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# Memorandum

**Date:** April 11, 2022

**To:** Burlington City Council

**From:** Corey Mims, P.E., Senior Public Works Engineer  
Norman Baldwin, P.E., Assistant Director/City Engineer

**CC:** Chapin Spencer, Director

**Subject:** Champlain Parkway Project – Update and Schedule

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This memo is to provide a brief update on the Champlain Parkway Project and is not seeking action from the City Council at this time.

## **Background**

On 9/13/2021 DPW staff presented to the Board of Finance and City Council the South End Construction Coordination Plan which introduced the idea of a two phase construction of the Champlain Parkway project – as part of an overall sequencing plan for South End capital projects to minimize community impacts. With Council support, the Champlain Parkway project team split the project's construction into two separate construction phases, the "Initial" and "Final" phases.

By splitting the Parkway project into two separate contracts, the City is able to open the initial contract section once completed (between Home Avenue and Kilburn Street) and begin receiving the benefits of:

- **A new 25-mph grid street** between Home Avenue and Lakeside Avenue that will enhance connectivity and resiliency of the South End street network
- **A new stormwater pond and new stormwater sand filter** that will take 11.5 acres off the combined sewer system and reduce 6,344 pounds (over 3 tons) of sediment from being discharged into Lake Champlain annually
- **New shared use paths** providing a continuous ~2 mile off-road bike/pedestrian path from the Pine Street & Locust Street intersection to Queen City Park Road in South Burlington
- **Improved raised intersections** at Pine St & Kilburn St, Pine St & Marble Ave, and Pine St & Howard St
- **A new midblock crosswalk** Pine St & Arts Riot
- **An enhanced Pine Street** with new granite curbs, reconstructed sidewalk with ADA-compliant access ramps on the eastern side, and new top pavement layer with improved surface drainage
- **Undergrounded utilities on Lakeside Avenue** between Pine St and the new portion of the Champlain Parkway

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## Champlain Parkway Project – Update and Schedule

- **Renewed water and sewer lines throughout the South End** – approximately 4,000 feet of waterlines and 3,000 feet of sewer lines will be replaced
- **Reconstructed rail crossings** with new active warning system including new gates in all quadrants, improved bicycle and pedestrian accommodation and improvements to drainage and stormwater features

Making the Interstate Connection When Ready: The sequencing provides a window to get the South End community infrastructure in place before opening the Champlain Parkway's connection to I-189. The two phase approach also provides the City Council the opportunity to approve the final construction contract when it is determined best to do so. The proposed schedule estimates the final Champlain Parkway construction contract, with the I-189 connection, being completed in 2027. During the interim period prior to the interstate connection, our Parkway consulting engineers project no substantive change in overall South End traffic even with the Champlain Parkway initial phase constructed and opened for public use.

### **Project Timeline**

DPW Staff issued an initial phase bid advertisement from February 3, 2022. Following the mandatory pre-bid meeting on March 16, 2022 it appeared there were four potential bidders. Bid opening was held on March 18, 2022 and only one bid was received from S.D. Ireland Kubricky Joint Venture LLC at \$40,980,143.40. This joint venture of S.D. Ireland Brothers and Kubricky Construction were two of the potential bidders that attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting.

The bid analysis has been completed and currently is being reviewed by State and Federal partners at the time of this memo's generation (4/5/2022). If the City, State and Federal partners agree to award the contract, DPW staff will return to Board of Finance/City Council on April 25th to request authorization to award the initial construction contract. Construction for this initial construction phase would then commence by July 1, 2022 and is to be completed by mid-October 2024.

### **Bids Considerations**

The one received bid was ~57% over the engineer's estimate for the work and will be split between the City and State/Federal partners. There were a number of factors that contributed to the significantly higher than estimated bid pricing.

- During the bid advertisement period Russian military forces invaded Ukraine. Since this action, a surge in energy costs has been seen and is anticipated to continue.
- Inflation rate in the US was announced to increase to 7.9%.
- Ongoing inflation, supply constraints, high demand and labor shortages will likely maintain inflation for longer.
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is providing additional funding for infrastructure projects throughout the country which is creating an increased demand on contractor services. This appears to be contributing to contractors being more regional and selective about projects they bid.
- A small bidding field likely lead to generally higher unit pricing.
- Since IIJA provides a funding source for five years, rebidding the initial phase is not anticipated to result in more competition nor a decrease in the contractor's estimate to construct the project.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions. Thank you for your time and we will provide you an update at the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting following further discussion with our State and Federal partners.