



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives:

*Ken Carlson, Chair
*Tom Lamar, Vice Chair
Charlie Denison, Secretary
Alex Anderson
*Emily Balkam
Alex Epstein
*Enid Kumin
Alan Moore
Brian Postlewaite
*Brandon Stafford
*Sara Wasserman
Ian Woloschin

Ex-Officio:

Skye Stewart, Office of the Mayor
Matthew McLaughlin, Board of Aldermen
Commissioner Stanley Koty, Department of Public Works
Terry Smith, Traffic and Parking
Deputy Chief Stephen Carrabino, Police Department
*Adam Polinski (Acting) Office of Strategic Planning & Community Dev.

*Attended

Day/Date: Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: City Hall Basement Lounge

Procedural and General Business - 10 min

1. Guests: Alex Frieden; Kevin McGrath; Mark Chase; Andreas Wolfe; Tom Bertulis; Greg Shill.
2. Acting Secretary: (Enid)
3. VOTE: Approve November Minutes. *November minutes approved.*
4. Annual Report- Alex A. shepherding. Sara editing. **Action item: good draft, by next SBAC mtg;** edited draft to Adam by Feb. 1; final report, mid-Mar. All team leaders in charge of their respective sections.

Focus Topics

1. **2016 Accomplishments and Things to Improve in 2017** Ken Went through list compiled by asking Committee members to indicate three accomplishments in 2016, two things to improve in 2017. See [Box link](#) for full table.
2. **Contraflow Street Pilot(s)- Gilman St, Hancock St-** Mark

Discussion based on handout. Examples of contraflow in Everett (West St.) & Provincetown (Commercial St). Cannot fit lane on 26-foot wide street. 12-13 foot travel lane not wide enough. Solution: "yield" street with bikes and cars.

Hancock connects Porter Square area with bike path.

Gilman St goes under McGrath. One way in opposing directions. Riding on sidewalk is legal. On street-not legal. What about illegal riders? Safe?

Mark (with Tufts students) conducted study in area of Benton, Hancock. Oct. 2016. Tom Bertulis and Alison Fletcher put together study protocol. Results show 1/3 of all traffic on Hancock is bikes. Much contraflow. Data – 7.5 hrs. 32% traffic=bikes. Photos for each bike on street. A lot of chaos on Elm Street. Hancock is a slow ride.

Final sheet of handout: Hancock marked for contraflow. Green sharrows show where to position bike. MUTCD markings possible. Double yellow line. Cars keep to right, don't pass. See earlier slides in handout for Scott Street and Norfolk Street examples. Option one: white line and small sharrow; option two: single painted blue bikelane.

Neighborways issue long-term = people like one-way streets. Hancock St will eventually be a Neighborway, but don't have to address one-way issue this way. Having the first Neighborway in City also deal with counterflow would be too much. Hudson (currently one-way) is easier as a Neighborway now. Everett, page 3 or 4 of handout, makes an exception for bicycles with "except bicycles" signage.

Mark would send the current proposal to OSPCD and, if OSPCD likes it, to Terry Smith (who hasn't yet had a chance to see it). Proposal would then go to DCI (traffic engineering firm). If Terry likes what he sees, proposal would go to the Traffic Commission. Ken favored showing the proposal to the mayor early in process.

Mark suggested promoting proposal as first well-designed contraflow project outside Everett in the urban core. Data piece is key, he said. Important to have better "after" than "before" stats. Measure every safety benefit. Can try variations, too -- flexible bollard on yellow line, for example.

Brandon favored no removal of parking, but thought painted lines would allow progression in that direction. Maybe no parking eventually. Mark commented that Neighborways = resident driven. If anyone against, effort to create Neighborways will require more signees. Neighbors don't want to remove parking. Parking/parking strategy is a topic for another meeting. Maybe consider again in Feb.

3. Strategy for Webster Ave improvements including public engagement Ken et al.

Mayor in full support of removal of parking in favor of protected bike lanes on Webster Ave Small group (Mark, Geren Stone, Greg) met with Maryann Heuston. She too is in full support.

Action item: Same group to organize a look at parking (late night fun count). Possibilities (some examples, not definitive): reach out to Mr. Cusi; DCI; Tom - more research. Coming in spring...presentation given by the City but prepped by SBAC and City to the public about two phase improvements: (1) converting Webster to 2-way up hill, car & bike; (2) digging up Webster in May & June for MWRA followed by installation of protected bike lanes.

From Adam, referring to Brad's notes: Webster protected bike lanes to end shy of Cambridge. Maybe coordinate with Cambridge. Ideally there are some fired-up residents. Don't want a "hey, we're taking up parking" meeting. Discussion (esp. Andreas, Brandon, Sara) of exploring parking options with Norfolk Condo Association. Maryann Heuston had mentioned Norfolk Condo Association wanted improved crosswalk – we should include this in our proposals.

