



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Attendance/Community Representatives

[X] Tom Lamar, Chair
[X] Lena Webb, Vice Chair
[X] Ted Lester, Secretary
[X, on phone] Ken Carlson
[X] Gregory Ely

[X] Ted Feldman
[X] Alex Frieden
Mark Vollinger
[X] Ian Woloschin

Ex Officio

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

[X] indicates present

Guests: Stephen Mackey, Gavin Lund, Seth Hurwitz, Jason Downing, Erwin Figueroa, Arah Schuur, Diana Marsh
Thursday, Nov 4th, 2021, 6:30-8:00PM

GoToMeeting link for computers, tablets, and smartphones: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/950813613>

GoToMeeting dial-in number: +1 (571) 317-3122, Access Code: 950-813-613

Procedural, General Business & Updates (15 minutes)

- Guest introductions and meeting logistics- question favorite winter bike gear
- Code of Conduct
 - Inspired by local/national events
 - Compliments action going on in City Council
 - Goal is to adopt semi/customized, semi-standardized code, Lena, Ted L and Ted F will follow up with this in call with Kate (OSPCD)
- Acting Secretary: Ted Feldman
- Approval of October meeting minutes
 - Seconded by Tom
 - Passed unanimously
- Upcoming events
 - Nov 9th second meeting of Alewife Brook Traffic Calming Commission
 - Arah wondering about MassBike light distribution
 - Nov 17 @ 6:30, Highland Ave Meeting and also bike talk with Becca Wolfson
 - Cranksgiving – Sat before Thanksgiving food collection event, e-mail bike

Focus 1: Parking Study (10 minutes)

- Summary of Parking Study Task Force – Gregory
 - Citywide parking study
 - Kickoff Meeting Tuesday, November 9 from 12:30-2:00pm and Wednesday, November 10 from 6:00-7:30pm
 - Numbers of spots may change due to alterations in size
 -

Focus 2: Gilman Square PBL (20 minutes)

- EE recommendations – Ted F
 - Recommendations are still being collected in advance of 11/11 deadline.

- Discussion and possible vote on preferred alternative
 - Presented plans from Oct 2020 concept proposed by OSPCD and Arup analysis/Street Mix (see appended comments)
 - Concerns regarding mixing at end of two/way segment
 - Support for use of trees to create physical separation between sidewalks and bike lanes
 - Bike Lanes will be at sidewalk grade
 - Reach out to tfeldman@gmail.com or tflamar@gmail.com with additional comments

Focus 3: Letters for endorsement (15 minutes)

- Medford St at Somerville Ave recommendations– Ted F
 - Letter supports short-term second straight lane prohibition
 - Vote: Endorse letter, passed unanimously
- Support for state legislation legalizing e-bikes
 - Uses Class I-III Categorization
 - Delegates authority for municipalities to regulate further
 - Vote: Endorse writing a letter, motion by Ted L. seconded by T. Lamar, passed unanimously

City Update (30 minutes)

- Update on construction projects and remaining planned construction this season
 - Powder House Circle Complete – bagging old lights, removal of old bus shelter
 - SAUSI
 - Nearing completion West of Medford
 - Will return in Spring 2022 to work near McGrath, may be an opportunity to improve Lower Medford @ Somerville Ave intersection
 - College Ave
 - Curb and concrete work nearing completion
 - Broadway: Winchester to Cedar
 - Restriped PBL
 - Added flex posts
 - Speed Humps
 - Installed on Lowell, Morrison, Kidder
 - Final pavement markings and warning signs scheduled
 - May open opportunities for raised elements in other projects, including Holland and College
 - Request process includes: 10 signatures on street or majority of residents on small street to prompt inquiry, working on defining more clearly
 - Morrison/Kidder chosen for traffic calming as part of original calming cluster (higher speeds, connector, Brown school near Morrison)
 - Broadway at Boston Ave
 - GLX-C assessing feasibility of starting to remove slip lane this month
 - Design of crosswalk ongoing
 - Flexposts on Broadway bridge require MassDOT approval which is ongoing and is best done after the completion of construction
 - Eastern Washington at Inner Belt
 - Moving forward
 - Sign changes this week, grinding next week
 - Traffic signal upgrades and timing changes are planned for the end of the month. This includes bike priority and transit signals to alleviate conflict between bus and bike movements.
 - Note: Flex posts between Myrtle and Inner Belt will need to be temporarily removed until striping is complete
 - Union Sq Streetscape

