



## SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE DECEMBER 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

### Community Representatives

X Tom Lamar, Chair  
Lena Webb, Vice Chair  
Ted Lester, Secretary  
X Ken Carlson  
X Gregory Ely

X Ted Feldman  
Alex Frieden  
Mark Vollinger  
X Ian Woloschin

### Ex Officio

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

X denotes member is present for the meeting

### Guests:

Petru Sofio  
Nate Kaufman  
Gavin Lund  
Jason Downing  
Arah Schuur  
Seth Hurwitz

Thursday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, 6:30-8:00PM

GoToMeeting link for computers, tablets, and smartphones: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/818891717>

GoToMeeting dial-in number: +1 (872) 240-3212, Access Code: 818-891-717

### **Procedural, General Business & Updates (20 minutes)**

- Guest introductions and meeting logistics
- Acting Secretary: Gregory Ely
- Approval of November meeting minutes
- Illuminations Ride
- Upcoming events
  - Illuminations ride: Brian Postlewaite December 18<sup>th</sup> leaving at 6:00 – 7:30pm.
  - 12pm Saturday Cambridge bike ride of north Mass Ave protected bike lanes.
  - Next Thursday Golden Cog award. Celebrating bike infrastructure around Boston.  
<https://bostoncyclistsunion.org/10years>

### **Focus 1: SBAC project updates (20 minutes)**

- Alewife Brook Parkway / Mystic Valley Parkway Traffic Calming Coalition – Ken
- Ken: The route 16 traffic calming coalition is supported by all neighboring municipalities (Medford, Arlington, Somerville, and Cambridge) and 10 elected officials, including mayor Elect Ballantyne. 3 State reps and 1 state senators. The group consists of 50+ active members. Cambridge section of route 16 will have a meeting in January meeting to present traffic calming. Reach out to Ken Carlson for meeting information. Lena Webb is taking the leading on traffic calming in Somerville section. Feedback (strong or weak) should reach out to Ken.
  - Ian: Will DCR plow the bike infrastructure along the Mystic valley path?

- Arah: Does Somerville have enough equipment to plow the trails along the mystic? Request for timing of Powder House boulevard intersection update and painting.
- Adam: we have a lot of dedicated plowing equipment, also hired out a contractor for the coming season to help with bike lane clearing. Powder House blvd. intersection prioritized for next spring. Somerville could potentially assist clear the DCR owned path or future bike facilities along route 16.
- Ted: Minute man is plowed, generally not cleared, or cleared very sporadically.
- Petru: Mystic valley path is not currently plowed by DCR.
- Feedback from Powder House Circle visit – Ted
  - Ted: Impression was very favorable. Design is significantly safer for everyone. Wanted to know what the plan was for bagging of the lights?
  - Adam: Has not gotten confirmation from DPW on when that occurs. May just shut off the signals soon.
  - Ted: Leaf removal is problematic in bike facilitates at Powder House circle.
  - Petru: Request for traffic calming (i.e. speed humps) at certain crosswalks and crossbikes.
  - Tom: Suggests addition of yield marking for exiting the Powder House circle. Eastbound on Powder House is almost a straightshot and cars exit quickly from the roundabout. Maybe adding speedhumps to increase yielding to peds and bikes.
  - Ted: Position of no right turn not obvious and could use additional signage
  - Petru: Not clear who has the yield on the exit of the roundabout pedestrian, bike, or car.
  - Adam: Requests SBAC to write up a memo describing suggestions to the roundabout and summarize the requests and concerns. Signage and painting could be tweaked in the spring.
  - Tom: Ted will take the lead on memo writing.

### **Focus 2: Bike Count Data (25 minutes)**

- Presentation of 2020 and 2021 Bike Counts data – Adam
  - Adam: Data for 2020 and 2021 are still in draft mode and subject to change. Counts are down in 2020 and 2021 compared to pre-pandemic baseline. 2021 has gone up compared to 2020. Bike numbers in the afternoon peak commute is lower. One reason why the bike counts may be lower is that Beacon Street was not included this year that may have thrown off the count. For locations in which we had counts for the last several years we did see an increase in number of bike counts. Likely need to perform a correction to account from missing data from year to year.
  - Greg: Asks if we accounted for spreading out of commuting hours due to Covid with less peak volume observed and more commutes spread over the course of the day.
  - Adam: Did see spreading out of bike and pedestrian traffic across the day. Numbers were the same as non-pandemic year ta couple intersections along Holland ave when integrated over the full day.
  - Tom: Anecdotally noted that commutes and counts have shifted towards later in the morning, fewer people out in the 7-8 am hour vs 8-9 am.
  - Lena: Notes that Holland Ave has the highest bike count of place without any bike infrastructure (no painted bike lanes or protected bike lanes).
  - Jason Downing: Were any of the counts manual or performed via cameras/counters?
  - Adam: They were manual, we will take cameras at several select locations where we will do bike/ped counts for all for 12-14 hours at time instead of peak commute counts. Talks of more permanent counter occurring but nothing firm at this point.

### **City Update (25 minutes)**

- Update on construction projects and remaining planned construction this season
- SBAC requests that the city:
  - Update SBAC on any work planned on western Washington St, particularly around the Argenziano School, to prevent cars parking in the bike lane during school drop-off
  - Update SBAC on how flex post replacements are prioritized and how individuals can use 311 to request flex post replacement
  - Replace flex posts on Washington Street from McGrath to the Boston City line

- Add a Leading Bike Interval to the bike signals at the intersection of Somerville Ave and Prospect, concurrent with the existing Leading Pedestrian Intervals, similar to Western Ave, Cambridge and Commonwealth Avenue, Boston
- Work with Cambridge to implement contraflow on White St