



## Memorandum

**Date:** April 3, 2023  
**From:** Jon Rauscher, DPW Director  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** **2022-2023 Policy Priorities and Strategies Update: Municipal Infrastructure**

Per the Council adopted 2022-2023 Policy Priorities and Strategies and the accompanying monitoring plan, we present the third Municipal Infrastructure update. Below you will find a chart of the adopted priorities with current status and description.

**Key**

 = proceeding as planned       = started but not proceeding well  
 = proceeding but slower than planned       = not started yet

**A. Must Do Priorities:**

**Status**

Prepare a City-wide ADA transition Plan	See Item 1.
VTrans FY22' Capital project coordination (US 2/7 and Rt 15 Street resurfacing, Exit 16 DDI)	Continuing to share Exit 16 construction status updates. Also, continuing to coordinate with the MSR project.
Update Chapter 29 Tree Ordinance - ordinance update associated with state statute revisions	Not started - Tree Committee has shared draft language recommendations.
<b>Main Street Revitalization Project</b> Pending bid results, contract award, public outreach and project construction start	See item 2.
Complete Lafountain/Dion Street Scoping Study	See Item 3.
West Allen Street Park Plan	RFP Development is underway, with anticipated release in April 2023.
Create a City-wide Walk/Bike Masterplan (FY23 UPWP)	See Item 4.
OCC/St. Stephens visioning and planning	See Item 5.

**B. Recommended Priorities:**

**Status**

Winooski/Burlington Bridge Planning	See item 6
Historic Preservation Regulations and Strategies	
Update Chapter 23 Stormwater Ordinance	
Revisit Traffic Impact Fees	
Identify proposed City energy goals and possible development incentives	
Parking Updates Associated with Parking Study	Planning Commission led
Explore Protection of Natural Areas	Planning Commission led

## C. Priorities Discussion

### 1. ADA Transition Plan

We have created an ADA landing page on the City website formalizing a compliance procedure to investigate and address any reported ADA complaints; <https://winooski.vt.gov/ada>  
The Public Works Director will be the main contact as the ADA coordinator.

This information will be incorporated into the draft transition plan currently being drafted by the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC). On March 28, we reviewed a draft layout of the report which focuses on transportation elements (curb ramps, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings). This document will be used as the framework for all related City assets (ex. facilities, parks). We anticipate finalizing the transportation focused transition plan by the end of FY23 (June 30, 2023).

### 2. Main Street Revitalization Project

The Right of Way Acquisition process is complete. City staff are performing a final review of contract documents and working to meet all remaining requirements of the project funders. The project bid advertisement is targeted for May 2023. If the contract is awarded, construction would likely begin sometime in July. Updates with specific details about construction impacts would be provided to the public starting in June or July, and will continue through the three-year construction project.

One update related to funding; we've had multiple meetings with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) related to two previously awarded grants. These two grants include Bicycle and Pedestrian program funding for \$256,000 and a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant for \$289,600. Both grants were proposed to support funding for bike and pedestrian improvements. In coordination with VTRANS/FHWA, we have concluded that these grants are no longer feasible to use. In order to utilize these funds, Federal "Build America Buy America" (BABA) contract provisions would need to be added to the full project scope. These provisions are estimated to add 10-25% (around \$2 million) to the project cost. BABA provisions are currently not required under our United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) financing programs as these funds were obligated prior to May 2022, before BABA became law. We are working with VTrans to see if these grants could be pivoted to another standalone project. The elimination of these grants does not impact/reduce the bike or pedestrian project scope, nor push the project cost estimate above our \$23 million bond threshold.

### 3. Lafountain-Dion Street Scoping Study

This is a grant funded planning study to determine (1) low-cost interim bike-ped improvements to the corridor (2) permanent improvements if/when the street is reconstructed for underground utility replacement work.

We are targeting early May to hold a public feedback/concerns meeting. Feedback from the public meeting would then be presented to the Municipal Infrastructure Commission during their May meeting to guide next steps and possible alternatives.

### 4. Walk/Bike Master Plan

This is a grant funded planning study to identify and recommend facilities to support alternative transportation in the City focusing on walking and bicycling. Through the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, the City has formed an Advisory Committee to provide input at key milestones. Work on this project is progressing slower than expected due to a change of consultants at the start of the project due to staffing. With the new consultant fully on board and up to speed, work will continue with an anticipated completion later in 2023.

### 5. OCC/St. Stephens visioning and planning

The City is working with the Champlain Housing Trust to redevelop the O'Brien Community Center.

The larger organizational occupants, including the City, are finalizing our needs with the architect. The next steps are obtaining cost estimates and capital campaigns. Grant writing and other fundraising continues.

The St. Stephen's property was transferred to the St. Francis Xavier Charitable Trust in 2020. The Parish is in the process of selling the property. The Winooski Senior Center has a lease on the property that runs through 2043. The prospective buyer of the property may look to renegotiate the lease agreement with the City at a future date; or consider not renewing when the lease expires. While not critical, the City may need to begin planning for alternative locations or options for the Senior Center.

6. Winooski/Burlington Bridge Planning

Winooski, Burlington, CCRPC and VTrans will be participating in a discussion around a draft Public Involvement Plan (PIP) the week of April 17<sup>th</sup>. This process is being led by the selected design owner's representative HNTB.