



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MARCH 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives

x Tom Lamar, Chair
Katie Pierce, Vice Chair
Ted Lester, Secretary
x Ken Carlson
Gregory Ely
x Ted Feldman

x Alex Frieden
x Kevin McGrath
x Mark Vollinger
x Lena Webb
x Ian Woloschin

Ex Officio

Katjana Ballantyne, City Council
~~Steve Carrabino, Police Dept :~~
x Viola Augustin, OSPCD
Mobility
x Adam Polinski, OSPCD
Mobility
x Eric Weisman, DPW

Thursday, March 4th, 2021, 6:30-8:00PM

GoToMeeting link for computers, tablets, and smartphones: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/527864461>

GoToMeeting dial-in number: +1 (571) 317-3122, Access Code: 527-864-461

Procedural, General Business & Updates (20 minutes)

- Guest introductions and meeting logistics
Guests present: **Nate Kaufman, Arah Schurr, George Schneelock, Emily Balkam, Zach Rosenberg**
- Acting Secretary: Lena
- Approval of February minutes: **approved!**
- Update on Ex Officios – **Mobility: Viola is new liaison, and new DPW liaison: Eric Weisman: Operations Director**
- Upcoming SBAC Officer Elections – **Ted L absent, therefore postponed**
- Any other upcoming events / call for volunteers

Focus 1: Pearl St (15 minutes)

- Pearl St plans and timeline - Mobility
-Sidewalk work and repaving first-- please see the slides for detailed graphics regarding the existing conditions. Plans are subject to change and a few things are on the table. **Action Item: community meeting at the end of March.** Option C is just existing conditions plus traffic calming but no dedicated bike lanes. Sidewalk widening would require tree removal. Key stakeholders include PTAC and Disability Commission. This would be going out to bid **May**.

Ken: the plans for Pearl St are disappointing, and especially regarding ways to get to Assembly Square.

Ian: regarding 1st option: concern is that you get almost to the school and there is "traffic calming" what can be done to make people "play nice" at the intersection? Other thing is: please talk to East Somerville community school to see what options THEY want? Reach out. Seeing a trend of prioritizing parking over everything else, as usual.

Tom: we will ultimately vote on which option SBAC prefers and recommends.

Focus 2: Route 28 (15 minutes) -

- SBAC Comments on McGrath Resurfacing - Tom
-**ACTION ITEM: Comments due by MARCH 8th!** PLEASE see Tom's slides for Evaluation and Engineering high-level analysis of MassDOT's McGrath project proposal.
-**Alex says flexposts are not an acceptable separation**

- SBAC Comments on 28/38 project- Gavin Lund presenting:
 - **Gavin lays out key recommendations:**
 - Provide direct, two-way bicycle connection from Blakeley Ave to Mystic River, ideally separated from pedestrian route.
 - Reduce McGrath cross-section to 2 lanes in each direction, to continue road diet planned for resurfacing project.
 - Provide protected intersection at 28/38 intersection which accommodates NB bicycle travel on 28, and avoids awkward turning movement to continue EB on Mystic Ave.
 - Provide physically separated bike lanes on all of McGrath and Mystic Ave.
 - Ensure any shared-use paths are at least 12 feet wide, and marked for bidirectional travel.
- Alex F: attended meeting and there was a hard push for raised crosswalk with the Kensington underpass.**

-Tom makes motion to vote on SBAC recommendations:

For Pearl St:

- Out of the presented options, we prefer Option A.
- We request that the City plan future PBLs on Cross St.
- We request that the City incorporate plans to access East Somerville Community School.
- If Pearl St (east of Cross St) focuses on traffic calming instead of PBLs, significant traffic calming is needed.

For McGrath:

- Endorse making a public comment on McGrath resurfacing, as presented to SBAC, and additionally indicating that serious physical separation is needed
- Endorse making a public comment on 28/38, as presented to SBAC

VOTE: motion to vote seconded; passes unanimously

Focus 3: Spring Hill / Highland Ave (15 minutes)

- Update on Highland Ave / Spring Hill designs and schedule – Mobility
 - internally, conversations with the mayor-- moving right direction: decoupling Highland St surface from Project Area 1 (utility work) 2023 as completion of all aspects.
 - creating area #2 - cutter to McGrath - the underground will be done 2024

-Alex F: does this preclude moving curbs on Highland Ave?-- answer: no.

-Ian: is happy and loves it-- this is actually making the project move faster

-Brad: wants to see this move Right and Fast. Decoupling is the way.

-Viola: we can still have raised bike lane on Central

City Update (25 minutes)

- 2021 City priorities & work schedule:
 - Slides detail the hours spent each year per high-level project (West Washington, Powderhouse, Broadway/Winter Hill). All these data make a good case for the City's commitment to hiring three new full-time Mobility staff members.
- Union Square Plaza Streetscape:
 - Alex F and Mark speak up to say they REALLY want to see a ban on motor vehicle traffic as part of this street scape since they have not been allowed for so long-- clearly they have been able to make due?**
- Other SBAC requests:
 - Request to coordinate with Cambridge for contraflow on White St and Davenport- no update at this time.
 - **-Alex: who has to take the next action on this? Adam says Cambridge.**