



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives:

*Ken Carlson, Chair
*Tom Lamar, Vice Chair
*Enid Kumin, Secretary
*Alex Anderson
*Emily Balkam
*Mark Chase
*Charlie Denison
*Alex Epstein
*Alan Moore
*Brian Postlewaite
*Brandon Stafford
Sara Wasserman
*Ian Woloschin
*present

Ex-Officio:

Skye Stewart, Office of the Mayor
Maryann Heuston, Board of Aldermen
Commissioner Stanley Koty, Department of Public Works
Terry Smith, Traffic and Parking
Deputy Chief Stephen Carrabino, Police Department
*Mike Tremblay, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Dev.

Day/Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2017, 6:30-8:00 PM

Location: Academy Room, Somerville Police Dept.

Procedural, General Business & Updates - 30 min

1. Guest introductions and sign-in sheet
Alex Frieden, Lena Webb, Kevin McGrath, Jim Donovan (SPD), and Tom Bertulis. Mark Chase facilitated the meeting and announced the meeting duration will be 90 minutes.
2. Acting Secretary: Alex Epstein
3. VOTE: Approve March Minutes
Ken motioned, Enid seconded, all approved. APPROVED.
4. Webster Ave (Ken)
Ken summarized recent Committee efforts to improve bike and pedestrian conditions on Webster from Prospect Street to the City Line. There was an outreach event to Webster residents on April 9th at Lydia and Nate Fash's place at Norfolk Street/Webster. Protected two-way bike lanes were proposed. All residents who attended were people who bike and were supportive. Between now and the Ward 2 Resistat meeting on May 30, the outreach will be broadened. Concerns raised in the initial engagement included provision of a safer crosswalk currently in place near the garage. Currently a Webster Auto Body parks cars on the streets (not clear if this is legal), but the newer (10 years old) residential buildings on Webster have a garage and on-street parking restrictions. Alderman Heuston has been supportive and is looking into what the auto body shops can do to stop parking cars illegally on the street—permit has been pulled or restricted. The City has engaged Cambridge for cooperation on their section of Webster; Cambridge is supportive of figuring out how to avoid a gap on their side of the line but will likely act only after we have made our improvements.

SBC has already done a robust parking study. One possibility is coordinating use of Webster garage, which is underutilized, by area businesses. The next steps include:

-Get many Ward 2 people especially those who live on Webster to show up at the May 30 meeting and support; minimize outreach outside local/Ward 2 to minimize “outsiders”; contact David Aposhian, owner of the garage and engage him on options for opening up parking to the general public.

-City lays out vision for Webster at the meeting and provides the narrative.

5. Cedar Street contraflow (Mike)

Mike reported that there is a ½ foot shortage of width for the optimal contraflow cross-section. It is not a major issue, just a question of the optimal widths to allocate. Configuration is proposed to be 10’ travel lane, 4’ advisory lane with traffic, and 5’ contraflow bike. Brian concurred with this allocation, noting that it provides more play for drivers to use judgment and give contraflow travelers more space. Alex A asked whether a wider line or buffer could be used for the downhill (with traffic) lane. Ian asked whether a truck restriction (except for local delivery) could be added on Cedar. Brian noted that there is not a good alternative route for trucks. **ACTION: Mike will investigate possibility of adding a truck restriction on Cedar, along with confirming whether Cedar resurfacing is 2017 or 2018.**

6. Tufts PBL- next steps (Mike)

Mike reported that OSPCD is optimistic that parking demand on the house vs. park side supports the PBL, but given the schedule (engineering design, versus Rich Reisch wanting to resurfacing soon), thinks it will be 2018-2019; only climbing lanes this year. Mark asked how soon the resurfacing is to occur. **ACTION: Mike will confirm Powderhouse Blvd timing.** Mark suggested that Tufts could also ask VHB to draw a plan in the next 6 weeks for PBLs. Alex A noted that anecdotally Powderhouse Blvd has very low traffic volume. Brian commented that we could push back the resurfacing of Powderhouse to 2018 given that it is by no means the roadway in the worst condition in the city; this would avoid backlash against changing a street only a year after rebuilding it, and avoid needing to rebuild momentum. The Engineering Team would be happy to assist on a fast turnaround. Tom asked whether the City could at least not preclude PBLs in the future in its immediate pavement marking plan. Mike acknowledged this would be possible, *e.g.*, only use paint instead of thermo. Ken pointed out the necessary education component for this project, which has not been developed yet.

7. Meeting with Mayor on Zoned arterial permit parking and West Somerville PBLs (Mark/Mike)

Mike briefed Skye Stewart on the proposal for arterial zoned parking. Ken mentioned that SBC also already briefed Tim Snyder and suggested broaching this as a Beacon Street resident benefit (mitigation for on-street permit parking reduction).

8. Burning Questions (**AFTER you have read all the updates on the 5’ E’s Spreadsheet :-)**)

Alan asked that the Education Team confirm to whom to report parked cars in bike lanes. Jim Donovan (SPD) responded that typically bike lane violations are out-prioritized by other crime reports. About 10 traffic officers from SPD can ticket violators, whereas T&P has about 25 agents enforcing. **Kevin McGrath recommended that for now people report to 311.** The 311 office will promote data collection about where violations occur and SPD can then focus enforcement in those areas.

