



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives:

Ken Carlson, Chair

Tom Lamar, Vice Chair

Katie Pierce, Secretary

Alex Anderson

Emily Balkam

Alex Epstein

Ted Feldman

Alex Frieden

Ted Lester

Kevin McGrath

Alan Moore

Mark Vollinger

Lena Webb

Ian Woloschin

Michael Weber

Ex Officio:

Skye Stewart, Office of the Mayor

Katjana Ballantyne, City Council

Commissioner Stan Koty, Dept. of Public Works

Adam Polinski, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Dev

Deputy Chief Steve Carrabino, Police Department

Thursday April 4, 2019, 6:30-8:00 PM, Somerville Public Safety Building Academy Room, 220 Washington St

Procedural, General Business & Updates (25 Minutes)

1. Guest introductions and sign-in sheet
2. Acting Secretary: Ian Woloschin
3. VOTE: Approve March Minutes
 - a. Unanimously approved
4. SBC officer elections – Ken
 - a. Ken Carlson stepping down as Chair after 4 years, staying on as Committee Member
 - b. Mark request elections be held next month and on a more frequent schedule
 - c. Kevin suggest bylaws be circulated to all members
 - i. ACTION: All members to read bylaws
 - d. Motions for new officers, pending alternative candidates
 - i. Chair – Tom Lamar
 - ii. Vice Chair – Katie Pierce
 - iii. Secretary – Ted Lester
 - e. ACTION: All members review motion for new officers and contact Ken if they would like to nominate other candidates

City Update (20 min) - Adam

1. Striping timing – HSIP (Park St, Temple St, Washington St, Broadway), Webster Ave, Central Broadway, Powder House Blvd, Lower Medford
 - a. HSIP
 - i. All streets approved at March Traffic Commission meeting
 - ii. Good to begin striping as soon as MassDOT is ready, potentially next week
 - iii. City will put up signage on Broadway & Washington Street to indicate parking changes
 - iv. Alex F. asks for HSIP plans, specifically Washington St
 1. Adam does not think MassDOT will allow change at this point
 - v. Adam needs volunteers for Park St to put flyers on cars/doors in about a week
 1. Ian & Ken volunteer
 2. Adam will make flyers and get to Ken/Ian
 3. Will be done in conjunction with City replacing Resident Only Parking Signs with No Parking Signs
 - b. Extending Webster Ave PBLs to Prospect St
 - i. No progress on whether the Left Turn Lanes approaching Prospect can be removed
 - ii. Alex F. says the lack of a bike lane here is rough and that the left turn lane may not be justified based on turning motions
 1. Adam suggests this should be explored further
 2. ACTION: Adam will look at getting counts
 - iii. Ken requests the guardrails by the body shop be removed
 - iv. Ted L. asks about signal timing at Webster @ Somerville Ave/Washington St during Union Sq Construction

1. ACTION: Adam will look into it
- c. City looking at creating a maintenance strategy for dealing with flexpost replacements
 - i. Using more flexposts than expected for traffic calming around GLX detours
 - ii. Mark asks about flexposts removed outside of Ricky's Flower Market not being replaced
 1. ACTION: Adam to talk to project manager
- d. Central Broadway
 - i. Community feedback requested more bike facilities, City following through with improved bike facilities
 - ii. City working with businesses feedback and information to help prepare them for change
 - iii. All still on schedule for May
- e. Powder House Boulevard
 - i. City presented short/mid/long term goals yesterday
 - ii. Lots of traffic calming, flex posts, rubber tables, more stop signs
 - iii. Additional enforcement occurring
 - iv. Clarendon Hill Apartment redevelopment may help redesign Powder House Blvd & Alewife Brook Pkwy intersection
- f. Lower Medford St
 - i. Just went out to bid, should know next week who wins the bid
 - ii. Protected Bike Lanes on Lower Medford, Fall 2019/Spring 2020
 - iii. Ken asks if Lower Medford will involve sidewalk reconstruction
 - iv. Adam says portions will be based on sidewalk condition
 - v. No more parking by City Line, City giving out warnings (not tickets), easier/safer to bike now
 - vi. SBAC (Ken) can gather support from businesses if needed
2. Design plans for Powder House Circle
 - a. Single lane entry/exit and single circulating lane
 - b. Room to adjust bicycle facilities
 - c. Ted L asks about constraints
 - i. Adam says no curb work, but removing traffic lights and central crosswalk
 - d. Ted F asks about transiting through the circle
 - i. Adam does not think there should be a bike lane on the outside of the traffic circle because of potential for conflict, but it may be possible to add bike lanes alongside crosswalks, similar to Sullivan Square
3. Detour management
 - a. Improving conflict at Somerville Ave @ Dane St
 - i. Variable Message Board placed with "Yield to Bikes" messaging
 1. VMB is kind of behind a tree and hard to see
 2. ACTION: Adam to take a look and talk to project manager
 - ii. Not a lot that can be done infrastructure-wise as it is also the bus detour and buses already having trouble with the tight turn
 - iii. Dane St approaching Somerville Ave has faded paint that needs to be refreshed, Adam to review
 - iv. Ted L asks if there is green conflict paint through the intersection
 1. No, there is not
 - b. Are the GLX detours working well?
 - i. City has been surprised, detours appear to be working well
 - ii. Flexposts on Morrison Ave not lasting, guest asks about temporary speed bumps
 1. Adam says yes, starting on Powder House Blvd
 2. Unfortunately, they are very harsh to drive/bike over so not using them frequently, but City found a speed table that work better, but they're a lot more expensive
 3. Hancock & Highland is tricky to cross now, Adam to look at
 - 4.

