

I. Call to Order

MIC Members Present: Michelle Metzler, Chair; Micayla Schambura, Secretary; Tom Buckley; Gretchen Calcagni; Thea Wurzburg, Anna Vold

City Staff Present: Jon Rauscher, Public Works Director; Eli Ogilvie, City Councilor

Guests Present: Michael Miller

Call to Order by: Michelle

Meeting Start Time: 6:31 PM

Minutes Recorded by: Micayla

II. Public Comment

N/A

III. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by: Tom

Second: Gretchen

Decision: **Approved**

The minutes from the [March meeting](#) were approved unanimously.

IV. Introduction for Our New Municipal Infrastructure Commissioner

The Council approved Anna Vold as an alternate commissioner. The commission gave brief introductions as to where they live, how long they have been serving on the commission, and what their roles are.

V. Discussion: Bridge Project - Highlights/Concerns/Questions

An open house was held at the Winooski School District on Wednesday, April 29th regarding the Burlington-Winooski Bridge project. Information about the project can be found on the [project's website](#). This project website shows existing conditions, proposed improvements, and documents. Residents can also submit comments about the project and receive email updates.

The project is currently served by several advisory groups – the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) consisting of Jon Rauscher (Winooski DPW Director), Ryan Lambert (Winooski City Engineer), engineers from Burlington's public works, CCRPC, HNTB, & VTrans. The committee meets monthly. Currently, they are wrapping up design builds to be submitted for RFP. Most of the work is getting to the point where the design build RFP can go out the door. They are

wrapping up required permitting and working out the ROWs. The deadlines are driven by federal grants. The committee is slated to get the design RFP out by July.

There is also a Public Involvement Team (PIT) with representation from VTrans, HNTB, CCRPC, the City of Burlington, and the City of Winooski. This group meets to discuss public involvement, concerns, and questions.

Thea asked if in the bridge design there will be a protected left turn off of Mill Street? Jon says that they looked at this option throughout the project but traffic simulations were showing cases of traffic being backed up in the rotary, and there was not a seamless way to incorporate it into the signaling. Cars leaving Mill Street will need to go right and through the rotary to go back into Burlington.

Tom asked if the curved bridge design was finalized. Jon explains that the preferred alignment is the curved design, since it will allow for 2-lane use during the project and protecting public safety. The design build contractor awardee will ultimately have the final design though. Regardless of whether the bridge ends up curved or straight, it will have new 15' wide multi use paths on both sides that will be protected with 3-4' barriers.

Eli asked if speed data will be collected before and after the current bridge is demolished and the new one is built? The lanes will be widening from 10.5' to 11', and there will be additional 2' shoulders for snow removal. Jon says they are collecting data right now mostly for bike/pedestrian use. He will inquire about whether vehicle speeds are being recorded, too.

Eli asked what will happen with GMT during construction southbound? Jon says that there have been a few meetings with GMT about this but is not sure of what has been decided.

Eli asked if the City can do anything to the road if speed becomes a problem with the wider lanes. Jon says this is technically a city-owned Town Highway so they could add traffic calming.

Jon asked for feedback on how people received the presentation of the Bridge information as an open house? Michelle says a more introverted crowd may prefer a presentation; it can be difficult to go and approach engineers and city members. Even if it is open house style, having a short 5-10 min presentation sprinkled through for anyone to listen in on may be beneficial. Micayla suggests that even having a slideshow of basic facts just continuously running in the background of an open house for people to read. Anna says that in her experience it was less intimidating to go into a large open room instead of a closed more formal meeting in a smaller room. Overall, the meeting was very well received.

VI. Discussion: Bridge Park Projects (East and West Park Ideas) - Highlights/Concerns/Questions

With the construction of the Burlington-Winooski Bridge, the current park will be demolished. The City went through [Parks and Open space master plan](#) adopted in 2019, which is the comprehensive master plan for all the parks in Winooski and put together some concept plans. Several designs were sketched up for public feedback. The options and their ranking can be found [here](#). Comments can be found [here](#).

For the west side of the bridge, the tree-focused green space on the west side of the bridge was the most preferred public option. Jon says they heard comments about adding stairs for easier access to the path would be beneficial. Michelle asked if there is still a retaining wall planned? Jon says that he will need to follow up, and it is hard to tell from image.

There was a discussion amongst folks about if there can be some sort of access to the

Champlain Mill Path on the west side. Pedestrians are either going to climb over the potential wall, and bicyclists are going to want a direct route outside of using the rotary. Jon is going to request from the consultant, HNTB, some shortcut connection to be shown in the designs.

For the east side of the bridge, the direct path design was the most preferred public design. The group talked about potentially doing a 5% grade ramp instead of the stairs. Thea comments that the curvy path option that people could run into each other coming down the stairs and the ramp at the same time. Ideally, it's going to be a lower deck, more tiered, a less curvy path. The details are not final.

VII. Discussion: The Brisson - Cedar Street Stormwater Improvement Project

Winooski is an MS4 community, which is strictly regulated under the US EPA. In Vermont, MS4 communities are required to develop Phosphorous Control Plans (PCPs) to meet water quality goals. The State requires a reduction in phosphorus entering Lake Champlain based on the amount of impervious. Bisson-Cedar Street has a project to help towards meeting the PCP. Links to the plans are [here](#). It consists of curb bump out bioretention systems, which will require relocating some utilities and resurfacing pavement to redirect runoff to the bump-outs. Bisson-Cedar St improvements will go towards both the PCP and Flow Restoration efforts.

There are 4 projects proposed to meet the PCP including Landry Park, Brisson Ct, Eugene Richards Memorial Park, and West Street. They need complete by 2036 to comply. Design work for Landry Park and Eugene Richards Memorial Park will be done this summer.

VIII. Inclusion & Belonging Commission Update

N/A

IX. City Staff Liaison Updates

Jon – Hood's Crossing project is moving forward, and updated design plans will be received in the next week or two. VTrans has finished their review, and the plans will be presented to Council in the next month or so.

Several commissioner terms (Micayla, Adam, & Tom) expire June 30, 2026. Micayla has requested to serve an additional 2-year term. Jon to follow up with Adam and Tom to see if they would like to continue their terms, and if so, whether they would like to serve 1- or 2- year terms.

X. City Council Liaison Updates

Eli – There is a parade for Main Street businesses on June 6th. The City is looking for volunteers to hold business banners for the parade which is starting at the school and ending at the fire department area/barbeque at the senior center. If you are interested in holding a banner, let Eli know.

Eli says there has been discussion on commission structure. He asks if there are any things we want to see want to see done differently/how effective things have been. Micayla asks if the date/time is set in stone since it overlaps with the DRB meetings. The group discusses changing the date so that members can attend the DRB meetings, too. The preferred day of available days was the 4th Thursday of the month. Eli to follow up and see if Adam and Tom would be willing and able to meet on the 4th Thursday instead.

XI. Other Business

N/A

XII. Adjourn

Motion by: Thea

Second: Gretchen

Meeting End Time: 8:15 PM