Ken asked what will be the timetable for Park Street interim pavement markings. Mike replied that Terry will probably not do this until after the fiscal year (July 1). However, he said it is looking more likely that HSIP will be 2017, which would fund both Park and Broadway. The

Broadway HSIP section (Ball Square to Magoun Square) would have to be coordinated with resurfacing, which is currently scheduled for 2018.

Brian asked what Bluetooth vehicle counts are. Alex Frieden and Mike explained that multiple Bluetooth readers are being used around Union Square to study origin-destination (for example, to know how many people turn left vs. right).

Ken asked for the new bike map to be available by April 28 so that Whole Foods can frame it at the first commuter breakfast. Tom recorded that there are a couple of minor edits left.

ACTION: Adam to complete new bike map by April 28 {Note after meeting, Adam provided the finished map to the SBAC}.

Project Deep Dives (35 Minutes)

9. Bicycle Friendly Application- what do we need to go for Gold? – Mike

Mike is completing the 41-page application. Good news is that it's broken out by 6 E's. Mike will put together a Google sheet for everything he needs to answer and ask SBC teams to fill out what we have done since the last time. Ken asked what we are still missing for Gold status, and Mike reported that adult bike education is one thing. Susan McLucas is the only such educator, but she lacks space to run her adult classes; the city would need to waive fees for use of parks or the Brown School to address this. Ken proposed that this waiver be granted by May so that the City can better integrate with her—actively support rather than benevolently ignore. **ACTION: Mike to send link to Google Sheet to SBC for input; Mike to organize meeting between Susan, Brad, Ken, himself, and Mayor's Office.** Mike is also pursuing the Bicycle Friendly Business application for the City. Ken said that he is also seeking up to 15 businesses to apply for BFB and may need help. **ACTION: Ken to resend email asking for help with BFB applications.**

10. Neighborways – Mark

Mark presented on revisions to neighborway attributes, in particular using non-MUTCD-reserved colors. Bumpouts will be tan or gold, while crosswalks will be brick red. Mark presented on the plan for building out a network of neighborways in Central and East Somerville. Alderman Heuston is enthusiastic about a mural that could become a neighborway at Dimick Street. Contraflow pilots are starting in 2017. Data are being collected at Hancock and Gilman; Mark will be looking for video camera support. Mark says we will need Board of Alderman support; for example, Matt McLaughlin is comfortable moving ahead with traffic calming. Newton provides a stamped example. Mark presented next steps for City and SBC. There is some budget in Complete Streets and Terry will actually paint both bumpouts and crosswalks. Help is needed from SBC also with traffic counts (slow, about 50 bikes an hour). **ACTION: Mark to send around neighborway map** so that all can let supportive abutters near planned streets know. 2017-2018 plan can be publicized. Alex F asked about adding Ivaloo, and Mark responded that getting a street on the neighborway map happens when enough residents on a street want it, along with Alderman support. **ACTION: Mark to send out sign up for help collecting data.**

Encouragement Committee Update/ Help Needed (25 Minutes)

Mark explained that the new meeting format focuses on one of the E teams per meeting while allowing the others to still get help.

11. Encouragement/Education

a. Bike Month activities

ACTION: Alex A to send around a sign-up sheet for covering events for the rest of the year.

i. Tabling material

Adam to complete the bike map by April 28. There are some updates needed. Ken suggested using Cambridge's Street Code booklet. Jennifer Lawrence led development of the Street Code and would be the contact to inquire whether Somerville can use it.

ii. Bike Month Kick-off and Discussion Panel

Sunday May 7th 12:00 set up and 1:00-6:00 event. Put on your calendars now. Ken confirmed that the capacity (120) will be the same as last year, with volunteers counted as staff. Rush Hour Challenge this year will have two legs—Dudley to Faneuil Hall, Faneuil Hall to Redbones. We may want to plan some tabling at Redbones. For Rush Hour race: **ACTION (ALL): please let Alex A know if you have sponsor leads to meet \$10k fundraising goal.** (Kevin McGrath has a lead.)

iii. Bike Talk

Alex A reported that Stephen Carrabino and Josh Zisson will present at the upcoming May 3 Bike Talk. **ACTION: If anyone has videos of incidents while biking, let Alex A know.**

iv. Bike Breakfast

First one is on April 28, will feature the new bike map. Will also bring renderings of Beacon Street final conditions and the detour maps. Adam will attend.

12. Other E's-- what's one big goal for next month and help that you need to accomplish it?

Sara Wasserman will stay on through Bike Month but is moving to Winthrop. **ACTION (ALL): If anyone is willing to lead the Education Team, please tell Ken.** Alex A suggested that the education and encouragement teams be combined (Education and Enforcement were previously combined)

Mike asked all to start logging their miles for Somerville in the MassCommuter Challenge specifically on Bike Week in May.

Ken reminded all to please attend their respective E teams and to recruit people from outside the SBC to join the teams.

Charlie and Kevin recommended that all teams start using Slack and posting team agendas on Slack. This will provide information to anyone unable to attend a team meeting in person. The Slack calendar will be integrated with the Google calendar.

ACTION (ALL): if you want to volunteer for parking study support, tell Mark.

Ken reported that the Union Square community benefit agreement has focused on housing but no bicycle issues and asked how to plug into this process. Alex Frieden lives near Union Square and can work with Ken and Eric Neu to add a voice. Mark suggested thinking about what the ask would be.

All agreed to keep the new format and location of SBC meetings going forward.

Meeting adjourned (remarkably) at 8:02 PM. Mark did an amazing job facilitating this new meeting format.

Respectfully, Alex Epstein