- First meeting on Oct 20th
 - Mystic River Bike/Ped Bridge
 - State awarded funding
 - Highland Ave Redesign (as per City Slides)
 - Business surveys and customer intercept surveys have taken place
 - Follow-up engagement with business stakeholders
 - First community meeting will be taking place on Nov 17th
 - Pearl Street
 - Next meeting may be before next month, SBAC possibly as early as Nov. 29th
Pearl Street
 - Alewife Brook Pkwy at PHB (as per City slides)
 - 60% design submittal currently under review
 - Abutter/stakeholder outreach ongoing
 - Construction start target is spring 2022
 - Spring Hill Sewer Separation (Central St, Summer St, and School St as per slides)
 - Gioioso was awarded the project as low bidder and contract has been executed
 - Will be having a project kick-off soon to start discussing schedule, the expectation is that test pitting and sewer lining will begin sometime this month
 - Bluebikes
 - Shattered a number of monthly records this year
 - Bike/Ped Counts
 - 2020 data needed extra Q/A
 - Hope to present 2020 and 2021 data in Dec
 -
- Update on Bike Network Plan
 - Handlebar Tour outcome [Tabled to next month due to time constraints]
 - Next steps
 - Awaiting analysis from consultants
 - Update next month
- Bus Network Plan (as per OSPCD slides)
 - Working with consultant on the following:
 - Developing a statement of priorities
 - Developing and analyzing a proposed transit network
 - Developing a planning-level map of transit priority corridors and intersections
 - Also continuing to participate in the MBTA's Bus Network Redesign process, which consultant will help us to analyze against the plan we're developing
- SBAC requests:
 - How bicycle parking works at Somerville Public Schools and how to request more bike parking
 - Adam: 3-1-1 request plus contact through school so that all parties are aware and can coordinate.
 - Timing for improvements to Washington St from Union to city line
 - RE Washington St northbound at northeast corner of Washington and Prospect, request that the City verify the (previously buffered) bike lane is wide enough for regular operation and for snow clearance
 - As long as there is 5 ft from the curb in the section by Ricky's Flower Shop, the City will be able to remove the snow.
 - Work with Cambridge to implement contraflow on White St
 - Been a while will since previous communication, will check with the City of Cambridge.

Parking Study:

Gregory Ely (to Everyone): 6:57 PM: parking study link:

<https://voice.somervillema.gov/parking-study>

Gilman Square Redesign

Jason Downing (to Everyone): 7:03 PM: Are these plans available online somewhere?

Seth Hurwitz (to Everyone): 7:06 PM: Jason, not yet, i don't think

Seth Hurwitz (to Everyone): 7:06 PM: they were just shared with the gilman sq neighborhood asscn the other night

Gregory Ely (to Everyone): 7:08 PM: I think we need some physical barrier (i.e. trees) between road and bike lanes to prevent people from parking on sidewalk.

Jason Downing (to Everyone): 7:08 PM: or curbs

Gregory Ely (to Everyone): 7:08 PM: curbs won't stop delivery trucks :)

Tom Lamar (to Everyone): 7:11 PM: Personally I don't feel strongly about one-way vs two-way PBLs, but my default is to lean towards one-way, so it's simpler and more relevant to most trips. And I think the neighborway will become less important for through biking once the Community Path opens

Tom Lamar (to Everyone): 7:11 PM: *one-way vs two-way PBLs here specifically

Jason Downing (to Everyone): 7:12 PM: just need safe ways to get to the community path though

Gavin Lund (to Everyone): 7:12 PM: two-way makes for easy connection to school street, if that's the major route. i'm curious how bikes would continue on medford st in the two-way case, though

Jason Downing (to Everyone): 7:12 PM: yeah medford st just got redone with sharrows...

Ted Feldman (to Everyone): 7:17 PM:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BC7YacsxydmAPjaLvbm7pdCE7u3qtA8-uAMY8NTk4o/edit?usp=sharing>

Mass E-bike Letter

Tom Lamar (to Everyone): 7:17 PM: Preemptive context and proposed motion for the ebike letter: MassBike and BCU are asking for support for state-level legislation that would explicitly legalize ebikes:

https://www.massbike.org/actionalert_ebikestrafficsafety_211014

<https://bostoncyclistsunion.org/ask-your-legislators-to-pass-e-bike-legislation>

Proposed motion to endorse:

"The SBAC will write letter(s) in support of the state e-bike legalization bills H.3457 and S.2309, as supported by Boston Cyclists Union and MassBike and submit them to relevant members of the legislature"