

Department of Planning and Zoning

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Joan Shannon, City Council President
Burlington City Councilors
Mayor Miro Weinberger

FROM: David E. White, AICP, Director of Planning & Zoning

DATE: Thursday, March 28, 2013

RE: Proposed Municipal Development Plan Amendment – **planBTV: Downtown and Waterfront Master Plan**

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I am able to provide for your consideration the attached proposed amendment to the *Burlington Municipal Development Plan* as unanimously recommended by the Burlington Planning Commission.

As you are all well aware, **planBTV: Downtown and Waterfront Master Plan** is the result of the most comprehensive, energetic, creative, inclusive and responsive planning effort Burlington has ever seen. This effort has engaged and been responsive to thousands of people through dozens of meetings and events, online and in-person, through the media and the visual arts. We have received thousands of ideas and comments from thousands of residents, businesses, interest groups and visitors.

The plan focuses on a set of "Place-Based Themes" built around a long-held vision for a more sustainable community centered on increasing the economic vitality of the core of our city - its heart, soul and economic engine. We then assembled a collection of "Big Ideas" that would be crucial to achieving our vision. Finally, using time-tested urban design principles that underpin successful communities around the world, we developed a series of illustrations to demonstrate how these ideas might be manifested on the ground, and what a future Burlington might look like in order to improve understanding. The final product represents a community vision and consensus for the future of our downtown and waterfront - a vision that respects our past and builds upon our many assets for the benefit of future generations.

In order to comply with statutory requirements (24 VSA 4385), the City Council is required to hold two public hearings prior to taking action to adopt the amendment. In consultation with Council President Shannon, these have been warned for 29 April and 6 May. Final action to adopt this plan could take place at your 6 May meeting.

City staff is available to answer any questions you may have, as well as to make a public presentation regarding this proposed amendment at your public hearings.

Thank you for your consideration.