

### Great Streets BTV - All Comments Received (Sept-Dec 2016)

**This document includes all comments received on the Great Streets Initiative from September to December 2016. This includes all questions and feedback received by the Great Streets team in public presentations, at NPA and City Board/Commission meetings, through the [www.greatstreetsbtv.com](http://www.greatstreetsbtv.com) website, and via phone call/email. Because the Great Streets Initiative website was not explicit about how residents' feedback would be used/shared, individuals' names have been replaced with a unique commenter number. If you prefer to see a summary of comments specific to City Hall Park or Main Street, or for responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's), please visit [www.greatstreetsbtv.com](http://www.greatstreetsbtv.com)**

Date	Name	Forum	Topic	Message
<b>Did Not Share Name/Affiliation</b>				
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Design Standards-Pathways	Prefer bricks. Concrete looks like dirty runways (see lower Church St.); Brick sidewalks are not good for the skateboarders – they move to the street – dangerous; Brick too costly – dangerous if not maintained. Better for special project areas; Colored concrete or rubberized; Stick w/natural/exposed aggregate finishes and focus on using granite/brick at intersections; Let's get heaving problem solved on Church St.; Pervious pavement – artist-designed to make it more fun to walk. Rubberized, eco-pavement- take up small sections that are broken and replace more easily than entire sidewalk – like on railroad track on College St.; No painting – it's slippery when wet; Please consult local artists as – they have great ideas for aesthetics. Whatever you use, needs regular maintenance. Bricks are buckling all over Church St.; Sidewalks downtown are a disgrace; Concrete with a texture or stamped so not slippery.
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Design Standards-Pathways	Low greenery (worry about maintenance); Please make sure bumpouts don't block bike lanes (like N. Champlain @ North St.); Landscape everywhere you can – like in Philadelphia; Stormwater a MUST. Not sure if we need "bumpout" but we sure need non grass landscaping everywhere. Let's also landscape roofs – awnings too. Bumpouts seem to be too problematic – everyone hits them and they look awful quickly; Landscaping should be lower than sidewalks so water and snow do not puddle with water that destroys sidewalks quickly. Love bumpouts like SE Group did in St. Albans – St. Albans 36 minutes north – please visit!; Here's the problem: in winter, snow covers and hides these!; Love bumpouts and much wider sidewalks (Saratoga Spring Broadway example); Too many existing bumpout curbs are too high and unforgiving for small car wheels. Not good so moderate.
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Design Standards-Pathways	If curbs we used for protected bike lanes, make sure they are mountable angles. Lower life-cycle costs – no brainer!; For main streets in downtown – if they are shared – do we need curbs?; Can we put in storm drains along curbs; Can we round corners on curbs to reduce breaking?; Great cost saver; Smooth on parking side as to not ruin tires; Yes!; Yes!
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Design Standards-Furnishings	No... winter cycling is out of sync with Vermont's aging population (reality check!); Real amenity is public restrooms we are in the dark ages for a "tourist" town; The more lucrative you make cycling the more cyclists you will get; Should include wayfinding and security; City has existing bike rack standards. Please use them and enforce them on new developments; Increased bike infrastructure would encourage more cycling; Covered is key! Try vertical parking, try more condensed parking, use parking garages, check out cool designs – artists can help; Yes, but don't do it like Manhattan. Unsafe for everyone, every mode! (I mean the bike lanes); Allow for bike share hubs
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Design Standards-Trees	Looks expensive. What did they use in Winooski?; But worth it as part of a combined stormwater/street tree solution; What did SE Group use in St. Albans? Do that; Artists input?;Yes! But make sure they will be maintained. Good to have protected grates as shown. Dogs!!
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Design Standards-Stormwater	Beware motorcycle safety – grates will be slippery; Unless you put a subway under it, it won't really feel like a city. Seriously, it could fit in some places; Consider alt. cost of curb cuts sloped into rain gardens – simple and effective; Yes, let's do major stormwater. Can't landscaping collect a lot of stormwater; Why not latticed pavers; No – women wear heels
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Design Standards-Stormwater	The grass is a bad idea. Sounds great but people walk on it and it dies; The pavers suffer from frost upheaval. What is the "cost" to maintain?; Many more trees please; Need low maintenance – dog friendly for dog walkers. Tree areas – then "dog pee" areas that drain into stormwater. More small dogs traveling with owners; Cobble on Waterfront Park access path – great growth and protected between granite rectangles; Good, but prioritize trees; Yes, permeable pavers. Let's not mow grass ever – plant wild grasses and wild rice. Let's make landscape edible – grow for food, flower gardens; Aesthetics – get input from local artists; Yes, but maintenance is key and city's record on this is not good. Could have groups adopt a different garden for maintenance
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Design Standards-Stormwater	Pretty but collect trash. What is the source of the money to maintain – We can't even keep the restrooms open at Battery Park! (3 GREEN for restrooms); Yes, but as above, strategize the trash problem; Yes, everywhere and roof gardens, ideas from art community needed; Yes; Weed!; Add urban sculptures; Yes – would need to be maintained anyway (weeded, etc.). Just make trash removal part of that maintenance
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Design Standards-Pathways	Don't forget about plows and studded tires. Any treatment needs to be extra durable; "If" cost effective – presently we re-paint crosswalks every year – waste of money; Cost effectiveness important here – put the money into trees. I go for patterned walks over paint; Yes – let's do the best – maintenance free, pervious pavements. No paint – doesn't last – use dye in material; Some plastic crosswalk (??) material is very slippery in winter. Thermoplastic? Not sure what it is; Ask the art community, a font of good ideas (ditto!); Painted paths are slippery when wet; Yes. Won't have to be painted every year and less slippery; No paint
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Design Standards-Furnishings	Public drinking fountains; Public "bottle fill" stations for free water (like the new ones at the skate park); Public toilets downtown with cameras or attendants; Public toilets can be maintained using offenders during "community service." Benches on paths to Lake – College and Main; Consider restoring the stone chess tables a la Washington Square Park

9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Process	Get input from local arts community on details for crosswalks, bike shelters, etc.; Need more public process on this. 5 year old data is old otherwise you will run into a brick stone wall of citizen opposition; Put downtown residents on stakeholder groups. Not just "residential" areas. Hundreds of us live in apartments and condos in the area you are considering. We know these streets intimately!
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Pedestrians	Seniors and handicapped people need more time to cross streets than currently allowed; Some plan for ice abatement. Please consider heated streets otherwise to treacherous in winter
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	CHP	Keep the park historic. Do not remove mature trees. Not much more hard space. Refurbish, don't remove fountain. Giver Pomerleau a plaque, not a big placard; No big noisy concerts; No privatization; Visible, convenient kiosks/display screens
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Other	Church St. needs repaving. Bricks are slippery in winter, broken bricks/pavers, uneven sidewalks also treacherous in winter. Why remove benches in winter?
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Other	Don't see any connectivity with residential streets. The BTC Plan talks about connection with ONE and South End, but surely this further isolates them unless investment is made to neighborhood sidewalks which are currently in deplorable condition. Encourage walking/biking thru out the city.
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Main Street-Bike Lane	Need more separation between pedestrians and [bicyclists]; Bike one side of street; Indianapolis; If it's OK for skateboards and Segways too; One side snow intersection please; No skateboarders downtown!; Great idea but prefer the option that is incorporated into the sidewalk and not a separate path – stop segregating bikes only; Bike lane should be "bike-only" while sidewalks for pedestrians only; Topography on Main Street prohibits effective cycling. Yet idea of destination along the way; Must be able to differentiate space for pedestrians; skateboards restricted; Disagree. Main Street from waterfront is way easier than College, plus it actually has room; Protected bike lanes should connect all the way to waterfront bike path via the Main St. "Leg" to College; This is a terrible idea! It is unsafe. The incline from UVM down Main will conflict with pedestrians/cross traffic. It is better to locate it further north (more level) and have bike traffic arrive closer to the top of Church Street from UVM. "Die" hards can still bike up and down Main with cars and trucks but we should create a safer path that would improve other parts of BTV; YES to protected bike lanes on Main. BTV needs an E-W bike backbone and this is the place; Bikes got to fast down the hill – they need to be slowed. Many reports of accidents with bikes that now "fly" through intersections – get bike savvy traffic signals; Let's not think only about bike lanes – walkers, wheelchairs, and scooters are important; Parallel parking is too difficult in high traffic areas; OK with bike lanes but would need to find better design. Unsafe for bikers, parkers (open doors into bike lane), and pedestrians (2 lanes to cross, don't know where to look)
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Main Street-Bike Hub	Bike rack by New Moon. Good concept/bad execution. Please make these open to street side. Lifting your bike onto or off of the curb sucks; Please avoid generic "store bought" architecture. Employ local artists!; Ditto that! Sculptural/artistic really important to keep them from detracting; Bike valet parking is a real boon at public events like the Farmers' Market; Bike sculpture for parking on each street – can we add a winter cover on this?; Covered parking – yes; Eyesore? Design will be key; Ugly amenities needs to be aesthetically pleasing; Limit visual overload of distracting fixtures; Design needs to be better – boring; Put bikes in parking garages – waste of money; Please use existing city standards for racks. "art" racks are nice to look at but not functional!; Looks cheap and unimaginative – ask artists – an undervalued resource!; No bike hub. Lots of bike racks and corrals, plus some secure bike parking in garages
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Main Street-Mid-block Crosswalks	Yes – especially at Flynn Theater to Park!; Yes, please; Yes along City Hall/Park – all the same level – you can increase or decrease parking with bollards and use space for pedestrians and street performance also. Multiuse streets all around City Hall Park- Farmers' Market too; Not a big expense – go for it – long as traffic flow not important; No speed tables; Yes. And love the idea of speed tables; This idea seems to conflict with proposal to put public restrooms in Park – that being a more important amenity; It's not that far to walk to the corner. Traffic is difficult enough; Yes. Incorporate space along this lane that can be used easily for valet bike parking
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Main Street-Shared Space	It looks barren and "big city." Not the best example for Burlington scale but a great idea that could still work well here; Shared on level is good – so it can have multi uses. Need more trees and narrower than example – too barren; This view too stark – heavier concentration of trees; It works when drivers "know" the rules – that pedestrians have the absolute right of way. Out of towners don't always know this; Looks a little weird, would prefer separation from cars. What's going to prevent a taco truck from parking in middle?; Tough on vehicles trying to cross; Great idea. Just wondering if this means the street has to be raised; Bad in most places – as children are taught not to cross curbs. Works where traffic is ready to wait and enforcement; Good – ask artists for cool access ideas; Yes please! Make the park function as the Flynn's front yard. Free flow of people back and forth across street on this block
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Main Street-Shared Space	Make this lane multi use for cars, parking, or walking bikes – move rest of stuff closer to stores; Too bare – needs trees planted by store; Will multiple functions of the street be accommodated in a way that's easy to understand?; Yes – absolutely. It would be totally transformative if all the blocks could be converted to shared space; Yes – and make spaces all multi use – so you can have events with NO parking like Farmers' Market, street dance, parades, parking for handicapped needs to be kept or lots of parking on one side for event on the other side. Seating on wall however creates a barricade; Walk/street by stores too bare – planters, awnings, shades, street lights need to surround store to be more welcoming – is this just a one way street? If bikes and seating were moved to the right you could have parking/second lane of traffic – multi use – this would work better; It would be very valuable to have a greater concentration of trees and a low, seating wall at the edges of park; Yes!!! Get artists input please – I see NO mention of artists in this presentation – shame on you; Extending City Hall Park into shared space streets does not mean the historical integrity of the Victorian Park needs to be destroyed or seriously compromised; What is the impact on those that drive this major route every day?; Yes! Sidewalks far too narrow for volume of walking traffic. Remove on street parking – waste of prime downtown space

9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Main Street–Amenities	Please include public bulletin boards. They support the whole arts community with very little cost and support the economy by helping everyone – local and visitors – know what the City has to offer for culture; Public drinking fountains and bottle filling stations; How will artists get to be involved in the design of these amenities?; Expand the Great Street concept, embroider artistic impression throughout the design – use this to include Pine Street south of Maple!
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Main Street–Bike Lanes	Love the emphasis on walking and biking – but BTV should expand commuter options for people coming in from surrounding towns that include “bike highways” i.e. the Rec Path – more of these that create connectivity like in Scandinavian cities
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Main Street	Design speed of 15 mph for length of Main. Slow, steady traffic flow = welcoming, alive downtown
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Process	Artists are an invaluable local resources – please reach out to them and include an advisory group in this process
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Process	A member of the audience encouraged the strong inclusion of downtown neighbors. These neighbors know the area well and have a lot to offer.
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	CHP	A member of the audience expressed concern that the City Hall Park process is four years old and may need to be revisited.
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Main Street	A member of the audience believes Great Streets is terrific but we need connectivity with residential areas around downtown. Streets and sidewalks need investment due to their poor condition. People are forced to drive due to the poor conditions.
9/15/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Other	A member of the audience expressed concern about the block of College between Winooski and Union near the library. The City maintains the south side, but the north side is awful. The City needs to take responsibility for green spaces.
10/13/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	Process	I attended the meetings in September and it looks great. What is the timeframe to see some real progress?
11/9/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	CHP	There is a group of people who live downtown who are really offended by the new CHP plan because there is a lot of hardscape. Isn't there already a plan?
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Process	Regarding the December 9 <sup>th</sup> deadline for public input. We've just come through two processes that we felt were rushed – the mall redevelopment and the hiring of the police chief that we didn't want. No one who uses that park has asked for it to be changed. I'm opposed to 99 percent of the changes you are proposing and 80 percent of Great Streets. Why the rush? You haven't had sufficient participation. Why are we catering to the police? There are so many questions to be asked.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	CHP	There are ugly rumors that City Hall Park will have an amphitheater.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	CHP	Given the diagrams it looks like 30 percent of the trees will be replaced or cut down.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Other	I use the park a lot. What I see is open drug dealing, public urination, and pet waste. I don't know what you can do to make it more attractive for people to use. Whose responsibility will it be to keep the park clean? Who will stop people from sleeping in hammocks in the park?
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	CHP	I'm a resident of Burlington who uses the park. I have three kids and we drive but we also bike and walk. Great Streets and a new concept for City Hall Park are fantastic. Losing parking is terrifying, but I'm more likely to go downtown if I can find a spot where we can park our bikes. We live here because it's easy to get around. A five minute walk from garages to the Flynn is nothing. It's a gift as long as those areas are available to everyone. Giving up spots for walking and biking is worth it.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Main Street-Parking	We shouldn't lose these parking spaces downtown. I've lived here for 40 years. The streetscape improvements are very nice and inviting. I always find parking but it's getting harder to find spaces. Parking is expensive downtown. Additional parking through privatization is expensive. Regarding the park, I've wondered why we have to redesign park. Let's fix it up, let's repair it, and make some modifications. There are a lot of other public infrastructure needs in town. I am concerned about the increase of privatization of space like the coffee stand. Allowing commercial operators is a slippery slope. The space in front of the City Hall steps has traditionally been used for demonstrations and speak outs and we need to keep that space available.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	CHP	I disagree with the previous speaker. I love the Great Streets ideas; I fell in love with this idea tonight. The plan doesn't feel coherent; I'd like a better sense of continuity and wholeness. I'm disturbed – do not call homeless people bums. Excluding people isn't the way to improve things. We need to meet the needs of the homeless in a way that is socially acceptable. We need to have bathrooms and showers in this plan. The City needs more accessible bathrooms and 24/7 shelters for the homeless.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Main Street-Bike Lanes	Can you clarify the deck on Main Street? Do the bike lanes pass through the deck?
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Main Street–Shared Space	I came to Great Streets meetings earlier, and you talked about shared space. I like most of the plan.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	CHP	I live in the Old North End and work on the waterfront. I walk through City Hall Park every day. It feels oppressive in the morning; it's bleak, empty, and unpleasant. I would like to see your plan include ways to attract people to the space and make it more active. I love the splash pad and a kiosk for ice cream or a drink after work. Are the bathrooms in City Hall going to be closed? Bathrooms need to be monitored closely because they are challenging to maintain.

11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Main Street - Parking	What did the merchants have to say about the loss of parking? I think we have plenty of parking already.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	CHP	I admire and respect the thought that's gone into the City Hall Park redesign. It's a beautiful layout that represents a big investment in design and construction. Public bulletin boards have served artists in City Hall Park in the past. We are down to one board now. The cost is very minimal. I'd like to see them returned to the City Hall Park. Do you, as a park planner, support these?
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	CHP	In the first half of presentation, I have a clear notion of what it will feel like. I appreciate that. I cannot tell how the park will feel from the latter presentation. We only have three weeks to provide input and I don't know what it feels like. We need the time to be extended or another presentation.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	CHP	I appreciate the green space in the City Hall Park design. Downtown has very little green space and trees and I encourage you to keep as many trees as you can. Jesse Bridges has said at an NPA meeting that we need more trees in Burlington. I am downtown a lot and take the bus up the hill. I see it between 7-9AM every morning. A lot of people walk. I never feel unsafe in any way in the park. I work at the information booth on Church Street and public amenities are very important. People ask about bathrooms often and there are no public bathrooms. The benches on Church Street have been reduced and people need a place to sit even if they are not going to buy anything. The climbing rocks in front of Leunig's are great and we could use more of them.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	CHP	I don't see the need for the curved path in the park. I've been reading Frederick Law <i>Olmsted's</i> book and his idea is that you do not see through the park. City Hall should disappear to lift people's minds beyond their normal day.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	CHP	This is a far more useful plan than the earlier one. I'm worried about the cost of the plan and worried about the commercial piece. You're inching toward closing College Street and that is the way to the waterfront. You have no discussion of public transportation such as bus pull-offs. You need to come down strongly on electric buses with pull-offs.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	CHP	I like that there is less commercialization of the park but I also like the kiosk idea. I like the area by the steps of City Hall that can be used for a concert area. It's a natural place. We really need a park. Parks are for meandering; one doesn't need to go straight through the park. The dead end into St. Paul doesn't make sense. Keep the meandering paths.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	CHP	Art? I think the café could have bathrooms. Make the auditorium stage wider for a performance space. I don't want the police driving this design. I value the pavement in front of BCA; I've shown my art there. There is too much pavement; it should have more sculpture or a rock garden feel.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Main Street	It bothers me when planners talk about bikers, pedestrians, wheelchair users, etc. What about skateboarders? They are disenfranchised and there is some elitism taking place. We need to accommodate them as citizens in our planning. Also, I dislike the Church Street pedestrians crossings – the pedestrians walk all over. Don't allow College Street to become a pedestrian mall. Pedestrians walking freely across the intersections which inhibits traffic.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Process	I live near this. The city is fond of saying that "no one lives here." This is the neighborhood park for 700-800 people who live downtown. I would like citizens to be part of your stakeholder group. It's not just businesses that matter. We matter too.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Process	This was the first time I have heard of this... what were the three prior meetings (poor outreach) before study and money was spent. In general public participation for all development projects is poor.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Main Street-Congestion	Like the overall concept although the potential to increase traffic congestion is a REAL concern.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Main Street	Love the overall concept, with some reservations.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Other	Expand public transportation schedule.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Main Street-Parking	Mitigate event parking with incentives to use large lots to open up street parking.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Main Street-Parking	Create safe/affordable parking options.
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Main Street	Do 11 ft driving lanes accommodate left turn lanes?
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Main Street-Parking	What is the net loss of parking?
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	CHP-Amenities	What is the difference between a cultural information kiosk and a bulletin board, which should not be curated?
11/16/16	Attendee	Public Presentation	Main Street-Parking	Flynn Theater has two basic needs: drop-off space for buses out of travel lanes so as not to impede traffic flow, and access for mobility impaired patrons. How do proposed bump-outs impact these needs?
11/16/16	Attendee	Business Presentation	Main Street-Congestion	Has an analysis on traffic flow been performed? Concern is what could happen when a show at the Flynn lets out, particularly if the Memorial Auditorium gets redeveloped as a place for events. Bump-outs preclude using the street as a temporary 4-lane road like College Street during the July 3 <sup>rd</sup> fireworks. Be careful not to overdesign the stretch between Union and St. Paul.

11/16/16	Attendee	Business Presentation	Main Street-Parking	Don't mind loss of parking on lower Main Street, but any parking strategy need to consider the range of businesses and employee parking needs. It can be difficult to find safe, convenient, well-lit parking at night that is not too expensive. Other parking that should/could be used for patrons is taken up by office employees. Need to balance short- and long-term parking needs, and potentially have a day-time and night-time parking strategy.
11/16/16	Attendee	Business Presentation	Main Street	Impressed by the thought put into the concept plan. Main Street should become a destination, glad to see turning away from last 70 years which devoted all of the space to cars. Connection to train station is important for restoring Amtrack, need a way for people to get back and forth from downtown. Upper Main Street might have different needs, but on lower Main, no reason can't be a destination and gateway.
11/16/16	Attendee	Business Presentation	Main Street	Is it necessary to put in all of these big trees? They will block signage.
11/16/16	Attendee	Business Presentation	Main Street-Construction	When it is time for construction, be mindful about timing of the projects and impact on business/community events. Former DPW staff and administrations did construction at the worst time of year.
11/16/16	Attendee	Business Presentation	Main Street-Parking	Seems that concept plan has made space for cars as small as possible, and bike and pedestrian space as large as possible.
11/16/16	Attendee	Business Presentation	Main Street-Parking	How is the parking strategy shifting for locals? Need a coordinated construction schedule. What about buses and turning lanes?
11/16/16	Attendee	Business Presentation	Main Street-Parking	Do not have my business on Church Street because it is a destination and my patrons and employees need parking. Downtown needs parking to accommodate visitors and locals. Construction has impacts on businesses' livelihood and we need to survive to have a vibrant downtown. City needs to collaborate and have compassion when planning these projects. There could be a compromise because businesses on lower Main Street do not need café space, otherwise we'll have beauty but less parking and poor traffic flow. Need to control loitering.
11/16/16	Attendee	Business Presentation	Main Street	Can we consider fruit trees or using some of the space on Main Street for urban gardening to feed people?
11/16/16	Attendee	Business Presentation	Main Street-Congestion	Like much of the plan, but concerned that some improvements will exacerbate traffic congestion. Inches matter, see if there are ways to dial the plan in and get it right. Make sure to look closely at modeling and avoid chaos.
11/16/16	Attendee	Business Presentation	Main Street-Parking	City's parking plans are not set in stone. What about timing of Champlain Parkway? Seems that these may converge into perfect storm that will wither away lower Main Street. How will the spaces at the lower corners of the blocks be used—are they flexible, seasonal, contractual?
11/16/16	Attendee	Business Presentation	Main Street-Parking	Could the bump-outs be made smaller to regain parking on the blocks?
11/16/16	Attendee	Business Presentation	Other	What about a trolley up and down the hill?
11/16/16	Attendee	Business Presentation	Main Street-Construction	Construction can be financially devastating. What have other cities done to support businesses during construction?
11/16/16	Attendee	Business Presentation	Funding	Love the concept, it solves a lot of issues. Love the positive environmental impact. Regarding the use of TIF, understand that the money for projects comes from increases in the grand list and ultimately in tax collections by the City. Will the taxes/assessed values of adjacent property owners automatically go up to generate the revenue to build?
11/17/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	Process	So, this is really happening?
11/17/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	CHP	Will the Farmers' Market still operate in the park?
11/17/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	Main Street-Bike Lanes	This is obviously the beginning - and you've chosen one of the easiest streets - Main Street - to start. Do you have plans for how to make the regular, more narrow streets work for bikes?
11/17/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	Main Street	Who will clear the sidewalk in the winter time? Regular plow?
11/17/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	Main Street	Are you working on better signage to private lots? It's hard to find these lots.
11/17/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	Overall	Is there someone working on accessibility issues in the design? Are you working with the Mayor's Accessibility Committee?
12/1/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	CHP	How much green space are you giving up with all these additions?
12/1/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	Process	What is the timing?
12/1/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	Process	What will you do with the feedback that you collect?
12/8/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	Main Street-Parking	How many parking spaces will be lost on Main Street between Battery and Union?

12/8/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	Main Street-Congestion	The plans look great. Main Street can be slow to drive down. Have you assessed these changes in terms of impact to traffic flow?
12/8/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	CHP	Do you have a copy of the survey you used to come to these results? Was it the same survey you used over the years? Did the survey ask what people would like (like a candy store) or would you prefer to keep the park historic and just clean it up or would you like something else? More importantly, can we see this survey?
12/8/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	CHP	This presentation has a lot of detail - but I can't see this detail. How can we view this full-size in our own time?
12/8/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	CHP	You have a highway going right through the park where the fountain used to be. You have two highways going through the park and you have roads right next to them. How much green space are you going to lose by making the park a transportation commuter place rather than a sanctuary? Why not have a classical park with curvy walkways and a fountain for kids to play. This plan is just a conduit between commercial zones. Why not treat this like a real refuge from the street?
12/8/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	CHP	I think it's important to have two paths in the park. Right now the grass is struggling to grow because people are walking on it and there are too many trees. Straight paths make the most sense because people will cut the corners. Incredibly important that we have paved pathways to help the grass. Shrubs can disincentivize people to walk on the grass.
12/8/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	CHP	Why did you change the two diagonal paths? People naturally gravitate to those. People walk wherever they want. Are you going to put a fence along the path? People are just in a hurry.
12/8/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	CHP	I take the bus from the corner of Church and College so I see how many people use the diagonal path. It is a commuter route. I'm disappointed that you haven't counted the number of people taking that path. I hope you do that. I'd like to see the diagonal path go away and making it more of an oasis.
12/8/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	Main Street	Is there a traffic signal in front of the Flynn for people to cross?
12/8/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	Process	Are you going to all NPA meetings so people will have the information? I never heard of this.
12/8/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	CHP	I visit Central Park and Prospect Park a lot. The paths are all curvy - no straight lines. Gardens and plants keep people off the lawns. And benches. You can control access.
12/8/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	CHP	Central Park is many times larger than City Hall Park - there is no comparison. If you try to divert people from the route they want to take, they walk right across the lawn and there will be a brown dead strip where they walk - you see that everywhere all the time. The park can't be a refuge from the world we live in at the same time be part of the world we live in.
12/8/16	Attendee	NPA Meeting	CHP	Was the morning business presentation recorded? How do the business owners feel about a coffee kiosk in the park? There are coffee places all around the park that may struggle.
<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Forum</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Message</b>
<b>Shared Name/Affiliation</b>				

