



**CITY OF BURLINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

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Chapin Spencer
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

To: Senate Transportation Committee
Fr: Chapin Spencer, Director
Re: Briefing on Champlain Parkway Project
Date: March 27, 2015

Thank you for giving Mayor Miro Weinberger and me the opportunity to provide this briefing on the Champlain Parkway today.

Overview: The Champlain Parkway project is a proposed transportation link located in Burlington's southwestern quadrant providing access between I-189, U.S Route 7 and downtown Burlington. Since 1998, the City of Burlington has led the development of the Champlain Parkway project in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans). The lead consultant is CHA.

Benefits: The Champlain Parkway will expand the street grid in the southwestern quadrant of the City, improve safety and multi-modal access on local streets, and spur economic development downtown and in the South End. Burlington's South End is experiencing a dramatic renaissance with former industrial buildings now hosting new tech businesses, breweries, artist workshops, cafes and more. It is already a regional employment center with well-known businesses such as Dealer.com, Burton Snowboards and Lake Champlain Chocolates as well as hundreds of smaller businesses. The entrepreneurial vibe among millennials, the proximity to the interstate, and the existence of sizable undeveloped parcels present significant opportunity for further job growth in this dynamic area. To help guide the future development, PlanBTV South End -- a comprehensive planning effort -- is currently underway (www.burlingtonvt.gov/PlanBTV).

Context: The Champlain Parkway project was originally conceived as a four-lane highway traversing the Pine Street Barge Canal. The project's design today is far different. Community and partner input, environmental constraints, and evolving urban design standards have shaped the project along the way. Today the corridor is designed as a two-lane roadway with extensive multimodal accommodations – and is routed away from the Barge Canal.

Timeline & Cost: Construction is projected to begin in late 2017. Construction costs are estimated to be \$31.5 million. The City, VTrans and the project consultant are currently refining their estimates.

More Information: A project history has been attached to this packet for additional background. In addition, the project's website is a good resource (www.champlainparkway.org).

DESIGN FEATURES

An overview map of the project corridor is attached along with a couple renderings to show the current alignment and design of the facility. Here are some of the design highlights:

MOTOR VEHICLES

- Construction of a new roadway from I-189 to Lakeside Avenue
- 2 vehicle lanes with turning lanes at several intersections
- Installation or upgrade of eight signalized intersections along the corridor
- Curb radii designed to accommodate truck turning movements along the Parkway so as to discourage truck use on residential side roads.

BICYCLES

- New shared-use path from Shelburne Street to Pine Street cul-de-sac
- Connection of existing bicycle path to Queen City Park Road and Home Avenue
- New shared-use path from Home Avenue to Pine Street at approximately Kilburn Street
- Pavement markings and signage indicating shared roadway on Pine Street

PEDESTRIANS

- Continuous sidewalk and/or shared-use path along entire alignment
- Pedestrian-activated signals throughout alignment
- Pocket parks and landscaping along the new roadway section and shared-use path

STORMWATER

- New collection, conveyance, treatment systems from Interchange to Pine Street
- Net reduction in stormwater pollutants loading to streams and Lake Champlain compared to existing conditions

PERMITS/APPROVALS OBTAINED FOR PROJECT

- Final Supplemental EIS (FSEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD)
- Operational Stormwater Discharge Permit
- Individual Construction Stormwater Permit
- Vermont General Permit (Army Corps Wetlands)
- Conditional Use Determination (State Wetlands)
- Wastewater System & Potable Water Supply Permit
- Public Water Supply Permit to Construct
- Act 250 Land Use Permit

STATUS AND TIMING OF ACT 250 APPEAL

- Oral argument on the final Act 250 appeal occurred on March 16, 2015
- Vermont Supreme Court decision expected to be issued 6-12 months after oral argument

Don't hesitate to contact me should you request additional information. My direct line is 802-865-5818. Thank you for the opportunity to offer this briefing.

CHAMPLAIN PARKWAY PROJECT HISTORY

1960s-70s – Initial City planning for roadway; project becomes a federally-funded highway project with State holding primary responsibility.

1979 – First Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) completed for a four-lane highway between I-189 and Battery Street, on newly constructed roadway, traversing the Pine Street Barge Canal.

1981 – First Act 250 permit for project chosen in the 1979 EIS.

1980s – Construction of roadway from I-189 to Home Avenue, planning for construction from Home Avenue to Lakeside Avenue, and related amendments to Act 250 permit; classification of Barge Canal as a Superfund site; roadway construction put on hold.

