



*a Volunteer Advisory Group to the
City of Burlington's Dept of Public Works*

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(list serv)

March 20, 2013

Mayor Miro Weinberger
CEDO Director Peter Owens
City Hall
Burlington VT 05401

Re: Waterfront + Downtown Public Investment Action Plan (PIAP)

Dear Mayor Weinberger & Mr Owens,

As members of the Steering Committee of the Burlington Walk/Bike Council, we urge you to establish improvement of our walking and biking environment among your criteria for the selection of 'finalist' public investment proposals. We believe that such improvement should be an essential feature of this important community investment.

Walking and biking are a key part of creating a sustainable city that meets the universal needs of all people to get around without dependence on cars, and are central to the health of the people of Burlington as well as the health of the city's economy. Creating the infrastructure for Active Transportation (walking, biking and public transportation), will be cost effective as well. All applicants should be asked to demonstrate how their proposal makes an effective contribution to the practicality and enjoyment of walking and biking in our community.

Specific criteria for review of the project proposals should include the following:

- Inclusion of features that enhance accessibility via foot and bicycle
- Connectivity with and improvement of existing facilities for walking and biking
- Improvement of connectivity for pedestrians and bikers between and within the waterfront and downtown, and other areas of interest
- Enhancement of the streetscape, to improve the experience of pedestrians
- Inclusion of features that encourage and improve the safety of walking and biking, and calm motorized traffic
- Inclusion of wayfinding and other signage to allow people to find their destination by foot or by bike
- Consideration of links with public transit
- Inclusion of convenient, covered, secure bicycle parking
- Inclusion of end-of-trip facilities such as showers and lockers

The Walk/Bike Council, made up of community volunteers, works with the Public Works Department and the Parks and Recreation Department as well as with private businesses and many other partners to make walking and biking safer and more practical and pleasant for residents and visitors. This policy is also the policy of the Planning and Zoning Department,

which has its own pro-active walking and biking requirements for downtown development projects.

We would welcome an opportunity to answer any of your questions about this proposal for the design of your selection process.

Sincerely,

Burlington Walk/Bike Council Steering Committee:

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