9/10/16	Commenter 1	Email/Phone	CHP	<p>It's been a pleasure coming to understand the Great Streets BTV plan and process. The presentations made it apparent that the city will end up with a downtown we'll be proud of; feeling good about that. I mentioned sending you some info: Several years ago we were actively advocating that public bulletin boards be replaced where they had been lost downtown. They had been 'evaporating' for years - some were removed during construction projects, some marketplace kiosks were hit by trucks, and some were removed to be replaced by public art. As a music nonprofit that has worked with hundreds of musicians for twenty years, we understand the value of unmediated, public bulletin boards - the lack of a barrier to artist participation; their low capital cost; the cost-less function they perform of revealing to visitors and locals how dynamic and vital the city's cultural offerings are, up-to-the-minute. We were successful: DPW committed to replacing a Main Street bulletin board that had been removed during a renovation. The Church Street Marketplace Commission voted, following a presentation by our college-aged volunteers — to install public bulletin boards on the marketplace for the first time. Previously, only gated kiosks were present. Rather than replacing or constructing new bulletin boards in City Hall Park, the director of our arts office sought to postpone and include this function in a future park design (a process that resulted in the park plan that you're familiar with). We also moved the Church Street Marketplace bulletin board project forward collaboratively with the director of the marketplace, to create a genuinely inclusive community art project. We intended to invite all residents — including young students, architects, artists, etc. — to design public bulletin boards that were electrified and fit within a certain footprint. With corporate (not taxpayer) support, we'd build one or two boards, with an architect producing the plans from even the roughest publicly-chosen design. We had a lead on a first corporate sponsor and were working through the question of a procedure for maintenance. I mentioned 'politics' during our conversation as a shortcut to identifying that forces contravened all of the progress described above. The process of creating a consistent city-wide design template was at its early stages, and our arts office director determined that the template process superseded the activity described. Bulletin boards were neither replaced nor created, and the community art project — that would have engaged citizens widely and created unique, place-making functional art — was suppressed. In conversation with the director during the development of PlanBTV I also came to understand that her opinion, at the time, was that public bulletin boards were 'messy.' In the years since, I've been in the role of speaking for members of our arts community that have had meaningful frictions with the leadership of our arts office. I mention this to say plainly that our city arts office does not speak for local arts universally. The fact of Burlington's political landscape is that the administration is bullish with its development agenda and haven't yet committed to community engagement as a primary value or policy of the city. I'm optimistic that the administration at large will eventually move this value to the front, and we'll see it purposefully manifested in infrastructure projects like Great Streets BTV. It's perfectly understood that you aren't expected to care about local politics and that the scope of work provided by the city is all you are beholden to, but it is important to at least try to impart a more complete understanding to you of the context you are working within. Suisman Urban Design could be even more effective, knowing this. The city may not demand that the amenities you put forward serve local arts or engage citizens in an ongoing way (like bulletin boards would, or pedestals for temporary public art that is curated to involve more artists, continuously). But you should understand that those values exist in the community regardless. Your firm would be forward-looking to perceive amenities and the design guide for their use to be a platform for strengthening communities in an engaging, sustained way. You could be building the machinery of community engagement and empowerment with your design and the amenities you choose. We'll be benefitting from your work to address other values and needs; I have faith that what I'm describing makes sense to you.</p>
9/10/16	Commenter 1	Email/Phone	CHP- Part 2	<p>In simple terms, I'll put forward that thousands of artists are served continuously by public bulletin boards, and in turn their presence enlivens and enriches the city for the social and economic benefit of all, including consumers. This value could be reclaimed through Great Streets BTV with the inclusion of public bulletin boards, in whatever form they might take.</p> <p>Some artifacts that might contribute to your understanding: A current post about local arts advocacy vis-à-vis the city: <a href="http://asspheasant.com/2016/07/being-not-less-than-lions/">http://asspheasant.com/2016/07/being-not-less-than-lions/</a> The community art project draft RFQ, attached. Presentation to the Church Street Marketplace Commission, produced by the student volunteers of Big Heavy World, attached. Bulletin board maintenance SOP (draft), attached. I've copied David White and Chapin Spencer, who are familiar with my position but not with this backstory. Thank you for your presentations, which were both educational and beautiful, and for taking the time for this communication.</p>
9/14/16	Commenter 1	Business Presentation	Process	<p>Union Station has public uses; it is used to distribute community-supportive agriculture (farm shares). How are you envisioning engaging our community in what you're describing? We have a very active, vital, and vocal arts community that wants to be involved. The arts community has a sense of hurried and ambitious development timelines that impedes engagement. The Church Street Marketplace supported un-gated public bulletin boards on the Marketplace. Design ideas came from far and wide and with corporate support, architects created the public vision. However, this process was halted. How can we start an Arts-oriented task force?</p>
11/28/16	Commenter 1	Website	CHP	<p>I'm hopeful you'll install public bulletin boards on the perimeter of the City Hall Park, adjoining the main sidewalks, where the community will benefit most from them. I also support locating one at BCA like the current plan describes, but it will not have viewership like traditional sidewalk locations would. Bulletin boards were removed from the park when sculpture was installed; it will be heartwarming to have this resource returned to the performing arts community (128 square feet of board space was taken away).</p> <p>I also hope that when bulletin boards are designed, they will be usable in traditional terms, and that posters will be able to be posted from the front, not the rear, which will be problematic for all users and defy conventions without a good reason to. Glass-fronted "bulletin boards" will give a false sense of curation and exclusion rather than welcome their use by all.</p> <p>Thank you for offering weather protection and illumination — those aspects of the current design are kind and respectful to the community that uses the boards. I'm extremely grateful that public bulletin boards are intended for the downtown scope of the Great Streets BTV plan. Thank you for your very good work, and best wishes!</p>
12/13/16	Commenter 1	Public Presentation (PACC)	CHP- Amenities	<p>Reinstate public bulletin boards in the park and on the streets. No cost to the city, invaluable to arts community. Keep traditional design rather than one being proposed. Prioritize maintenance of 242 Main in the RFP for redevelopment of Memorial Auditorium. Think about what is being done to the community that already uses the park as the designs are implemented.</p>

12/13/16	Commenter 1	Public Presentation (PACC)	CHP	Part of the story out there about the park is that the coffee kiosk is a response to the people in the park today. Is the City firmly committed to not allow bars in the park? Strongly encourage not to do this, it would be a failure. Don't blur permanent surrender of the park and temporary uses.
12/14/16	Commenter 1	Website	CHP	The alternate City Hall Park plan proposed at the last PACC meeting made good points about providing a sanctuary for people looking for peace in the busy city, and for a central fountain that was a visual landmark even in winter. I was glad to hear that the city's plan included a lot of gardening and flowers; I hope part of the park is built purposefully to be peaceful. Thanks again for welcoming feedback (will public feedback be shared?)
12/15/16	Commenter 1	Email/Phone	Process	Will the public comments be published? I realize the feedback form might have limitations relating to this, but hope that everyone will be able to view the comments transparently before the process produces decisions based on them. Transparency would be of benefit to the process, but you may already be thinking about this. Thanks!
9/14/16	Commenter 2	Business Presentation	Main Street	We're hoping that the train will return to Union Station; the station should be walkable to hotels and other visitor amenities. For our Segway business, we use the path between the Hilton and the Marriott because lower Main Street is a disaster because the sidewalks are narrow and drop off at each side.
12/7/16	Commenter 2	Website	Main Street	I would like to complement you on your design of lower Main Street. You have used the 100 foot right-of-way much more wisely than it is currently used by getting the sidewalk, greenbelt and a bike/Segway path in on each side of the street. It's great that you converted head in parking to parallel parking with less surface dedicated to asphalt. I also really like the areas in front of shops that can be converted into outdoor seating for cafes, etc. I believe this design will draw more people to the street and make Main Street an enjoyable destination for locals and tourists alike. It's also important to design lower Main Street to service tourists coming into town on trains starting in 2019. Lower Main should welcome those people, direct them to their hotels and to the Church Street Marketplace and restaurants downtown. The redesign of lower Main Street is so important to the future of the city. I like what I see in your plans. Keep up the good work.
12/16/16	Commenter 2	Email/Phone	Main Street	I would like to complement you on your redesign of lower Main Street. You have used the 100 foot right-of-way much more wisely than it is currently used by getting the sidewalk, green belt and a bike/Segway path in on each side of the street. It's great that you are converting head in parking to parallel parking with less surface directed to asphalt. I also really like the areas in front of shops that can be converted into outdoor seating for cafes ,etc. I believe this design will draw more people to the street and make Main Street an enjoyable destination for locals and tourists alike. It's also important to design lower Main street to service tourists coming into town on trains starting in 2019. Lower Main should welcome those people, direct them to their hotels and to the Church Street Marketplace and restaurants downtown. The redesign of lower Main Street is so important to the future of the City. I like what I have seen of your plans. Keep up the good work.
9/14/16	Commenter 3	Business Presentation	Main Street-Parking	We've worked with the Flynn to have vehicle loading in front of the Flynn and short-term spaces for our customers.
12/7/16	Commenter 3	Website	Main Street Parking	It concerns me to no end that this is being shoved down our throats in such an untimely manner. Since attending the last meeting regarding the changes to Main St and City Hall block I have mentioned it to several business owners and managers around my block and more than half had no idea what was being debated. The city hired a Sacramento California design agency to make very important and very delicate changes regarding to our city's already parking shortage. Talk to anyone who lives outside of Burlington and ask them if the shop downtown -- an overwhelmingly amount of these peoples concerns are convenient parking spaces and the high cost of parking. I listen to them everyday - they are my customers who live outside of Burlington but work downtown. To expand paying for parking times to 10 PM and raising the cost to park. We should be looking at ways to add more less expensive parking spots not take them away. And then to have this gentleman from California tell us that there is an adequate amount of parking downtown in public parking garages. Where is the closest PUBLIC parking garage on Main St? No wants to see more vehicle parking spaces deducted from an already sparse selection. With the construction of the new bus terminal with all of those lost spots and the elimination of the Burlington SQ Mall parking that's going to happen. It's just going to be really bad for business. Just to add swings, and benches down the Main corridor is just a plain bad idea. If there were large store fronts that attracted retail shopping to Main St then maybe I'd see your point? But to sacrifice sixty eight parking spots to beautify Main St? It doesn't make sense. If you are looking for a bike corridor from the lake then it makes much more sense to come up college St. I am fully aware that these changes would help my business immensely but being down here on the block for the last twenty five years it matters to me that we don't make shortsighted decisions that effects Burlington's over all business plan. Instead of spending all of our tax dollars with this company from out of state it seems to me that we could be spending our time and money more wisely working on solutions dealing with the already shortage of parking and the large population of beggars that are truly detracting tourists from our already AWESOME MAIN STREET!!! Commenter 6 Kountry Kart Deli
9/14/16	Commenter 3	Business Presentation	Main Street	My business is on Main Street. How will you turn the park traffic onto Main Street? The sidewalks are awful on Main. Do you have details on how to move people from College to Main from the waterfront? The intersection of South Champlain and Main is awful for pedestrians and cars.
11/16/16	Commenter 3	Business Presentation	Main Street-Parking	Kountry Kart Deli needs short-term parking in front of business, losing 65 spaces on Main Street is brutal. Concerned about bump-outs and swings that will create space for vagrancy and loitering.
9/14/16	Commenter 4	Business Presentation	CHP	Our Saturday business is strong all winter; once the Farmers' Market opens, our Saturday business goes way down. The Market is a big draw and they offer prepared foods – there is no spillover effect for us.
12/15/16	Commenter 4	Email/Phone	CHP	I own The Gryphon Restaurant at 131 Main Street, right across from City Hall Park. The overall plan looks great. The seasonal Farmer's Market that is held on Saturdays in the Park are very disruptive to the brick and mortar small businesses surrounding the Park. My Saturday business is reduced by 50-70%, and the Farmer's Market is damaging to the Park. I estimate this costs my business approx. \$50,000 from May through Oct. Any plan for the Park should include a transition plan for the Farmer's Market. Otherwise, the Main and St. Paul Str improvements will likely continue to funnel traffic into the Park and away from the surrounding small businesses. The plan for the Park is great. It is even better if the Farmer's Market could be relocated to the Waterfront.

11/23/16	Commenter 5	Email/Phone	Main Street-Parking	Hi Chapin, I hope all is well with you. I suspect you are in the loop about the proposed changes to our Main St . block. These changes would make it exceedingly difficult to continue our Student Matinee Series which is vital both to the Flynn and to community schools. Just so city planners understand what we currently do I would like to invite you and anyone you feel would be appropriate to observe our current Student Matinee unloading procedure. I think this might help you see how difficult it will be for us to adjust to the proposed new streetscape. We have one remaining event this calendar year, Tues. November 29. It is a 9:30 show but buses will begin arriving at about 8:45. The show is one hour and so dismissal will begin about 10:30. It would be great if you could observe both arrival and departure but if you only have time for one the departure is the one to see as if is more complicated and has more potential to cause gridlock on Main St. Best wishes for a nice holiday.
12/16/16	Commenter 5	Website	Main Street-Congestion	I have contributed feedback as a member of the Flynn Center Staff but this I write as a private citizen who often drives on Main St. Unless the point of this work is to severely restrict auto traffic on Main St. this seems like a remarkably bad idea. If a bike path with a buffer is to run from UVM to the waterfront with bump outs at each intersection there will be no provision for people making left hand turns against traffic going either east or west. As a regular user of this important access way to downtown I know that this will mean gridlock in many circumstances. I am a bicycle enthusiast and ride 40-50 miles a week from April- Nov but in the darkest and coldest of winter I do not bike at all. If a bike lane is necessary why don't you have ones like those on North Avenue which have no buffer. In this case thru traffic could get around a left turning vehicle if the bike lane was not occupied by a bike. This is probably the most important access way to downtown give that it is the most direct route to the interstate. Do you really want to discourage auto travel on it?
9/14/16	Commenter 5	Business Presentation	Main Street-Parking	We have discussed a crosswalk at the Flynn Center. Bumpouts don't work for us because our drop off zone is under the marquee. We have an aging demographic who needs to be dropped off and we have student matinees which require bus drop off.
12/16/16	Commenter 6	Website	CHP	I am very happy that funding is being secured to renovate City Hall Park, it is sorely needed. It is essential for the dense downtown core to have at least some functional green space. If you are in the downtown core working, shopping, residing, etc, City Hall Park is virtually the only option one has to get a quick breather from the urban bustle. Waterfront Park and/or Battery Park are great, but serve a different function being outside of the downtown core. City Hall Park should be a park, not a town square. I understand that there has to be a balance of more active and passive uses, but I do not think the plan as presented strikes the right balance. I have several issues with the plan, but the main problem is putting in a retail kiosk in the park. Why put a coffee shop in the park, when you can go a block or less in any direction and have a dozen coffee shops to choose from? Burlington has a great civic space in the form of Church Street right next to City Hall Park. The more that Church Street amenities creep into the park, the less of a functional green space City Hall Park becomes. I understand the argument that a retail kiosk will put more eyes in the park. There are other, more effective ways to do that. Namely, having park stewards that patrol, offer programs, perform maintenance, etc. In fact, with the amount of investment being proposed for the park renovation, it would be irresponsible for the City not to steward the park in such a way. There are other urban park systems in New England that have addressed similar problems without adding retail to their parks.. A common problem is that there is a propensity for park managers and civic leaders to continue adding built features into urban parks. While I believe there are some elements of the proposed design that look good, overall it tries to cram in too much into a relatively small park. Thanks for your consideration.
9/14/16	Commenter 7	Business Presentation	Main Street-Construction	What is the timeframe for construction? We have a glass blowing event each spring that will require full access to our business.
9/15/16	Commenter 8	Email/Phone	Process	Hello Diane, You gave great notice and were terrific to schedule 4 meetings and I still was unable to make it. I still want to get informed and share ideas as well. I have gotten some conversational updates over the past months but want to know where I can tune-in to learn more. Digital? video presentation? DPW or CEDO experts who have info?

12/16/16	Commenter 8	Website	Main Street	<p>This is a bold initiative.</p> <p>I think that the Park and two block redesign is great for Burlington because it creates support for the very successful farmer's market and the everyday visitor who is actually looking for a restful and inspiring experience. Moving the farmer's market off the park is necessary. The expansion of the shopping district is a step away from linear Church St to more of a downtown experience. I hear that Great Streets typically encouraging private investment. How will that be encouraged in this town where so much emphasis is made to 'historic' preservation? I know from experience that incremental development on our property at 89-91 Main and 77-79 Main have been constrained by Historic Preservation efforts. On the street design, I see that there is opportunity on the sidewalks and at the bottom of each block to incorporate vendors or outdoor seating or spaces for businesses to possibly get permits to be outside in the spring, summer and fall. This seems like a positive thing in general. However, can any business set up outside Skirack and the Vermont Juice Company and sell their competitive wares without the investment or risks we take every day? What are the limits, if any, that are built into our 'free enterprise' economy? Can OGE, Alpine Shop, Northstar Sports or TomBoy Juice rent spaces outside our businesses or in the street development. Building it without sharing how other places handle these challenges and proposing how Burlington intends to handle them is something I would encourage you to do.</p> <p>I have access to obtain a greenbelt permit in front of my business now. How will this change in the future?</p> <p>Burlington has committed to maintaining the current level of available parking. By removing this number of spaces in the move to parallel only parking, what is the specific plans you propose to serve the businesses who depend on street parking availability? This includes employee and customer parking. What is the Great Streets recommendation? Will you show it and describe it on future plan reviews? And when you show it, please indicate which resources are private and public and what are the current and anticipated prices as compared to existing meter rates in and outside the downtown core.</p> <p>There needs to be a rethinking of downtown public transportation. At one meeting, it was pointed out that the free College Street shuttle was not really involved in this project. While understandable, I think that this Great Streets initiative one block over from College and not considering how public exposure to Main Street and re-designed blocks is a mistake. Frequent and available public transportation that incorporates Main Street seems like a pro-active move to address the proposed parking changes and address possible changes to Memorial Auditorium. We should incorporate and connect this reconstruction with the lake and the UVM.</p> <p>It is of great concern that you would complete the two street redesign and ditch the angled parking above and below those streets before the entire project is completed. I request time be put into presenting an interim plan proposal for the streets above and below the 2 reconstructed blocks. This interim plan should consider accommodating no change in the angled parking until the full re-design is built. Please present concept drawings of your transition plan on the blocks above Church and below Pine before they get a facelift.</p>
12/16/16	Commenter 8	Website	Main Street-Part 2	<p>I think that the full sidewalk, greenbelt, and 5' 'table area' plus bike path are not necessary below Pine in the interim period between 2018 and the time that the rest of the project is funded and scheduled. I request that the angled parking remain on these blocks before they are fully transformed. It seems too costly to remove the parking before the added pedestrian traffic arrives. I would not remove car accessibility before the development of infrastructure encourages a dramatic increase in pedestrian traffic. I challenge the planners to come up with a solid transition scheme that permits some bike connectivity and does not fully implement the sidewalk expansion. How can you design this?</p> <p>In one of the planning sessions, I heard discussion about support for businesses who would be affected by construction. I hope this will be seriously considered. Thank you for your work thus far.</p>
9/16/16	Commenter 9	Email/Phone	Process	<p>Gary attended the Wednesday session and was looking for more information regarding Great Streets – especially how it differs from the mall project. He's a supporter of GS and wants to spread the word.</p>

9/16/16	Commenter 10	Website	Main Street	<p>Could not attend Great Streets start beads of other meeting conflicts primarily. The City now has very unsafe streets for all traffic modes, particularly those who walk. While this discussion addresses Main from Union to Battery it applies really to most of the City.</p> <p>1. Main Street and accesses to buildings suffer from a variety of accessibility issues, particularly uneven sidewalks, cracks, etc., which cause those with mobility issues to fall and injure themselves. First task is to deal with assuring flat, non-skid surfaces and access to adjacent premises meeting ADA guidelines. For example, though private, Main Street Barber Shop and the 110 Main Street Park do not serve those with a disability.</p> <p>2. South Winooski is "death valley: for those who walk with all intersections from Pearl to Main among the 17 in the City with an average of four injuries a year (one fatal at Barrett/Colchester) in the four years surveyed in the current Walk Bike Master Plan Draft. The only ways to make intersections--particularly Battery, Pine, St. Paul, Church and So. Winooski intersections reasonably safe for those who walk--and yes, bike, and travel by car--is use of either shared spade (Church St. looks ideal) or single lane roundabouts for there other intersections. Strong traffic calming elements may also work in some cases. Note a fatal T-bone crash at St. Paul St. is clearest example of how our busy streets intersections remain unsafe for those in vehicles. The graphic for Main Street with traditional open intersections really is the very definition of a transportation obscenity...we do not build new streets this way any more and we must return to the degree possible all our intersections to safe treatments--roundabouts, shared space or strong traffic calming elements. (Note SafeStreetsBurlington.com, North Avenue Corridor Plan (3 of 7 intersections so far recommended for roundabout conversions), and the AARP Pine Street Workshop report calling for roundabouts along the entire Pine St. corridor).</p> <p>Roundabouts and shared space are the only sustainable intersection treatments (about 30 percent reduction in pollutants and motor fuel use regardless or source), only choice to minimize delay for all users (critical for those who walk and bike), enabling a larger segment of the population to bike (now only 10% because of safety fears on busy streets), and roundabouts/shared space a scenic quality treatment which can allow, really, no needs for any kind of distractive signage at all.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of these comments</p>
9/16/16	Commenter 10	Website	Main Street	<p>Good Day: Have to add an addendum to my comments on safety treatments for South Union to Battery Streets intersections along Main Street. I felt terrible when an 83-year-old lady was hit broadside at the Keck Circle Roundabout in downtown Montpelier about 1997--even though when taken to the Central Vermont Hospital emergency room she was released with only bumps and bruises (talked to a relative about two years later who informed me she had not health issues as a result of the crash and was still going strong\). But what pleased me greatly this last fall was tabulating the number of pedestrian crashes at five downtown roundabouts in Vermont (first such U.S. tabulation as Vermont did have some of the first downtown, all Main Streets, roundabouts early in roundabout development(--one pedestrian injury in over a half century of roundabouts operations in Vermont downtowns! The 5 roundabouts at on Main Streets of Manchester Center (3), Middlebury (1) and Montpelier (1). So, Burlington faces and easy choice, convert as many busy intersections to roundabouts, or just continue it valley of death intersections as pedestrian after pedestrian crash occurs.</p>
11/28/16	Commenter 10	Website	CHP	<p>After a discussion group of Coalition for a Livable City, a look at the updated Cabot Park in Montreal (about twice the size of City Hall Park), I ave the following thoughts. A City park is a destination not a way station or a marathon refreshment stand. It should not perform a transportation role (think if Mt. Royal Park in Montreal or Ueno Park in Tokyo). Everything needs to be curved, not straight paths to serve commercial needs. It now seems totally out of place for the Park to be a gathering place for concerts/large public events/etc. When the City Band plays in the summer in Montpelier on the Capitol grounds the chairs are brought for the even and then put away . Straight pathways invite runners and fast cyclists into a pedestrian preserve meant for reflection, lunch time talk and leisure moments. Worried about homeless and the deplorable, they will be with us until housing is provided.</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 10	Website	Main Street	<p>There are three killer intersections which if not addressed mean a great street to die on! They each require treatment--two as roundabout and the one in the middle shared space--St. Paul/Church/So. Winooski. Since five roundabouts in downtown centers in Vermont have a half century of service with only one-non-serious pedestrian injury and four minor car occupant injuries (no bicycle injuries in a half century) we know what to do at these three intersections. St. Paul likely a one-lane roundabout for sure, Main/Winooski may require some two lane/partial 2 lane treatment. Stop the bullshit about great streets and intersections as our BTV streets are no safe for walking, biking and cars today--St. Paul was our last fatal car crash, Winooki the bottom intersection of "death valley" for feds and America sliding from 1 to 19th in highway safety jumped 5,000 deaths on streets and highways annual rate Jan 2015-June 2016. Don't make Main Street a great place to get injured and die! Ditto for the other busy intersections.</p>
12/13/16	Commenter 10	Website	CHP	<p>Useless Survey Basie for Study. Am viewing the NPA 2/3 Park discussion now. Agree with Commenter 12 and others who dismiss the "survey" as both misleading and likely useless as it is scientifically unscientific! One survey--there is a need for more than one--would actually survey those sitting in the park/using the park other than for a transit trip each season of the year. Bet that kind of survey would get bathroom right near the top! Few would ask for a farmer's market or an event venue or straight walkways to get somewhere (wherever that may be). Then a second survey might be of a variety of folks who live and work within a block or two of the park--residents! City Hall employees! Business owners!</p> <p>A list of amenities would be provided with a desire level (strongly recommend to do not recommend at all. Four or five "views" of possible designs might be provided. Finally, it has been suggested a citywide survey would be done in a scientific sampling.</p> <p>All that survey information would be a starting point--not the set of the unscientific, farmer market patron stacked, unthought-through, not advisory committee driven document pushed onto us as the the ten design commandments which we must all march to!</p>

9/19/16	Commenter 11	Website	Other	<p>Hello Great Streets BTV, My name is Commenter 11 and I am a senior Environmental Studies major at the University of Vermont. I am writing to you after reviewing your site and projects, in addition to plans set out by the City of Burlington that you provided as well. I am currently searching for city planning and transportation advocacy groups to work for this upcoming spring. As a senior, I must complete a Capstone Project. One option for this project is a 200-hour internship program that pairs my interests in sustainability with a group in Vermont that is doing positive work in the field I am studying. The work your organization is doing is something I am very interested in pursuing. I am especially interested in your work on Main Street and downtown in order to make it a more functioning urban center, especially as Burlington continues to grow.</p> <p>I would love to send over my resume and any other additional documents that you'd like to see, if you are interested in helping me to complete this project. I can be reached at the email mentioned above, <a href="mailto:ecoretti@uvm.edu">ecoretti@uvm.edu</a>. I look forward to your response and hope to talk soon. Sincerely, Commenter 11</p>
9/21/16	Commenter 12	Website	Other	<p>We know Church Street "works" as a commercial and civic space. Good planning would investigate the expansion of the pedestrian street grid to include adjacent streets--Center, the Church-to-St. Paul block of College, St. Paul on the southern edge of City Hall Park--all on the same basis as Church, that is, truck deliveries at appropriate times, otherwise walkers only. Such a conception needs to be facilitated by reduced traffic flows, both of cars and of the huge buses that awkwardly navigate our street corners at Cherry and Winooski, Maple and So Union, and so forth. How to do that? Easy. Simply begin now to design two lines of trolley routes, one from Pine at the former Ames Plaza in So. Burlington, connecting with Battery and ultimately with North Ave; a second one running along Shelburne Road and on to Winooski Ave. and on to Winooski proper. Each would pass through the city's business and services center, tie the two ends of the city together efficiently, and reduce street traffic. At each termination point structured parking would be required for both commuters and longer-term car storage for city residents (e.g. students). Along such tracks (or a trackless electric route), trolleys could be frequent. If the routes were split at the city center, a single trolley could shuttle back and forth from the center to the extremities on a frequent basis, reducing costs and infrastructure needs on the street.</p> <p>I know that you, along with myself, are somewhat embarrassed by seeing the fake tourist "trolley" taking visitors around the city. Why not a real, functional, attractive trolley system? After all, we once had one!</p> <p>Ultimately, we'd need to extend these systems to Essex and establish a new line up Main St to Williston. But as the payback is less, that could wait for more intercity cooperation. They did all this</p>
11/28/16	Commenter 12	Website	CHP	<p>With minimal changes, the park can serve the purposes of the entire city.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. in place of the curved path in the north west, add a children's play area.</li> <li>2. Add attended bathrooms, perhaps via access to those already in city hall or BCA.</li> <li>3. narrow the pavement planned along the west edge and add fixed chess table to the north west there</li> <li>4. eliminate the cafe as improper privatization of a public facility</li> <li>5. save the trees.</li> <li>6. keep the fountain, reduce the surround pool or eliminate it, eliminate the planned "water feature" entirely.</li> <li>7. do not widen the path due west from the alley.</li> <li>8. replace and maintain lawns and add flower beds under continuous upkeep.</li> <li>9. eliminate large events and, as you have it, the farmers' market from the park by moving it to the streets.</li> <li>10. only minimal work on a small performance venue facing city hall steps.</li> <li>11. Establish an artists coop organization to manage several art sales every year using surrounding sidewalks.</li> </ol>
12/8/16	Commenter 12	Email/Phone	Main Street	<p>On Main Street: 1. parallel parking is slower than diagonal and without a bus pull-over, traffic will move very slowly. That could be a problem. 2. the integration of businesses with the sidewalk won't work on most of the model blocks because their structures are government, park, or office spaces. So little in the way of cafe tables or retail sales possibilities till you get below Pine. 3. It seems a misallocation of funds to build segregated bike lanes on Main Street while allowing bikers and pedestrians alike to share the street with cars on the road to Leddy and the road to the Intervale. In the former, protecting walkers with a yellow strip just doesn't do the trick. On the latter, heavy commercial use and blind curves make this road very dangerous for walkers attracted by Intervale Center events, CASs and Tommy Thompson gardens.</p>

12/8/16	Commenter 12	Email/Phone	CHP	On City Hall Park:1. keep the historic fountain as a center piece, while considering reducing the surround pool. Add a splash pad in a designated children's play area to the south east along with children's play equipment and play tables. Parents are your best "eyes on the park". 2. Eliminate all commercialization, including the cafe and any restaurant extensions. Max Tracy made the useful point that a cafe not only privatizes public space but is likely to fail economically as has the one much better located on Church St. 3. Most paths should curve and be of gravel to support percolation of rain water. A rock wall surrounding the park would be great rather than the partial wall of concrete you suggest. 4 Maximize rain gardens and other plantings. 5. Eliminate the stage area and impose rules that allow only small events. 6. Yes, move the farmers' market to the streets and also move any art SALES to College, closing that the St. Paul on market days. 7. Narrow you very wide north south path along the east side. Locate chess and game tables for adults to the north side, permanent or rotating art display near BCA, and children's tables to the south. 8. a narrower east west path bisecting the park should circle the fountain and be curved. 9. Full, heated toilet facilities supervised by a park attendant, most cheaply constructed by using existing ones in City Hall and arranging access through the building. 10 a Park supervisor should be on duty to guide park users, monitor behavior, and coordinate park maintenance carried out continuously by Parks and Rec and perhaps volunteers in the Garden Club that works on the east side of City Hall. 11. All aspects of the design should emphasize the park as a destination--for chess players, children, lovers--not a corridor to get rapidly from north to south or east to west. Some compromises are likely necessary but within the overall goal of a destination park with historical authenticity serving several demographics, including children.
9/27/16	Commenter 13	Email/Phone	CHP	Called in response to the business flyer as she was unable to attend the meeting on 9/14/16. Most concerned about the Farmers' Market that takes significant business away from her restaurant. She believes that the market should be based at the waterfront (where there are few established restaurants) rather than in downtown. The market draws people away from the permanent businesses; it needs to be reengineered to entice people beyond the market. I gave her information about Great Streets as well as followed-up with the website and link to the video business presentation. I also told her about the second consultant visit the week of November 14 <sup>th</sup> .
12/13/16	Commenter 13	Public Presentation (DAB)	CHP	Own Magnolia. City Hall Park is not a great location for the farmer's market. It undercuts business and damages the park. No longer have a wait on Saturdays, and lost sales. Move the market to Lake Street and along the bike path—better way to be a draw to get people to come into the City. You will see a large push coming against the farmer's market by businesses in my survey. City has been difficult to work with during construction projects. Beautiful design, but farmer's market has to go.
11/9/16	Commenter 14	NPA Meeting	Design Standards	There have been some nice streetscape improvements in downtown in the last few years. Every time we redesign a street we lose more on-street parking. It's not popular to advocate for parking, but I want to stand up for minimizing the impact on street parking.
11/9/16	Commenter 14	NPA Meeting	CHP	Why do we need to spend a lot of money to reconstruct CHP? It needs to be cleaned up but I don't think we need to spend a lot of money.
12/9/16	Commenter 15	Website	Main Street-Bike Lanes	The bike lanes appear to be level with the pedestrian walks- even though a change of level does present some challenges, having the bike lanes at the same level as the pedestrian level will in reality have the bikes and pedestrians traveling in the same area. (As bikes maneuver around other bikes and as pedestrians wander, they will all end up in the same areas which basically is to have no bike lanes.  We were in Amsterdam and experienced a true bike culture- the watchword was, pedestrians beware. The curbs were a saving grace to the very large number of bikes traveling at varying speeds....
11/11/16	Commenter 15	Email/Phone	Pedestrians	Diane: I will be out of town on the 16 <sup>th</sup> . One item I would note is that I believe the walk signals should be automatic at both Main St at Church and Winooski. Currently, if the button is not pushed, there is no automatic walk signal. This seems very pedestrian unfriendly especially for all the people that are visiting.... Thanks. Brad
11/16/16	Commenter 16	Email/Phone	Other	I really like this idea... here is rest of this less than 1000 sq ft house Middlebury College designed for the decathlon entry 2013? where the entire house is run solely on solar. I also think it is imperative that we keep as much of what we already have intact. And look for reuse of other items. Try not to have it homogeneous i.e. All seats are the same design. Horrid. Let artists design every intersection. And have a Facebook page people can Post (with review) selfies and street photos. Do not cut down a single tree. And look at what SE group right here in town did in St Albans. I'll take you up there. All storm water is captured beautifully. Again I photographed it. Multi use everywhere. It have bollards used To delineate parking. And take them away when we want to use streets for farmers market. Street dance. Parade. And use the KISS principle Keep it simple stupid. Would you be able to add these for me to the grand list of additional ideas. Feedback. The time to read and think and write down ideas was wayyyy toooo short. And suggestions given us. Well. Again no time to go outside and look at what we already have. St. Paul is finished. And we should keep it.