1990s – Alternative interim routes evaluated to avoid Superfund site; Supplemental EIS completed for an interim route around the Barge Canal, planned to be interim until Barge Canal remediation completed.

1998 – State and City enter Cooperative Agreement to transfer primary responsibilities for the project to the City.

2002-2006 - City formalized efforts to modify the 1979 selected alternative and the 1997 selected interim alternative in response to public comments seeking to blend the Project with the existing communities, and based on studies indicating that the remediation efforts for the Barge Canal would delay the Project several more years. Development of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) identifying the City's preferred alternative.

2007-10 – Preparation of Final Supplemental EIS (FSEIS) for a new design, which reduced the roadway from four to two lanes and abandoned the section that would have cut through the Barge Canal; modified route renamed the Champlain Parkway; approved in a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Record of Decision (ROD); concurrent applications for permits and governmental approvals under various other environmental laws.

2011-2012 – Application, hearings, and approval of comprehensive amendment to Act 250 permit for entire alignment.

2012-2013 – Appeals by several parties of Act 250 approval; settlement achieved with all but one party, Fortieth Burlington, LLC (owner of Innovation Center on Lakeside Avenue).

2014 – Trial on Fortieth Burlington's appeal at Environmental Court; Environmental Court decision in favor of Project; issuance of final Act 250 permit amendment; Fortieth Burlington appeal of Environmental Court's decision to Vermont Supreme Court; application and permit issued for construction-phase stormwater permit.

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CURRENT ACTIVITIES & NEXT STEPS:

2015

- Review preliminary plans for Section C-6 (from Lakeside & Parkway intersection north to Pine & Main intersection).
- Review, approve and refine project engineering plans to finalize areas necessary for permanent and temporary right-of-way

