



## SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE April 2020 MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

### **Community Representatives:**

Tom Lamar, Chair - Yes

Katie Pierce, Vice Chair - Yes

Ted Lester, Secretary - Yes

Emily Balkam - Yes

Ken Carlson - No

Ted Feldman - Yes

Alex Frieden - Yes

Kevin McGrath - Yes

Alan Moore - Yes

Mark Vollinger - No

Lena Webb - Yes

Ian Woloschin - Yes

Michael Weber - Yes

### **Ex Officio:**

Katjana Ballantyne, City Council - Yes

Adam Polinski, OSPCD Mobility - Yes

Deputy Chief Steve Carrabino, Police Department - No

Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, 6:30-8:00PM

GoTo Meeting link for computer, tablet, and smartphone users:

<https://www.gotomeet.me/SomervilleMobility/aprilsbac>

GoTo Meeting dial-in number: [+1 \(872\) 240-3212](tel:+18722403212) ; Access code: 168-874-789

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

- Guest introductions and sign-in sheet
  - George Schneeloch
  - Audrey Orenstein
  - Gregory Ely
  - Nate Kaufman
  - Lauryn Allen
  - Stephanie Le
  - Ellyn Thompson
  - Arah Schuur
  - Shannon McCrea
- Logistics of virtual meeting – Tom and Adam
  - Kevin M - have people message Tom to have comments or raise your hand
  - Tom - Please give suggestions
- Acting Secretary: Alex F
  - Alex F says no issue doing remote minutes
- VOTE: Approve March Minutes - March minutes approved
- New member application: Gregory Ely
  - Greg summarizes application and desire to join committee after moving back and having kids.
- Annual report for 2019 - Tom
  - Request for team captains to fill out report. Kevin will work to compile

Kevin - What is time to get to city? Tom: Internal deadline to get content two weeks after last meeting which we met.

Tom - Adam is there a city deadline? Adam: Really up to you, usually by bike month kickoff

Tom and Kevin plan to follow up around annual report.

- Upcoming events and calls for volunteers

Emily - Should we still be planning for spring rides? Tom: Not a good idea to plan events for spring events including rides. Possibly late may or june. No large gatherings soon.

Arah - Thanks for all the help planning Healey school event despite it getting cancelled at the last minute.

Ian - hopeful for bike breakfast for May, still planning

Alan - Art beat, friends of community path have table on community path during art beat.

Do we still want a table there? Alan will remind us when it is close to decision time.

### **Education and Encouragement (10 min)**

- Changes to Bike Month Kickoff and Bike Talk - Ken

Ken not here, Michael Weber giving updates. No update on bike month as Ken is working on it. Working on bike talk that is virtual for April 14th. Encourages everyone to join

Arah - Tentative date for bike month kick for September 13th.

- Opportunities for the community to help with food pantry deliveries, etc. - Arah

Shape up Somerville and other groups are organizing to get food to those that are food insecure.

Several opportunities to deliver food to those that can't leave. First through Cambridge Bike Safety.

Mutual aid for somerville and medford (MAMAS), primarily delivery through cars, trying to see if we can do it by bike. Doing deliveries weekly. Reach out to Arah if you are interested in volunteering.

Tom - Have we posted about this on social media?

Arah - Not yet, some of these are still shaping up.

### **City Update (60 min) – Adam**

- Status of ongoing projects

- Adam: State projects GLX and Beacon are still under construction

- Somerville Ave on hold

- Made call to stop all work except for emergency work.

- Evolving situation, things are changing day to day.

- Mobility not as on the forefront, mostly city resources going to pandemic response support.

- Holland and College were planned for May are now not continuing. Will put for bid again. Prices will be substantially higher

- Upper and Lower medford on hold

- Citywide parking study on hold.

- Tom: There is stimulus at the federal level for capital projects Adam: We haven't talked about it at this point

- Ellyn: Is there any talk of street closures for active transportation for public health response? Adam: Will get to that in a minute

- Adam: Street sweeping will get pushed out to April 15th, parking enforcement still active
- COVID-19 response: communications and economic development effort. Everything on [somervillema.gov/coronavirus](https://somervillema.gov/coronavirus) and [somervillema.gov/covidbizhelp](https://somervillema.gov/covidbizhelp)
- Bike shops are still open and are essential businesses
- Opportunities for COVID-19 mitigation
  - Data collection and field surveying put on hold for now.
  - Public engagement is something mobility is still thinking through.
  
  - Main piece missing right now is in person community meeting.
  - NACTO created emergency response team and has running google doc with all things people have tried
  - Lena: Why isn't automatic ped signals recommended? Adam: Not the best use of resources due to old signals since design work still ongoing
  - Audrey: Create space near out bridges for walking.
  - Ian: Urge you to consider parks opening up for small children
  - Alex: Design projects still ongoing?
    - Adam: Will follow Holland College as part of 2021 bid project.
  - How can we ensure bicycle repair shops can remain open?
    - Adam: Committee to talk about open shops on social media
    - Adam: Anticipate decent sized budget cutbacks when this is all done. Prioritization might get tougher for projects.
  
  - Ted Lester: Suggestion from Toole webinar putting up map for public to comment where issues are, where to remove parking and add cones.
  - Can we make pedestrian signals automatic?
  - Greg: Neighborways are great but difficult to get on and off sidewalk with stroller. Also why not tackle newer intersections like Washington and Beacon.
  - Ellyn: disheartening to see neighbor ways do not have automatic ped button.
  
  - Can we quickly build new infrastructure for new cyclists?
    - Ted F: Is striping for new projects or just current ones.
    - Adam: Could do it. Need possible some design work and need to know which contractor we can get to come out and do work. Can we do more temporary stuff in the interim.
  - Can we quickly implement new contraflows with just signage?
  - Vote for bike committee for the city to evaluate what intersections can be automatic pedestrian phases for COVID-19
  - Vote passes
  - Ted Lester opposed to city resources being spent
  - Tom: We approve vote but do understand this is a pedestrian issue but understand there are shared mobility resources.
  - Can we temporarily close streets to cars allow room for social distancing? Adam: Evaluating at this time.
  - What should we expect public meetings to look like? Still evaluating.
  - What is Bluebikes doing to keep bikes available?