11/29/16	Commenter 16	Email/Phone	CHP	In 1983, City Hall Park Historic District, Burlington, VT was created by the National Park Service at the request of Mayor Bernie Sanders. LETS CONTINUE TO HONOR BERNIE SANDERS AND ALL THE GREAT THINGS HE DID FOR OUR CITY BY KEEPING CITY HALL PARK HISTORIC: With fountain, paths, and benches, for quiet and repose. There are lots of Bernie fans, and lots of people in historic preservation around here that are not going to go with your non historic design. I think actually that we ought to call it BERNIE SANDERS CITY PARK he sure deserves this and it sure would make Pomerleau, his best friend, real happy. I have been trying to work with 50 people or more whom we've asked about ideas for city hall park including the historic factor as well as what you presented to us on Nov 16. I have a pretty good design that puts it all together. Let me know if you are interested in keeping the park historic, as it is designated so since 1983, and I will share some ideas. I sure would love to see this happen the right way. The survey done in 2011 was done so that BCA could get the grant. And therefore the ideas and people they talked to were all directed towards getting the grant. No local users of the parks, no NPA, no general neighbors were ever surveyed. There has been some excellent survey work done by the Landscape Architect. And that was the hard part. So I hope you will all consider the historic park and let us move forward together.
12/1/16	Commenter 16	Email/Phone	Process	Well Diane. It sure looks Like public comments don't really count do they??. As you are going forward with design you already have. This is nasty. And fraudulent. Letting us think our comments count when they do not I am aghast. Totally aghast. When questioned on Nov 16 we were told that there were no more meetings until next year. And there would be a long process to talk and plan before going forward. What is going on. ?????
12/3/16	Commenter 16	Email/Phone	CHP	I have a few more questions: What are the problems with the present fountain, and what is the anticipated cost of repair. I understand there are sanitary concerns with the wading pool, and there also appear to be issues with the pipes, etc. that transport and distribute the water.
12/3/16	Commenter 16	Email/Phone	CHP	In response to the park fountains pipes see below. Well. The pipes can just be overridden with brand new pipes. I have talked with an historic contractor who knows all about these, and others, where he is able to fix it quickly, easily and with out more water pouring into city hall. When my water main broke, DPW came over and fixed in in half a day, and this was in winter. They just turned off old pipe, and we ran another new one into my house. Why on earth has Parks N Rec not done this? Ie turned off the water in city hall.? And put in a new pipe? If DPW can do this with my house, why oh why can't they do it with this fountain??? Also, Will you work with us to get Parks moving on saving the trees we have...IE Uncompact the soil, replace it, and fertilize and water the trees so we do not lose anymore. TODAY They are VERY expensive to replace. Thank you for your ongoing help.
12/4/16	Commenter 16	Website	CHP	<p>ONE COMPARE DESIGNS</p> <p>Based on historical design, the present design, and that in 1983 City Hall Park Historic District, Burlington VT, was created by the National Park Service at the request of Mayor Bernie Sanders. we thoroughly studied the new proposed design, and realized that there are only two things we like in the new design</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adding rain gardens as they have shown is an excellent idea. However we would add larger ones in the SW comer, and a recycling system that will reuse the water for other park needs.</li> <li>2. Using the back wall of buildings on the east side of the garden, is a brilliant way to take the muddy rutted paths that exist now, into real use.</li> </ol> <p>However, as they are hard edge designs and with possible commercial use by RiRa's. We have changed their spaces to shade gardens, artistic game tables, children tables, and an exhibition place for BCA,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. It must be noted, too, that their use of permeable pavers here will not work. Instead they should be using the gravel paths we have. These are also in Shelburne Museum.</li> <li>4. It must be noted that the existing fountain and its problems with pipes can be easily solved. Turn off the old pipes, and put in a new pipe. Why oh why is city hall not doing this. DPW did it with my house in the Winter!</li> <li>5. Re cost of plan. In our design Which is in complete sympathy with our historic park we have a rough estimate of \$1Mil. I am a member of Burlington Garden Club who maintains the front garden of City Hall. I will ask them if they would like to work on the back garden as well. Also, friends of mine have donated \$1MIL to the park. So lets try to design the park so we stay within \$1MIL.</li> </ol> <p>THREE GOING INTO THE PARK</p> <p>Now I will take you into our city hall park. as you walk into the park you stop moving and look all around you. There are flowers surrounding the entire park it is beautiful You want to stay here There are no hard edges that agitate you, or others instead there are curves that calm you The fountain in the center, just like the historic design of the park, is spectacular, with clean water to dip your toes in, and for children to splash in. If they get too wet, the park guide will hand you a big beautifully designed BURLINGTON CITY HALL PARK towel (you can buy them at BCA)</p>

12/4/16	Commenter 16	Website	CHP- Part 2	<p>There are quiet areas, garden places, open spaces, children's areas. It is a real sanctuary. curving paths of packed gravel, as used in Shelburne Farms, will allow you to meander through the park and around the fountain. Gardens completely surround the park so it is beautiful to look at from the streets as well as inside, for all twelve months of the year. the existing trees, thickest along St Paul St will provide quiet from the street noise. Over the years, as we replace trees, lets include every possible kind of local tree will be in the park. The park guide can tell you about them, the flowers, and the history of the park. along the walls of the buildings to the east are shade gardens, artistic game tables, children tables, and an exhibition place for BCA, There are fun things to sit on, climb on, stand on. as well as comfortable historic benches to share with your friends. There is artist work in rotating exhibitions to walk around and see from many angles. Sculpture includes a very tall colorful one with a playful swing on it. Historical lights are upgraded with LED, with the brightest lights at night around the fountain. At Christmas time, all trees will be decorated just like Church St. Park guides are on duty all of the time, keeping the park clean, safe, and acting as guides for anything you might need help with. Beautiful Rain gardens will control the storm water. Public bathrooms will be included. A low curved sitting wall surrounds the edge of the park, so you can even enjoy the park when sitting outside of it. Hopefully BCA will be part of the park, with their doors open up to inside and outside exhibits, and the Artist Designed City Hall Park Towels, postcards, and art work for sale to benefit the park. No longer are there large venues to compact the soil. They are all located around the outside edge of the park. Farmers Market has a special table for the artists too. No longer are police cars sitting inside the park. This park is not something to fear any longer. I LOVE OUR NEW PARK. I hope you will too, and tell others about it. See our Facebook page: KEEP CITY HALL PARK HISTORIC FOUR HOW WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO PRESENT HISTORIC DESIGN and to what a PARK SHOULD BE BURLINGTON HISTORIC PRESERVATION: KEEP PARK GREEN, KEEP THE PARK HISTORIC: 1983 Bernie, it has a sense of what a real park is, it is a sanctuary, sympathetic to the historic park, fountain in historic location, historic benches, historic lights, with LED bulbs, NON COMMERCIAL, SANCTUARY no thoroughfare, SMALL EVENTS less than 25 people and less than 4 h, HOMELESS are not a fear, NO STATIONARY POLICE CARS, PARK MAINTENANCE, FOUNTAIN IS in CENTER, CIRCULAR, where you can sit, PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE, (sidewalks to chalk out) hmmm we are making them all gravel...not permeable pavers as he said not to use them...like shelburne farms...so we could pave an area for maze and hopscotch. but that may not be a good idea after all.</p>
12/6/16	Commenter 16	Website	CHP	<p>I really really like having a central fountain that has been part of the basic city hall park design forever. Lets put in a new better functioning one in this same place. And as Tony Pomerleau has donated \$500,000 for the splashy kids fountain in your new design, lets not put it squished between two main "roads" through the park, and instead put it in our se children's park design, near the existing fountain/location. Where there is room to sit in comfortable seats and watch them plan. And have our full time park guide/maintenance person have wonderful artist designed BURLINGTON CITY HALL PARK TOWELS, to use, and buy as they wish at BCA. The money will go into the park fund for whatever the park needs. I bet the towels will be a huge success. What other town does this? And with Katharine Montstream painting on it. and other local artists so there are several to select from....maybe we have a "towel" a month plan!!</p>
12/6/16	Commenter 16	Website	CHP	<p>problem solved. this is a self contained really cool looking unit that can be placed just north of city hall stairs. artists could put their colorful designs on them.  <a href="http://europeforvisitors.com/paris/articles/paris-public-toilets.htm">http://europeforvisitors.com/paris/articles/paris-public-toilets.htm</a>  coin operating, self cleaning bathrooms.</p>

12/7/16	Commenter 16	Website	CHP	<p>Here is what Jenn Kristel, excellent professional mental health therapist sent to me. Mandatory reading for everyone wanting the present design used. It is so full of sharp edges, straight lines, and lack of real green space, that it will only make matters worse, when we try to calm people who go into the park, with mental health issues or without them, as FEAR will envelope them as they walk in.</p> <p>Over all, the research is clear that the Human species needs nature to have optimal mental health. In one study 'researchers examined the cognitive functions of children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) to determine the effect that the children's surroundings had on learning and their ability to concentrate. The researchers found that exposure to parks and other green spaces improved the children's ability to focus and concentrate.' (CDC.gov)</p> <p>People who live in urban areas that have green space fare better than those who don't.(University of Exeter Medical Center)</p> <p>"These findings are important for urban planners thinking about introducing new green spaces to our towns and cities, suggesting they could provide long term and sustained benefits for local communities," study researcher Dr. Ian Alcock said in a statement.</p> <p>In another study, conducted by the Stanford University, there is documentation proving under trees on a sunny day can relieve of of feelings of 'rumination'</p> <p><a href="http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2015/06/how-walking-in-nature-prevents-depression/397172/">http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2015/06/how-walking-in-nature-prevents-depression/397172/</a>.</p> <p>How Walking in Nature Prevents Depression - The Atlantic www.theatlantic.com</p> <p>How Walking in Nature Prevents Depression. A study finds that wild environments boost well-being by reducing obsessive, negative thoughts.</p> <p>Green spaces in Burlington have eroded due to the development happy tendencies of our city government. It is important that we have spaces that are not earmarked or planned out. Take Central Park in NYC. While there are many paths and planned areas, there are many areas in which one can be in wooded areas and protected by nature without the onslaught of visual cues of buildings and cars. Spaces like this are important for our health and this is increasingly becoming more clear in research. City Hall Park is small. Yet it is a vital part of our community and necessary for the health of our community- Not only humans but for birds and other animals that also need places to dwell and rest. We need to insist that this one area in Burlington not become yet another place in which the city takes over and makes it an extension of Church Street. Keep City Hall park green and historic.</p> <p><a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/10/green-spaces-mental-health-parks-gardens_n_4555404.html">http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/10/green-spaces-mental-health-parks-gardens_n_4555404.html</a></p> <p>green spaces is good for mental health. - The Huffington Post www.huffingtonpost.com</p> <p>Researchers from the University of Exeter Medical School found that people who moved to urban areas with green spaces experienced mental health benefits ...</p> <p><a href="http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthtopics/mental.htm">http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthtopics/mental.htm</a></p> <p>CDC - Healthy Places - Mental Health www.cdc.gov</p> <p>The effects of the community design choices we make and the opportunities those choices afford or deny us are only just now beginning to be understood. Such effects ...</p>
12/8/16	Commenter 16	Website	Process	<p>We should wait until after Christmas, and in the middle of January invite THE ENTIRE CITY to join us for a real honest discussion of what they would like in city hall park without showing them any plans. Write them all down. Ask them to think if what was there was to stay. To think about if what was there was to all disappear, and ask them to think of the park as a blank slate and to draw the features they would like, or to just describe them. YOU can tell them the questions before they come so they can think about this. But NO visuals are to be shown.</p>
12/12/16	Commenter 16	Website	Main Street	<p>May I make a comment about the streets. I really like the new design, with parallel parking. By the time this is built, I am sure that there will be more than the xy number of parking spaces lost, in new places to park. AT least as I understand, the city is looking at a lot that are private during the day during the week, and putting these into the general parking list. And also having a find a parking space app. in the works? Having WIDE streets to me is more important than a few more parking spaces. And top of the list is having the cafes, markets along the street be able to have outside sitting places. Separating the pedestrian from the bike is excellent. And we are seeing more and more biking occurring in the city. Having rain gardens soak up storm water runoff and permeable pavement are also a plus. We need to really concentrate on keeping the lake clean. And controlling storm water is a major thing we need to do. 50% of the pollution into our lake is from cities. 45% from farms. Trees are a definite. Please have them plant trees that look pretty all of the time and can handle stormwater runoff. We have maples on Caroline ST with leaves that turn ugly dull yellow with huge black spots on them. And have been planted too close to one another. (20 Caroline St) Places to sit down are also a must. I do NOT see making a wide path to the FLYNN from City Hall Park. That would mean the traffic would have to stop in the middle of the block, as well as both ends for people to walk across Main ST. It makes no sense to do this.</p>
12/12/16	Commenter 16	Website	CHP	<p>I have talked with several people about the historic aspects of Burlington's City Hall Park. I am a long standing member of Preservation Burlington, and have worked an an architectural photographer for OLD HOUSE JOURNAL since 1990. Everyone I talk to, says it is imperative to keep the center fountain, in the CENTER of the park, walk around it, and then have radiating paths from this, to the various streets. One path can be incomplete, or non existent to have a larger space for something special. In our case, a Children's Area, possibly using a similar, but perhaps smaller the splash pad, that has been shown in the City Hall Park design. The central fountain must be an actual fountain that can be seen and enjoyed, even when the water is OFF. The splash pad will not work, as when it is OFF there is only some pavers in a flat space with holes in them from which the water spurts out. Again this historic feature center fountain is in many of the city and town parks with in Vermont. Thank you</p>

12/13/16	Commenter 16	Public Presentation (PACC)	CHP	Do not agree with taking the fountain out of the middle and want to keep the historic platform the park has always had. Want a soft park, a sanctuary; not a repeat of Church Street. Opposed to taking out the only spring flowering trees, want to modify lights with LEDs and decorate park with Christmas lights. Don't want commercial elements. Agree park needs to be dug up and replacement infrastructure is needed. Key differences: fountain at center, radiating paths, no commercial, sitting wall around all edges, benches on all paths, paths avoid existing trees, sanctuary not Church Street. Use city hall bathrooms. Feel strongly about need for restrooms. Like Paris model of self-cleaning. Park guide could help monitor the bathrooms.
12/13/16	Commenter 16	Public Presentation (DAB)	CHP	Applaud city on cleaning up the space along the backs of buildings. CLC has additional ideas for programming this space. Need to follow historic design of the park, with a central upright fountain and radiating paths. This type of fountain is a Vermont feature. Splash pad off most of year. No commercial elements at all—takes up valuable space in the park. This should be a quiet respite, historically people just sit in the park. This plan becomes a short cut, don't go with it.
12/14/16	Commenter 16	NPA Meeting	Main Street-Shared Space	I agree with the shared space idea. When we have big events, it would keep people from trampling the grass in City Hall park. I've seen it done in Montreal.
12/14/16	Commenter 16	Website	CHP-Amenities	VT BANDS: (DEADLINE FRIDAY!) If you poster in Burlington you should leave a comment on this city feedback page. Ask for "TRADITIONAL PUBLIC BULLETIN BOARDS." It's for a downtown design plan that has many positive ideas in it; practical un-curated public bulletin boards could be one of them. To be a hero, ask for MORE PUBLIC BULLETIN BOARDS IN CITY HALL PARK, too — they took a bunch down to install art and never put them back.
12/14/16	Commenter 16	Website	CHP	(From Commenter 12?) But there is no toddler's playground in the downtown, even as we expect an increase in population. As it is, day care kids are taken to the Fletcher Library lawn. Ward 6 has no park space at all. King Street and modest housing is close to City Hall Park while the waterfront it too far away for little kids to reach. We need this park. It is a statement of our values, promoting city resources for the diverse needs of city residents. That's my view. Charles
12/15/16	Commenter 16	Letter	CHP	<p>December 8, 2016  Re: City Hall Park Concept Plan</p> <p>The Preservation Burlington Board of Directors is submitting these comments in response to the City Hall Park Concept Plan that is presently under consideration. Preservation Burlington is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve and protect the historic architecture and livability of Burlington through education and advocacy.</p> <p>Since the 1830s, the area now occupied by City Hall Park has been the hub of downtown Burlington. It is a key component of the downtown commercial area, which is why it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource in the City Hall Park Historic District. The present condition and functionality of the park, however, leave much to be desired, and we agree that some improvements are necessary to ensure its ongoing viability as an inviting and safe public space.</p> <p>The Main Street Concept Plan includes illustrations showing the evolution of City Hall Park since the 1850s, when a focal point was established near the center of the park from which paths radiate outward to the surrounding street grid. Although this plan has varied somewhat over the decades, the underlying structure of a central core with radiating paths has always been maintained. The Main Street Concept Plan acknowledges this on page 80, stating that the key character-defining features of City Hall Park that have been consistent since its inception are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public/civic space;</li> <li>2. Paths radiating from or near center; and</li> <li>3. Central focal point with a water feature.</li> </ol> <p>After reviewing the concept plan, it appears that two of the character-defining features – the radiating paths and the central focal point – are not part of the new design. These components have existed in City Hall Park for over 150 years, and it seems shortsighted to discard them now in favor of a completely new plan.</p> <p>This is not to imply that the park should be left as it is now or made to appear like a 19th century town green. City Hall Park can and should be a modern and active space that serves residents and tourists alike. We feel this can be achieved while still respecting the underlying historic plan of the park, which has proven its value and effectiveness by remaining intact for the past 166 years.</p> <p>The design team working on this project is enormously talented and we are confident that they will be able to create a dynamic new design for City Hall Park that incorporates an identifiable central element near the middle of the park and retains a network of radiating paths. By doing so, the new park can be a vibrant urban space anchored in its historic layout and presented in a cotemporary aesthetic.</p> <p>We look forward to continuing the discussion about the City Hall Park Concept Plan and hope these comments prove useful as the final plans are developed. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss our comments in more detail. I can be reached at rebecca.reese3@gmail.com.</p> <p>Sincerely, Commenter 93, President, Preservation Burlington                      Cc: Jesse Bridges, Department of Parks, Recreation &amp; Waterfront</p>

12/15/16	Commenter 16	Website	CHP	<p>What I am going to say to the DRB Dec 20, 2016: I'm Commenter 16, a resident and business owner in Burlington, since 1973.</p> <p>I want to welcome all of you from the Coalition of a Livable City and from our Facebook page: Keep City Hall Park Historic.</p> <p>I want to thank all of you and Meagan Tuttle and design team for their well researched designs we used as a basis for our ideas.</p> <p>With over 250 members, including Landscape Architects , Architects, Master Gardeners, discussing your design, CLC has designed a park with different, more historic parameters, with 12 month a year beauty in its gardens, trees, radiating paths, and centrally located fountain, glorious with its clean, clear water in warm months, and stunning to look at during the winter months.</p> <p>We have places for children to play with a splash pad fountain, and furniture that they can climb on, stand on, and sit underneath. A great place for the YMCA children to come to daily. There are excellent, quite, shady areas and colorful rain and perennial gardens that ring the entire park. A sitting wall around the perimeter on Main, St Paul, College Sts allows you to sit and enjoy the park on the outside.</p> <p>On the back wall, and excellent idea to use in the park, from your design team, we have added game tables, children's tables, and an exhibition place for BCA.</p> <p>We want to work closely with BCA to encourage them to have exhibits within the park and invite park goers into all of their exhibits, too.</p> <p>Lets keep the beautiful spring blooming crabapple trees, and whenever we need to replace a tree always put in a different local tree, so it becomes a mini arboretum.</p> <p>And lets decorate all of our trees, just like Church St, so our park is equally beautiful, during the winter.</p> <p>Bathrooms. Historically, the bathrooms of City Hall have always been open to park users. Lets continue this, and if necessary, add Parisian single units that are handicap accessible, coin operated and clean themselves. We want to add a full time Park Guide as our EYES on the park, who can guide you while you stay there.</p> <p>We all sadly know that our beloved Farmers Market can no longer be in the park. We want it to be totally outside the park, as we do not want the same problems to happen again with soil compaction and dying trees. So we have doubled the number of spaces around the park that their design has, to allow for this. It will mean closing some streets.</p> <p>Our park is 1.8 acres. So please lets limit what we do, so it remains a park. le no large events, no commercial coffee shops, no roped off areas for ticket holders only.</p> <p>We want our park to be fabulous to look at from all views outside the park. And when you enter, you say "WOW" at the beauty, quiet, its calming curved paths lined with historic benches, and shade. You want to stay here. And plan return here every time you come downtown for a bit of respite from the noise of the streets. A bit of history, like many parks in Vermont, and the world. In 1983, City Hall Park Historic District was created by the National Park Service at the request of Mayor Bernie Sanders. Let's all honor this district and keep the basic plan historic. One more thing to note - By integrating our ideas and using as much of the existing historic park as possible, and upgrading it, into the new design, we won't have to close the park for a year to build it. Let's also keep the final design within the budget of the \$1MIL given to us, and not the proposed \$3MIL. That way we do not dig into other places for money that is much needed for schools and Memorial Auditorium'</p> <p>The city has an excellent design team, and I am sure that they will be able to incorporate our ideas into the final plan, and keep the historic nature of the park intact with central focal point with water, and the radiating paths. Thank you.</p>
12/16/16	Commenter 16	Website	CHP	<p>I would like to CHALLENGE their DESIGN TEAM TO KEEP BUDGET TO THE \$1MIL GIVEN TO US and see how much of the existing park they can keep, especially the central fountain and radiating paths, (or curved paths) from the fountain to the streets, so they keep the basic historic design elements, and add in the upgrades and needed infrastructure, and build the park in sections so that it never has to be completely closed during construction. Put in the historic benches and keep this park SOFT instead of HARD.</p>
11/16/16	Commenter 17	Email/Phone	Main Street	<p>Some feedback on this morning's meeting. I had to leave at about 9:45am, so I missed a chunk of the discussion and presentation, here is what I have from the first 45 minutes: Conceptually I am onboard with the types of ideas shared today; The Main Street streetscape needs some dressing up, particularly from St. Paul Street to Battery; I am concerned about the ability for traffic to move through the downtown on Main, it is important for traffic to keep moving down the hill, the other streets that pass through downtown already move very slowly and get backed up by the Church Street crossings, we need Main to remain a street that permits decent traffic flow; I did not see a count of how many on-street parking spaces currently exist on Main, just that a loss of 65 spaces is proposed, it is important to understand what we are starting with and what we end up with on Main itself, not just in the context of the 3,500 spaces downtown – the loss of parking might be ok – people should be given the full facts to make a decision; I recommend pointing to Church St as an example in BTV of how we took away parking and traffic and Church St thrived – this may help get some skeptic onboard with changes to Main St; A local person leading the presentation may be more likely to appeal to Burlingtonians than a consultant from California. I personally appreciate getting urban planning ideas from outside of BTV, we need to open up to bigger ideas to implement best practices here, however, our community is incredibly provincial and many people are put off by outsiders coming in and telling us what to do, especially someone from California that has probably never lived through a winter – not my viewpoint, however, I think you know what I am saying; The guy this morning came off as a bit patronizing, he did not allow people to finish asking their questions, came off as a know-it-all and he mistakenly referred to Winooski Avenue as College Street at one point during his presentation; Seattle is not a good example to use in BTV, Seattle is a City of 685,000 people in a metro of 3.7 Million; we are 42,000 in a metro of 180,000 – when picking examples of things that have worked elsewhere, best to pick examples from comparably sized cities; Is there a pilot project we could roll out this year to try out some of these ideas? Church Street happened through a series of pilot projects. Perhaps some pilots on these 2 blocks of Main would help people experience what the new concept will be like when complete. I am offering all of this as constructive feedback only, this is not intended as negative criticism. I am inclined to be a supporter of the Great Streets initiatives. Thanks for all the hard work you all do every day, I know how challenging this stuff is, public participation is great and very exhausting at the same time.</p>

11/16/16	Commenter 18	Website	Main Street	I just want to say that I was inspired by the vision laid out in the presentation of changing Main St. to be more of a destination--a place people would actually like to be--instead of a car park. Just as important to me as an everyday cyclist, is that there are no East-West corridors for cyclists that provide any kind of protected transit, and transforming Main St. would help create a critical corridor. Losing several dozen parking spaces--which I know some business owners have whined about--should not be an issue; MORE people will come to their businesses when the space is more friendly toward people and not cars. More importantly, there is vacancy in city parking garages. I think that has to be taken into consideration when making a final determination here about what this project can do for Burlington. I am a Burlington resident and support it wholeheartedly.
11/17/16	Commenter 19	Website	Main Street-Parking	<p>Hello. I just wanted to share my opinion about the Main and St. Paul St. re-development. I am a business owner and have worked in the Parkhill Building on the corner of Main and S. Winooski for four years now. I feel extremely strongly against migrating parking spaces from a diagonal configuration to parallel to accommodate bike lanes. Main St. traffic moves at a slow pace with frequent intersections making it relatively safe for bikes to share the road with out dedicated space. This will certainly have a negative impact on store front as well as downtown businesses as a whole with less parking. I frequent many different local forums and people from out of town relentless complain about the traffic and parking in Burlington as it is. For people not use to the "city" flow of cars, making it even more difficult to park will deter them even further. My business depends on promoting nightlife events in the downtown core and I feel that curtailing parking space will severely impact the economy in that area.</p> <p>I'm all for having dedicated bike lanes and making the city more bike friendly but only in areas where it makes sense. Creating a bike lane on a street which, as pointed out, is the widest in the city with 99' of right of way space and is considered a slow street does not make sense. The collateral damage done to business and the limited parking we already have is to much for this asset. Installing bike lanes on other, busier, faster streets where parking is less of a necessity and safety is - makes sense! Thank you for your time.</p>
12/14/16	Commenter 19	Website	CHP-Amenities	I have left feedback before regarding my event promotion company, 2K Deep, which operates out of 200 Main St. I want to now leave back regarding TRADITIONAL PUBLIC BULLETIN BOARDS in and around City Hall Park. I am the talent buyer for SideBar and have produced hundreds if not over a thousand shows in the 10 years I've worked for myself at 2K Deep, and during consulting jobs with Nectar's, Club Metronome, Higher Ground, and other small area venues. Tradition bulletin boards are an INVALUABLE resource to artists, bands, DJs, local venues, and others who rely on this old-fashioned, yet HIGHLY EFFECTIVE form of promotion. Without question, shows turn out better using this medium compared to events that are solely promoted on Facebook through paid advertisements. I want to let you know that I am 100% for traditional public bulletin boards remaining, and in fact I'm in favor of more, in and around City Hall Park and the downtown core during the redevelopment. I want to personally thank the city for this resource as it has helped grow my company over the past decade and it would be a sad day to see this go. Thank you for your time.
11/20/16	Commenter 20	Website	CHP	Would there be a way to add a "fire" feature to the city hall park water feature? I recently went to Providence, RI and experienced Waterfire" ( <a href="http://waterfire.org/">http://waterfire.org/</a> ). I know our park could handle a large scale but perhaps something with natural gas?
11/21/16	Commenter 21	Website	CHP	Hello all, I am concerned about the new design for City Hall Park. I am sure there was some sort of a public process from which it emerged (I recall seeing this sketch many months ago) but I seemed to have missed it. I am wondering how this design evolved and what it is meant to accomplish. Is there any record or documentation of the thinking that lead to this design. It is clearly a very early concept sketch but does set out some first steps. I am concerned that all the historic elements of the park have been removed and that the fountain, a wonderful historic, animated water feature and focal point is gone. It is not clear if existing, mature trees will be retained. As I recall the park went through an expensive renovation not too long ago. The park is heavily used by the Farmers Market six months of the year and by the public. That use accounts for a lot of the condition it is in now. As a formal urban park it requires a good deal of maintenance which it does not receive. A lot could be done to keep the grass in better condition and the hardscape repaired. Perhaps the funds planned for the "new park" could be dedicated to a City Hall Park maintenance fund rather than a new design. I don't see anything in the new design of the new park that will address the issue of heavy use, soil compaction and erosion that is not being address in the park today. Thanks for reading.
Fri 12/9/2	Commenter 21	Email/Phone	Process	Shouldn't the comment period be extended until after the DRB review? There may be people at that meeting who are only getting the full picture that night.
12/13/16	Commenter 21	Public Presentation (DAB)	CHP	Don't love the existing fountain, but like it as a central organizing element. Gave the park character. The historic nature can be resurrected—it has some wonderful elements. Unhappy to see classic park taken out. Children's splash fountain needs seating and takes up a lot of space. How will new investments be maintained? Park has been sadly neglected.

