

SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

In the year Two Thousand Nine.....
Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, the Burlington City Council by resolution of December 15, 2008 expressed its strong support for the Chittenden County Transportation Authority’s (CCTA) efforts along with Green Mountain Transit Authority (GMTA) in exploring the development of a regional transit system that is regionally funded; and

WHEREAS, expanding public transit services in Burlington and in the region at large is key to reducing Burlington’s congestion, improving our air quality, and providing better mobility for our residents; and

WHEREAS, such expansion is consistent with the City’s Master Plan, the City’s Legacy Plan, the City’s Transportation Plan; and Chittenden County Transportation Authority’s Short Range Transit Plan; and

WHEREAS, service expansion has long been constrained by the reliance on the local property tax for funding transit services; and

WHEREAS, Burlington pays 65% of the local assessment contributed by CCTA member communities but only has 14% of the representation on CCTA’s Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, many studies have identified the potential benefits of a regional transportation authority with regional governance and regional funding (The Mudd Report, the 2002 KFH Chittenden County Transit Funding Report, and the 2008 Legislative Study Regarding the Regional Connectivity of Vermont’s Public Transportation System); and

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WHEREAS, CCTA and GMTA have begun exploring a possible merger that could create a regional transit authority; and

WHEREAS, CCTA and GMTA support creating a regional funding mechanism and governance structure that reflects the regional nature of public transportation service and more effectively use taxpayer funds and create a more efficient system that serves the needs of Vermonters; and

WHEREAS, the CCTA Board of Commissioners will draft changes to its charter to enable a merger between CCTA and GMTA;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Burlington City Council supports the proposed CCTA charter change creating a regional transportation authority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED with respect to governance that Burlington's financial position will not suffer from any charter change and that its representation on a newly constituted CCTA board will reflect the City's financial contribution as the host community for CCTA's administrative operations and as the hub of its system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council requests that CCTA report back quarterly to the Mayor and the City Council through the Transportation, Energy & Utilities Committee on the status of this effort.