SBAC Education/Encouragement Team (10 min)

1. Bike Month Kick-off event- Ken
 - a. Sunday April 28th
 - b. 35+ Organizations participating
 - c. Bike Parking Valet paid for by Lyft
 - d. Sustainable Homes Tour
 - e. Ken asks everyone to help with outreach and spreading the word
 - f. Need ~12 volunteers for the day
 - g. Next meeting 4/9 @ Aeronaut
 - h. 40 Flycycle bike racks going in near Aeronaut soon

SBAC Enforcement and Public Safety Team (15 min)

1. Rideshare meeting recap
 - a. Meeting on 3/28 w/ Lyft
 - b. Focused on road safety
 - c. About 25% of Lyft drivers are renting vehicles from Lyft, all of these will get "Look Out For Bikes" stickers, more

- ordered for driver owned vehicles as well
- d. Exploring more pickup/dropoff pilot areas
- e. Lyft is interested in continuing to work with SBAC
- f. Still trying to get a contact at Uber
- 2. Meeting with Chief Fallon recap
 - a. Meeting on 3/28 with Somerville Police's Chief Fallon, Deputy Chief Carrabino, Captain Donovan
 - b. SPD is standing up a bike specific patrol unit for Summer 2019
 - i. Made up of 4 officers
 - ii. Goal is to expand as new officers graduate from the academy
 - iii. Primarily during daylight hours

SBAC High Priority Project Updates (20 min)

- 1. Powder House Blvd update - Jon/Mark/Ken
 - a. Two way cycletrack is the recommended plan
 - b. Parking counts are done, Mark is working on data crunching
 - c. Circle to Curtis initial data suggests parking can be removed
 - d. Curtis to North St would be difficult without a Parking Management Plan (Zoned Residential Parking)
 - e. Met with City Councilors, they're on board if SBAC can gather support
 - f. Next Steps
 - i. Meet with Mary Jo Rossetti
 - ii. Social Events on street
 - iii. Paving/Striping not being done until August
 - iv. City holding meeting in May to build consensus on design plans
- 2. Upper Medford St update - Alex F
 - a. Magoon Sq to Gilman Sq
 - b. Asked for 83 spots to be removed and one uphill bike lane
 - c. Parking counts show overnight parking is at 96% on average, 61% overall
 - d. Overnight parking is too high to justify removing any parking
 - e. Councilor Neidergang suggested that Elm may be a better target
 - f. Mark asked about driveway parking
 - i. About half were used, but not convincing enough to move forward
 - g. Alex F. suggests we need to move towards Zoned Parking Management
 - h. Lessons learned
 - i. Overnight parking is the make/break for most projects
 - ii. Temporal Bus/Bike Lanes are a gateway to improvements
 - iii. Need strong story for why a particular street needs additional work
 - iv. Need a Bicycle Master Plan for all of Somerville
 - 1. City Council may be able to fund this
- 3. City is exploring parking permit program as part of zoning overhaul
 - a. Kevin suggests absentee landlords may restrict parking in driveways
 - b. Mark asks about increasing costs
 - i. Hard politically

Banter over Beer: Location TBA