



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE August 2020 MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives:

X Tom Lamar, Chair
X Katie Pierce, Vice Chair
Ted Lester, Secretary
X Ken Carlson
X Gregory Ely
Ted Feldman
X Alex Frieden
X Kevin McGrath
X Alan Moore

X Mark Vollinger
X Lena Webb
X Ian Woloschin
x Michael Weber

Ex Officio:

Katjana Ballantyne, City Council
X Adam Polinski, OSPCD Mobility
Deputy Chief Steve Carrabino, Police Department

Guests:

Emily Balkam- former member, visiting
Zach Rosenberg- ped transit committee
Arah - volunteer
Brad Rawson- OSPCD (is this called T&I now??)
George S- somerville bicycle safety
Ellyn - guest
Councilor Kristen Strezo
(all guests are already on mailing list)

Thursday, August 6th, 2020, 6:30-8:00PM

GoToMeeting link for computers, tablets, and smartphones:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/925364549>

GoToMeeting dial-in number: +1 (408) 650-3123, Access Code: 925-364-549

Procedural, General Business & Updates (20 Minutes)

- Guest introductions and meeting logistics
- *Stay muted and use chat as much as possible*
- Acting Secretary: Lena Webb
- VOTE: Approve July Minutes
- *approved!*
- Upcoming events and calls for volunteers
- *Mark V: Artisan Asylum is making gowns and if you would like to volunteer this is a good cause!*
- *Alan is resigning! After 17 years of service! E-beers n' cheers all around!*

Team Update: Safety / Enforcement (5 minutes)

- Current projects and updates

Kevin: COVID has interrupted a lot of efforts. This still on the menu is trying to get light distribution before the "dark" season. SPD has chipped in to fund some lights, and we found an option for lots of sets of lights for cheap.

-Automated enforcement:

-Vision Zero action plan: are changes going to be funded? How can we look to others as a template for our efforts?

Focus 1: Somerville Mobility Plans (20 minutes)

- Understanding of the next 6-12 months for the OSPCD Mobility Division

-Half year- to year plans: “these are the big buckets of work”-- It’s really hard to talk about those right now because of... everything.

-Mea culpas regarding other projects where our advisory message may not have hit home, or was not ultimately able to be actualized. Of note, T&I finally has a full team; they have been understaffed for a while now. Also, COVID. T&I tries to be opportunistic, trying their best to get the most bang for the city buck.

-Tom: what’s your thought about focusing on low-hanging fruit projects? Brad wants one big project for low-hanging fruit (i.e shared streets)-- not just one contraflow street, but a network of them. An issue: gravitate to big projects, and there’s no choice but have a community process. Quick-build can be where we can have our most immediate impact.

-Ellyn: possibility of internships: Brad says sometimes that works and sometimes it doesn’t. They hope that next year they can...?

Focus 2: SBAC Request: Raised Table Treatment (5 minutes)

- Beacon St at Properzi Way, Beacon St at Forest St

-Ken: ACTION ITEM: advocate for raised table at Properzi first and foremost, then Beacon.

-Ian: Properzi needs resurfacing, good time to put in raised table. Ian now has a car. His windshield view has informed him about how... awful it is to drive a car? Nah, how hard it is to see pedestrians and cyclists from that particular intersection.

- Any other intersections that could benefit?
- What are other alternatives we can explore if raised tables are not an option?

Focus 3: Snow Clearing Plans (5 minutes)

- Addressing shared streets: where should this fall as a priority?
- Starting the conversation with DPW and preparing for the snow season

-This is important. We will talk about it later. They are thinking about it. ACTION ITEMS: include SomPedTrans committee and organize participation efforts at the annual DPW snow meeting.

City Update (35 min) – Adam

- Holland St and College Ave
- BIG ACTION ITEM: GO TO THE PUBLIC MEETING 8/13. DEMAND MORE.

- Shared Streets
 - New additions, existing phases in Google maps, coordination with Cambridge

-City is consulting with Neighborways and Mark Chase. Joint shared streets with Cambridge are possible and perhaps being talked about.

-New bullet regarding Davis Square: it is remaining the way it is (one lane) for the near future. We are looking to tackle “legacy two-way streets” in a similar way (ex. Highland). Great news!

- Washington St Underpass
- Broadway Bridge
- Medford St Bridge
- Construction updates: School Street, Union Square

-Please see Adam’s slides for the images and bullet points.

-ACTION ITEM: continuing to advocate for turning Medford Street bridge into a full-use ped/bike bridge, not just a car use bridge. How best to do this??

-Brad last-minute comment: 2nd Mass DOT grant-- two-mile BUS LANE - are you proposing temp or perm? Grant prohibits apps on state roadways... in a grey area, DOT could say "nice try, benefits don't outweigh faults..."

Benefits = traffic data, public health data-- pollution before/after COVID-- concentrations of particulate matter/equity, etc.

-Katie: are we seeing any change in how we perceive mobility as our lives change? "Ye Olde New Normal"?

-Adam: we will be collecting quality of life data, so stay tuned-- shared streets-wise. Bigger picture-- lots are excited about what we're doing-- but those who aren't in support, their minds have not been changed by COVID. You don't hear from those who don't care until their lives are "disrupted" they are not vocal yet. We are NOT using a global health crisis to rip the rug out of folks' daily lives.

Ken Q: is the NACTO meeting happening and will Somerville be touting our accomplishments?

-A: no conference planning session yet. Showcasing of this region should be presented...