12/15/16	Commenter 21	Website	CHP	<p>I left a comment on this site previously, but since that time I have had the opportunity to see the full presentation on-line and also attended the presentation to Parks and Recreation and to the Design Advisory Board.</p> <p>I am convinced that the proposed "modernist" design, while adding a few new positive elements (the coffee kiosk, the children's fountain and a new handicapped accessible sidewalk) is a significant loss of the parks historical design and its contribution to the designated historic district. The positive elements proposed in this plan could be added without destroying the historical, formal, radial design and the positive element of the central fountain. When first installed in the early 70s it was a draw, a reason to stop and sit and enjoy. When it was functioning it added the magic of moving water that could be enjoyed by all in the park. It was often in operation 5-6 months of the year, before a hard frost- not just 3 months as has been stated. When winter approached, the frozen surface ice in the basin was lovely. People formed the plates of ice into extemporaneous ice sculptures. The foundation added a strong central, vertical element that was a symbol of the park, a focal point, a destination, visible from all the radial walks. The only prominent vertical element in the new design is the coffee kiosk, hardly a focal point. The fountain along with the entire park for that matter had deteriorated and no longer had its original charm and appeal. It was never a beautiful, classic park fountain as found in the parks and squares of Savannah, Bryant Park in NYC or the magnificent recently renovated fountain in St. Albans. These all that excitement to these important urban spaces. City Hall park has that fountain tradition that could be harnessed. The fountain COULD be replaced with a whole NEW FOUNTAIN, completely reimagined. One that captures the community's affection but keeps unwanted uses and abuses at bay though a well thought out design. I believe if the City of Savannah can do this, a city with a diverse population, surely Burlington can too. The renderings of the proposed park are nice but if you take out the people there is very little left besides the trees and the coffee kiosk. I hate to see Burlington spend Mr Pomerleau's generous contribution on so bland a plan. PS = Please google images of Savannah, Bryant Park and St Albans.</p>
11/22/16	Commenter 22	Website	CHP	<p>Questions: Will green space be removed? If so how many square feet?</p> <p>Will trees will be removed? If so how many?</p> <p>Will there be a public hearing and a chance to give input publicly on this project? If so, what is the timeline for hearings, discussion?</p> <p>What is the rationale for replacing the historic fountain?</p> <p>Will Burlington residents get a chance to vote on this?</p> <p>Thanks in advance for your reply. D.</p>
12/14/16	Commenter 22	Website	CHP	<p>Do not remove location of central fountain. That would removes focal point and trash traditional town square design. With Central fountain remaining...no straight pathway from St. Paul to Church. Minimize hard surface...remove big planned hard surface that would replace fountain. Create children's area, put small splash pad there. In fall, winter spring swings or climbing structures on top of splash pad. No restaurants or commercial outlets in the park. The park is already surrounded by restaurants and commercialism.. All events should be small and free in the park. If infrastructure is put in for plug ins and lights in front of City Hall steps, keep minimal. Do not sacrifice green space. No paid events in the park. Put sitting wall on three sides of the park. Chess and checker tables. More rain gardens. Rethink Park as restive green destination rather than thoroughfare. Keep artists displays behind BCA. A full time docent Arboretum built up gradually over time native plants (labeled) Park is surrounded by commercial ventures. Keep commerce out of the park. Make curving pathways when possible Rethink park function - less as a thoroughfare Rethink performance area. If infrastructure is needed for small events</p>
11/27/16	Commenter 23	Website	CHP	<p>There is too much concrete. The trees are not blocking important views. One would wish the buildings to be blocked by trees, so that it feels like a park when you stroll there. The curved concrete pathways interfere with the Park design and cut it into little pieces. I suggest no commercial kiosk, fewer trees removed, no straight path from BCA to St. Paul. Definitely we need public restrooms, even if we use City Hall and have an attendant and a ground floor entrance for it. There is no other way to keep the park clean. Importantly - if we prohibit the market from use of the park due to soil compaction, we must also prohibit the public performance space within the park, as that does exactly the same damage. No concerts, no removal of trees for such. It might be useful to keep people from stepping on tree roots by having fences or permeable grating circling them. Thank you.</p>
12/1/16	Commenter 23	Website	Process	<p>I left a comment, but there is no dialogue - where did my comment go? Can I read what other folks send in?</p>
12/8/16	Commenter 23	Email/Phone	Process	<p>When (or how) do we get to read everyone's feedback comments?</p>
12/8/16	Commenter 23	NPA Meeting	CHP	<p>The diagonal path makes the park into a funnel. The park should be a place of refuge. People relax and then they go back into the city when they go back to the street. This is a primary element of a park. That path violates the whole thing. It isn't needed especially if one tree needs to die that would otherwise live, I say let's kill the sidewalk instead. This is the one awful thing. A lot of the things make sense. Of course, we need public bathrooms and someone to watch them.</p>
12/8/16	Commenter 23	Website	Process	<p>Are you telling us this is a public forum? We do not even get to see our own entries, nevermind a reply or the ability to read others' comments. This is like letters to Santa, and your public input process is a joke. Thank you.</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 23	Email/Phone	Process	<p>I have been to the Great Streets site, studied the plans, and I have given input/feedback. Could we please re-format that page so we can see each other's comments? Transparency would boost confidence in this project. FAQ pages are more like telephone recordings that say "your call is very important to us". Here's hoping we can reach transparency, and have a true discussion of the issues and designs.</p>
12/13/16	Commenter 23	Public Presentation (PACC)	CHP	<p>Trees shown in renderings are only 20 feet tall, suggesting they're new. New trees will look very different. Will take 30-40 years to get trees to size shown in images. These images don't look like Burlington. Why coffee kiosk when you can go 50-100 feet in any direction for coffee. Park is useful for seating, less visibility of architecture, more nature like Olmstead. Place to rest, commune with nature. Must be different than city approach. What about restrooms?</p>

12/16/16	Commenter 23	Website	CHP	I do not think we need the wide diagonal curved pathway as seen in the diagram. The spoke-like arrangement of paths seems to have worked for quite a while now - I don't see trying to make the park into a funnel to get folks from College and Church to St. Paul and Main St. I think that pathway, as proposed, sends the wrong message - that people are passing through on their way to elsewhere. The Park must be a destination, or stopping point, itself. Within its borders (and I do agree with a suggestion made for a retaining wall around the park entire) should be sanctuary and peaceful communion with Nature. When the park was first built, wilderness was nearby - now it is an oasis, and we must keep it so.
11/28/16	Commenter 24	Website	Main Street	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I question the premise that the park "has seemed to lose its connection to surrounding areas." It sounds like planner jargon not based in reality. To me the park is very central to the city center.</li> <li>2. Diagonal vs parallel parking: In my experience it is much easier to use diagonal parking and it disrupts ongoing traffic much less. Parking in a diagonal space is just a drive-in, and, unlike parallel parking, does not hold up traffic at all. Backing out is also a simpler maneuver and much less disruptive to on-going traffic.</li> <li>3. I don't think we need two 9.5 ft bike lanes.</li> <li>4. The proposal to add retail frontage space for tables, etc. is really taking public space and privatizing it. I question whether this is appropriate in this particular landscape since it seems to come at the expense of parking. Plus it's seasonal.</li> <li>5. Yes, sidewalks should be widened for pedestrian use. Thank you for at least once considering people who walk. Concern about the length of crosswalks can be simply addressed with the timing of walk lights.</li> <li>6. Main Street to the waterfront: The report contains several pages on this, but how the proposal makes it any different than it is now is unclear to me. Right now, you walk up or down Battery to College or to King, which is what your diagram touts as a 'trident' approach. On the other hand, one graphic seems to suggest access through the train station, but there is no text that explains this.</li> <li>7. While some blocks of St. Paul are included in a graphic, there wasn't discussion about what was being proposed for those few blocks.</li> </ol>
11/28/16	Commenter 24	Website	Main Street	One additional: I didn't see any reference to integrating public transportation.
11/28/16	Commenter 24	Website	CHP	<p>The current park design is very pleasing and balanced. Most of the problems the plan points to are the result of a lack of maintenance. This of course raises the question of whether a redesigned park will fare any better in the long run. Maintenance must be guaranteed.</p> <p>In terms of this plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Keep tree cutting to a minimum.</li> <li>2. The proposal to have the farmers market circle the park strikes me as an unfriendly arrangement to shoppers.</li> <li>3. Keep the existing water fountain as a centerpiece. The one proposed is silly.</li> <li>4. Ban bicycles.</li> <li>5. Eliminate the cafe.</li> <li>6. No widening of what's called 'Park Lane'.</li> <li>7. Add a children's play area with a sandbox, fenced to keep out dogs.</li> <li>8. Attended bathrooms, 7 days a week.</li> <li>9. Add a bus stop by the park for more public access.</li> </ol>
12/1/16	Commenter 24	Email/Phone	Process	I'm curious about this email. Are you saying that City Hall staff is trying to sell this proposal to the community or that they are listening to the community?
12/7/16	Commenter 24	Email/Phone	Process	Thanks for the reminder. I'm wondering how you've reached out to people not on your email list.
12/14/16	Commenter 24	Email/Phone	Process	Enough lobbying. Your condescension is insulting. Are my taxes paying you for this nonsense? Why is there such a position in Parks and Rec Thanks.

11/28/16	Commenter 25	Website	CHP	<p>Did you hand out the original surveys at the NPAs? If not, could you ask Phet Keomanyvan to distribute surveys at the NPAs, with space for drawing, sketching ideas? The vision statement on the Imagine page is good except for increasing the performance space (not good!) which is addressed below. [<a href="https://www.arts.gov/exploring-our-town/imagine-city-hall-park">https://www.arts.gov/exploring-our-town/imagine-city-hall-park</a>]. In general, I think that the park should be green and restful. "More flowers &amp; trees and places to sit." The art piece featured at the Imagine website expresses my vision well.</p> <p>Behavior in the Park: My office at BEAM for years was in what is now the BCA ground level space. I ate lunch in the park in good weather, and I observed the park daily. When the park was maintained and there was a city staff presence, the park was a lovely place to be. From Imagine website: "Over the years, though, it was neglected and declined into disrepair, becoming the site of an increasing number of criminal incidents." There is no excuse for that! City has only itself to blame. When the City doesn't do maintenance and repair, that signals dereliction and invites the same. Think of the broken windows and graffiti campaign, and Burlington's own excellent Vacant Building Ordinance. Buildings and public spaces that are not maintained are not appealing to people, and invite vandalism and "poor behavior." (Poor choice of words there.) Before City invests millions in City Hall Park reconstruction that will suffer the same fate of neglect and disrepair, invest in maintenance and repair what we have now.</p> <p>Hire staff (a good outdoor job) to sweep, clear, garden, welcome and interact with guests, monitor safety, give directions, and offer formal and spontaneous presentations on history of City Hall and City Hall Park both scheduled and upon request. Maintain trees with a professional service -- pruning, fertilizing, aerating the soil, cordoning off sensitive root areas.</p> <p>Create a child friendly area, and provide free WiFi. (After we bailed out BT, the least they could do is provide free WiFi in all public spaces.)</p> <p>Establish and post clear park ground rules, about sobriety, drinking, smoking, using drugs, glass containers, bicycles, skateboards, segways, dogs, etc. Tickets for infractions. Provide access to rest rooms in City Hall. Ask Council to stand firm on the health principle that smoking in any public area where there are children is prohibited.</p> <p>Soil compaction precludes venues like the Farmer's Market and the vision goal of "increase in performance as a civic gathering space." Otherwise the Vision statement on the Imagine City Hall Park website is good. The stipulation to locates the farmers market outside the park is good. Small presentations on City Hall Steps and in front of BCA arch are accommodated by existing design. Big presentations like Discover Jazz, elsewhere, yes.</p> <p>Environmental: Rain gardens are a great idea, and off-limits areas to protect tree roots and grass reseeding. Wider walkways lined with benches (on the concrete) was once a park feature -- there's a lovely postcard photo of the park which shows the benches on the walkway. (This feedback form needs to offer a way to attach a photo, sketch, or video.) The proposal to keep the fountain sculpture and use the wading pool for a garden is good. Drinking fountain is necessary, with ground level fountain fr dogs.</p> <p>No commercial use of the park space. No RiRa pavilion in the park, no coffee kiosk in the park. Benches, tables, chairs, and grassy shaded picnic areas so people can bring food and drink into the park for socializing. Trash and recycle receptacles. Staff on hand to monitor cleanliness.</p> <p>Where is feedback available for viewing? Existing online information is good -- Imagine, Wagner Hodgson, Concept and Plan.</p> <p>I could not find a copy of the original NEA grant application, or the surveys. I would like to review both. How/when/where were the surveys were done that Hodgson refers to? The art work featured on the Imagine page is interesting -- where is the rest of it? In summary, "More flowers, and trees, and places to sit."</p>
11/30/16	Commenter 25	Email/Phone	Process	<p>Reading through the documents, the problem I see is that the Neighborhood Planning Assemblies (NPAs) are being mis-used as rubber stamps The NPAs aren't meant to be brought in to rubber stamp a done deal. They are required to be part of the planning process, early and often. People in neighborhoods are stakeholders declared as such by city government. Coming in with a full blown plan now, with the usual "we've been working on this for years" prequalifier intended to intimidate and minimize changes in the plan, is unacceptable. Fortunately, Keep City Hall Park Green and Historic has also been working on this for years, and they have a viable competing plan. I'm sure that the two can be blended, but only if a neutral party facilitates the process giving each set of ideas equal weight in discussion. For example, the process began with a Vision from BCA submitted in a grant application to the National Endowment for the Arts. At the geographic and cultural center of Burlington, Vermont, City Hall Park was long a significant civic landscape. Over the years, though, it was neglected and declined into disrepair, becoming the site of an increasing number of criminal incidents. An organization that neighbored the area, Burlington City Arts, developed a masterplan for the park that would revitalize it back into an uplifting space for all residents. That second sentence made us see RED! Before the city does anything else, builds or tears up anything, before pouring good money down the well of previously neglected investments, City needs to maintain and repair the existing City Hall Park, beginning now. City needs to provide regular maintenance staff, post clear rules, and monitor park activities. Council has to maintain the park as a healthy environment for children by banning smoking, drinking, panhandling, etc etc etc. Only then will the park be uplifting for all residents. The social problems of the park will not be resolved with a fancy new design, contrary to what BCA claims. To reduce criminal incidents, there are social justice issues that are not addressed by a fancy new design. The park can be revitalized back by the City maintaining and repairing what we have, ending soil compaction activities, and establishing guidelines for allowed behavior that are monitored and enforced. So yes go to the NPAs now, better late than never, but share the program with others who have thought and worked on this long and hard. Contact person is Commenter 27.</p>
11/30/16	Commenter 25	Email/Phone	Process	<p>All NPA should have been the first stop with surveys and gathering of ideas. It is a task assigned to the NPA by City Council. City Depts are equally charged with consulting with the NPAs. Read the original Resolution that created NPAs in Burlington here. The permit requirements of Planning and Zoning Dept require a developer (public or private) to consult with the NPAs early in the process. City Hall Park belongs to the Public, so all NPAs need to be consulted. As you will note here, NPAs were not consulted, surveyed, or involved in the art projects.</p>

12/14/16	Commenter 25	Website	CHP	<p>No matter what design you go with, the only way to prevent future neglect and disrepair is to have a full time caretaker. The person can have a varied job description, including: keeping the park clean, trees trimmed, leaves raked, and gardens neat; greeting and welcoming guests, and providing visitors with information; answering answer questions about where stores and services are located, where to go for things, and providing information about history of the city and the park, and events taking place in the city.</p> <p>Every park has rules that make public space attractive, hospitable and safe. Park rules should be clear and posted at park entrances. (Dogs on leash, no drugs or alcohol, no smoking or vaping, no littering, no glass... same as in all our city parks.) Friendly caretaker reminds people of rules, and requests assistance if necessary.</p> <p>Rain gardens, sit walls, benches, game tables, bulletin boards, trash cans, security cameras, good lighting.</p> <p>No large events or activities in park, to prevent soil compaction, and protect tree roots, gardens, and grassy areas.</p> <p>Fountain: Preserve the historic fountain at park center, as a sculpture, surrounded by gardens, without water feature. Small interactive splash area in a children's area, if you must (but frankly they have not worked out so well elsewhere and will be expensive t build and maintain). Two small performance areas: seating on steps behind City Hall, patio area behind BCA.</p> <p>Drinking Fountains and Rest Rooms: Drinking fountains behind City Hall. Access from park to rest rooms in City Hall.</p> <p>Sanctuary City, Sanctuary Park! Quiet, green space. Respite from activity of Church Street Marketplace. Concessions in park? Small mobile food and drink carts.</p>
11/30/16	Commenter 26	Website	CHP	<p>This is our only main green space / park in the center of the city. It should be an inviting space that is beautiful and dynamic year round.</p> <p>In this plan, I see a lot of good additions such as rain gardens, food trucks and terraces for seating and dining along the west side of the buildings. However there is an abundance of lawn and hardscape with missed opportunities for a diversity of visual interest and special places to be. For example:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We live in Vermont where winters are long and summers are short. Throughout the City we need more gardens with lots of color (fewer ornamental grasses) and winter interest. Here is one excellent place to do it. Color and fragrance in gardens bring joy and a sense of peace. Let's make Burlington like a European city where color and people abound in the parks and on the streets.</li> <li>2. Within the gardens should also be woody stemmed shrubs which bloom early in spring, provide berries for wildlife, and add interesting winter texture and patterns.</li> <li>3. Parks should have a diversity of inviting places to relax or have a conversation with others. Why not wrap some of these places in gardens to provide pleasure and a sense of privacy, even though the plants shouldn't be so dense that safety is threatened.</li> <li>4. How about a seating area that is covered (might have a removable awning) for rainy summer days, of which there can be many.</li> <li>5. Parks should also have a place for displaying local sculpture, which also provides year round interest.</li> <li>6. Parks should have attractive light fixtures which provide safety, ambience, sculpture. Developing a lighting plan is a challenge which requires careful consideration to balance these intentions.</li> <li>7. Then I ask. . .does the park relate to the context of the City, lake, and Vermont and how can we maximize the connections to this context when plant and hardscape materials are chosen?</li> </ol> <p>I hope you will follow these suggestions.</p>
12/13/16	Commenter 27	Public Presentation (DAB)	CHP	<p>Burlington is being built up. Need a sanctuary with local art, supervised by Parks—not BCA or police. Park has been allowed to fall into disrepair. Mayor proposes social cleansing through passive strategies that don't engage residents. TEUC members say keep fountain central, food cart vs pavilion, and no Rira patio. Extend the public comment until the final plan is set, and have a 2-day public meeting like was done for the Great Streets Project.</p>

12/16/16	Commenter 27	Website	CHP	<p>Our vision of the Park is an oasis, a retreat and refuge from the business of life, with a significant children's play area, tables for game players, Wi-Fi, a lulling central fountain affirming historic continuity, Frequent tables and benches accommodate and disburse lunch crowds, served by the occasional small food cart. The park should be framed by low stone walls and defined by paths winding through beds of flowering plants and under mature trees. Local artistry is liberally used. And despite the prominence of the Arts, it is not a BCA annex and needs to be supervised by the Parks Dept., and is not a BCA annex.</p> <p>park should be a sanctuary, and monetary transactions should not be conducted, be it for a coffee, a meal, or an event ticket (In addition to Farmer's Market)*. The mayor sites other city parks where citizens pay for activities, but these parks are larger, so enterprises do not cover an appreciable percentage of the area. Additionally, those parks do not have the many choices offered in their surroundings that we have here in Burlington</p> <p>The CHP fell into disrepair over many years. A clean well cared for Park will go a long way to curbing any antisocial disruptive behaviors. This is crucial and cannot be overstated. It must be well maintained into the future, or all the expense and care going into this process will be for nothing.</p> <p>The City's current design bifurcates the park with two widened walkways. The east west pathway goes straight through from Church Street to mid-block on St. Paul, with no historic fountain in the middle, and the north south route, which runs by the BCA and City Hall, is also envisioned as a quick walk through. This is for quick access to nearby businesses, and to put more eyes on the park, so as to keep the unwanted behaviors that have plagued the Park in recent years at bay.</p> <p>But the mayor has not proposed active ways to remediate these concerns, like having a full-time park caretaker/ranger; or game tables which would appeal to residents who live in the area; or the active engagement of community groups with a vested interest in the park. Instead the mayor's plan involves passive strategies that make use of the park more restrictive; keeping park benches to a minimum, using foot traffic for eyes on the park or having coffee or lunch at a kiosk.</p> <p>We urge the City to extend the comment period until the final design is sealed. We also suggest a two-day City wide meeting similar to what was held for Great Streets, or time to organize meetings after the New Year for newer public input that is more relevant.</p> <p>*At the TEUC meeting, Councilors Shannon, Hartnett, Roof and Tracy spoke out for keeping the fountain central. Further, Max and Joan suggested having a movable food cart in lieu of a fixed structure such as a kiosk. Another related consideration is the fixed coffee concession Leunigs is in the process of fixing up on Church. If there is another at CHP, it will affect that enterprise.</p> <p>The following is organized into three intuitive groupings, the first goes to the Park as sanctuary, the second to suggestions that enhance the quality of the Park experience, and the third goes to keeping Green in the Park.</p> <p>Grouping1: Essential as these go to Park as sanctuary.</p> <p>Pathways: • Current Victorian design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curves, otherwise contoured, which will be presented by Commenter 16 as she has done much work on this.</li> </ul> <p>Centrally located Historical Fountain:• We want to put in a new (not referring to the splash pad) fountain in the present location. We do not want the existing fountain because it is in disrepair.</p>
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12/16/16	Commenter 27	Website	CHP- Part 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Given the fountain (less the surrounding pool) has historic significance, we'd suggest moving it to another location in the Park to be used as a sculpture, with the horse trough as planter.</li> </ul> <p>Park Caretaker – Full-time multi-tasking park custodian/maintenance.</p> <p>Benches – Lots of them, not like in the current city plan which only shows 10 sprinkled throughout, other than those found in the area adjacent to RiRa's and game table areas. Use artists designs to make these visually appealing.</p> <p>Sitting Walls (as opposed to Cities retaining walls) – (19"-24" including the retaining wall the city has on Main St.) that go around the edge of the park.</p> <p>Restrooms – Priority on using those in City Hall, second choice are for free standing toilets.</p> <p>Important Considerations</p> <p>Farmer's Market - needs to be entirely on the streets surrounding the Park (St. Paul, College, and Main). Although the City wants to use the streets, they are proposing that additional market booths be located on the north south pathway running alongside BCA and City Hall. The City has therefore widened the pathway, adding more paved surface, creating another thoroughfare.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large entertainment events – No large events that can be reasonably planned in advance should be located in CHP, and no performances should be cordoned off because tickets were required.</li> </ul> <p>This does not preclude spontaneous demonstrations. Otherwise, keep venues to 25 people or less,</p> <p>Grouping 2 - Quality of Experience</p> <p>Chess Wifi Lighting - keep historical design, use LEED, maybe solar chips. Bulletin Boards – 3 inside the Park.Children's area on grass • Minimal – Climbing rock • More involved – Swings, possibly painted hopscotch, etc.</p> <p>Splash Pad –This pretty much goes to the children's area in the park as it would be best located there.</p> <p>Awnings or porch – Over game tables along walls of buildings not in the main park.</p> <p>Bubbler –Freeze proof of the type used for people and dogs.</p> <p>Grouping 3 – Goes to Keeping the Park Green.</p> <p>Trees – Our suggestion: replant, use interesting and diverse tree cover, plant fruit and apple trees. The City wants to remove more than half of the trees, a significant number of which will not be replanted.</p> <p>Rain Gardens – Use recycled water so it will water gardens.</p> <p>Gardens that look great 12 months of the year.</p> <p>Grass – use varieties that are very resilient, and grow in the shade.</p> <p>Paved area –The Parks group is reviewing their information on this.</p>
12/1/16	Commenter 27	Email/Phone	Process	<p>Thanks for the rundown. For clarification, are the meetings with the DRB, DAB and Planning commission to get presenting feedback, or are the sketch reviews being submitted for final approval. I know you will understand the distinction is of utmost importance.</p>
12/7/16	Commenter 27	Email/Phone	Process	<p>The best way to ensure people weigh in would be to set the date back given last week was Thanksgiving. We are all scrambling on this..</p>

