressure, maintain visibility to the OCC building/services, and make the entrance more welcoming.

5. Winooski/Burlington Bridge Planning

With the recent award of the \$24.8M in Federal funding, this project has become a "must do" item for the 2022-2023 priority list. Since the award, we have had a kick-off discussion with Vtrans, Burlington and CCRPC to review next steps.

Vtrans is in the process of establishing their project team that will lead this effort. There are no updates at this time. Our next check-in with Vtrans, Burlington and CCRPC will be in early October.

D. Operational Items

As requested below are additional public works updates.

Street pavement markings

On 9/14 we had a bid opening for city-wide street pavement markings (crosswalks, bike lanes, fog lines, parking lines, etc.). Unfortunately, no bids were received.

We have since discussed this work with Vtrans' painting contractor and will be receiving a quote to perform this work. As mentioned during the FY23' budget, we are proposing to maintain this work as a dedicated annual budget line item. Additional funding will be requested to maintain more durable markings (ex. epoxy paint) that perform better on pavement in good condition.

Street resurfacing

City contracted street resurfacing work is targeted for October and will include Barlow Street and North Street (Brisson Crt. to north end). Whitcomb Construction was the awarded contractor in the amount of \$131,842.40.

Please note, the original targeted street resurfacing area for this season was Florida Avenue, Reginald Street, Roger Street, Bernard Street and Gail Street. Unfortunately, we determined that existing curbing in this area is in need of replacement prior to resurfacing work. The curbing has zero to ± 2 inches of reveal at the street. The estimated cost for the curbing replacement is \$413K. This curbing replacement is also required prior to any sidewalk replacement work to allow for adequate grading and drainage. Additional details on this work and the forecasted resurfacing work will be provided during the FY24' budget discussion.