



Bay Area
Climate Change
Council

PWS-05-26 COW March 3, 2026
Bay Area Climate Change
Committee correspondence

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February 27, 2026

To: City of Burlington Committee of the Whole

Subject: BACCC comments on Downtown Burlington Parking Plan (PWS-05-26)

The Bay Area Climate Change Council (BACCC) represents a collaborative voice for climate action in the Hamilton-Burlington region. Members of the Council and our implementation teams span the region and represent organizations in the non-profit, education, public and private sectors.

We are writing in regards to the "**Downtown Burlington Parking Plan: Final Report and Implementation Plan**" (January 2026). BACCC welcomes the City's transition toward further aligning car-centric infrastructure with the Integrated Mobility Plan and people-centric design. In alignment with Burlington's climate resilience and emission reduction targets, we believe the City has an opportunity to connect vehicle-centric infrastructure investment directly to both climate and energy resilience.

BACCC has the following endorsements and recommendations:

1. Endorsement: Alignment with the Integrated Mobility Plan

BACCC strongly endorses the plan's commitment to the IMP's targets, specifically the goal of reducing private automobile trips in the downtown core from 90% to 50% by 2051. We support the recommendation to monitor and adjust parking minimums, as mandated minimums conflict with the City's ability to meet its transportation emissions targets.

2. Endorsement: Mobility Hubs

We support the proposed establishment of mobility hubs within municipal lots. Grouping transit, shared mobility services, and active transportation amenities into centralized plazas is essential for reducing single-occupancy vehicle dependency and optimizing urban space for people rather than just vehicle storage.

3. Endorsement: Exploration of Green Infrastructure

BACCC endorses the staff recommendation to explore high-impact green infrastructure opportunities within the parking network. Transitioning toward permeable surfaces is a vital tool for building climate resilience in Burlington. Permeable paving allows for direct water infiltration, which significantly reduces the burden on municipal storm sewers and helps mitigate flood risks during extreme weather events.



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4. Recommendation: Investigate Opportunities to Integrate Energy Resilience

As indicated in the report, the City intends to investigate a potential new parking structure of up to 200 spaces, in which there is a significant opportunity to build energy resilience into the structure. Recognizing the importance of climate and energy resilience, BACCC recommends the City investigate the feasibility of integrating solar PV arrays into this structure. Linking renewable energy generation directly to parking assets provides a sustainable way to: power the expanding EV charging network, mitigate the urban heat island effect, provide energy resilience, and decrease grid dependency.

BACCC believes that by prioritizing infrastructure investments that serve dual purposes, such as managing parking demand while building weather and energy resilience, the City of Burlington can ensure its parking strategy acts as a modern framework for climate action.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns.

Sincerely,

Bay Area Climate Change Council