



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APRIL 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives

Tom Lamar, Chair
Ted Lester, Secretary
Ken Carlson
Gregory Ely
Ted Feldman

Alex Frieden
Kevin McGrath
Mark Vollinger
Lena Webb
Ian Woloschin

Ex Officio

Katjana Ballantyne, City Council
Viola Augustin, OSPCD Mobility
Adam Polinski, OSPCD Mobility
Eric Weisman, DPW

Thursday, April 1st, 2021, 6:30-8:00PM

GoToMeeting link for computers, tablets, and smartphones: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/806660965>

GoToMeeting dial-in number: +1 (872) 240-3412, Access Code: 806-660-965

Procedural, General Business & Updates (20 minutes)

- Guest introductions and meeting logistics
- Acting Secretary: Mark Vollinger
- Approval of March minutes **Passed**
- Annual report update (Tom)
- Things are happening. Open question & request discussion for covid/shared streets section. Our Education/Encouragement will be thin, looking for someone to contribute to that section (Arah stepped up, Ken will add some too)
Timeline: majority of it finished by end of April. Hoping for a May Release for MA Bike Month
- Update on Somerville Safe Streets Alliance kickoff (Ken)
- Recent activities:
 - - assembling a suite of design guidelines for Somerville
 - - meeting with engineering and evaluation for ideal cycle track designs for people using wheelchairs
 - - memo for use of brick as sidewalks and crosswalks
 - - memo on engineering midyear hire
 - - FY22 budget recommendations
 - - safe street documents
 - (Question) has SASS taken on road construction accommodations

- A: Not yet, will write it down, needs to be prioritized for bandwidth
- (Question) Bike network seems to be in line with SASS, How can we work together (E&E meeting)?
- (A) there is a lot of intersections, that are here right now, So we can work together and let's keep talking
 - Any other upcoming events / call for volunteers
 - -Still Covid

City Update (20 minutes)

- 2021 flex post replacement (Webster, Washington)
- 2021 Shared Street plans (Elm St, etc.)
- SBAC request for Community Path connections through Davis Sq
- Spring Hill Part 1 high-level summary

Flex Posts! Replacement and expansions:

We are beginning to replace them now, spring season is here and ramping up as winter ramps down. DPW communication is getting better.

Submit 311 requests, they will be prioritized and assessed against the stock.

We have enough posts to warrant inventorying what we have out there and what we intend to be year around. (505 perm flexposts)

Good stuff is coming, including center line hardening

Looking to beef up quality of flex posts for longevity.

Question on Concrete casts, ---- information to come

Question around fining people who are parked on top of / drive top of these more expensive posts. --- we don't know, would have to ask about that

KB brings up that it is not just the cost of the post itself but the time it takes from discussing it, keeping track of them, and coordinating the labor to get them replaced.

Shared spaced, curbs and streets.

Elm Streatery was set up again with concrete this past Saturday

Largely the same as last year, Business basically will get approved for the same thing as last year, there is a permit process.

Bow street is changing, we are flipping the walking and dining from last year. We are going for walk on sidewalk, eat in street.

Evaluating Shared Streets program.

Community path connections

The Davis now plan is from an individual group, not a city plan. City is open to pedestrianizing Elm St but has not current plans and doesn't have bandwidth this coming year. City is following the current Davis square neighborhood plan.

We are resurfacing holland and collage

* chat note says that the neighborhood plan discusses pedestrianizing Elm St and recommends studying it further.

Davis square signal project, might happen this year, grant deadline is this year.

Contracting seems to be secured for Holland/collage and the start date is end of April after a years worth of delays.

An all-ages-and-abilities community path connection detour will be made available.

A point was raised that when whole Community Path (minuteman bike path) opens up, Davis Square will be the weakest link (Arlington Center was previously weak point but has been improved).

Additional requests being addressed in the city update

Somerville Infrastructure and Asset Mgmt has a twitter account!
@somervilleInfr1

Final paving in May for Lower Medford

Somerville Ave Utility and streetscape improvements have started back up again. A bunch of work will be complete between Prospect→Webster will be done this spring. They will work their way east to McGrath

Western Washington, fall pilot data is being crunched

Eastern Washington: Working with MBTA for bus lanes, need traffic commission approval for conversion of parking

Blue Bikes: Seasonal deployment was completed last week, full operational capacity.

Artfarm community meeting at 4/7

brick bottom neighborhood plan meeting 4/14

Pearl street mobility meeting 4/21

Focus 1: Spring Hill (15 minutes)

- Summer Street Engineering Feedback (Tom)

City: Project area 1, 100% plans due July, construction start Oct 2021, finishing in 2023.

Tom:

Summer street, painted bike lane uphill via plan, the plan should adjust with a raised bike lane.

North south bike connections are absent east of Cedar street

The city's current proposal fills some gaps but doesn't provide a continuous route anywhere, E&E made recommendations

With Central street happening, there is a street configuration possibility, or a zig zag onto an adjacent street.

Tom: what is the city thinking about N/S networks

City: we just started thinking about it, through the start of the bike network plan starting.

Tom: Discusses options for Prescott/Quincy street connection possibility

Spring hill, bike lane swaps directions (bike lanes go up hill), suggestion is to add speed humps on the bike lane side of the street to slow down cars at the transition

School street note: bumpouts will prevent future bike lanes

Summer east of Putnam: lanes are getting larger due to parking removal, most of the space went to bike lane and sidewalk. Currently we have 9.5, but will go to 10.5 and will meet EM/Bus needs. Tom: 9.5 is preferable for traffic calming. 9.5 would cause a need for half raised bike lane (Beacon street), 10.5 would get full protection

Discussion on Beacon being the half raised, not having any data that it is actually used for EM use/accommodates, rather than just drivers using it as a parking lane.

The Committee wants to see some data driven choices, which requires data to be had.

choices are 3 inch straight, or 5 inch slanted. Beacon is not 5 inches

The slanted is the more standard slant rather than the sideways Beacon street

Tom recaps and outlines discussion points.

*any mountable curb invites people to park there.

* not having a mountable curb means that no passing up hill

Question about are cars moving into the bike land or the Fire trucks in an EM situation, and why the fire trucks need a lower curb if they are going center road

Question around raised bikelane through cross streets. Is an at grade solution better where there is no up and down at each intersection.

*FD might not go with sidestreet raised crossing

Curb extensions are called out for being the de facto and will preclude future protected bike lanes. If we had a bike plan in place, we would know whether curb extensions conflict and whether other tools would be better

City: curb extensions called out as being de facto is an unfair statement. Curb extensions are context specific and the city uses other tools

Committee considered voting on current recommendations (Ok with deprioritizing school street, but recommend prioritizing north south routes in project area), but there are still some unresolved questions. Tom proposed scheduling a special meeting. City: Feedback needed by April 16th.

Focus 2: Bike Network Plan (15 minutes)

- Bike Network Plan metrics (Greg Ely)

Focus 3: Beacon/Kirkland (5 minutes)

- Recent crashes
- Beacon St cross streets traffic calming (Eustis St, etc.)

SBAC Officer Elections (15 minutes)

- Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary

Tom Chair, Lena VC, Ted Secretary, Unanimous vote.