12/7/16	Commenter 27	Public Presentation (TEUC)	CHP	<p>The following was inspired by Cynthia Kauf, a landscape architect, whose words painted a delightful image of the park, and Carolyn, who speaks next. We live in Vermont where winters are long and summers are wayyy too short. We want a park that makes the most of our seasons. A park that relates to the context of the City and the Lake. How best can we enhance these connections with a pathway design, and the choice of plants and hardscape materials. Let's make our Park like those in a European city where colors and people abound. In the following, a fountain is described. While there are issues with the current fountain, the image presented is in the spirit of the historical park. Now we are going to take a tour of City Hall Park. I want you to take a deep breath, and re-imagine the park. You turn off the Main Street, leaving the busy clamor behind. Quiet overtakes your mind. Respite and sanctuary beckon you on. First you become aware of colors and fragrances that bring you joy and a sense of peace. You wander down a side path, and find woody stemmed shrubs that have just burst into bloom. Shrubs that later will bear berries for wildlife, and add textures and patterns in the winter. You find yourself wrapped in a small garden, which harbors an inviting wooden bench where you can relax, maybe have a conversation with old or new friends. The vegetation offers privacy, but it's not so dense that your safety is in doubt. You throw out a few breadcrumbs, and hear rustling birds scampering through the underbrush. Now wander to where the central fountain recycles a flow of continuous water, trickling into gentle breezes sweeping up from the lake. You dip your toes into the pool, waggling them back and forth. You were feeling stressed, the city doing its' best to fill your mind with demanding detail, but now you unwind into late spring music. The soothing curves of the fountain mirroring crescent shapes scattered throughout. Hushed green calming your thoughts. Or maybe it's raining so you sit under an awning at the back of City Hall, and watch a game of chess, or read a book. When the rain lets up, you wander the rotating BCA sculpture exhibit. Or inhale crab apple blossoms as you walk south by the steps. You pass benches sporting unique artist designs, and innovative tiles set into the meandering walk. You peer into space, share solitude, the quiet hums. Now I want you to imagine another place, a place of expedience. No dallying for you, no place for the mind. No wooded thickets, or small creatures too. No tiresome jog to the left or the right, convenience rules, a straight shot. Direct routes for shopping, quick access to American Flatbread, a direct route from College to Flynn on Main. Or maybe a corner to cut, to City Hall or your job. Pretty to see, to know it's there, but your thoughts not present, only on what is to come. The now of the day vanishes into clamor of soul, the clatter of town drowns out the still of the park. Then too, a kiosk for coffee, tables invite, no brush or low hanging branches to mar your view, an extension of Church Street beckons us here. And concerts why not, 2,000 a quiet summers' eve, maybe a jazz festival, or other Foolish muse. Fun to be had, a busy place to be, divorced from the nature we pay no heed. Which would you choose? Be careful of what we would give up.</p>
12/1/16	Commenter 28	Website	Main Street–Bike Lanes	<p>I am a senior citizen. I regularly walk around Burlington in both residential and downtown areas. Many bikes and skateboards absolutely and regularly abuse the "rules." The idea that bikes wanting to go W down Main Street will stay in the designated paths on the N side of the street, and bikes wanting to go E up Main Street will stay in the designated path on the S side of the street is naive, to say the least! Bikes and skateboards will use any convenient (to them) path possible, irrespective of who is in front of them! To avoid serious injuries at the corner walking / bike interfaces, there needs to be redesign or more strict enforcement, or both! City Hall Park: A great improvement over previous designs! Congratulations! My personal opinion is to eliminate the brick and mortar, privately owned and run, "coffee cafe." This function will be served by licensed, aesthetically pleasing "carts" in designated areas that adjoin a comfortable, permanent seating area. Instead, an absolute must is to have public toilets. The trick will be to insure that they are spotless and safe to ALL. A hard problem, as Fletcher Free Library has discovered! Research should be done as to similar facilities that are available in every town in New Zealand, no matter what the size. Thanks in advance for your consideration of these suggestions.</p>

12/2/16	Commenter 29	Website	Main Street-Construction	<p>I've looked over the plans for the renovation of Main Street and I am very excited about the future of our downtown. I think it is a well thought out design and I look forward to the many benefits it will bring to our quality of life. However, I have concerns about the timeline for construction and the impact it will have on access to the Flynn Center's main entrance.</p> <p>I am the Artistic Director of Vermont Stage, a Burlington based performing arts organization which brings approximately 8,000 people downtown to see its shows annually over the course of October through June. Currently, Vermont Stage is in its 23rd Season and is considered Burlington's home for contemporary theatre. We perform all of our shows at the Flynn Center's second stage space called FlynnSpace. The only entrance into FlynnSpace is through the front of the building which is on Main Street.</p> <p>60% of our annual revenue is made through attendance of our shows. If construction begins in the spring months of May and June, and there is no access to the front of the Flynn Center building, it will have a severe negative impact on our ability to do our work. We have very thin budget margins and must be able to produce our plays to keep our theatre afloat. Sadly, there are no other theatre spaces in the Burlington area that can meet our very specific, technical, needs to act as a venue for our work temporarily.</p> <p>If we cannot gain access to the entrance of FlynnSpace during construction, we may have to cut down on our programming for FY18, which could mean a loss of donations, subscribers, and very likely a need to either furlough or cut down on our already tiny staff.</p> <p>The Flynn Center is also home to two other major arts organizations, like ours: Vermont Symphony Orchestra and Lyric Theatre. All of our organizations combined bring tens of thousands of people downtown to see our shows during the spring and summer months, sending business to all of the restaurants and shops along the way.</p> <p>I am certain John Killacky has been in touch with you already and has expressed his deep concerns about the impact that this construction can have on the Flynn Center. Needless to say, it would be a terrible shame if in the process of increasing accessibility and beautifying our downtown, the city severely harmed its cultural cornerstones. I hope through all of the difficult planning Green Streets BTV doesn't forget about the main economic drivers of our bustling downtown.</p> <p>I plan to attend the City Council Parks Arts and Culture Committee meeting and look forward to hearing more about how Great Streets BTV plans to accommodate the important needs of its arts organizations throughout this process.</p> <p>All my best,</p> <p>Commenter 29</p>
12/2/16	Commenter 30	Email/Phone	Process	Jim called supportive of Great Streets and suggested that we add the Dec. 9th deadline at the bottom of the list of board meetings.
12/5/16	Commenter 31	Email/Phone	CHP	Hi Diane, You guys have been working like beavers and doing a great job, thank you! On City Hall Park Development I'd like to put in my 10 cents and push for creating spaces of seclusion within the park by having trees and shrubs that are of various heights. This is opposite of what the police would like, but this park is not for the police's convenience; it is for the people to have space and to escape the noise and phrenetic activity of our dynamic city. Olmsted did this in Central Park using the, "hour glass," design to distinguish and separate different areas within the park. We don't have the space for this in City Hall Park but we can do something similar with shrubs. The more varied we can make the park the more people will use it because people will like the variety rather than a mono scape that is unintentionally created by being able to see through the whole park. I'd also like to ask that a covered bike parking facility be put in in back of and parallel to the Millennium Bell on College St. If not there, then across from the Flynn Theater on Main St. Either location gives access bike parking to the park as well as easy access to Church St.
12/7/16	Commenter 31	Website	Main Street-Bike Lanes	<p>I truly appreciate the great planning that has gone into the Main St. Plan. I love the way it focuses on the lake view and gives plenty of space to pedestrians, rain gardens and tree scape.</p> <p>However the intersections of ST Paul &amp; Pine seem a bit tangled with the bike lanes going through the pedestrian section. Would it be possible to put ballads between the pedestrian section and street to allow for a protected bike lane on the street?</p>

12/5/16	Commenter 32	Email/Phone	CHP	Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback. The piece I am most excited about is the plan for there to be a welcoming, obvious, flowing crosswalk between the park and the Flynn. This is such a great component of the plan. With an improved park, this piece will be so nice for all of us who enjoy the Flynn coming from our parking spots across the downtown. The park will be more inviting to walk through, even at night. Also, think of the field trips!!!! For the kids that come to the Flynn on field trips, to be able to have a picnic lunch across the street at the park, and for the teachers and chaperones to be able to safely navigate the kids across the street – I think this is just great. Here are a few points in which I agree/disagree with my fellow citizens who attended the meeting. Like the woman who said she doesn't attend the Farmer's Market – I'd agree with that. The only time I go to the Farmer's Market is when I bring interested out of town guests. Its totally a tourist thing to me. I actually find the Market makes going downtown on Saturday mornings more difficult for my typical weekly errands. That's all fine, I don't object to it being there, but I don't agree that it's a critical community building thing that everyone attends. The people I socialize with and many of my neighbors avoid the Farmer's Market. I disagree with the comments which said that the park is only for meandering and that renowned designers say you shouldn't be able to see across/through a park. Using Central Park as a comparison for this is completely out of scale. City Hall Park is more of a town square – centrally located - and as such, it's integral for folks like me to get across it efficiently. I agree it can be a nice, attractive journey with park improvements. But a centrally located green space is not just for 'meandering'. I come to downtown Burlington from the north end. If I take the bus downtown to go to work, I hustle through City Hall Park from the bus depot to my office. When I come to the city center for appointments in that general area, if I don't ride the bus, I drive my car to the north end of the city center and park my car as soon as possible, finishing my journey on foot. It is usually through the park to get where I'm going, I'm sure others coming from all other directions take the same approach. Thanks again for taking feedback and for your good work on this project so far. I am SO EXCITED about the recent improvements (new bus station – love it! The Pine Street pedestrian beacons and crosswalk at Lakeside and Pine Street – love them! New skate park and bike path improvements – love them!) and all the impending improvements.
12/5/16	Commenter 33	Website	CHP	I'd like to state my opinion that I choose the 1983 National Park Service version for the City hall Park. This is maily because it allows better use of the park; more arts/vendors tents can be utilized, game table are in the original plan, and there's better pedestrian access. However, I do not believe tha fountain needs to remain. It is outdated, uses too much water, needs too much maintenance and the area could be better used for vendors' tents and/or game tables and/or benches.
12/7/16	Commenter 34	Email/Phone	CHP	This is far too complex to review electronically, where can I find hard copy?
12/7/16	Commenter 35	Website	CHP	Leave city all park the way it is. Don't build a monstrosity for a mall. Keep Vermont Beautiful. Don't you guys get it?
12/7/16	Commenter 36	Website	CHP	This is a plan for an extension of the commercial area, not an urban sanctuary. Where is a relaxing fountain, where are the curved walkways? Promote a quiet space, not more bustle. Ditch the cafe and coffee shops, there are already more than ten within a short walk.
12/9/16	Commenter 36	Email/Phone	CHP	My husband and I moved to Burlington after this design process began, so we have not had the opportunity to follow it closely. However, I grew up nearby and the Park (1950 - 1962 version) forms an important part of my personal history and memory bank. I value it as a refuge from commercialism and a peaceful oasis in the center of Burlington's bustle. It would be a shame to configure it as a delivery system to get people to the coffee shop and other commercial enterprises around the periphery (Farmers' Market an exception). Can't we have one small space without the intrusion of money changing hands? We are out of Vermont for the month of December so can't participate in the public comment sessions. My input is to delete the coffee bar and other commercial enterprises. There are at least 10 places to get a cup of coffee and a bite to eat within a couple of blocks. Thank you for your consideration.
12/8/16	Commenter 37	Email/Phone	CHP	John is a P&R Commissioner and Chair of the Parks Foundation. He heard Meagan's presentation and had a few comments: 1) There need to be as many benches as possible to make the park more friendly for everyone. The idea of removing benches to keep the homeless out doesn't work. Instead, have more benches for everyone. 2) Who will maintain the gardens? Private philanthropic organizations (like the Parks Foundation) can take over the maintenance. 3) In addition to the splash pad, there needs to be a permanent water feature that doesn't pool the water - something like in front of ECHO.
12/8/16	Commenter 38	Letter	Construction	See Letter Dated 12/8/16 from Flynn: Concern about disruptions due to construction, concern about liability and safety, congestion at student matinees.
12/8/16	Commenter 39	NPA Meeting	Process	One concern that I heard was the timeline for public comment. What was the process to decide this? Is there any flexibility?
12/12/16	Commenter 39	Website	CHP	I question the need for a kiosk. We have a built in kiosk a few feet away on Church St where there is arguably more traffic and it has struggled to be successful with a variety of vendors. I like the the Farmers market will move to the perimeter. I'm concerned that this will cut down on the number of vendors. I liked the alternative concept, I do wonder how much it accommodates the variety of uses and the feedback voiced in the survey that was mentioned. I am also concerned that people who are cutting through and using the park as a "commuter route" will by-pass the curvy paths and make there own more direct path and just create another problem. I think it would be helpful to see the survey and survey results that was mentioned a before hearing the plan. I agree with wanting more bulletin boards, not just in the park but around the downtown. I have heard that some bulletin boards have come down and wonder why.
12/8/16	Commenter 40	NPA Meeting	Process	You're inviting comments on Great Streets and the Park. Are these part of the same project? Is there City Council action on the Great Streets plan?

12/8/16	Commenter 41	Website	CHP	I LOVE all the planning and detail in all three projects. My concern as a newer resident who wants to bike in from the NNE that there aren't enough decent bike racks yet. I do see the flexible zone along streets between trees and hope that this is where they'll be put? City Park only has a small section at NW corner and some along S side of City Hall for example. It's the new parking issue! :-)
12/22/16	Commenter 41	Email/Phone	CHP	Can you please pass this article link along to the relevant planners in your group to consider, if they haven't already? Proper long term aeration is a problem many large parks departments have struggled with, e.g the lawn on the National Mall in DC, and successful solutions are emerging. I couldn't tell what your plan encompassed in this regard; you may already be planning one of these successful solutions! <a href="http://www.citylab.com/cityfixer/2016/12/stockholm-throw-out-old-christmas-trees-biochar-environment/511196/?utm_source=feedburner&amp;utm_medium=feed&amp;utm_campaign=Feed%3A+TheAtlanticCities+%28CityLab%29&amp;utm_content=FeedBurner">http://www.citylab.com/cityfixer/2016/12/stockholm-throw-out-old-christmas-trees-biochar-environment/511196/?utm_source=feedburner&amp;utm_medium=feed&amp;utm_campaign=Feed%3A+TheAtlanticCities+%28CityLab%29&amp;utm_content=FeedBurner</a>
12/8/16	Commenter 42	Website	CHP	Doug SUisman for President!!!!!! Bravo. Let's do it all, just as he presented it. In fact, let's let him do the park as well. How does he feel about how the proposed park relates to the surrounding great streets? I think it works quite well and I like the idea of taking out the crabs if they close the view across park but plant some more trees where unhealthy ones are removed. Very good very good.
12/13/16	Commenter 42	Public Presentation (DAB)	CHP	Like the crosswalk at the Flynn. All for taking out sick trees and replacing with appropriate species with taller limbs. Very different plan, but that is ok. Never loved the fountain, don't resurrect it. Have seen great splash pads in other cities. How will bathrooms be managed? The Great Streets work is great, and this plan works well with it.
12/9/16	Commenter 42	Email/Phone	Process	Great summary; much appreciated. I'll send on to my neighbors who live at 40 College. I'll attend a meeting next week and hope you'll give us a heads up when the website is updated with answers to folks' questions. Thank you!
12/8/16	Commenter 43	Website	CHP	Recently, there has been an increasing buzz about the re-design of City Hall Park, primarily in opposition to the changes that would be brought about in the plan as designed by Wagner Hodgson Landscape Architecture. A small, vocal minority is pushing for much of the park to remain the same, and their efforts are gaining traction thanks to an ignorantly-fueled social media campaign, similar to what happened with the BTC Redevelopment earlier this fall. Some opposed to re-designing the park will argue that historic designations are being ignored, and that the inherent problems in the park are easily fixed...plant a little bit of grass here, drain the fountain, and plant some flowers. City Hall Park is not a garden in a residential backyard: it is a complex urban park with issues that are being appropriately dealt with by experienced, trained consultants, and we need to trust these designers, not cave to the demands of a small, parochial group of citizens who are resistant to change. There is no set definition of what makes a park successful. Changing pathway alignments, re-configuring trees, and re-thinking what the definition of a fountain is (in this case, a water "feature") will not destroy City Hall Park. The history of the park lies in its role as a central gathering place for Burlingtonians, not the fountain (which isn't historic), or the pathway alignment (which has evolved over time and will continue to evolve), or even the trees (which certainly are not the original trees from the 19th century). Redesigning City Hall Park is an opportunity for Burlington to create and active, safe green space, that can be enjoyed around the clock by residents and tourists alike. A lot of our problems in the park will simply be solved with more people, more eyes on the park, and to foster that environment, we cannot resist change and relegate our park to a tired, old museum piece that is seldom used. Thank you for giving us, the residents, and opportunity to provide feedback.
12/8/16	Commenter 44	Website	CHP	I love the ideas for improving City Hall park by adding a pop water feature, some concession stands and re-working the farmers market so that it lines the perimeter of the park!
12/8/16	Commenter 45	Website	CHP	Hello there! Just having a little look at the plans for the park and something caught my eye. There seems to be plans for a permanent structure labeled "Coffee Pavilion". This is concerning to me, since I am a small business owner, in view of the park, and I own a coffee shop, Onyx Tonics. Coffee is really the only thing that I sell, and another competitor, especially one with support directly from the city, could be detrimental to my business. We already share the street with Tight Squeeze Espresso, Monarch and the Milkweed, and Leunig's new venture in the kiosk on Church St. Pretty much all of these establishments would be within spitting distance of the "Coffee Pavilion" and they all rely on selling coffee. I'm happy with the current healthy competition, however I don't think there is much more room in this small area for yet another coffee shop. I think that there are several other confections that would be better suited to the area. Juice, Ice Cream, Waffles... etc.I'd love to see it as a pop-up space with a limited run time for local businesses and special events. This, I believe, could help to foster new businesses that don't currently have bricks and mortar locations. As a business owner and native Vermonter that is close to the park, I am excited to see the rejuvenation of the space. However, I am deeply concerned about the potential impact that another coffee establishment might have on my business. We're locally owned, owner invested, owner operated, and we are staffed with Vermonters. We took a leap of faith when we started our business and we have been successful so far. While we might be able to weather such a storm, I don't think yet another coffee shop will add to the diversity and vibrancy of the location. I think that another concept for the space could provide an opportunity for another enterprise without hurting established businesses.
12/9/16	Commenter 46	Email/Phone	Process	Extending the input period is a good idea, Diane. Thank you. I would like to extend it further and to more people. Most Burlingtonians are totally unaware this drastic renovation of the park is even on the table.How can the city best get the word out to the general public and solicit comments? The four year old Reimagine CHP is now cold data and shouldn't be relied on as the basis for your design. I don't think it supports the design anyway. Nothing is scheduled to happen until 2018. You can afford to slow this process down a bit and do it right.
12/9/16	Commenter 47	Email/Phone	Process	I attended the NPA 2/3 meeting last night and most of the people there were hearing about this for the first time. Given that we're in the holiday season and the deadline for input is a week from today, doesn't this make a mockery of the concept of citizen input and grassroots democracy?
12/9/16	Commenter 48	Website	CHP	I love it! Lets do this thing! No more last-minute alternative plans by organized community groups!

12/9/16	Commenter 49	Website	Main Street-Bike Lanes	yes to protected bike lanes !
12/9/16	Commenter 50	Website	Main Street reconfiguration	Do it!
12/9/16	Commenter 51	Website	Main Street	Hello, I am in favor of the proposed redesign. One criticism of the plan is that it reduces parking in that area by 25%. The transformation of Church Street reduced parking in that area by 100%, but I think we can all agree that that was a profound and pivotal improvement to our city. Let's keep the improvement going.
12/9/16	Commenter 52	Website	Main Street-Parking	Looks wonderful but if we are losing city parking spaces somehow we need parking less than the 4\$ per hour the private lots cost.
12/9/16	Commenter 53	Website	Main Street	I just returned from Barcelona, Spain, which is one of the most beautiful cities I've ever seen. Part of the beauty of that city was due to their wide pedestrian sidewalks, tree-lined streets, and bike lanes. It was such a pleasant experience to walk the streets in a truly pedestrian-friendly city. I think the Main Street concept plan is a step in the right direction for Burlington.
12/9/16	Commenter 54	Website	Main Street	A city is for people, not for cars. We need to be concentrating parking in parking garages, which are all too often under-occupied because of high fees. Let's drop the fees, lose some street parking and make the streets safer, cleaner, and greener for all.
12/9/16	Commenter 55	Website	Main Street-Parking	Exactly how many parking spaces is "less than 25%"? Where would the loss come? What part of Main Street?
12/9/16	Commenter 56	Website	Main Street	Love it!
12/9/16	Commenter 57	Website	CHP	Thank you for sharing the documents on this project. I am a longtime resident, now 64. I bike, walk and drive. I try hard to not park downtown - it's not fun, not cheap and never easy. Changing the landscape is a good idea, even if the parking slots diminish in number. That loss of parking won't affect much, at least not for me. Having good, safe biking lanes is huge. Having a reduction or elimination of the people who just hang around City Hall Park would be a huge gift - I often feel very unsafe there. I don't want to encourage random police action - we have too much of that these days as it is. But making the space more open, more publicly used (event, farmers market, etc.) could cut that population. I support this concept.
12/9/16	Commenter 58	Website	Main Street	It looks like an amazing forward-thinking layout to encourage and provide for all modes of transportation!
12/9/16	Commenter 59	Website	Main Street-Bike Lanes	It looks wonderful-and I love the idea of easier, safer cycling, improvement of stormwater drainage. Have studies been done to show that there is enough parking to lose less than 25% on Main st? I would love to think there would be fewer cars and more bikes with a plan like this-I know that wouldn't necessarily be true for people like me with a half hour drive to Burlington. Overall I would be in favor and would definitely like to think it would bring more cyclists out and get some people to leave their cars at home. It at least looks pedestrian and cyclist friendly.
12/9/16	Commenter 60	Website	Main Street	I really like the conceptual plans for Main Street. Designs like the one presented give small cities a positive identity. I hope you agree.
12/9/16	Commenter 61	Website	Main Street-Bike Lanes	Love the design! I lived in Somerville, MA while they did big investments in making the streets more pedestrian and bike friendly and so I saw the transformation. It was amazing for businesses and the general feel of the area. Union Square in Somerville went from closing businesses and lots of empty storefronts to a big destination drawing in folks from even outside the city with improvements to just a couple key streets to make them more walkable / bikeable. It really make everything better, traffic was less crazy, businesses got a lot more traffic, house prices went up because more folks wanted to live there, housing density went up because it was easier to be car-free. I lived in the area and found that I went driving to big-box-stores in the 'burbs to biking to local businesses because it was more inviting with well marked and spaced bike lanes. Bravo! Make it happen.
12/9/16	Commenter 62	Website	Main Street	I have seen several views of the Great Streets concept plan for Burlington's Main Street. This is a fanatastically great idea that will showcase the ciy's commitment to a strong quality ofmlife for all citizens as a beautiful, functional, and healthful gateway. Thanks and good luck moving this forward to realization.
12/9/16	Commenter 63	Website	Main Street-Bike Lanes	I really like the idea of having a bike safe method of getting to the waterfront from the central downtown area. I sued to commute from my downtown home to the ferry co where I worked and there is no good way safety wise. Would the concept work with only losing diagonal parking on the south side of Main?
12/9/16	Commenter 64	Website	Main Street	thumbs up for the redesign. saw the renderings of the main street redesign and it looks wonderful.
12/9/16	Commenter 65	Website	Process	This project is four years removed from the 2012 survey; given that it's therefore taken four years to produce a plan, I strongly urge that Public Comment be kept open for at least another month so that all NPA's, for instance, can receive the presentation, and there is at least SOME feedback as to which of the public comment suggestions will find their way into an updated Plan.

12/15/16	Commenter 65	Website	CHP	<p>1).I hope Great Streets Project will be conducted with a Citywide Sidewalk Management Plan perspective. The Feb 2012 Plan was never implemented, the 2014 Plan has never been published. It's great to have Downtown walkable but the rest of the City needs to be walkable too, and especially so in the context of so money parking spaces having been eliminated from Downtown over the past two years.</p> <p>2).Make your final decisions on City Hall Park with Battery Park also in mind. Battery Park can easily be repurposed to the benefit of all in the North of the City as well as Downtown. Ignore it now and you'll be forking out \$M in a few years as it becomes increasingly delapidated and culturally isolated. A golden chance to reinvigorate the West end of Pearl Street and better establish connectivity with the ONE.</p> <p>3).Continue to evaluate other ideas, even after Dec 16th, then publish project timelines including a Final Public Presentation at Contois (or other like venue).</p> <p>4).Respect the history of CHP, which was originally designed when Burlington was a fraction of the size it is now, and CHP was just a few hundred yds from wide open spaces. Burlington needs places to breathe, not more commercial pandering or duplicate concert spaces.Thank you.</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 66	Website	Main Street	<p>How very exciting this re-design of Main Street!! This could do for Main Street what Church Street's people-friendly does currently. It was Church Syreet that was part of the reason that we relocated here 18+ years ago.</p> <p>This will only enhance the appeal that Burlington has drawn so many times when it has been sighted as a great place to visit and live!!!</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 67	Website	Main Street-Parking	<p>As a twenty-year resident of Burlington, raising three children here, I'm an enthusiastic supporter of the overall vision described in the Great Streets BTV planning documents—and particularly of the advantages of transforming diagonal parking along Main to parallel. This looks the key step needed to gain so many benefits: café space, protected bike lanes, wider sidewalks, extending the high-energy feeling of Church Street around the corner, etc. When the Church Street Marketplace was first proposed, many people were convinced that taking cars off that street would be economic death. Just the opposite. When I was in London recently, a city of millions, there were dedicated bike lanes everywhere and it was tremendously vibrant, safe and fun. I'm deeply supportive of the redevelopment of Main Street/St. Paul and City Hall Park to be more like the progressive biking/pedestrian cities of the world. My vote: let's leave the 1970s/shopping-malls-are-the model and cars-are-king way of thinking behind and make space for a healthier &amp; more vibrant use of our core urban streetscapes.</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 68	Website	CHP	<p>I'm writing as a resident of Burlington to express my strong support for both the redesign concept for Main Street and the new design for City Hall Park. I love how the Main Street plan reclaims a huge amount of space for non-automobile uses. I especially like the swings! The protected bike lanes are great too. The 25% loss of on-street parking is totally worth it. The City Hall Park design is on the right track. The CLC claim that it is not "historic" is off point. What is not historic about the current state of City Hall Park is the fact that -- other than on Farmers Market days -- it is dominated by homeless people and transients. Historically, City Hall Park was a place for everyone. The new design appears to be focused on restoring that historic function.</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 69	Website	Main Street	<p>I strongly support the concept plan for Main Street. It will do a lot to enhance our city's attractiveness for tourists as well as residents. In addition to long-overdue beautification of Burlington's main artery, the plan would introduce a much more equitable balance among walking, cycling and driving. It's the right response to the challenge of sustainable urban design in the 21st century.</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 70	Website	Main Street	<p>I am writing in strong support of the great streets plan for Burlington. Currently the two main arterial streets in Burlington, pearl and main, feel too dangerous to bike down. We need to transform our infrastructure towards more bike and ped friendly areas, the plan has the right thinking. The tradeoff of fewer parking spaces is worth it.</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 71	Website	Main Street	<p>What a great idea. Loss of a very small number of parking spaces is worth it. We don't live in BTV but when we visit we park in the garages anyway.</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 72	Website	Main Street	<p>I just wanted to voice my support for the vision laid out in the Great Streets BTV process, specifically the Main Street/ St. Paul and City Hall Park concept plans. These plans lay out a vision for our city's transportation infrastructure that make it work for all who live in the city. It will encourage walking and cycling by making it safer and more pleasant to engage in these activities. It will limit negative interactions between these users and drivers, ultimately making travel in our city safer and more pleasant for all. Thanks.</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 73	Website	Main Street-Bike Lanes	<p>Main Street-Bike Lanes. Great idea!!</p>
12/10/16	Commenter 73	Website	CHP	<p>I'm for the Green Plan alternative!</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 74	Website	Main Street	<p>The images I've seen of the proposal for a transformation of Burlington's Main Street look fantastic. I am strongly in favor of the protected bike lanes, walk ways and green space that are included in this plan. Please move forward on this proposal! Thank you!</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 75	Website	Main Street	<p>These concept plans are impressive and illustrate a substantial improvement to the urban environment. So much of the downtown consists largely of the remnants of short-term solutions making the streetscape a place to get through and away from, rather than a place to enjoy. I appreciate the great ideas presented here and hope to see us move in the direction envisioned. As a soil scientist, master gardener, and a city resident concerned about the ability of the urban environment to support trees, I'd also like to see measures taken to ensure adequate volumes of uncompacted, good quality soil for street trees (500 to 1,200 cubic feet per tree). Without proper growing conditions, street trees can't provide the size and benefits we expect.</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 76	Website	Main Street-Parking	<p>No, I do not agree with the plan to change the parking along Main Street thereby reducing the number of parking spots. There isn't enough parking as it is. NO.</p>

