



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AUGUST 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Attendance

Community Representatives

Tom Lamar, Chair
Lena Webb, Acting Chair [Vice
Chair]
Ted Lester, Secretary
Gregory Ely

Ted Feldman, Acting Secretary
Ian Woloschin
Alex Freiden

Ex Officio

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

Guests

Arah Schuur
Alex Epstein
Gavin Lund
Mark Chase
Nate Kaufman

Thursday, August 5th, 2021, 6:30-8:00PM

GoToMeeting link for computers, tablets, and smartphones: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/906103573>

GoToMeeting dial-in number: +1 (312) 757-3121, Access Code: 906-103-573

Procedural, General Business & Updates (20 minutes)

- Guest introductions and meeting logistics
 - Prompt: "What do you like best about biking in Somerville?"
- Acting Secretary: TBD
- Upcoming Acting Secretaries –
- Approval of July meeting minutes
- Upcoming events – ideas/leaders for encouragement and/or education events
 - Viola, Saturday, August 7, from 11a-2p on the Union Square Plaza
 - Ian, bike breakfast (7/30) was lightly attended. A town crier is necessary
 - Next bike breakfast will be 8/27, 8 – 9 am

Focus 1: Pearl Street bike lane proposal (20 minutes)

- Request that the City paint a bike lane against the curb on the North side of Pearl Street between Medford St and McGrath Highway - Alex E.
 - Repurpose 2 – 3 permit parking spaces west of Marshall to connect bike lane via Medford to Gilman and School (would require Traffic Commission Approval)
 - Viola Augustin (OSPCD) explained parking was removed on Pearl St at request of Fire Department while School St was under construction
 - Viola further explained that grant money was received to extend Gilman Sq project, but the scope is still under development
 - Viola explained Medford will reopen for emergency vehicles in October, School eta start of the school year.

- Viola and Adam (OSPCD) commented that will require substantial engagement of constituencies including those that rely on the return of the parking spaces

City Update (30 minutes)

- SAUSI Update
 - Paving complete
 - Markings and signage to be installed from this week to next.
 - Flex posts are expected to be installed by end of month, including alongside Ricky's.
 - Traffic Signal Timing Optimization will also occur.
 - Substantial completion from Webster to Mansfield in October
 - Substantial completion from Mansfield to McGrath next summer
- Flex Posts and the Quick-Build Project Process
 - Curb-separated facilities take 9 – 10 years compared to 1 – 2 years for a quick-build project
 - Flex posts are not a long-term solution, but can be an entry level intervention before proceeding to more durable interventions
 - Did some evaluation of flex posts during GLX bridge closure and learned that retention is context-dependent
 - Low retention at aggressive locations (e.g., 3% in centerline locations)
 - Higher retention in curb extensions and as chokers
 - Potential opportunity to have the committee engage and help with rate of retention and context
 - Committee members, Alex F, Lena, Ted all agree
 - Ted F and Lena suggested that the process could be similar to annual bike/ped count
 - Arah suggested that a map of flexpost locations be shared online and community input encouraged via the Somervoice platform.
- Washington St at Somerville Ave - design and completion timeline
- Boynton Yards street network (dropped from agenda)
- Mystic to Charles connector
 - Multicomponent, includes mystic bike/ped bridge
 - Connection to Charles via Inner Belt and Northpoint Bridge
- Update on summer construction projects
 - Lower Medford
 - Flex post installation complete
 - Concrete truck apron was installed on South St
 - Wellington Bridge PBL
 - Pavement markings and bolted posts complete
 - Epoxy for posts on bridge deck was delayed by supply chain issues
 - Ramp work will be scheduled for the Fall
 - Flex Post Installation
 - Grand Union Blvd complete
 - Beacon Street is in progress
 - Upcoming installations: Mt. Vernon, Shore Dr. Cedar
 - 1.25 total miles of new flex post protected PBLs
 - Broadway – Winchester to Cedar
 - Portion of eastbound bike lane will be striped by National Grid as a PBL
 - Pedestrian improvements on the opposite side of Broadway
 - Washington St Underpass
 - Markings completed last weekend
 - Flexposts installed on Tuesday
 - Floating bus stops at Tufts St and New Washington St will be constructed by GLX-C
 - College Ave
 - Sidewalk construction ongoing
 - Traffic Commission approved the curb use changes in July
 - Powder House Circle

- Story map of changes published last Friday
- Curb use changes (bus stops and parking signs) will begin next Friday
- Union Sq Plaza and Streetscape
 - Information on SomerVoice
 - Ongoing outreach through this month by Community Design Group
 - Selected for ability to reach different demographics
 - Compensated for time
 - Focus Groups
 - Past Pop-Up Events (Farmers Market, Union Square Plaza)
 - Upcoming popup: Plaza – Sat, August 7, 11 am – 2 pm
 - Can also fill out a survey
 - Next step to integrate feedback into design options
 - Conceptual design scheduled to be completed summer 2022
 - Webster Bridge will need to undergo reconstruction for safety reasons
 - Timeline: TBD, Engineering/MassDoT project, OSPCD will follow-up with more information.
 - Ian W. commented that if the bridge is closed for reconstruction there should be recommendations out adequate re-routing given that it is a major connection point to Cambridge and Boston.