



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives:

Tom Lamar, Chair

Katie Pierce, Vice Chair

Ted Lester, Secretary

Emily Balkam

Ken Carlson

Alex Epstein

Ted Feldman

Alex Frieden

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

Guests: Emily Warren, George Schneeloch, Lily Worth,

Thursday August 1, 2019, 6:30-8:00 PM, Somerville Public Safety Building Academy Room, 220 Washington St

Procedural, General Business & Updates (20 Minutes) - Tom

1. Guest introductions and sign-in sheet
2. Acting Secretary: Kevin
3. VOTE: Approve July Minutes
 - a. Motion: Emily
 - b. Seconded: Lena
 - c. Vote: Passed (8 of 14 vote in favor)
4. Volunteer needed for Somerville Bike News
 - a. Alex Anderson had been doing it but needed to step down due to family commitments, Lena has stepped up to put these together
 - i. Historically job requires fact-checking, getting dates correct, and getting links to events
 - ii. Please make Lena's life easier, collect this information ahead of time, or note if you don't have it
5. Proposed ride-hailing fee increase
 - a. Current fee is \$0.20 per ride with \$0.10 going to municipalities
 - i. Higher fees in other municipalities
 - b. Bill in State Legislative docket
 - i. 6.5% of cost of ride for single passenger rides
 - ii. 4% of cost for shared or multi-passenger rides
 - c. Ian's point: is this a good idea considering it could be construed as anti-car?
 - i. It's not private vehicles, it's rideshare vehicles
 - ii. Sustainability positive angle
 - iii. Marty Walsh is pro-rideshare fee
 - d. Ted F.'s point: What about congestion surcharges?
 - e. Katjana's point: the City Council sees the TNC fund as a generic pool of funds, not necessarily exclusively for bicycling-infrastructure
 - f. **Committee Vote:** Mark V motion, Lena seconds, vote passes (8 of 15 in favor)
 - i. Tom to draft and circulate letter for comments
 - g. Somervision 2040 and draft Bicycling Vision Plan may include some things like congestion pricing

6. Recap: Gilman Square - Katie
 - a. GSNA meeting to collect info from neighbors, feedback collect
 - b. On Monday (8/5) GSNA will discuss feedback and how they envision transforming
 - c. How to add infrastructure to connect to community path and account for/connect to GLX station
 - d. City working with Howard, Stein, Hudson (to be confirmed)
7. Other upcoming events
 - a. Proposed bridge across the mystic river is for 12' width, would prefer to see 14' path
 - i. In the past, we'd done something similar for the community path bridge as part of the GLX project, but wasn't particularly successful
 1. This will be much easier to change because a private party is funding this project
 - b. **ACTION ITEM** - to express support, whether that's formally drafting a letter or signing onto the existing letter
 - i. Vote passes to support this initiative

Focus: Powder House Boulevard(20 min)

Tone of the meeting last night, from the staff's perspective, was very positive and respectful

1. Short and long term plans - Adam
 - a. Short term: City is continuing to develop new design options and test different options
 - i. One option is a temporary parking-protected bike lane with 3' buffer zone on one side
 - ii. City is not committing to anything, but working to determine if this is a valid option that can be implemented in the next 2-3 weeks
 - b. Long term: Need to expand the conversation to include a larger part of the neighborhood and evaluate better networking and connectivity throughout
 - c. City has asked Evaluation and Planning team to prioritize movements for an interim plan in Fall 2019
2. Recap of recent meetings
 - a. Planning for Powderhouse Boulevard began at some point in 2015
 - b. Meetings started in May 2017 to discuss the road and infrastructure work that needed to happen and over the next year plans were solidified
 - c. Tragic death in Feb 2019 changed the course of the plans to require additional consideration of the traffic calming needs in this corridor
3. SBC discussion and possible vote
 - a. Impact on future plans for two-way protected bike lane? Probably not, in fact, it may improve the likelihood that we have fodder for future changes
 - b. Ians comments: can the City implement some structure to better enforce Vision Zero?
 - c. Katjana - the lack of funds creates the issues with execution
 - i. With an ordinance it's unclear how it would be written in such a way to effectively force the day-to-day activities of the city
 - ii. Katjana can look into how the City Council could write such an ordinance to effectively enforce this policy and achieve the outcomes we want
4. **Vote** - In support of this option for one-way protected bike lane on the northern side of PHB that is narrower than a typical bike lane
 - a. 8 of 15 vote in favor

City Update (35 min) - Adam

1. Striping timing -
 - a. Beacon St: hard to provide more details as the city is not directly in control
 - i. Change in timeline for northbound cycle track due to the change from asphalt berm to granite curb
 - ii. Tentatively to start over the next few weeks
 - iii. Email construction@somervillema.gov (with photos)
 - b. Webster Ave: crew deployed 8/1 to finish green paint
 - i. Adam has reached out to DPW about replacing flexposts
 - c. Central Broadway: designs are submitted and aiming to put out signage with T&P for August 12th
 - i. In the process of scheduling paint crews
 - ii. Removing about 50 parking spaces to create protected bike lanes between Trum and McGrath
- ~~2. Powder House Circle bike lanes~~
3. Cameron Ave and policy on grinding and center lines - covered in e-mail 7/18
4. Mystic Ave fatality and planned safety improvements
 - a. Second fatality for Somerville for the year, little is known at the time and there is an ongoing police investigation

- b. MassDOT has a budget (approx \$5M according to Brad) for making design improvements, and is trying to figure out what changes are feasible given the budget constraints
- 5. Bike Master Plan update
 - a. Will take recommendations from committee and ideation on some initial early action items based on those

Enforcement (10 min)

- 1. Uber meeting recap - Kevin

Productive conversation with representatives from Uber, sounds like they have some near-term plans as well as short term plans.

ACTION ITEM - Chat with Colin on sharing slides, put slides and minutes into Box (Kevin)

Education & Encouragement (5 min)

- 1. New website proposal - Michael
 - a. Move to Wordpress or Squarespace (or Wix)
 - b. Emily B. comfortable moving to one of these platforms, but need to fund it
 - i. TBD how to secure funding (through city or through some other mechanism)
- 2. T-shirts for tabling – Emily B
 - a. Adam to follow up with City Solicitor on this