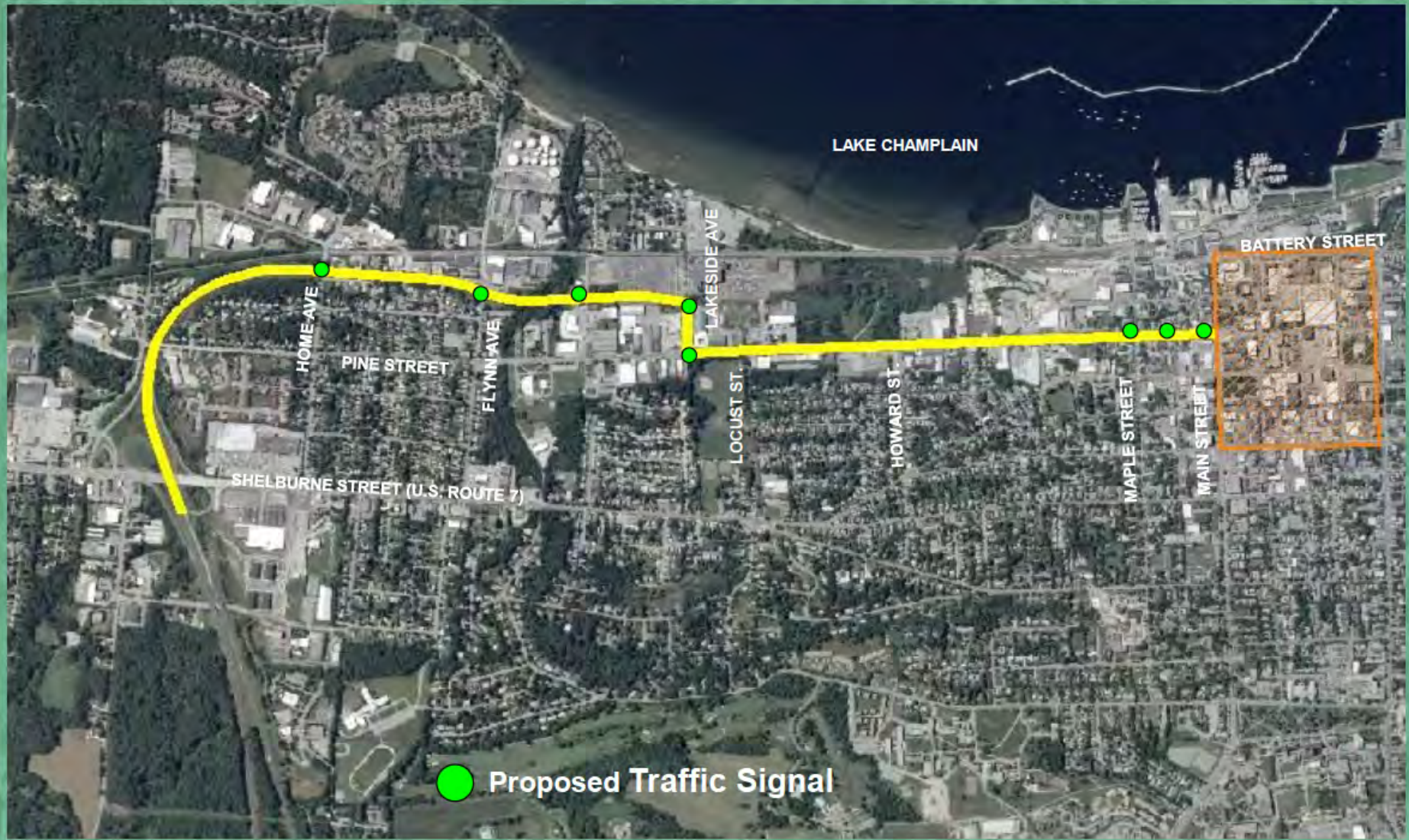
2016

- Complete FSEIS re-evaluation
- Secure permit extensions and amendments
- Initiate acquisition of any additional areas needed for right-of-way

2017

- Refine project plans to construction level of detail
- Bid project
- Construct project (estimated duration is two construction seasons)