Re 25 mph speed limit: Traffic Bureau now overrun with construction details; SPD Traffic Unit is very busy giving out moving violation tickets as is. (Deputy Chief) Steve Carrabino hopes to get some enforcement of speed limits on Beacon Street -- a narrower street in the future. May be possible to get Neighborhood Police Unit officer with radar gun in morning. Geren Stone case (cyclist hit on Webster) continuation on **Mar. 14**. **Action item: SBAC support at trial appreciated.**

Update from City- Adam 30 min

- Beacon St. Temp striping for cyclists down. Wash to Oxford. Cycle track to transition at Museum to bike lane and back. Communication roll out in future – put process in place. Planning to run this by Ken – reality check to be sure communication out. Jennifer was attending construction meetings before she left. (Expecting planning position offer to go out shortly. Having new planner to take over where Jennifer left off/rep OSPCD will help going forward.) Tom Lamar: Beacon plans were surprisingly good. Adam agrees – good plans from bicycle standards perspective. Catch basin work through Dec. Work won't affect traffic.
- Union Sq Sewer Project- timing and impact
15% design out for Webster Av. = 30 days to look over designs. Current design doesn't reflect City's comments/ City's comments not yet incorporated. Funding status: 2 year construction cycle; \$40 million; \$13M grant from MassWorks but the rest need local funding. Need push from residents. Design process by Mar. Construction as of July 1.
- GLX and CPX update. Financing approved by Aldermen. Ongoing cooperation other departments in City (e.g., with DPW re feasibility of plans). Concern expressed re changes in plans for SHS connection to Gilman – CPX.
- Update on Sr Transportation Planner position – per above, position offer to go out soon.
- Progress on mobility data dashboard
 - Somerstat – all 2014, 2015, 2016 in. 2010-2016 stats now available due to Adam's work.
 - Bike/ped counts (see above). Adam used Jennifer's data to quantify our facilities.
 - Somerville bike map and time lapse. Now updated. **Pls check. All satisfied?**
 - New City website up and running (earlier this week). Old website is archived. SBC listed under Boards, Commissions, & Authorities.
- Speed limit reduction – approaches to enforcing 25 mph speed limit discussed.
- Resurfacing plans 2017 - aiming for coordination, end Jan. Rich = new head, engineering, replacing Charlie.
- HSIP projects (Broadway, Washington St, Park St, Temple St) update -- Toole finalizing plans
- Resurfacing - Dane St is still at 100% and on track
- Hubway station removal -- 6 Hubway Sta still up – more than last year.
- Bike corrals will be removed soon -- Armory corral not used often. Relocation discussion. Suggestions: Winter Hill; Tyler Street – near Brooklyn Boulders, Artisans Asylum, Aeronaut. Bloc 11 corral will stay. Forge?
- Complete Streets funding -- \$350,000 funding. East Somerville Neighborways; Spring Hill Neighborways; Markings for Chap. 90; redesign of Washington St near Tufts St. Must spend by June 30th. Powder House circle improvements are further in the future. New infusion every 5 years.
- Collecting speed, class, and volume data on Summer St – per above. Automatic transit recorders on Summer to get volume data. 85th percentile is 28 mph. Hope to show increasing road share for bikes (now 2%). 48 hour study. Manual counts are inexpensive, so will build in more data collection.

Team Updates

- Engineering Team
Mark & Brandon – Elm & Cedar, working on rough plan, Google maps snapshot, neighborhood plan by Feb. Andreas – Beech to Somerville Av. Must check; thinking about alternatives. Cedar & Elm, Mossland to.... Do before Elm & Cedar are repaved.

- **Enforcement Team**
Greg Shill wants to be sure all police know the spd limit. He reports that (Capt.) Jim Donovan suggests producing a couple of bullet points re bike lanes so officers know what to do. Discussion of bike crash reports (Adam, Brad, Greg). Granularity for auto crash reports, but nothing like that for bikes. Result = undercollection of data. Adam has had to deal with data and translate into useful form. Greg proposes producing bike equiv of car crash reports. He will run proposed form by all when it's developed. (Capt.) Jim (Donovan) says he will get forms, when ready, out into cruisers. Suggested: \$100 damage threshold for bikes, obliges a report (in line with \$1000 damage threshold for cars). Boston has culled accident data from EMT and other sources. Josh Zisson (lawyer who represents cyclists) has produced a form – available at Bike Boom. NB: Enforcement Team could use more people.
- **Evaluation Team**
 - Double roundabout for Inman -- “Peanutabout” concept for Inman Sq. SBC team involved every couple of months. Still moving forward. No new details.
 - Powder House Square. Lots of pavement, so thinking one big circle. Six legs would be more than ideal, however. Anticipate presenting examples in spring.
- **Encouragement Team**
 - Illuminations Ride Review/Ideas for Improvement – Ride cancelled. Inclement weather.
- **Education Team**
 - Creation (by Ken) of The Joe Lavins Fund for Bicycle Safety. **Let others know.** Plan is to use money to advance bicycling.
 - Speaker series booked through April. Looking for more diverse speakers. List of speakers distributed. Everyone should review and comment. In January, will ID 6 team priorities. Re SBC monthly meetings, want to figure out how to capture guests who don't have engineering background. Set out copies of SBC glossary, map of city... other? Have data from Erica, Shape Up Somerville = 6 SHS students ride to school. Biking now broken out from “other” as category re how students get to SHS.
 - Going forward, will work to publicize Neighborway (Hudson St), encourage students to use it. WayFinding?
 - Ken: Guests don't get access to agendas/e-mail. Might be frustrating. Wld be helpful for guests to get names/contact info for subteam heads. Should indicate event dates, action items. **Action item: Kevin and Tom will set up “Slack”** to enable meeting attendees to get minutes (once finalized) and copy of agenda for following meeting.

Other

Mark suggested promoting Tufts Cycle Tracks idea (two-way protected cycle track along College, Packard, Powderhouse. Tufts can help, but best if idea comes from SBAC. Tufts could help, but Somerville must ask. Maybe contact Katjana Ballantyne (Ward 7) and other Aldermen, OSPCD, etc.

Meeting adjourned 8:33.