12/14/16	Commenter 76	Website	CHP	<p>Keep the fountain in the middle. paths should radiate from the center- Some paths should CURVE- There is much research on the need for curved paths. A real fountain like the historic one that is there now.</p> <p>Many benches. Lots of grass. Trees. The park should be a place of respite. NO FOOD. There is absolutely no reason for a cafe kiosk with the abundance of food within seconds of the park. That is ridiculous.</p> <p>The park needs to be accessible for all- Not just for those who have paid a ticket. City Hall Park should be a place where people can enjoy nature. No ticketed events. Farmers market and BCA can have their markets on the street. Shade, flowers, and places to sit. Historic. Permanent game tables.</p> <p>Restrooms need to be accessible 7 days a week.</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 77	Website	Process	<p>As someone who worked on the nearly year-long effort to get public input from a variety of constituencies who use the park, the current proposed design integrates so many of the concerns. Yes, sanctuary was one of the things that came up a lot. And trees for shade and comfort are certainly included in the current design. But other very strong desires that came up included venue and gathering place, and playful elements welcoming to kids. It's great that there's a group of people who have a different design idea, but that shouldn't negate the huge amount of groundwork that went into feeding the currently proposed design. The creative process is best when it is iterative, so if ideas from the alternative design can be incorporated without too much disruption to the momentum of the project, great. If not, then then we will all still celebrate the great community accomplishment of designing and building a new park.</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 78	Website	Pedestrians	<p>Such big plans and changes coming for Burlington's downtown. Let's make sure the interests of pedestrians and bicyclists keep pace with the commercial interests of downtown. With a beautiful bike path, and Lake Champlain - the crowning jewel of the Queen City - Burlington is a go-to destination for cyclists and pedestrians alike. This proposed plan welcomes all visitors to a new downtown! Please continue to move forward with these plans.</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 79	Website	Main Street	<p>I reviewed the concept plan for the changes to Main Street and St. Paul Street, and think it's a great plan for Burlington. It will be easier to travel downtown by bicycle rather than by car, and it enhances the outdoor space for the businesses.</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 80	Website	Main Street	<p>Main St/St Paul and City Hall Park plans look great!!</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 81	Website	Main Street	<p>Hello, My kiddo goes to Edmunds Elementary school. Traffic around the school is very busy, fast moving, and a bit scary this time of year when kids leave the afterschool program and it's dark out. There are now the flashing crosswalk lights (help a lot!) But cars still are in a big rush in the morning and afternoon. Also, many children walk from Edmunds to the Y on College street and walk home around rush hour. College street intersection of South Union is particularly dangerous. It's a 4way stop and with people speeding down the street it is VERY DANGEROUS for families and small children. It would be great to make the city safer for our children.</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 82	Website	Main Street	<p>Looks like a great plan, I am very excited about this transformation of Main St!</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 83	Website	Main Street	<p>Hi, I looked through the Main St concept presentation and like the direction and ideas. I offer these comments and suggestions: Intersections/Decks:  *If these are made to look like decks and the surface of the bike lane does not cross over them, I'm afraid the bike lanes will be regularly blocked by people who have no impulse to move to one side or the other of the deck. *Was any consideration given to Union Station actually functioning as a train station? That project feels at least as far along as the Champlain Parkway and there is a note about incorporating that. While it may be MSL property, I would hope the platform is raised for a flat step onto and off of the train, and the points about the building not blocking the path become paramount as people arrive to catch a train for the first time.</p> <p>I applaud the reduction in parking and know that many people argue loudly against that no matter what the benefit. In addition to putting this small reduction in context of all downtown parking, you might also note that study that showed we don't use all of our downtown parking (though I think it showed we do use all of our downtown street parking). Glad to see the mid-block crossing that we've been talking about for awhile. The UK shared street example doesn't feel that relevant to me because it's one way and one row of cars, so half as much car space as ours. That picture makes the car look really squeezed in a pedestrian area and ours doesn't look like that. I like the idea of a wall on the south edge of the park, my college campus had that at the edge of campus and downtown and it provides a lot of versatile sitting space.</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 84	Website	Main Street-Bike Lanes	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing in support of the proposed changes to Main St and City Hall Park. I am especially excited about *buffered bike lanes* and *pedestrian-centric designs*. These are critical to the future of our city, and to making Burlington a great place to live. Thank you for your work!</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 85	Website	Main Street-Bike Lanes	<p>Really in favor of dedicated bike lanes! Alas, I fear we cannot afford to lose parking spots even 25.</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 86	Website	Main Street	<p>I want to express my excitement for the changes outlined in this plan for an improved city hall park and main street biking change. Thank you for leading this work. I look forward to hearing of its acceptance in the near future.</p>
12/9/16	Commenter 87	Website	CHP	<p>I'd love to see something family friendly included such as a play ground. My young son loves to walk through the park and around the fountain. We once bought lunch nearby and ate at the park. We were surrounded by cigarette smoke, lewd conversation, and swearing. That is just life, but we won't be picnicking there again!</p>

12/9/16	Commenter 88	Website	CHP-Amenities	I love the idea of a seasonal Splash Pad Fountain in downtown as a free, fun, safe activity for kids to play in and people to watch and enjoy! I hope this continues to be part of the plan. I also think it would make most sense to have the area work as a dual splash pad in summer and ice rink in winter- something that other towns have already done! (Check out this website as an example of what exists already: <a href="http://www.customicerinks.com/splashpads.html">http://www.customicerinks.com/splashpads.html</a> ). Excited for the new plans as they move forward! Thanks for considering residents' feedback.
12/9/16	Commenter 89	Website	Main Street	I wholeheartedly support suggested improvements to Main St. It is frightening to drive on Main when buses, double parked delivery trucks and general traffic block the view of cyclists. At least in the new design they will be protected and encouraged to ride. Pedestrians will also benefit. It would be a positive advance to our becoming a safe biking city. It is well worth
12/9/16	Commenter 90	Website	Main Street	Please implement the Great Streets plan! This looks amazing! I'm excited about the increase in space for walking and hanging out--the plan is really inviting. Mostly I'm thrilled that this would increase opportunities for bicyclists and help us reduce the number of cars in downtown Burlington. This is the direction we need to go!
12/9/16	Commenter 91	Website	Main Street	I support a more pedestrian Main Street. I live in Williston and travel to Burlington often mostly by car but also by bike. I am open to reducing car usage.
12/9/16	Commenter 92	Website	Main Street	Really like the plans. A small reduction in parking on Main street is well worth all the benefits! Thank you!
Fri 12/9/16	Commenter 93	Letter	CHP	See letter dated 12/9/16: Two character-defining features of the park - the radiating paths and the central focal point - are not part of the new design.
12/10/16	Commenter 94	Website	Main Street	Excellent, especially the Main St. plan. It will transform the street into a destination, not just a pass through. I'm a bit worried about traffic congestion. Also, in terms of connecting downtown with Main St. Landing, this plan will help a lot. There is still the issue of the substantial hill up from Battery, though, which will inhibit some of the less fit walkers/bikers. Nothing to be done about that. Gravity must get its due. Thank you, planners!
12/10/16	Commenter 95	Website	Main Street-Bike Lanes	Burlington has a lot of great things going for it. safe bicycle transportation anywhere but the waterfront bike path isn't among them. My family would be among many who would gladly abandon automotive access to downtown if adequate safe biking options were available. Any steps that can be made in that direction would be quite welcome.
12/10/16	Commenter 96	Website	Main Street-Parking	Yes, I support taking out parking for the Main St. 'Great Streets' plan.
12/10/16	Commenter 97	Website	Main Street-Bike Lanes	Main St. - I love the plan in general. It is totally worth the reduction in parking to get a much more enjoyable and functional street for all users. I do have a couple of concerns though about the bike lane. The first is visibility of bikers by drivers at crossover points. And the other is conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians, especially at the Decks. It doesn't seem like a good idea to have cyclists riding (potentially quite fast down hill) right through these areas that seems to be very pedestrian focused. One idea I had to alleviate those concerns would be to have the bike paths deflect outward towards the street near intersections, on the streetward side of the Deck, so that the Deck is not interrupted and so that cyclists both slow down (hopefully) and are more visible to drivers and pedestrians in the intersection.  City Hall Park: In general I prefer this plan to the alternative one proposed by others. I do like the idea of having lots of flowers in the park, though, which I didn't notice in this plan. I also think the lack of a northwest to southeast diagonal path is likely to result in people walking on the grass to cut through. I don't think we need a coffee pavilion - there are plenty of places to get coffee and snacks elsewhere. Thanks!
12/10/16	Commenter 98	Website	Main Street	I'm excited about investing more in our public roads to make them more complete streets and enjoyable corridors through town. My friends and family appreciate the bike path and would all enjoy more bikability of the roads. I'm biking more every year and would like to do more in the future. The parking situation is manageable with reduced spaces and the goal is to make Burlington more of an attractive and enjoyable place to be. If parking becomes a challenge, alternatives will work out with alternative modes of transportation. Yet I do park in downtown Burlington now about once a week and don't have issues finding spots. I'm all for the changes. If you consider additional changes in the future, I'd advocate a winter outdoor ice skating rink.
12/10/16	Commenter 99	Website	Main Street	The Concept Plans would be a major, beneficial improvement to our city's public space, and how that public space supports venues that residents and visitors enjoy. Linking the Church Street corridor with the Waterfront with a more inviting walkable streetscape would not only make our City more enjoyable, but would also reduce confusion around where to park to access each of these areas (park once downtown!).
12/10/16	Commenter 100	Website	CHP	This is awesome! What's not to love? I think it is totally worth it to lose a few parking spaces. I live in the South End and don't care about the parking, I'd love to have these changes to make downtown more walk-bike friendly. I especially love the outdoor sidewalk seating and swings on Main - this city is the best in summer, and we should be making the most of all our outdoor spaces. Also - I was one of the 24 people who suggested a skating rink downtown. I don't see this on the City Hall Plan, but I wish someone could look into it. Refrigerated rinks are more expensive, but in the long run worth it - you can skate from December to March, when the weather in Burlington is the worst - it would be an amazing way to entertain kids while parents were in town to shop, as well as adults - plus great exercise without having to get into a car to search for snow - and of course think of the tourists that it would attract! Montreal has two outdoor refrigerated rinks, but it's a haul to get there...why no decent BIG skating rinks in Burlington (downtown)??? Everyone would come. BTW - Has anyone seen the sweet new outdoor rink in Boston? And outdoor market? <a href="http://bostinno.streetwise.co/2016/12/01/more-details-on-city-hall-plazas-skating-path-open-dec-2/">http://bostinno.streetwise.co/2016/12/01/more-details-on-city-hall-plazas-skating-path-open-dec-2/</a>
12/10/16	Commenter 101	Website	Main Street	Full support for these concept plans, especially the Main Street revisions. Let's Go!!

12/10/16	Commenter 102	Website	CHP	I am thrilled that the park design includes a play fountain feature. I would like to suggest that a play structure would be a huge asset to the current design as well. For example the new play structure as part of The Commons redesign in Ithaca Ny integrated into the plan with great effect. To add more family oriented features to downtown Burlington should be a priority! Thank you for your time!
12/10/16	Commenter 103	Website	Main Street	Love the design, especially the protected bike lane and green space. I find myself wondering how these changes will impact the traffic on surrounding streets.
12/10/16	Commenter 104	Website	CHP- Amenities	Would like to request more traditional public bulletin boards in public spaces, especially in and around City Hall Park. these are vital for community outreach and supporting artists and music culture in Burlington. Thank you!
12/10/16	Commenter 105	Website	CHP	I'm in support of the new design for City Hall Park. I like the mixed usage of the space, and I especially like the plaza area--I think it would encourage more pedestrian use. I also really appreciate the new set up for the farmer's market. That's clearly what people like most about the park, and with the new arrangement it allows for more use of the green space during the market. However, with stalls on Main and College streets, would that mean that there would be more streets shut down during the market? Finally, I do wish there were more information about cost, timeline, and potential disruptions during construction. I apologize if I just missed that information, and I do realize that some of it can't be estimated until the plans are approved. Thank you for reaching out to Burlington's citizens! I'm excited that there will be new life given to the park in the heart of our downtown.
12/11/16	Commenter 106	Website	Main Street- Bike Lanes	Hello, I love the proposed redesigns of Main Street -- the reduced parking, new green space, pedestrian space, and more. I have two questions about biking (I have been studying urban planning in Copenhagen the last semester, so I'm now particularly interested in how Burlington can improve its biking infrastructure!). I don't see many places for bicycle parking. I also wonder if the bike path could be elevated. The thing that makes me feel safest in Copenhagen is that the road is on the deepest level, then the bike path runs alongside it on a curb a few inches higher, and then the pedestrian part runs alongside the bike path is on an even higher curb. I wonder if this is something that could be implemented in Burlington because it makes things safer for everyone. Happy to send pictures or anything!
12/11/16	Commenter 107	Website	CHP	It seems fine to "fix up" city hall park as long as the Farmer's Markek will still be there! It is a wonderfull opportunity fot the people to buy and enjoy fresh produce grown by the citizens of Burlington.
12/11/16	Commenter 108	Website	CHP	Hello - I admire many of the changes you have proposed in the upgrade of Burlington's public space. In particular, I am grateful to see bike lanes around town, as well as the green stormwater infrastructure. If I could propose improvements to the plan, I would suggest integration of more green stormwater infrastructure elsewhere in the city, particularly upslope of Church Street. I worry that the proposed gardens will be inundated by the torrent of water that gushes down Main Street in the heaviest storms. Thank you.
12/11/16	Commenter 109	Website	CHP	I like Coalition for a Livable City's "destination" design better
12/11/16	Commenter 110	Website	CHP	I prefer the design proposed by the Coalition for a Livable City,greener,more relaxing.
12/11/16	Commenter 111	Website	Main Street- Bike Lanes	Listen, I know parking is really tough in Burlington, but I think we need to think creatively about where to put our parking and how to encourage people to find other, more sustainable ways into and through the city besides parking. I heard that some places have an ap that tells you where free parking spaces are, making it more effecient for car drivers to find a place to park. To me, nothing says we are a bike and pedestrian friendly city more than bike lanes on our main street. Bikers take that street down to the waterfront- why not let them feel safe on their way down? Anyway, two thumbs up for going to parallel parking on Main street to have an infrastructure that supports sustainable transportation in a safe way. Thank you local motion for continuing to advocate for the bike community!
12/16/16	Commenter 111	Website	CHP	As development of the park moves forward, I hear that concern to make the park safer and more welcoming. I think it is no secret that the homeless community gravitates towards the park. I feel like it is hard because there is a growing tension with the general public not wanting to see the homeless community and feeling fearful of them, but not having many spaces where they can go when they aren't in the shelter. If safety is a concern the park means to address, I hope it is with intention of addressing a more systemic issue rather than a band-aid solution that would make the park less welcoming to a people of a certain demographic. Public spaces should feel equalling accessible to marginalized people as the people who will boost BTV economy.
12/11/16	Commenter 112	Website	CHP	I prefer the city's design to any of the non-city designs I have seen. What the city has designed would seem to suit the actual use of City Hall Park very well, whereas the other designs try to make City Hall Park something it is not, and likely will not be. I would like to see the fountain retained. I understand it gets clogged with leaves and requires regular maintenance. Rhetorical question... How often do BPRW employees maintain that fountain? It seems like a couple times a week, simple maintenance like removing leaves, this would not be an issue. Next thought... It seems like one of the main reasons why City Hall Park has never been able to retain grass is that a lot of people and dogs walk next to the paved paths. Perhaps lining those paved paths with cement seating (I know I'm not describing that well) would keep the foot traffic on the paved pathways. Final thought... Is the existence of both grass and the Farmers Market compatible? Having those vendors and shoppers in the same places every week for months on end naturally destroys the grass. Waterfront Park also gets high traffic, in fact at many events certain parts of the lawns are damaged. But by spreading out where and when events occur Waterfront Park can bounce back. Battery Park illustrates the same thing - most of BP the grass bounces back, but through the middle of the park where everyone walks off the pavement the grass has been destroyed for years.
12/11/16	Commenter 113	Website	Main Street- Parking	Thank you for all of the time and thought that you put into this. These designs are excellent and I hope you move forward with them. Losing a few car parking spaces is definitely worth it! There is already plenty of parking downtown and we need more facilities for other modes of transport. Thanks for listening.

12/12/16	Commenter 114	Website	CHP	<p>I am excited to see that there are plans in the works to upgrade the City Hall Park! I read the article this morning in the free press and I understand that people have all different ideas how the perfect park should look. I don't at all agree with Commenter 16 when she says that the park needs calming. As it is now that park feels mostly dead unless there are some events going on and during Saturdays Farmers market!</p> <p>I am visioning more of a live park where people actually want to go to not for only events but something that can be a goal for a visit in town. Also other from just the summer months! I love coming to Cities which has parks where there are small pitoresc cafes. They are usually not big and maybe just a few seatings both inside and out. I feel that there are space for that at City hall Park which wouldn't exclude more relaxing areas and room for farmers market and other events.Thanks!</p>
12/12/16	Commenter 115	Website	CHP	Love it, Love it. I especially like the placement of the bike path, very much like the path in the Battery district in NYC. The renderings are beautiful. Well done!
12/12/16	Commenter 116	Website	Main Street	<p>I have been to several of the presentations of the Great Streets project and am overall very excited about the design and updated, 21st Century streets. To use Joe Biden's language, I would consider traveling down Main Street currently as a "third world" experience. Main Street needs to be a something we can be proud of as Burlingtonians to better complement Church Street and the Waterfront in an effort to bring more tourists into our city. I have two comments regarding the design. First, I would like to say I fully SUPPORT removing the parking spaces that the consultants recommend. We do not have a parking problem in the downtown. Parking spaces in garages and side streets are often utilized at less then 65% capacity. What a waste! We used federal, state and municipal tax dollars to build those garages AND they take the place of would-be property-tax paying commercial buildings. Not to mention the parking requirements in our city's excessive zoning mandates make living and doing business here more expensive; a price we all pay in higher rent, higher food prices (restaurants have to charge more because their landlord needs to charge them more to pay for the garage). We have a parking problem in Burlington--that problem is a GLUT of parking spaces, not a deficiency. However, I do have one slight critique with the proposal. I'm not a big fan of the wooden decks. I'm sure wooden decks work great in Santa Monica, but I see those decks in the presentation and all I think is soaring maintenance costs for the next 20 years. One issue with the wooden decks is the obvious low durability of wood and the material's propensity to rot. The other issue--I see this on the wooden boardwalk in Waterfront Park--is ice and winter maintenance. I'm not an expert in this science, but I have noticed that wooden decks throughout our city (Winooski has a lot as well) succumb to icing much more frequently than blacktop or stone/brick pavers do. This could be especially dangerous given that the bike lanes go right over these wooden decks. I would suggest that instead of installing the wooden decks the City installs stones decks paved with cobble (ideally the cobble would be locally-sourced). This would certainly be a more expensive endeavor than building with wood. However, this cost will be offset by much cheaper maintenance costs in the future because of the durability of stone. Also, I would suggest we don't build out as many of these decks. Maybe only 3-4 well built stone and cobble decks rather than the 6-8 wooden decks proposed. Thank you for reviewing these comments</p>
12/12/16	Commenter 116	Website	CHP	<p>City Hall Park currently totally fails to address the needs of our city and community. I am very excited about the possible of allocating public funds to re-invest in the park. I believe this will be enormous dividends to our residents, commuters, employers and business who cater to our city's tourists. I would like to share a few comments I have with the Wadger &amp; Hodgson proposal. Overall, I think the proposal is fantastic. However, given the failed state of the current park it doesn't take much for an improvement. We have one main problem in the park: over compaction of soils and inability to create healthy grass. This is the root source driving many of the current problems plaguing the park. There are only three solutions that can mitigate this issue: 1) Significantly reduce foot traffic on the greenery of the park 2) Remove trees to allow more sunlight to access the parks floor 3) Provide more plaza-like paved surfaces (ideally with locally-sourced cobble) that can act as gathering placing so residents and visitors won't gather/stand directly on the turf. I do not think the current design does enough to ease grass health with the above three solutions. It is absolutely an improvement from the present but I don't think it will proved a viable, sustainable park--especially given the farmer's market activity. I would like to see the following issues address - On the plans on the trees marked as "in poor health" are recommended for removal. I would like to see the majority of the trees removed so that Burlingtonians can have better access to sunlight in the park. Also will provide better growing conditions for grass. - The main diagnol walkways must be lined with large hedges, thorny bushes and walls so that walkers stay on the path. The biggest issue we currently have in the park is walkers deviate from the paths provided, crushing and killing the grass in the process. More needs to be done to keep the walkers on the intended, paved pathways. Thanks for the opportunity to provide these comments.</p>

12/15/16	Commenter 116	Email/Phone	CHP	There are a couple of pieces of the City Hall Park redesign that are incredibly important to Burlingtonians and public health. While an improvement from the current park, these issues are not being adequately addressed in the proposal. - <b>Walking lanes:</b> City Hall Park's nature as a public square near the city center entices many pedestrians to walk through to get to the Waterfront, Church Street Marketplace, City Hall, etc. I like the wide paved walking path through the SW-NE diagonal. However, without better walls/shrubs/benches lining this pedestrian thoroughfare I can still see park goers taking shortcuts and walking right over our grass. The #1 systemic issue with the park is inability to grow health grass due to compaction and overuse. Discouraging the walking on grass has to <b>priority #1</b> of the park's redesign. Defined, straight paths on the park's diagonal corridors lined with thick shrubs/hedges could mitigate the problem. - <b>Tree Removal:</b> Another issue that inhibits healthy grass growth in the park is lack of sunlight due to too thick a tree canopy. The thick tree canopy also creates an environment that is inviting to drug users and our city's degenerates. Unfortunately, the park is perceived by some to be a cesspool for such individuals. At my Ward 3 NPA the police made it clear that the low-branching crab apple trees were inhibiting their ability to protect and serve our community. While some trees are proposed to come down I don't believe--as proposed--it is a sufficient amount. They are only planning on removing trees in "poor health" and the low-branching trees. I would like to see more trees removed to provide more sunlight into the park for the public health benefit of Burlingtonians. - <b>Paved Surfaces:</b> At the NPA it was described the city would only allow 30% of the park area to be paved surface. This seems incredibly arbitrary as with the latest technologies I imagine we could have a City Hall Park with 70% paved surface and better storm-water mitigation that the current park has. Paved plaza-like surfaces with cobble are very important for the public and the durability of the park.
12/12/16	Commenter 117	Website	Main Street	The website is helpful to understand the Green Streets program. My two areas of concern are stormwater and bike lanes. If they are going to redesign Main St and since storm water is mentioned, I really think it is important to fix our failing storm water system that is under the street and that may take priority over changing the street layout. If the infrastructure could be updated and added stormwater retention tanks used to collect water for irrigation at the park, that makes more sense than rain gardens to me. And the bike lanes, on the layout of the current Main St diagram seems problematic. A two way bike lane on one side of the street seems safer for pedestrians and vehicles that want to cross over this location. A delineation between the parking/road and the bike area is needed, but having it be storm water gardens seems inappropriate. All modes of transportation, bike or car should be at street level and the curbed area should be left for pedestrians. Thank you for considering my thoughts.
12/12/16	Commenter 118	Website	CHP	Here's a prosaic check list just to be sure they're included: The Park: for safety, no bushes. Dog poop disposal and drinking fountains. ADA tested by people in whchairs & users of canes for smooth surfaces, leveled paths. Nothing to trip people.Great care with accessible curbs and some cutouts/pullouts for cars to unload without being in traffic. For fun : around the main fountain in any concrete pattern, impress animal, bird, and child footprints. I hope Julie Compoli is involved re Made for Walking, her terrific book. No sandwich boards, tables and chairs etc. out far enough to impede walking and wheelchairs. Thanks. p.s. I have catalog forms for animal footprints.
12/15/16	Commenter 118	Website	Main Street	again, surely this will be addressed, but just in case... Plan, please, for adequate signage in large print. Seems like half the streets in Burlington don't have signs, names. For visitors, also plan for adequte and accurate direction signs. Thanks.
12/12/16	Commenter 119	Website	CHP	The plans for renovating City Hall Park look great. In my opinion, we don't need a coffee pavilion or small structures that clutter up the park. You can get coffee in many places around or near the park. Let's keep it green and open. Thanks.
12/12/16	Commenter 120	Website	Main Street	The Main Street/St. Paul Concept Plan seems like a great way to re-integrate main street into the vibrancy of downtown! It's certainly disconnected now and the bike/walk lanes will make it much more aesthetically pleasing and easier to navigate for those biking and walking to spend their dollars! Thanks.
12/12/16	Commenter 121	Website	CHP	It will be easy to support most any plan that is no less abundant in trees and shade than currently. Classic design will be more appealing than modern designs especially in juxtaposition either the other nearby proposed modern construction. I don't like the idea of those spitting fountains for kids to jump around in. They always break and become eye sores and are useless in the colder months.
12/12/16	Commenter 122	Website	CHP	please provide for both in continuing plans to make Burlington safe and fun and to provide young people with a heathy space .
12/13/16	Commenter 123	Public Presentation (PACC)	CHP	Really exciting, great opportunity, including the new fountain idea. Fountain is a named gift, how to do we deal with balance recognition with values of city. Other named gifts? Any engagement with historic preservation community? What do they say? What about bulletin boards? Support traditional boards. What is the public art component? Seems like [park lane] would be a good opportunity, not just for 3-D art. C Bates said police want to limb up trees, but didn't hear that in City Plan?
12/13/16	Commenter 124	Public Presentation (PACC)	CHP	Need to be low-barrier. Need more uses 12 months of the year. Could there be public skating? Would love to see some of our holiday celebrations in the park, too. Renovations are not about removing people from the park that don't add value. Wouldn't support this effort if it was. About bringing more people.
12/13/16	Commenter 125	Public Presentation (PACC)	CHP	Love fountain- reminds of Millennium park in Chicago. Glad will have electric and ethernet to support events. Park is already a Burlington Telecom hotspot; we would like to turn it into a gigabit hotspot to support City's initiative to become a gigabit city.

12/13/16	Commenter 126	Public Presentation (PACC)	CHP	Already have lots of commercial activity in the park in the farmer's market. Lots of great parks have commercial activity—we looked at a lot of them in the Imagine process. Have foot at North Beach and Waterfront. Do not agree that those types of uses are negative. Commercial activity is ever-present, gives the park another activity.
12/13/16	Commenter 127	Public Presentation (PACC)	CHP	Comment about historic elms should be noted as a snapshot in time. Live in a much more urbanized world than historic context. If trees are important, need a sustainable habitat to allow them to grow. Important to pay attention to soil—it always gets short changed. Need to be patient when thinking about how trees fit into landscape plan. Will need to give up some of the uses, minimal impact on soil is best environment for trees. Be careful of canopy mix, there will be a cost to the City.
12/13/16	Commenter 128	Public Presentation (DAB)	CHP	Will there be infrastructure to support the farmer's market instead of running cables everywhere? (Event is smaller, fewer vendors; will be electricity and internet throughout park) Will the design address the prevention of further compaction of soil? (most paths too narrow today, will be widened) Where are the rain gardens? Need a central element for historic aspect. Why has the fountain moved away from the center and why is it not a traditional fountain?
12/13/16	Commenter 129	Public Presentation (DAB)	CHP	Will there be food vending daily? (Flexible space, coffee pavilion as placeholder, activate park, responsible for seating, with seat wall around the patio). I see radial paths, not in the strictest sense, but it does connect all four corners to the center. Plan meets that criteria. Not sure the plan has a "central element" though. Maybe replace tree in center of terrace with public art or other focal point? Not worried about introduction of commercial elements in park.
12/13/16	Commenter 130	Public Presentation (DAB)	CHP	Hardscape in the middle is the focal point—this design serves that purpose. The fact that it is not smack in the middle of the center is not a problem. What weight is given to business input like we heard? Hear the concern, but the market brings people downtown. Like that the plan is to right size the market. How will the survey quantify loss of business that downtown might experience due to lack of market?
12/13/16	Commenter 131	Public Presentation (DAB)	CHP	Know Preservation Burlington and Preservation Trust have given comments. Need to give a nod to tradition. Commercial elements are a concern. The fountain is not original to the park, but is historic. What is the plan for it?
12/13/16	Commenter 132	Website	Main Street	<p>Yes and No. Yes we need to do something. No, we don't need to go to the extent of this plan. The plan as it was currently proposed is way over the top. It also doesn't reflect the seasons and climate of Burlington. It is a little like the young person who needs a new car going to the dealership and coming home with the sport sedan with the leather seats and sunroof when the coupe with cloth seats and 4 cylinders would have served them just fine.</p> <p>It feels like we were given an all or nothing plan. Where's the intermediate plan? Where's the plan that would reduce per block cost so we could do make it to Battery St?</p> <p>I think it is time to go back to the basic goals: bike lanes, run-off management, wider sidewalks and see what we could do over 4 blocks instead of 2. Let's keep in mind that parking is already in low supply and that reducing parking should NOT be part of this plan. I have personally gone out and measured. Eliminating diagonal parking does not need to be part of the plan in order to achieve the results we want. I don't think this message needs to be about the details, that's is the designer's job anyways. But the width is there to achieve everything without losing parking.</p> <p>As nice as the little mini-parks are, I am not interested in having one anywhere near my business. Currently we have near zero loitering in our neighborhood. Creating hang-out space is my job, inside my business, on my sidewalk, under my management. In these times, hang-out space in sparsely populated areas may cause more problems than we as a city can manage.</p> <p>Many aspects of this design reflect the designer's home climate, not our's. Reduced on-street, centralized parking is less of an issue in a place with 365 days of summer. Corner mini-parks are more realistic in a place that doesn't experience winter conditions 5 - 6 months out of the year. And in a place that is within an hour drive from 7-10 million people.</p> <p>This project needs to be re-scaled to reflect Burlington finances, Burlington's climate, Burlington's population, and the need to finish 4 blocks, not 2. Thank you.</p>
12/13/16	Commenter 133	Email/Phone	CHP	I have been advised that your new plan for our wonderful City Hall Park includes tearing out the fountain. That fountain was wonderful, and could be again. Go to any city in Europe, and the meeting place is always the fountain. Pictures are taken in front of the fountain. Lovers sit by the fountain. Weary tourists and locals congregate near a fountain to hear its lovely, calming sounds, and watch the shimmering cascades of flowing water. The fountain itself is a reminder of the beauty of the streams and rivers of Vermont, and the majesty of our lady lake nearby. The central round fountain was alive, and could be again. It is not hard straight architecture. It is round, and alive and what we all crave after shopping in square boxes of shops, no matter how lovely they are. It is a place to sit and rest feet and back, to revive a bit, and get ready to see more, walk more, shop more. A fountain is a resting place, an oasis of peace. Our fountain is also a strong memory of cities of the past, where meeting and talking and resting was offered in the town square, the central city park. Our park with water, shade trees, flowers and grass areas for play and rest is a vital element of our great city. It is the only natural area amidst the ever increasing concrete and steel. We all crave nature. It is a human need. A fountain is the perfect blend of architecture and nature. It should be round, and in the center. It should be the heart and soul of our city. The city fathers put it there, and look at the wonderful city that grew up around it!! Don't turn all of downtown Burlington into a veritable mall! SAVE OUR FOUNTAIN !! Save our Park, the trees, the fountain, the heart of our beautiful city!
12/15/16	Commenter 133	Website	CHP	SAVE THE FOUNTAIN ! Move farmers mkt onto streets, out of park Keep the park as it is in plan while upgrading fountain and restoring lawn and flower beds. Don't make the park into nothing more than a walkway between stores !

