



**CITY OF BURLINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

645 Pine Street, Suite A  
Burlington, VT 05401  
802.863.9094 VOICE  
802.863.0466 FAX  
802.863.0450 TTY  
[www.burlingtonvt.gov/dpw](http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/dpw)

**Chapin Spencer**  
*DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS*

To: City Council  
Fr: Chapin Spencer, Director  
Re: **Downtown Parking Improvement Initiative**

November 12, 2013

**REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:**

Vote to support the attached resolution sponsored by the Council's Transportation Energy and Utilities Committee.

**BACKGROUND:**

Public Works and CEDO are partnering with the Burlington Business Association to undertake a major planning and implementation effort around enhancing the public/private parking system in the downtown/waterfront area. There are also many other entities, including the CCRPC and the Police Department, who are also engaged.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT:**

There are two main drivers for this effort:

- 1) Policy makers, business leaders and the public want a more user-friendly parking system. Following up from the parking management recommendations in PlanBTV, we've had numerous conversations with key stakeholders – and the interest in comprehensively exploring ways to improve the system has been very strong.
- 2) The current funding model for maintaining the garages is broken and must be urgently fixed. The Traffic Fund has had two years of deficit budgets and critical capital investments have been deferred. See the list of \$1M+ urgent capital needs on the attached page. The policy makers' and the public's appetite for raising more funds from parking will be dependent on our ability to lay out a compelling roadmap to an improved parking experience.

**DESIRED OUTCOMES:**

1. A concerted communications and outreach effort to engage the community in a dialogue around how the parking system can be improved

Non-Discrimination

The City of Burlington will not tolerate unlawful harassment or discrimination on the basis of political or religious affiliation, race, color, national origin, place of birth, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, veteran status, disability, HIV positive status or genetic information. The City is also committed to providing proper access to services, facilities, and employment opportunities. For accessibility information or alternative formats, please contact Human Resources Department at 865-7145.

2. The implementation of short-term pilot projects in 2014 to try out new approaches and technologies while also raising additional revenue for critical capital improvements
3. The completion of a downtown parking facilities assessment for City-owned parking garages by the end of 2014
4. The development of a Parking Management Plan by March 2015 that will deliver long-term policy and operational recommendations for dramatically enhancing the public/private parking system

#### **PATH TO TODAY**

We took the attached City Council resolution on the Downtown Parking Improvement Initiative to various Committees and Commissions prior to bringing it to the City Council including:

- Oct 29<sup>th</sup>: CC Transportation Energy & Utilities Committee
- Oct 30<sup>th</sup>: DPW Commission
- Nov 12<sup>th</sup>: Planning Commission

#### **PARKING SUMMIT A GREAT SUCCESS**

The BBA, DPW and the Community and Economic Development Office held a downtown parking summit on November 13 at the Hilton. The Mayor kicked off the event for the 150 diverse stakeholders who attended. The summit featured a keynote speech by Jeffrey Tumlin, a nationally-renowned parking expert and principal at Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates.

Thank you to the many Councilors who attended the event. If you missed it, Jeff's very impressive presentation will be online soon.

If you have any questions prior to the Council meeting, do not hesitate to contact me at 802-865-5818 or [cspencer@burlingtonvt.gov](mailto:cspencer@burlingtonvt.gov).