

COLCHESTER AVENUE CORRIDOR PLAN

In the year Two Thousand Eleven.....

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, Colchester Avenue is a major arterial that connects Burlington with areas to the north and east and provides access to the Hill institutions, area neighborhoods and residences, and businesses along the corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Colchester Avenue Task Force (hereafter Task Force) was created by the City Council in 2004, facilitated by the Campus Area Transportation Management Association (CATMA), and included Ward 1 NPA members and City Councilors, Burlington Planning & Zoning, Burlington Police Department, Burlington Public Works, Burlington Electric Department, City of Winooski, Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA), Local Motion, American Red Cross, Fletcher Allen Health Care, University of Vermont Administration, University of Vermont Student Body, and CATMA; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 the Task Force published a list of objectives and recommendations for short-term and long-term goals to improve Colchester Avenue, including pedestrian and vehicle circulation, transit, bicycling, safety and lighting, signage, and aesthetics; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 the Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee approved and authorized a corridor study of Colchester Avenue through the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

34 COLCHESTER AVENUE CORRIDOR PLAN

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36 WHEREAS, in 2009 the Task Force began facilitation of the Colchester Avenue Corridor  
37 Study and created a technical review committee which also included the Burlington Fire  
38 Department and University of Vermont Campus Planning; and

39 WHEREAS, the Burlington Transportation Plan was drafted and approved by the Public  
40 Works Commission in 2007 and adopted by the City Council in April 2011, and is organized  
41 around three themes: 1) Strong and Healthy City, 2) Transportation Choices, and 3) Great  
42 Streets; and

43 WHEREAS, under the Great Streets theme Colchester Avenue is envisioned as a  
44 *Complete Street*, which is designed to accommodate safe access for all users, to include  
45 pedestrians, bicyclists, transit vehicles and riders, and people traveling in motor vehicles; and

46 WHEREAS, the Colchester Avenue Corridor Plan’s vision for Colchester Avenue was  
47 built from the objectives developed by the Task Force in 2006 and the Burlington Transportation  
48 Plan:

49 *Colchester Avenue will evolve into a “Complete Streets” corridor that promotes*  
50 *safe, comfortable, and convenient travel for all users – including motorists,*  
51 *pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transportation riders.*

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53 *Mobility of through traffic will be balanced with accessibility to neighborhoods*  
54 *and local businesses as well as the Institutions on the “Hill.”*

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56 *The corridor will develop into an attractive public space through streetscape and*  
57 *site design features. It will become more livable and desirable and will serve as a*  
58 *welcoming gateway to Burlington.; and*

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60 WHEREAS, input from the general public was gathered at three public meetings, where  
61 the first meeting focused on the existing issues and short-term recommendations, the second on  
62 the vision and goals and the long-term design options, and the draft Corridor Plan was presented  
63 at the final meeting; and

66 COLCHESTER AVENUE CORRIDOR PLAN

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68 WHEREAS, input from the Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee (TEUC) of  
69 the City Council was gathered at several meetings between 2009 and 2011, and the TEUC has  
70 reviewed and supports the Colchester Avenue Corridor Study recommendations that taken  
71 together will achieve the corridor vision; and

72 WHEREAS, the Public Works Commission approved the Colchester Avenue Corridor  
73 Plan at their meeting of October 19, 2011; and

74 WHEREAS, the Colchester Avenue Corridor Plan presents a transportation plan for  
75 Colchester Avenue, evaluates existing and future corridor conditions, articulates the vision and  
76 goals for the corridor, develops and compares design options and other recommendations, and  
77 offers a detailed implementation plan.; and

78 WHEREAS, the Colchester Avenue Corridor Plan recommends further evaluation for  
79 roadway improvements, to include:

- 80 • For the western corridor section (Prospect Street to East Avenue), the *Three Lane Option*
- 81 with advanced pedestrian signal phasing;
- 82 • For the eastern corridor section (East Avenue to Riverside Avenue), the two-lane cross
- 83 section with bike lanes, on-street parking at strategic locations, intermittent green strips,
- 84 and continuous sidewalks; and

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86 WHEREAS, the Colchester Avenue Corridor Plan recommends further evaluation for  
87 intersection improvements to include:

- 88 • At Prospect Street / Pearl Street, a realignment that would create more greenspace
- 89 adjacent to the UVM Green and would place the roadway and sidewalk closer to the
- 90 UHC building at the southwest corner;
- 91 • At University Place, street closure to through traffic;
- 92 • At Mansfield Avenue, an exclusive left turn lane for eastbound vehicles into Mansfield;
- 93 • At Mary Fletcher Drive, an exclusive left turn lane for westbound vehicles into Mary
- 94 Fletcher Drive;
- 95 • At East Avenue / Trinity Drive, a realignment of East Avenue to the west;
- 96 • At Riverside Avenue / Barrett Street / Mill Street, a consolidation from three intersections
- 97 into one signalized intersection;

COLCHESTER AVENUE CORRIDOR PLAN

103 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council directs the Department of  
104 Public Works to evaluate the individual recommendations of the Colchester Avenue Corridor  
105 Plan and present findings and recommendations as soon as possible to the TEUC, Public Works  
106 Commission, and then to the City Council, such work to be done in cooperation with the  
107 Colchester Avenue Task Force and area residents and businesses.