12/13/16	Commenter 134	Email/Phone	Main Street	Sorry for not getting back to you earlier, but hopefully my input will help in some way! First I would like to say your presentation back in November was well expressed and we liked the open mined as presented. We have lived on Main Street for the past twenty years and experience many issues regarding noise, theft, intoxication, drugs and the list goes on. We do like your plan for Main Street and have our concerns especially the homeless and transit people. We have noticed a homeless sleeping and taking up residence 24/7 at Burlington Public Works Building on Pine Street visible to all commuters .... Has anything been done for removal from the public eye NO .... We see the same thing happening around Church and Main Street ... Again has anything been done for removal from the public eye! NO .... Now with your great plan to make Main Street the main gateway from Church Street to the shores of Lake Champlain this is going to be a safe heaven for homeless, druggies, and so on. I don't like being negative but the facts are out there with don't disturb, just turn your heads which will result on negative impact to business owners on Main Street. As a possible sanctuary city this will also blossom the impact. As I mentioned before we like your plan but from previous experience don't make it easy for homeless and others to camp out. On the City Park from what I have read, your plan looks solid and again don't make it easy for homeless and others to camp out.
12/13/16	Commenter 135	Website	CHP	Our family lives near the intersection of Main St. and St. Paul during some parts of the year. Overall, we are very supportive of the proposed project. I showed our daughters ages 10 and 12 the concept designs and asked for their input. They were most focused on City Park as they spend time there often. One of their main concerns is security and the presence of vagrants/loiterers in the park. They have been verbally assaulted several times by vagrants/loiterers and feel intimidated by groups of vagrants/loiterers. We feel peaceful enjoyment of the park by residents and visitors without interference from vagrants/loiterers should be a priority of the BPD, the Mayor and the City Council. With the overriding concern addressed, here is what a 10 year old and 12 year old thought of the design Pros: local Food carts, a permanent cafe or restaurant kiosk in the park, Pedestrian Loop for Farmers Market booths, including closing Main St on Saturday from 8-2pm in summer, fixing the tree situation as in plan, fixing grass and planting other plants Cons: the new fountain... only for little kids, will attract vagrants to bathe and use the water features, water may get people wet inadvertently and discourage cross park traffic because of wet areas, moveable furniture and tables... concern that vagrants/loiterers will form large groups and take over the space... and concern that it would not look good, no bathrooms as they are concerned such facilities would attract vagrants/loiterers and would quickly fall into disrepair. They would like a traditional water feature/fountain in the center of the park.
12/13/16	Commenter 135	Website	Main Street	As for me individually, I am enthusiastic about the plans for city park and for Main St. Being someone with a disability, my concerns tend to bend towards accessibility. So here are my thoughts about what the designers should keep in mind. 1. For new parallel parking spots, incorporate multiple disabled spots. Make sure these spots are on relatively flat grade and that there are no obstructions to ramp deployment on curb side. 2. Please keep manual wheelchairs in mind when picking paving materials. Cobblestones are the worst. Followed by crushed gravel. Pavers should be smooth and not have deep grooves. Surface should be as smooth and flat as possible. Stones or pavers with grass in between them should be avoided. 3. Decks, as described in the street plan, should be designed with disabled users in mind. Benches, built in tables and chairs should be of standard height and wheelchair spaces should be included where possible. Swings are a cool idea and can be used but fixed benches should also be used so someone using a scooter or wheelchair could slide from their device onto the benches. 4. When designing benches, benches without armrests or side rails are good for persons using mobility devices as they can slide off of a scooter or wheelchair and join friends/family on the bench. Swings are not available for this, so a good mix of benches is good. Benches on Church St have side rails and center rails possibly to discourage loiterers but prevent mobility device users from getting off and on them easily. 5. When designing terraces, decks and retail frontage keep in mind mobility device users including manual chairs, scooters and electric mobility chairs. One design element for city park that is great is a nice crosswalk that connects Main St and City Park near Flynn Theater entrance. Hope this helps! Can't wait to see what it ends up like.
12/13/16	Commenter 136	Website	CHP	There are so many wonderful aspects of this redesigned park. I think removing the central fountain is a smart move. Coffee vendor is great - creamees, too, perhaps? Hard to see if it was representing but curious what way finding will look like? Any guidance like maps? Geolocations? What does winter look like? Skating rink out of the picture?
12/14/16	Commenter 137	NPA Meeting	Main Street-Parking	I'm concerned about losing parking spaces and changing to parallel parking - one has to be in the middle of the travel lane to parallel park. Will there be a bike lane?
12/15/16	Commenter 137	Website	Main Street-Parking	DO NOT REPLACE THE DIAGONAL PARKING ON MAIN STREET WITH PARALLEL PARKING. LOSS OF 43 SPACES IS SIGNIFICANT. LOSS OF REVENUE IS SUBSTANTIAL. IT IS VERY INCONVENIENT TO PARALLEL PARK ON A BUSY STREET LIKE MAIN STREET. PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE AND HAVE THE MEETINGS AFTER THE HOLIDAYS.
12/15/16	Commenter 137	Website	CHP	THE PARK IS BEAUTIFUL. THERE IS NO NEED TO RIP IT APART. RESTORE THE GRASS AND LIMIT THE FARMER'S MARKET TO THE SIDEWALK AND STREETS. KEEP THE CENTRAL FORMAT AND RESTORE THE HISTORIC FOUNTAIN.
12/15/16	Commenter 137	Website	Process	MEETINGS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON? REALLY? WILL YOU PLEASE POSTPONE THE MEETINGS UNTIL JANUARY 2017? EVEN THE MAYOR GETS TO TAKE A VACATION THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.
12/14/16	Commenter 138	NPA Meeting	Main Street	The decks look like they are right in the bike path and sidewalks. Isn't there a risk of collision with all the bike and pedestrian traffic? For City Hall Park, how many stalls will be available in the new configuration?
12/14/16	Commenter 139	NPA Meeting	Main Street-Shared Space	Paris has recently been closing streets to traffic, either for certain seasons or entirely. It's become a model for other cities. Has Burlington ever considered closing streets to traffic?
12/14/16	Commenter 140	NPA Meeting	Main Street-Shared Space	College Street is the route from UVM to downtown to the Boathouse and Waterfront. It's an important route in terms of accessibility and I hope it would not be considered for permanent closure to vehicles.

12/14/16	Commenter 141	NPA Meeting	Main Street-Parking	What is the cost/benefit of doing development? What would happen if you did nothing? Would the money saved compensate us for the facilities we don't have? Does something like this get planned into the larger picture of transportation changes? I'm hearing people complain about loss of parking and I'm inclined to think we all need to be driving less and if we're coming into Burlington maybe using buses and not bringing our cars. This is the kind of thing that puts pressure on people to get out of their cars and get on a bus, bike, or walk. How does this integrate with a 30 or 50 year concept of transportation.
12/14/16	Commenter 142	NPA Meeting	CHP	When I was on the DPW Commission, we had a hard time closing St. Paul Street because it had two handicapped parking spaces. We had to bag two spots on Main Street. Does your plan have handicapped parking and delivery parking? These are still needed on Saturday.
12/14/16	Commenter 143	NPA Meeting	Main Street-Parking	I remember when Main Street was parallel parking. I don't remember who the mayor was. Public Works changed it because we needed more revenue. How will you deal with loss of parking revenue that goes until 10 o'clock at night which is a sin? I thought the majority of City voters just voted to open up street with our TIF money and you're talking about closing streets on a busy Saturday? I know that when you close streets in Burlington, for First Night and Mardi Gras, and there is an emergency on the corner of Cherry and the Marketplace, the ambulance couldn't get through. Last New Year's Eve, I couldn't get out of my driveway to go to work and the new Police Chief had to get out of his own car and direct traffic so I'm concerned about the damage that the Farmers' Market has done to City Hall Park and you're talking about the damage that's been done – it's going to happen again. They took the fountain out of Church Street Marketplace because of the terrible maintenance because it cost money and the vandalism that went on and leave the fountain in the center and take care of it. I don't understand why everyone wants to spend all this money on all these whistles and bells when you can move the Farmers' Market, resurface the turf, put some playgrounds in there and when I was a kid growing up City Hall bathrooms were able to be used. I don't know what the policy is now whether you can or cannot go in there on the weekends. It seems like if you're paying taxes in this town you should be able to pee at City Hall. Excuse me. I know that a lot of you don't like when I speak out I get a little out of control I'm a fifth generation Vermonter I've been in Burlington all my life, OK, and some of the things that are going on around here which is why I speak up are truly downright rude. So you charge more for parking, you pull 43 high revenue meters out so I just don't get it. So please let's not forget we have a beautiful park, Battery Park, with a beautiful view. Has anyone considered putting the Farmers' Market down there for a while? And have you considered putting a mock up on Main Street with cones and barriers for when you have parades and do some kind of a sample before you shove it down our throats?
12/14/16	Commenter 144	Website	CHP	I believe that with so much of downtown Burlington being changed that it is important to keep the historic beauty of city hall park. People come to Burlington because we are special we are not a big city. We are a part of history with great businesses. The fountain needs to remain where it is, and in the same design of being round. I understand concerns of people washing themselves in it, but that is not a park problem that is a homeless problem. Do not link the 2 together. Grass is meant to be walked upon if the grass in the park is trampled, plant better grass and tend to the soil.
12/14/16	Commenter 145	Website	CHP-Amenities	Traditional public bulletin boards, for concerts events happening 's around our city
12/14/16	Commenter 146	Website	CHP	Please maintain ALL the trees in City Park. Please also ensure the park is an oasis of green space in the city. Please also retain the current fountain in the park!
12/14/16	Commenter 147	Website	CHP	In my capacity working at city hall I had the privilege to work on improving City Hall park over the decades. One landscape architect hired by the city suggested using the slope of park as a natural area which could be used for performances. The Fools Festival this past summer did just that. Two issues I noticed, the ground was uneven and the performer almost fell. The power that is located there needs to be made to blend in with the park. Now that the downtown mall is going to be developed more people will work and live downtown. They will need places to rest, relax- a sanctuary. City Hall park should that place. The design of the park should make it a sanctuary which attracts folks to rest, read, relax, reflect, and be a respite from the concrete and buildings. Also the park acts as a place for rain to be absorbed. The projections for rainfall in Burlington were underestimated when our wastewater plants were built over 30 years ago. Consult with DPW water division before you add more impervious materials. By keeping the park attractive for everyone in our community, everyone will be able to enjoy it's beauty. By doing this, it will not encourage the sketchy elements to flourish. My iPhone wouldn't allow me to scroll up to edit what I wrote, so please excuse any typos.
12/14/16	Commenter 148	Website	CHP-Amenities	Really? Give up green space, a historic fountain, trees for yet ANOTHER eatery? What are you thinking. The park makes Burlington a place we travel to.
12/14/16	Commenter 149	Website	CHP-Amenities	TRADITIONAL PUBLIC BULLETIN BOARDS
12/14/16	Commenter 150	Website	Main Street	The Great Streets BTV plan is amazing! As a former resident of Burlington (currently residing in Hyde Park and visiting Burlington several times a month), this plan looks great. Highlighting walkable and bikeable spaces is HUGE and I really would love to see Burlington be at the forefront of this. The way parking is currently configured feels like a waste of high value space. Enhancing Main Street's connection to the waterfront and expanding retail frontage will be great for tourist traffic as well. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on this plan. I look forward to hearing about developments!
12/14/16	Commenter 151	Website	CHP-Amenities	Burlington needs more traditional public bulletin boards. Especially in City Hall Park.
12/14/16	Commenter 152	Website	CHP-Amenities	Would love to see more traditional, non-curated public bill boards downtown. Please also bring back the ones that were taken down & never put back up.

12/14/16	Commenter 153	Email/Phone	CHP	Warren Spinner is "spot on" about saving the Central Fountain at City Hall Park. This historic icon is a popular focal point that invites park visitors to linger. Please let the Fountain stay. Overall my preference would be to make minimal changes to the rest of the park, with a focus on increasing the self-sufficiency of its existing landscape. Specifically: 1. Repair existing structures as needed. 2. Replace failing trees and shrubs as needed. Instead of using younger trees as replacements, use larger trees deemed to be less vulnerable and that are instantly more aesthetically appealing. 3. Create the planned storm water retention ponds where ever they will function best. 4. Use nearby <i>existing</i> hard surfaces during the relatively short time there is a flood of visitors to Burlington's Farmers Market on Saturdays, by blocking off Main and/or College Streets as is done with St. Paul Street. Thank you for reading my comments.
12/14/16	Commenter 154	Website	CHP-Amenities	Perhaps including the self-contained, self-cleaning, porta-let system like the ones that we see all over Europe would be a nice feature for visitors.
12/14/16	Commenter 155	Website	CHP-Amenities	Let's have one that comes from a disinterested person, one who does not endorse and build, sell same structure.
12/14/16	Commenter 156	Website	CHP	I often usher at the Flynn and park on St. Paul behind my church. I always feel uneasy walking across city hall park and down the alley to my parking place at night..so far, no instances, but have my pepper spray in hand...why is there no police presence when the Flynn lets out?
12/14/16	Commenter 157	Website	CHP-Amenities	We need more Traditional Public Bulletin Boards!
12/14/16	Commenter 158	Website	CHP	Please make the park as big as humanly possible with lots of green space. If you go to any city in Europe, they have so many more parks than we do. We need community space! We are all craving it. Shopping and watching people walk past us isn't satisfying our need to sit and picnic in the sun while playing ultimate frisbee and reading while some music and good drinking cheer goes round. 1. More, not less green space 2. Maintaining the historic fountain 3. No private commercial areas (all areas of the park should be open to all citizens and visitors) 4. The park should be a sanctuary, a green oasis, not a conduit to get to and from shopping. 5. Curved paths that radiate out from the fountain and common areas so that, again, the park is for the people in it, not a pathway to shopping. 6. Maintaining all the trees Thank you!!!!
12/14/16	Commenter 159	Website	CHP	Keep the existing fountain and upgrade paths from that perspective. Do not remove trees -- these have continually been removed for "disease" and "safety" before and yet biggest issues are maintenance not tree health or sightlines. No need for vendors in such a small park, that's what Church street is for. Do not make everything the same--keep this as a public green space, and Church as a "hardscape" landscape rather than confusing the two into the same elements.
12/14/16	Commenter 160	Website	CHP-Amenities	Keep Traditional Bulletin Boards Please. As a local entertainer I rely on these spaces to promote performances. I learn about great city events via these boards. They speak volumes to visitors about our thriving arts culture. They are worth maintaining as an investment in city arts and artists.
12/14/16	Commenter 161	Website	CHP-Amenities	add more practical un-curated public bulletin boards. MORE PUBLIC BULLETIN BOARDS IN CITY HALL PARK, too — they took a bunch down to install art and never put them back!!!
12/15/16	Commenter 162	Website	Main Street	Hi, I tried to submit a response before but it didn't seem to go through. Please excuse if you already got this: Main St. Please provide shade to every "deck" area or those benches and seating areas will be a waste. Shade so that lake viewers in the evening are in the shade. Which may interfere slightly with views but there you go.. City Hall: So glad the farmers' market stalls will be placed so that foot traffic doesn't wear down the grass. Please maintain the grass so families can spread out and relax! Both look like excellent plans overall!
12/15/16	Commenter 163	Website	CHP	I'm loving the idea of refurbishing City Hall Park! Although I can't quite tell from the renderings, will the new fountain be a scaled-down version of the one in front of the aquarium in Boston? (That one is lots of fun for kids and adults, alike!) I think installing more places to sit, refurbishing the grass, and moving the chaos of the Farmers' Market out of the park are also great ideas. On the other hand, as a drug and alcohol counselor I must oppose the installation of a "coffee pavilion." Obviously, coffee needn't be dispensed from such a refreshment stand, at all. So, I'm concerned about the precedent set by the designation in the concept plan of an established caffeine dispensary. Thanks for all the hard work on this much-needed project!
12/15/16	Commenter 164	Website	CHP	We manage 123-131 Church Street and are strongly opposed to food trucks in the park. There was on temporarily there last summer, and it was a greasy, smelly truck that spewed it's hood onto our building and our tenants complained of the odors. We would love to be involved in discussion for a business concept that involves the planned patio area behind the building. We do have daily deliveries to our back entrance for current office and retail tenants. We have been notified of 1 meeting on the 20th, but are welcome to attend any other meetings as well.
12/15/16	Commenter 165	Email/Phone	Main Street	Generally I support the suggested improvements, I must say that unless there is serious design level attention paid to addressing storm water and the proposed improvements. This project could turn out to be a terrible waste and be a legacy to our inability to understand how and when to make a commitment to our lake. But for the College Street watershed which is a separate storm system the discharge direct to the lake with no treatment the sections of Main and Saint Paul subject to this plan. [via phone]: It would be a waste not to commit to a very thorough stormwater design due to the uncontrolled runoff on Main Street. Regarding lighting, the current curlicue lights around the park aren't functional because the bulbs are too high and it does not create good lumination. The fixtures on page 66 are efficient.

12/15/16	Commenter 165	Email/Phone	Main Street	[This was directed to Kevin Perry of the consultant team] I see you are on the project team. That is good to know! When you have a moment I would like to share some of my on the ground sensitivities and concerns with this project's storm water initiatives. As you know from our work on the College Street watershed project, this area of Main and Saint Paul the storm runoff does not enter a separate storm system but drains to the CS (combined sewer) and ends up at the main WWTP. That said the storm water practices must be designed with removing, reducing, reusing and/or retaining/releasing runoff with the goal of lessening the impact at the WWTP of CSO events.
12/15/16	Commenter 166	Website	CHP	I like many aspects of the new conceptual design and I appreciate the work and thought that has gone into it... so Thanks for that! My one issue of concern is that the overall area of the paths seems to be getting larger. I liked the path design of the 2011-2012 schematic site plan a bit better. It answered the need of a full-park diagonal path and the mid-block pathway with a single stroke and left a larger open/grassy area. Also, I'm not totally convinced of the need for a coffee pavilion... coffee is nice, but it will be a visibility barrier and target for graffiti... Just my \$0.02 Cheers!
12/15/16	Commenter 167	Website	Main Street	I'm writing to share Local Motion's official comments on the Great Streets Initiative. I attended to public meeting in November on behalf of our organization. Local Motion wholeheartedly supports both the Main Street redesign as well as the revitalization of City Hall Park. These are important projects to support ongoing growth and vitality of downtown Burlington. Main Street: As currently configured, Main Street is far too wide- creating dangerous circumstances for bicyclists and excessive stormwater runoff affecting the health of Lake Champlain. We appreciate that the concept for Main Street rebalances the existing street in order to provide much more space for walking, biking, stopping and resting, eating and socializing. It will create a downtown more connected to the waterfront and will help revitalize businesses up and down the vicinity of Main Street. Further, vibrant 21st century downtowns need to include protected bike lanes, as the concept for Main Street does, separated from traffic by landscaping and parked cars. This is the kind of transformational thinking that will truly make Burlington a great city for biking. We feel that it is well worth reducing on-street parking by less than 25% in order to go from diagonal to parallel parking along Main Street in order to rebalance public uses. Studies of bike lanes installed in downtowns show that sales improved even when parking is removed. Further, after all of the work done as part of the Downtown Burlington Parking Management Plan, we all know that there is a surplus of parking in the downtown. Downtown is more than a place to park and we need to first consider people living here who want to walk and bike from point to point. We love the porch, deck, lawn concept. Our only complaint is that we would love to see the project implemented sooner! Let's push for as much short term implementation of the Main Street Concept as soon as possible.
12/15/16	Commenter 167	Website	CHP	I'm writing to share Local Motion's official comments on the Great Streets Initiative. I attended to public meeting in November on behalf of our organization. Local Motion wholeheartedly supports both the Main Street redesign as well as the revitalization of City Hall Park. These are important projects to support ongoing growth and vitality of downtown Burlington. City Hall Park: City Hall Park is perhaps the most important civic space in Burlington. From the political rallies that happen on the steps, to the Farmers Market. However, tourist-oriented uses like the Farmers Market dominate the Park and have led to the impacted ground present today. At the same time, in the absence of vibrant events, City Hall Park can be an intimidating place. The grass is worn, the fountain isn't for active use, and there is a lot of smoking. We need make the park more inviting for people to use it on a daily basis. More activity in the park will provide "eyes on the street" -- making the park feel safer and more pleasant for everyone. Local Motion wholeheartedly support the revitalization of City Hall Park, which will result in a public space which is welcoming to families through the inclusion of a working water feature, and a kiosk where people can buy ice cream of a drink. There is a snack bar at North Beach, and in beautiful city parks across the nation. it seems okay to sell some refreshments in City Hall Park. We also applaud the intentional mid-block connection across Main Street between the Flynn Theater and City Hall Park. We disagree that the park should be a wilderness space. While it's important to incorporate natural features like swales and grasses for stormwater management and plenty of green infrastructure, this is a formal civic space with relatively formal structure.

12/15/16	Commenter 168	Website	CHP	I have lived within 5 blocks of City Hall Park for the past 45 years. In that time I have not ventured into the park very often. The reason: It is not a safe place to be. The last time I needed to pass through the park was this past August. I was on my way to a City Council Meeting in Contois Aud. and since I parked West of the building I entered the building by the rear entrance. It was a very scary experience. There were several groups of people gathered on the steps right up to the door. They were obviously smoking marijuana or doing other drugs and the smell of pot was heavy in the air I had to walk through to get to the door. It was an outrageous experience. I do not understand why this kind of activity is allowed in this very public space. I almost changed my mind about attending the meeting because of my experience. It was horrible! I believe that any changes to the park will not make it better or more welcoming for the population of Burlington until something is done about Public Safety and the enforcement of the laws of this city. Instead of spending thousands if not millions of dollars on physical improvements, why not spend the money to pay for police surveillance of the park full-time!!! Once the general public is assured they will not be subjected to the horrors that now exist in the park, they might want to spend time there. On another note, I would prefer the pathways and main area that planners now want to pave with cement or some other hard surface, be instead made of fine gravel mix. This would allow the ground to be walked on without destroying grass, etc. This would also allow for drainage into the ground instead of run off to the already overworked sewer system. Most of the parks in Paris, France have this material on the paths, and open spaces where the public gathers in the parks. The grassy and flowered areas are actually fenced off by low fencing to protect them from being damaged. In fact they have signs forbidding dogs in the grassy areas. I am looking forward to seeing an improved park that I can enjoy without worrying about my physical safety. We in Burlington need a large green space with trees, flowers, etc. that we can enjoy in this landscape that is increasingly becoming a town center with few if any NATURE left in it.
12/15/16	Commenter 169	Website	CHP	Just wondering if there would be a possibility for an ice skating rink at he park. Just a thought.
12/15/16	Commenter 170	Website	Main Street	The concept sketches for the new Main Street look great!
12/15/16	Commenter 171	Website	Main Street	As a younger resident in Burlington, I am excited about the upcoming changes to both Main Street and City Hall Park. It will be nice to have a more accommodating and inviting downtown. Church street is great, but it is missing that crucial connection to the lakefront. Renovating main street, and decreasing the amount of asphalt, will open up Main St. to more pedestrians. \I look forward to the continual improvements to downtown!
12/15/16	Commenter 172	Website	CHP	My main concern with what I am seeing in the designs for city hall park, is a shift away from the egalitarian values of a public park. I don't believe a public park should turn into another retail or commercial venue - we have that already, on Church Street. A park is a place to be in nature, with other people and to find quiet and contemplation. To take any of the park and turn it into seating for a restaurant, or to create a retail coffee shop in the middle of the park, does not fit with what I believe a park should be. A park isn't about creating profitable space out of public space. No one should be able to "lease" the park. A park belongs to everyone and everyone belongs in a park - not just those having a Latte at the coffee shop or sipping beer at a restaurant's outdoor seating area. All walks of life should feel welcome in a city park. Whether you have money in your pocket or none, the park is for you. When we think of downtown, there are very few spaces that aren't about selling something - food, drink, goods, services. Except for parks. A park is not a profit center or a commodity. It's not commercial and it's not for rent or lease. It should be given for free for the farmer's market and any musician should be able to put his or her hat out, with the same guidelines that apply to downtown. Please keep the park public. 100% public. Please keep the park green - do not pave it, or make it a patio. Keep the trees. In many ways, the city administration seems to "let things go" so there is reason to re-do. Taking better care of the park as it is, would be a worthwhile effort rather than build things on it and make it an extension of Church St.
12/15/16	Commenter 173	Website	Main Street	I saw a presentation at Ward 1/8 last night (very well done). I find the idea of platforms( I think that is what they are called- at intersections, I believe- I like this idea- stopping to see lake views sounds wonderful. I happen to be in favor of parallel parking. I am not at all concerned about loss of 40+ parking spaces. My understanding is that there is still much underutilized parking available in the city. My biases center around having a much less motor vehicle focused reality. The more pedestrian, bicycle, and public transport is enlivened the healthier(physically & financially) everyone will be. In general I applaud the directions and concepts laid out in Great Streets. Excellent work! Congratulations!!
12/15/16	Commenter 174	Website	Main Street- Parking	While I welcome the improvements to City Hall Park and Main Street, my biggest concern with regard to my business is parking for my clients. Generally, they can find parking on Main Street, although there has been increasingly less parking available over recent years. Particularly, if the project coincides with rebuilding the mall and the resulting loss of parking there, I am concerned about where my clients will be able to park. I have a psychotherapy practice so clients are coming on the hour. Hopefully, the plan considers developing other parking alternatives. Thanks.

