



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 2021 MEETING Minutes

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives

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

Ted Feldman*
Alex Frieden*
Mark Vollinger*
Ian Woloschin

Ex Officio

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

Thursday, Sept 2nd, 2021, 6:30-8:00PM

GoToMeeting link for computers, tablets, and smartphones: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/760336301>

GoToMeeting dial-in number: +1 (646) 749-3122, Access Code: 760-336-301

Procedural, General Business & Updates (25 minutes)

- Guest introductions and meeting logistics- Jason Downing, Jane Philbrick, Gavin Lund, George Schneeloch, Zach Rosernberg, Alex Epstein, Justin Schreiber
- Acting Secretary: Ken
- Approval of August meeting minutes- Approved
- Upcoming events
- VOTE: Resolution reiterating support for College Ave improvements: Traffic Commision approved but it is now being appealed. Tom proposed a resolution that "We reiterate our support for the proposed College Ave project, which we believe will substantially improve safety and mobility" - Approved unanimously

Focus 1: September is Bay State Bike Month (15 minutes)

- **Promoting Bike Talk and Bike Breakfast** – Ken Sept 22 Bike Talk: Carl Kooyoomijan, Beverly Bike Committee
- **Volunteer needed for 9/24 Bike Breakfast**- Tom can probably make it. No other volunteers stepped up Jane Philbrick, West Branch of the Somerville Library is looking for bike events. Ideas would include bike tune-ups, talks from bike organizations. Ideas: Cambridge Bike Give Back (Gavin), Bike donations (Lena), Bicycle School (Ken suggestion), Bike Shop (Ken suggestion), Bike map (Ken suggestion). Email jphilbrick@somervillema.gov. Ken could help Jane with this but needs another SBAC partner. No volunteer stepped up

Focus 2: Flexpost rollout (25 minutes). [Link to Slide Deck from Mobility](#)

- **Status of citywide flexpost rollout – Mobility.** Now have 2-3 X the number of flexposts than we had before. Using Tuff Curb posts, armadillo-like (\$150 each). Over 600 posts Installed on Beacon St, Washington St underpass, Lower Medford, Grand Union Blvd, Shore Drive, Cedar St, Mt Vernon (bases only no posts at this time due to resident pushback re loading/unloading), Wellington Bridge (one side only waiting for epoxy for other side), Somerville Ave (less expensive Pexco posts). To come: Powderhouse Circle, short section of Broadway
- **Feedback on effectiveness of new flexposts- all.** Shore Drive (Positive); Wellington Bridge (losing posts everyday); Washington St underpass (positive); Somerville Ave westbound (positive, even the left turn); Beacon St (positive overall). Cedar St (postman still parking there even with flexposts). Adam stated that the flexposts removed for the bus stops on Beacon St might be brought back since the MBTA is thinking of

consolidating these stops and or moving them off Beacon St. Overall people feel that the flexposts are working well so far, both for traffic calming and making bike lanes work more effectively

- **Suggestions for any other locations needing flexposts-** Medford St North from Somerville Ave to Washington St is buffered bike lane that should have flexposts (Adam said that this location may have been overlooked). Webster Ave is an obvious candidate for upgraded flexposts. Ted F said that there's interest in putting out a survey about flexposts. Adam now has a GIS inventory map of all the deployed flexposts. Almost ready to roll out a new category on 311 for flexposts. There may be a need for more durable vertical separations for some locations.

City Update (25 minutes)

- **Update on construction projects** (including SAUSI, Wellington Bridge, Washington St Underpass, and Powder House Circle). **SAUSI:** Somerville Ave opening up in early October. New signage from Union Sq to Mansfield St; Ruby Lake does not work with porous pavement- it's been suggested by other cities that preformed thermoplastic will work (if you melt it in place). Floating bus stops to be open in October; street furnishing going in next few weeks. **Powderhouse Circle:** Markings laid out; thermoplastic application tonight, beige paint going down later. Bikes and peds will have priority in Circle. Everything should be complete in three weeks. *Ken suggests if there is extra thermoplastic please apply it to bike box at Cedar St at Elm St.* **Wellington Bridge:** Epoxy has been delivered to allow flexposts to be installed (due to concrete surface). **College Ave:** Sidewalks going in now. Milling and paving in later October. **Washington St underpass** has pumps to pump out water but pumps have not been turned on yet.
- SBAC requests that the city:
 - **Add a bike lane on Mossland to connect the bike network-** City considers it to definitely be a priority. Early in the process and would like to make it a 2022 project
 - **Share bike facility plans for Boynton Yards, especially Columbia St as it approaches Webster-South Street will have PBLs.** South St will eventually get straightened out as development proceeds. Narrow part of South St- Flip the direction one way towards Medford St and accommodate bike lanes in each direction. Archibald Curry Way would be a festival street (parking lot now)-city looking for input here. For Columbia St (closest to Webster Ave) the City is asking the developer to put in PBL's and widen the right of way. But there seems to be no requirement via the Planning process that the street be widened. Ken stated that everything should be done to hold developers feet to the fire to widen streets in Boynton Yards to allow for the installation of safe bike facilities. Sharrows will not be an acceptable and safe bike facility in this area so close to an MBTA station and other roads with PBLs. The public should go to Boynton development meetings and make their desires clear. Justin states that this whole project will take 5-10 years to finish and will be a construction zone for a long time.
 - **Plan to connect the Community Path through Davis Square-** Shorter term design improvements will include revised signal timing and the creation of a low stress route via Buena Vista with wayfinding signage. Working on more of a direct path through the Square but early days on this. City is putting in place a bike signal for curbside bike lane on Highland St to allow bicyclists access across the Square to PBL's on Holland
 - **Repair the brick crosswalks in Davis Square-** Will prioritize in 2022/2023.
- **City requests E&E to do a deep dive review of Clarendon Hill/Alewife Brook Parkway improvements including T intersection**