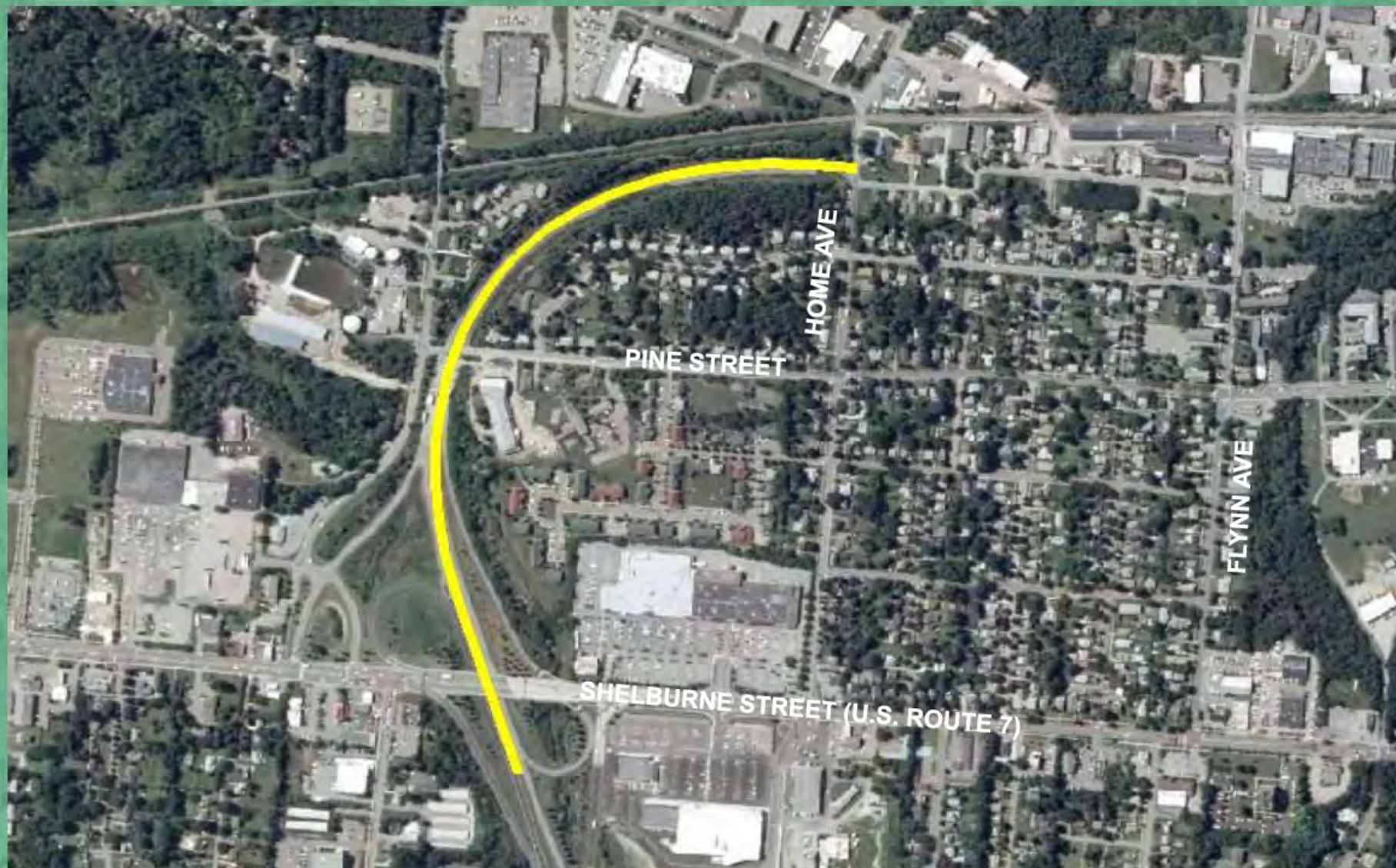
Champlain Parkway



www.ChamplainParkway.org



Route 7 Interchange to Home Avenue



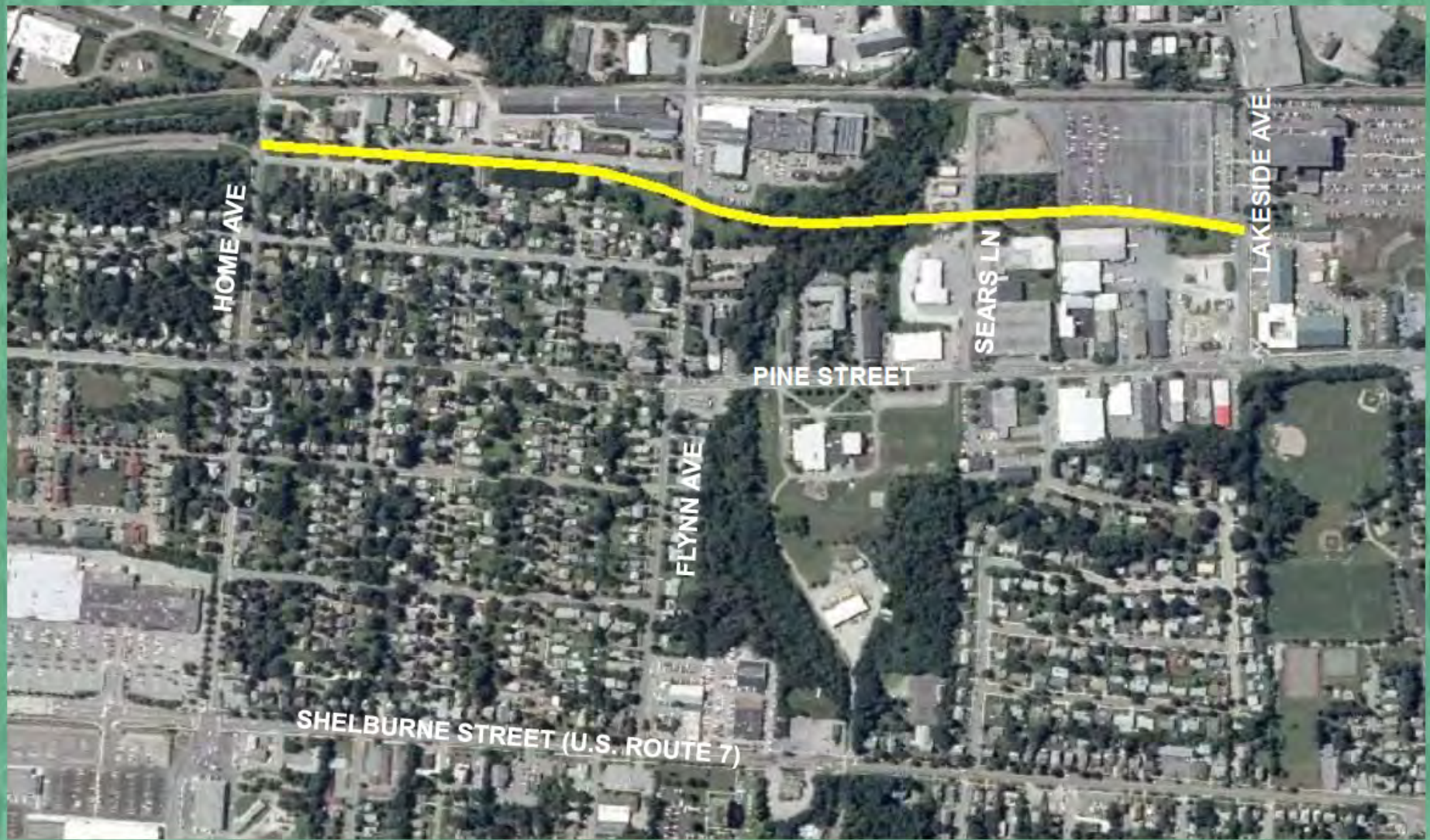
SECTION C1



Route 7 Interchange to Home Avenue with the Champlain Parkway



Home Avenue to Lakeside Avenue



SECTION C2



Champlain Parkway

View Looking North from Home Avenue Intersection



Lakeside Avenue to Main Street

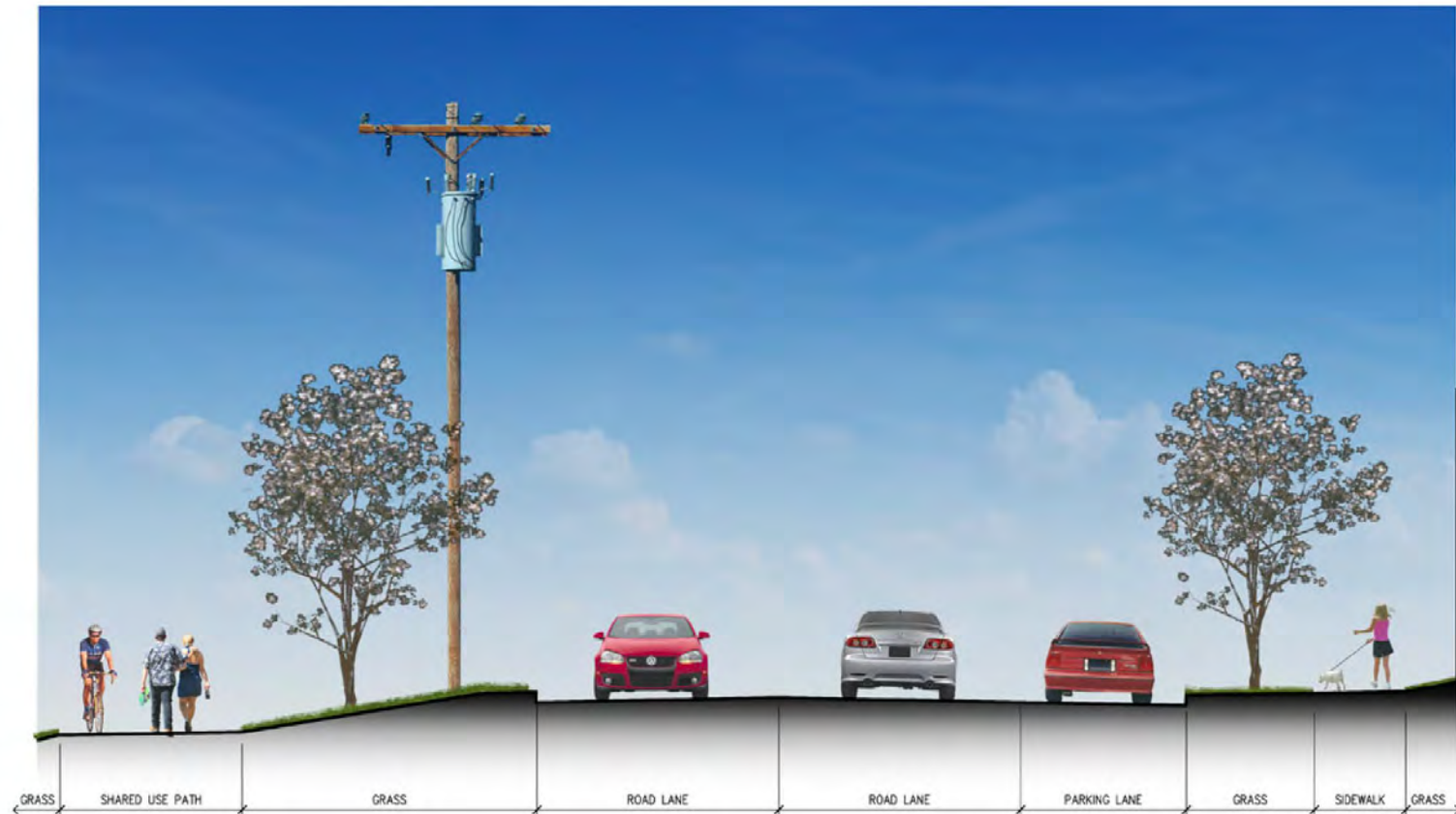


SECTION C6



Champlain Parkway

Pine Street



PINE STREET
BURLINGTON, VT

STATION 37.00
LOOKING NORTH

Champlain Parkway

Pine Street





Contact Us

For additional information regarding the Champlain Parkway, please contact the Burlington Department of Public Works.

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<http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/DPW/Transportation/Contact/>