12/15/16	Commenter 175	Website	Main Street-Construction	I own and operate Di Moda located at 30 Main and I am concerned with construction interfering with business flow (street access and street parking) which our clients rely on. I cannot make the meetings that have happened since I work into the evening. Info appreciated.
12/15/16	Commenter 176	Website	Main Street	I am really happy about the Great Streets initiative in Burlington, and how it's encouraging more pedestrian traffic in the City. Keep it up! Thanks!
12/15/16	Commenter 177	Website	CHP	I like what I see in the proposed design. I particularly appreciate that the sidewalks are designed to enhance pedestrian travel through the park. People will use the park as a short cut to the streets and services around it. The sidewalks need to assist logical routes. Otherwise, people will veer from the sidewalks and create unintended paths through the grassy areas of the park.
12/15/16	Commenter 178	Website	CHP	I think there would be many advantages to leveling the square, particularly on its southwest corner and east on the Main Street side until it reaches the southeast corner's grade. There would need to be an attractive 'fence' barrier of some sort, on the other side of which would be ramps that slope down to the corner, where there would be wide steps, diagonally oriented to the corner. This improved leveling of the square would help control pedestrian traffic to and from that corner, as well as helping to prevent precipitation run-off and directing foot traffic onto paved and protected areas. The newly designed sweeping paved pathway to that corner could be retained, even with the contour modified as I described. Tree trunks in that area may present a challenge; however, some would survive some minor raising of the sod, and the other two or three closest to the corner could be either "pitted" with some nice flat circles of stone or concrete where folks could sit and rest, or dealt with in some other way. For any trees needing to be "pitted" against the heightened elevation, some way to prevent folks from falling backward or kids falling in would be needed. Trash would certainly appear in the pits, but that would have to be part of the maintenance routine as a trade-off against the other advantages.
12/15/16	Commenter 179	Website	CHP	Hi. Great plan for the City Hall Park. I'd suggest to look into using cobble stone for the central part (around a potential fountain) and on the outer parr of the grass areas, in a pattern creating some movement. We have lots of great artists in town that could contribute to an amazing cobble stone design making the park more special. Lots of examples out there on Pinterest. A lot of European cities have great cobble stone centers. It would highten the sense of a Burlington integrity- compared to just using regular boring asphalt. Potentially even more eco-friendly? The other thing would be the creation of some smaller grass hills placed in the grass areas. This way the grassy areas in some places gets up from the mud and it would be great for people to sit on, and incredibly fun for toddlers to run up and down on. Examples exists in Malmo in Sweden. Some people we talked to would like some more permanent sculpotures, like the 4 Elements or similar. Something for a contemplative nudge towards humanity and nature. Burlington has a big role in this country-let's have it show at our City Hall Park! And last, light the park up in as many ways as possibly, even from underneath. So many options. Thank you, and good luck with the process.
12/15/16	Commenter 180	Website	CHP	The focal point and center of the park is, should be, the fountain. I prefer a more elegant and historic fountain in the center, drawing people there, a cooling water feature in the summer. I do not prefer a splash or spray fountain as proposed. This is a different kind of park, part of city center, not a playground, running through the water, kids half naked, cute as they may be, etc. Children can dabble their hands in the water of a fountain pool. And in the off season, which is half the time, when water gets turned off there is not much to show with a spray fountain. Blah rather than a sculpture-like structure that gathers the snow to it and looks attractive. I agree that the park should be restful when activities not going on. Places to sit and just sit. eat a bag lunch. Shade. Benches. The Farmers Market definitely still there, St. Paul st closed off for that. Some not-straight paths good. Can't the dirt around existing healthy trees be replaced with good growing dirt, contained in a way that keeps it available for the trees and growing? NYC parks have trees and how do they do it? It takes so long to grow a tree, keep if possible. What is the coffee place? I hope not a commercial business. Support what is around the park and on church st already, bring the coffee etc. to the park. And with all this to attract people how do you propose to offer rest room facilities, clearly directed, marked and available, open. Hopefully that is there, haven't checked new plans. situation now is disgraceful. Thank you.
12/15/16	Commenter 181	Website	Main Street	I write with my full support for the Great Streets BTV plan! Thank you
12/15/16	Commenter 182	Website	CHP	Please keep a lot of green space in the park. Parks are supposed to have plenty of open space for people to congregate in. Too many things in the park takes away from the park being used as a park. Roosevelt Park has lost a chunk of open space with the installation of a large storage shed. A few years ago, so much stuff was being added to Battery Park it should have been renamed Battery Museum. Fortunately, some items were taken out, preserving some open space.

12/15/16	Commenter 183	Website	Main Street- Pedestrians	<p>The proposed plan for Main St. and City Hall Park looks good. I think the the plan is missing a big-picture vision. I think it is really important that we develop a strategic plan to improve the quality of pedestrian street life in a larger continuous section of downtown than the Church St marketplace and Main St. That REQUIRES strategic thinking about how to substantially reduce the amount of car movement and parking in this part of downtown. This should include plans to slow what car movement there is in this part of downtown. This MUST be integrated with safe, quiet, and fully protected bike and pedestrian corridors that extend from the core to all nearby residential sections of the city.</p> <p>A potentially powerful strategy would be to allow unrestricted use only for pedestrians, bikes, and transit on Cherry, Bank west of S. Winooski, College from S. Winooski to Pine, as well as Pine and St. Paul, from Main to Cherry. Lets allow cars into this core area but with only a single route into and out of each parking structure and substantially reduced street parking. Ultimately, I think we want to remove several of the parking structures from this core part of downtown, building a few new parking facilities further from the core, using frequent free transit between them and the core.</p>
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12/15/16	Commenter 184	Email/Phone	CHP	I am writing in response to an article in the <a href="#">Burlington Free Press</a> inviting comment to you about the plans for redoing City Hall Park. I have viewed previous plans with interest and I have one suggestion which I think is very important: We need to include a drinking water fountain in the park, especially in the summer. I have frequently served as a volunteer at the free bicycle parking provided by Local Motion during the farmer's market, and so the need for drinking water is very apparent to me. I was often asked about this, and I needed water myself during my 3 hour shift. Stores around the park did not wish to address this need and I finally ended up directing people to the basement of City Hall where they would find running water. But as we assess our needs future for the park, it seems important to include a drinking fountain/water bottle refilling station, and I have not seen this mentioned in the plans I have observed (although I certainly have not seen all of them). Thanks for your consideration of this important matter.
12/15/16	Commenter 185	Website	Main Street	Thumbs up! I was unable to attend the Nov. 16 presentation but just watched the video. The plans for redesigning Main St. and City Hall Park look great and I look forward to seeing them implemented. I especially like the protected bike lanes(!!!), the street trees, and the rain gardens along Main. Once the mid-block crossing is in front of the Flynn, we'll wonder why we didn't do it long ago. Fear not the loss of parking. We lost on-street parking on Church St. when we pedestrianized it and we ended up with a thriving retail environment because people want to be there. Main St can be another great public space.
12/15/16	Commenter 185	Website	CHP	Positive elements of the park design are the diagonals that provide direct connections for people walking through, the coffee kiosk w/movable furniture, and the interactive fountain. I've seen these in many other cities and not only do kids love them but it's fun to watch kids using them. Removing the low branching trees are essential to opening up views across the park under a less dense but overarching tree canopy.
12/15/16	Commenter 186	Website	Main Street	The redesign of Main Street and City Hall Park looks fantastic. It will change Main Street from a pull-up strip mall feel to a more vibrant downtown with dynamic uses of public space. Burlington needs to put on her big girl pants and move into this next phase of accessible, bike and ped. friendly city living. These changes speak to multigenerational users of our city. The loss of some parking spots on Main Street should not deter the city and business owners from moving forward on the project. Business owners should poll their customers about how they arrive downtown. Many of us walk, bike and take the bus - and not always drive to spend our money.
12/15/16	Commenter 187	Website	Main Street	A pedestrian friendly city is something I agree with. BUT I think that the bump-outs that are appearing at corners on residential streets all over the city are poorly designed. Will the city pay for ruined tires and axles for those who hit the corners when trying to make right hand turns? How about when a car is sideswiped because the street is now too narrow to make a safe turn when there is a car in the RH street? I drive a small car and have to wait for there to be no car in the street I want to turn into when I want to make a RH turn. This is not safe. It causes traffic back-ups which causes anger which decreases safety. The traffic turning standards must also apply to these bump-outs not just a shortest walking distance curb to curb rule. The smart solution is somewhere between what is currently being proposed and built and where we started.
12/15/16	Commenter 188	Email/Phone	Main Street	Let me express my total displeasure with proposed changes to our Main Street. In conversation with other business owners next to me ( from Mister Mike's to Church and Main) I can say that they share my opinion. 1. Proposed changes will make already difficult situation with parking in the front of our businesses extremely complicated. My take out business will be equal zero. On the paper plan looks nice but, have nothing to do with practicality. No one come to us to ask for opinion before plan was put together. Why come to us? Answer is that we are there 24/7. We are there at noon, 5PM, midnight. 2. Main Street is main traffic artery of our beloved city. Coming from west shortest route to Lake, Ferris, Waterfront, New North End. Now with these proposed changes this main artery will be almost clogged. It will need just one car to start parallel parking, we will have cars staying in traffic at UVM. Right now this is happening only between 11 and 2pm and 5pm to 8pm. Carbon imprint will rise to the sky. 3. Let's talk about carbon imprint. Every responsible government, group of people, individual, have priority to reduce carbon emissions. What we do? We in our City, downtown of our City, trying to make cars with huge engines, huge carbon emissions to idle or to drive slow thru mid of our City. Amazing. We made mistake with North Avenue and now we are making even bigger mistake downtown. I lived in Munich for 10 years. I can argue that is more traffic flow and less carbon emissions in Munich as in Burlington. German traffic engineers insist on smooth traffic flow and wide streets with as many traffic lanes as possible. Helps that all cars have law required engine off when stopped more as two seconds. 4. Proposed benches on Main Street. They look great on paper. I would like to know who will seat on those benches? Our homeless people will say thank you. I don't know if people who proposed new look of Main Street ever come out and see what is going on after 6 pm. There is an any given day minimum 20 homeless people asking for money, drinking, and probably doing drugs. My toilet was full of needles until I restricted toilet use only for costumers. Now the will have benches to seed, embarrass us, and annoy our tourists in the summer (what I've seen so many times). I can go on and on against practicality of the plan. Seem like plan made person without any necessary research in person. We (and our costumers) planning to sign petition against proposed plan.
12/15/16	Commenter 189	Website	Other	If your going to use the term " Great Streets " may I suggest you start making the streets truly great by by providing every street in Burlington with at least one sidewalk. You might want to start with Cottage Grove. We have been without a sidewalk since our dead end street was opened to two way traffic about 23 yrs.ago. Over this time traffic has gotten heavier and more dangerous due to a disregard for the safety of anyone walking in the road way. If the city can't or won't put in a sidewalk as has been the case for the last 23 yrs., Then by all means, make Cottage Grove dead end again before someone is injured or killed walking in the road.
12/15/16	Commenter 190	Website	CHP	I'm writing to express that I am in support of keeping the park historic, green and fully public. And for, if possible, not cutting down any of the existing trees in the re-landscaping it! I think the Keep the Park Historic group has some good ideas and advocate for the consideration of their plan.

12/16/16	Commenter 191	Letter	CHP	<p>On behalf of the Preservation Trust of Vermont, please find my comments on the proposed design of City Hall Park. First, thank you for the opportunities provided for us to comment and discuss design solutions for the Park. I want to praise the City of Burlington and, in particular, Mayor Weinberger, for their leadership in deciding to invest in Burlington's iconic 150-year old City Hall Park. The Park is a critical element of what makes Burlington's downtown such a unique and special place. It has been clear for many years that this gem in the City's Park system needs real work including solutions for storm water, soil compaction, erosion, silting, a new fountain, new furnishings, and infrastructure. We appreciate that the City is trying to move ahead with this work while proposing a good solution for keeping Saturday's Farmers' Market in downtown. The concept plan for the edges of the Park (College, St. Paul, Main, and Park Lane) will be a big improvement to the Park itself and to the City Hall Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. However, while the concept plan for the interior of the Park would be an intriguing design for a new park in a new location, we very strongly believe that it runs against the grain of the Park's essential character and, if constructed as designed, will erase the historic and traditional design that has been in place since 1850. Please see the Great Streets BTV for these references: <i>"The park has been part of downtown's urban fabric since the founding of Burlington. Its significance is extended by the pinwheel effect, which adds importance to the four streets which bracket it in two directions, St. Paul and Church north/south, and College and Main east /west."</i> <i>"City Hall Park has had many names – and forms – since inception, but these are the key character-defining features that have been constant: 1. Public/civic space, 2. Path radiating from near center, 3. Central focal point with a water feature."</i> Given that the historic Park is the central feature of the National Register Historic District and is a very special place in a very special downtown, removing the "key character-defining features" is not an appropriate step forward. It would be the equivalent of removing the columns from the Follett House. In sum, we believe virtually all of what the concept plan hopes to accomplish can be done by a plan that more closely reflects the historic and traditional design of the Park, including a central focus (i.e., the fountain) with straight radiating walkways to the surrounding streets. This does not have to be a replica of earlier park designs, but should be a continuance of the historic park's tradition with contemporary, yet compatible, materials. A design along these lines can meet the needs of the Park today while respecting the Park's historic plan and the late 19th/early 20th Century surrounding streetscape that frames the park. Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment. We're eager to continue our participation in the process, and we hope that will be helpful. Thank you for considering our point of view and suggestions.</p>
12/16/16	Commenter 192	Website	CHP	<p>As someone without a car, I frequently take the bus all over Burlington, including the College Street Shuttle picking up at City Hall Park. This bus stop is one of the worst ones I regularly use. The bus has to stop behind a row of parked cars, and to get on you have to walk out into the road, often stepping through those parked cars. There's not even a curb cut for when you do step</p>
12/16/16	Commenter 193	Website	Main Street	<p>I love the proposed plans for Main Street and the City Hall Park area! The emphasis on people living and enjoying the outdoor space is a huge win for Burlington. Wider sidewalks, protected bike lanes, natural water retention, and reduced vehicle parking are all transformative improvements that I hope can extend to other streets as well. Cars don't shop, people do. De-emphasizing vehicles from public spaces has been shown to be an economic boon in other cities, and I hope that concept is realized here.</p>
12/16/16	Commenter 194	Website	Other	<p>Use of the mall space to limit car usage. I am not keeping track of redevelopment of the mall, and therefore do not know what is being considered for that space. If the reason why we're congesting the downtown further causing less car parking, is to prevent car usage and suburban sprawl, then I propose that the mall be a miniature 'true' downtown inside the mall with grocery stores, hardware, pharmacy, shoe repair, indoor dog park, daycare for pets and children...all that a person would need and not have to then drive to. As it is now, Church Street is nothing more than boutiques and restaurants; useless to a resident, great for tourists. If that's all the new mall is going to continue to be, then people will still need cars. Is my idea of a supermarket inside the mall too late? Thanks</p>
12/16/16	Commenter 195	Letter	Main Street	<p>Thank you for contacting us and providing us with this opportunity to comment. The LCRCC is excited to hear about this level of investment in our downtown area and appreciates your desire to incorporate our members' thoughts and concerns into the project.</p> <p>The LCRCC supports the sustainable vision of this redevelopment and acknowledges its substantial improvements to storm water retention and treatment. The addition of rain gardens, tree beds and pervious terraces will undoubtedly help capture storm water runoff before it can reach the lake. We also think an investment like this in our downtown will attract locals and tourists alike to the area's businesses.</p> <p>We do share the concerns of a number of our members when it comes to a few key factors. We acknowledge that parking spaces will be lost to this redevelopment. However, we would like to encourage the City and developers to make sure that all possible means to mitigate this problem are acted upon. Whether it is raising awareness of parking facilities, or the addition of more short term spaces. In addition, we recognize that loitering is already a problem for a number of our members, especially around City Hall Park. Many members have expressed concerns that the addition of seating areas near their businesses will increase this problem.</p> <p>Finally, it is and will remain important for the City and developers to transparently move along in this process. It is important that local businesses be given opportunities, similar to this, to make their voices heard and participate in the development process. Many members have noted concern with the construction period. The City and developers will need to work closely with the business owners to make sure the economic impact of construction is as little as possible.</p> <p>Overall, the LCRCC supports sustainable, well planned, development in our downtown area such as this and we hope that you will continue to work with organizations, such as our own, and businesses to ensure this redevelopment causes the least amount of problems and the most benefits for the city and its people.</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity,  Commenter 195  Government Affairs Specialist  Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce</p>

12/16/16	Commenter 196	Website	CHP	<p>No commercial uses should be allowed in the park, except for the farmers market and that should be confined to the perimeter. The fountain should be the focal point of a quiet sanctuary area. There should be a permanent public restroom located off the park, possibly in the rear of one of the church st buildings. in addition;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. More, not less green space</li> <li>2. Maintaining the historic fountain</li> <li>3. No private commercial areas (all areas of the park should be open to all citizens and visitors)</li> <li>4. The park should be a sanctuary, a green oasis, not a conduit to get to and from shopping.</li> <li>5. Curved paths that radiate out from the fountain and common areas so that, again, the park is for the people in it, not a pathway to shopping.</li> <li>6. Maintaining all the trees</li> </ol>
12/16/16	Commenter 197	Website	CHP	<p>2 main concerns with the proposed City Hall Park. #1 I don't see any need for a coffee kiosk in the park - it is a small park and there are plenty of places to get coffee nearby, please keep businesses out of the park to make it a refuge in the city. #2 I'm concerned about the size of the central patio - any way to make it smaller and keep the park as much a green space as possible? I know that many folks are sad to see the fountain go - I'm not overly attached to it, but would certainly be fine with keeping it. A modern interactive splash pad for children to play with in the summer does sound like a reasonable replacement although perhaps that would be better suited to Battery Park or the waterfront. I fully support moving the farmers market outside of the park itself to better protect the grass in the park. I also support the rain gardens &amp; use of permeable pavement to reduce runoff and the focus on healthy trees. Thank you.</p>
12/16/16	Commenter 197	Website	Main Street-Parking	<p>I confess, I really like the diagonal parking on Main St. and would like retaining it to be a priority. Looking at the comparisons between the 2 existing street layouts &amp; the proposal, I'd recommend still narrowing the driving portion as planned and using that extra space for bike paths - perhaps a 2 way bike path on one side of the road in order to retain the parking (does a bike path really need to be 9.5 feet wide if it is one way?). Anyway, I wanted to be clear that I value retaining the diagonal parking spots for ease of parking in the city. Thanks for listening!</p>
12/16/16	Commenter 198	Website	CHP	<p>Feedback on Great Streets from BBA's Downtown Action Group: Thank you for attending BBA's Downtown Action Group meeting to present the concept plan for the Great Streets Initiative. After reviewing the plan, the committee has the following feedback to offer for your consideration as you move forward with this initiative. The committee supports redesigning City hall park. It is a much needed improvement to a failing public amenity. The inclusion of a pop water feature would help to overcome the challenges of maintaining a fountain basin. The plan to maintain green space within the center of the park and line the perimeter of the park with the farmer's market stalls will strike a good balance between the need for green space and commercial activity. The Farmer's Market brings an amazing amount of activity to the park and it should continue. Commercial activity in the park provides an important public service and amenity. Nearly every renowned urban park in the world includes commercial activity. The city currently offers some food service at North Beach, Waterfront Park and City Hall Park. It is important that that continue and that usable space be provided to all for such activity. The BBA strongly supports the inclusion of a kiosk with seating as proposed and for additional outdoor cafe space in the northeast corner of the park. We ask that downtown businesses be afforded an opportunity to respond to Requests for Proposals to operate these facilities. Thank you for your consideration of the committee's feedback. We would welcome the opportunity to review future revisions of the proposed plans.</p>

12/16/16	Commenter 198	Website	CHP	<p>Feedback on Great Streets from BBA's Downtown Action Group: Thank you for attending BBA's Downtown Action Group meeting to present the concept plan for the Great Streets Initiative. After reviewing the plan, the committee has the following feedback to offer for your consideration as you move forward with this initiative. The Great Streets plan is ambitious. It strives to turn a large portion of Main Street into a complete street. Our local businesses agree that there is benefit to improving the streetscape along Main Street. Currently many sidewalks and green strips are in poor condition. The sidewalks below Pine Street in particular are hazardous in several locations. The green strip is mainly overgrown, unattractive or barren. We would strongly support any effort to improve/replace sidewalks along both sides of Main Street, particularly between Pine and Battery Streets. We suggest that the green strip along Main Street be replaced and consideration given to its best and highest use. There is concern among business owners about the plan to switch from diagonal to parallel parking along Main street, and the resulting loss of 43 parking spaces. We hope the city will develop designs that do not force street parking to compete with other modes. Parking ease makes the experience of coming to Burlington a positive one for our customers and visitors. "Retail expert Bob Gibbs says that every on-street parking space in a thriving retail district is worth \$250,000 in sales to the nearby merchants on that street. People will walk much further along an interesting Main Street to get from their parking space to the store they're going to than they will walk from a parking lot." As a way to create a more balanced approach, the committee suggests that the plan consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removing angle in parking on just the north side of Main Street as the south side is home to more retail businesses</li> <li>• Providing a single/bi-directional bike lane.</li> <li>• Widen sidewalks on the south side of Main Street only in the section below Pine Street and where sufficiently wide sidewalks don't currently exist. In planning bike lanes, please consider that Main street has a steep grade in some locations which may make a single bike lane a better solution. The majority of cyclists will use it to go downhill, but it could be wide enough for two way bicycle traffic. In response to the build out plan, we ask the city consider a build out plan that provides some amenities and improvements along the length of Main Street all the way to Battery Street rather than focus a large-scale project between Church and St. Paul streets. The city has made significant investments in this area over the past several decades. There is a real need for improvement further west on Main Street. The city would benefit more from some improvement over a larger area rather than large-scale improvement on two blocks. Should the city proceed with the current build out plan, we ask that the planners incorporate design solutions that soften the transition so as not to create a dramatic decline in the quality of the streetscape along the perimeter of the improved blocks. The committee has concern that there will be a significant and noticeable change in the quality of the streetscape where the proposed redevelopment area of Church to St. Paul ends.</li> </ul>
12/16/16	Commenter 198	Letter	Main Street	<p>Please accept this letter as an official submission of comment on the concept plan for the Great Streets Initiative. After reviewing the plan, the Burlington Business Association (BBA) has the following feedback to offer on behalf of our Board of Directors and the more than 200 downtown businesses we represent.</p> <p>The Great Streets plan strives to turn a large portion of Main Street into a complete street. Our local businesses agree that there is benefit to improving the streetscape along Main Street. Currently many sidewalks and green strips are in poor condition. The sidewalks below Pine Street in particular are hazardous in several locations. The green strip is mainly overgrown, unattractive or barren.</p> <p>We would strongly support any effort to improve/replace sidewalks along both sides of Main Street, particularly between Pine and Battery Streets. We suggest that the green strip along Main Street be replaced and consideration given to its best and highest use.</p> <p>There is concern among business owners about the plan to switch from diagonal to parallel parking along Main Street, and the resulting loss of 43 parking spaces. We hope the city will develop designs that do not force street parking to compete with other modes.</p> <p>Parking ease makes the experience of coming to Burlington a positive one for our customers and visitors.</p> <p>"Retail expert Bob Gibbs says that every on-street parking space in a thriving retail district is worth \$250,000 in sales to the nearby merchants on that street. People will walk much further along an interesting Main Street to get from their parking space to the store they're going to than they will walk from a parking lot."</p> <p>In several public meetings, we have heard public officials commenting that a parking management district as conceived by the Parking and Transportation Management Plan, adopted December 21, 2015 makes its feasible to eliminate on-street spaces downtown. That plan, in fact, provides a framework for long-term management of Burlington's public and private parking assets with the goal of improving the parking experience and managing the need to add parking facilities downtown. At no point in the plan does Desman Associates, our parking consultant, conclude that we could eliminate existing on-street parking spaces downtown. In fact, Section 3 of the plan discusses the need for additional parking capacity based on planned downtown development. It identifies locations for possible parking space expansion. Given that this work has yet to begin, it seems a tall order to expect it to address the loss of on-street parking spaces in the near term.</p> <p>With the planned redevelopment of the Burlington Town Center and the possibility of redevelopment other downtown sites, the first order of business for the Parking Management District will be to manage the short-term loss of nearly 500 public parking spaces downtown.</p> <p>As a way to create a more balanced approach, the BBA suggests that the plan consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removing angle in parking on just the north side of Main Street as the south side is home to more retail businesses</li> <li>• Providing a single/bi-directional bike lane</li> <li>• Widen sidewalks on the south side of Main Street only in the section below Pine Street and where sufficiently wide sidewalks don't currently exist</li> <li>• Conduct parking counts, both daytime and evenings, weekdays and weekends, to determine the occupancy rates along Main Street from Pine to Battery St. (counts are already taking place on Main from S. Winooski to Pine Streets).</li> </ul>

12/16/16	Commenter 198	Letter	Main Street-Part 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide replacement metered parking spaces in locations in close proximity to those eliminated based on recommendations included in the Parking and Transportation Management Plan (12/21/15).</li> </ul> <p>In planning bike lanes, please consider that Main Street has a steep grade in some locations, which may make a single bike lane a better solution. The majority of cyclists will use it to go downhill, but it could be wide enough for two-way bicycle traffic.</p> <p>In response to the build out plan, we ask the city consider a build out plan that provides some amenities and improvements along the length of Main Street all the way to Battery Street rather than focus a large-scale project between Church and St. Paul streets. The city has made significant investments in this area over the past several decades. There is a real need for improvement further west on Main Street. The city would benefit more from some improvement over a larger area rather than large-scale improvement on two blocks.</p> <p>Should the city proceed with the current build out plan, we ask that the planners incorporate design solutions that soften the transition so as not to create a dramatic decline in the quality of the streetscape along the perimeter of the improved blocks. There is concern that there will be a significant and noticeable change in the quality of the streetscape where the proposed redevelopment area of Church to St. Paul ends. Thank you for your consideration of the BBA's feedback. We would welcome the opportunity to review future revisions of the proposed plans.</p>
12/16/16	Commenter 198	Letter	CHP	<p>Please accept this letter as an official submission of comment on the concept plan for the Great Streets Initiative. After reviewing the plan, the Burlington Business Association (BBA) has the following feedback to offer on behalf of our Board of Directors and the more than 200 downtown businesses we represent. The BBA supports redesigning City Hall Park. It is a much needed improvement to a failing public amenity. The inclusion of a pop water feature would help to overcome the challenges of maintaining a fountain basin. The plan to maintain green space within the center of the park and line the perimeter of the park with the farmer's market stalls will strike a good balance between the need for green space and commercial activity. The Farmer's Market brings an amazing amount of activity to the park and it should continue. Commercial activity in the park provides an important public service and amenity. Nearly every renowned urban park in the world includes commercial activity. The city currently offers some food service at North Beach, Waterfront Park and City Hall Park. It is important that that continue and that usable space be provided to all for such activity. The BBA strongly supports the inclusion of a kiosk with seating as proposed and for additional outdoor cafe space in the northeast corner of the park. We ask that downtown businesses be afforded an opportunity to respond to Requests for Proposals to operate these facilities. Thank you for your consideration of the BBA's feedback. We would welcome the opportunity to review future revisions of the proposed plans.</p>
12/16/16	Commenter 199	Website	Main Street	<p>I strongly support the redesign proposed for Main Street. I think this would be a tremendous improvement for pedestrians, bicyclists and downtown traffic flow. It really makes a huge improvement to the street and something fitting for Burlington.</p>
12/19/16	Commenter 200	Website	CHP	<p>I love the bike/pedestrian friendly bike design. I am also a person who is concerned about food access. I would encourage the city to plant fruit trees and bushes and not just ornamental plants in any city parks.</p>
12/19/16	Commenter 201	Website	CHP	<p>I'm a nurse, an artist and a member of BCA's Board of Directors. But, from a previous life I have a Bachelors in Architecture with a Minor in Urban Planning. I have been looking forward to seeing the plans for City Hall Park for a couple of years now and finally got a chance at the Fletcher Free Library presentation, last Tuesday. I am very impressed by the degree to which City Planners and Designers have been able to respond and incorporate the vast array of uses and needs our park has in such an elegant and efficient design. From what I have seen and heard, this will be a magnificent improvement for our beloved park, both in it's infrastructure, functionality, and aesthetics. As far as the requests from the "other" plan folks; I do believe that many of the issues that they brought up at that meeting could potentially be incorporated, if they aren't already, into the existing plan. Kudos to the designers, engineers, architects, business owners, and elected officials who have dedicated years already to this project. Their efforts already show, and I hope they are all as proud of where they've gotten so far as I'm sure the populace will be once the project is completed. Keep up the good work!</p>
12/20/16	Commenter 202	Website	Main Street-Parking	<p>I wanted to voice my support for this plan. Parking should be \$10/hour on Main Street! Driving all the way into the heart of downtown should be directed right to the parking lots. All that driving around looking for the ideal on street parking space should be discouraged while biking and walking through the area should be made easy and safe.</p>
12/16/20	Commenter 203	Email/Phone	CHP	<p>In my opinion this plan is missing the required "Central Water feature". While the splash deck may be close to the middle of the park, because it is flat and not operational much of the year, it is barely a feature at all. Though I love them when they're operational, they are not a visual feature. I think there needs to be a central water feature that you see as the focal point of the park. I'm also wondering if we could have "hook ups" for multiple food vendors, rather than the structure that might be hard to lease. Thank you for all your work bringing this to the community. I look forward to the next steps.</p>
12/14/16	Commenter 204	Email/Phone	CHP-Amenities	<p>There should be a wading pool for young kids. A splash fountain is likely more economical but not as nice looking.</p>