



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES (DRAFT)

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives:

Ken Carlson, Chair

Tom Lamar, Vice Chair

Katie Pierce, Secretary

Alex Anderson

Emily Balkam

Mark Chase

Alex Epstein

Ted Feldman

Alex Frieden

Enid Kumin

Ted Lester

Kevin McGrath

Alan Moore

Brandon Stafford

Lena Webb

Ian Woloschin

Michael Weber

Ex Officio:

Skye Stewart, Office of the Mayor

Jesse Clingan, Board of Alderman

Commissioner Stan Koty, Dept. of Public Works

Terry Smith, Traffic and Parking

Mike Tremblay, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Dev

Deputy Chief Steve Carrabino, Police Department

Thursday Aug 9, 2018, 6:30-8:00 PM, Police Department, Washington St

Procedural, General Business & Updates (10 Minutes)

1. Guest introductions and sign-in sheet

Emily Warren ; Karl Alexander; Mark Velinger; Laura Borrelli. Question of the month was least favorite intersection. Many votes for Powderhouse, Somerville/Beacon, and others included Comm Path @ Cedar, where cars are being mistakenly driven onto the Path. Also Elm at Beech, Ball Square, Somerville Ave/Washington (left turn).

Mark Velinger is interested in joining the committee and has attended a number of meetings. He spoke to his interest in furthering biking; special interest is in enforcement. We are waiting for Mark to submit a letter of interest.

2. Acting Secretary: Alex Epstein

3. VOTE: Approve July Minutes

Katie motioned, Tom seconded, all approved pending typo correction of "stripping" → striping

4. We have a megaphone! And an Instagram account!

Ken encouraged everyone to post and tag photos of things we like or do not like on Instagram (#somervillebike). Instagram account is managed by one person, but Ken suggested it be opened (login information) to all on the committee.

City Update (30 min)- Mike

1. Beacon Street

Meeting was held today with all key stakeholders and Eversource was grilled about completing their work. Sidewalks depend on utility poles being moved, road depends on gas leaks being addressed. Alan asked about history of project not allowing moving the poles, but Mike indicated moving poles has been part of the plan all along [note after meeting- Mike misstated that poles are being moved from north side of street to south side; poles are being replaced on the north side]. City requesting Eversource address the work they need to do. Northbound PBL cannot be built until final pave (this needs clarification as it is not clear this is the case). Ian asked about what happens if Beacon Street slips to next year for safety. Mike indicated interim striping would be added for the winter in that case, but more significant work is hard to extract from Eversource given the MassDOT rather than City oversight. MassDOT would need to apply the pressure on the utilities and telecoms (Verizon, RCN, Comcast) whose poles need to be moved. Mike will not be surprised if NB cycletrack will not be done this year, in which case City will demand temporary bollards and paint for this bike lane.

2. Webster Ave

Everyone knows this is a priority. Paint crews have striping plans and can deploy 1-2 weeks after pave. Paving is holding this up. Decision to postpone upper Medford Street to 2019 may expedite Webster paving.

3. City policy on Bird Scooters

City issued cease and desist on July 31, no scooters are currently in the City according to the app. Mike envisions developing an RFP for one or more sanctioned scooter vendors. Even if we don't sanction, Arlington or Medford will, so the City needs to be proactive in developing a framework. Discussion of the legality of scooters included points that the MGL was written for scooters along the lines of Vespas, not small standing electric scooters. Tom expressed a hope that future regulations would not inhibit the availability of scooters as a viable, sustainable mode that can help people get out of cars. Ken remarked on his positive experience with e-scooters in San Diego, but noted that they might not make it up steep hills. There was agreement that any e-scooter sanctioned in the future through the RFP should be able to climb the hills.

4. Potential replacement of Grove Street gate with bollards

The City is currently reviewing utility of the gate. It appears Grove Street is on the fire service area boundary and would never actually be used by the fire department. Mike is developing a memo and wants to get to the point where we can get 6-foot-spaced permanent bollards. Not the highest priority, but want to get it shovel ready when the issue comes up.

5. City's plans for moving White Street contraflow concept

Cambridge primarily responsible and is on board and will switch parking, install contraflow sharrows. Likely to be done this year. Alderman Niedergang is in support pending meeting with residents.

6. Timing for resurfacing of (upper) Medford St. Consider delay to 2019 to allow for streetscape plan

Opportunity for SBC to think about improving bus as well as bike/pedestrian facilities. Katie pointed out that the Medford Street bus will be redundant and removed once the GLX is completed in 2021, so maybe we shouldn't be thinking about bus usage for Medford Street in 2019.

7. Final Bluebikes locations

Seven of nine new locations have been installed. Two more going in on August 10: Community Path at Cedar Street and Teele Square. Also a second Assembly Square location is forthcoming. Current total station count is 21 once expansion is completed, about 325 docks total. Mike is looking for recommendations for additional stations next year.

8. Update on Cameron-Cutter-Marshall-Mt Vernon

Bike lane already painted and Ruby Lake to be added on Mount Vernon, Marshall being painted 8/12 and Ruby Lake coming, Cutter layout is done, Cameron is forthcoming in coordination with Cambridge, Davis Ruby Lake is coming,

Winter is Coming (20 min)- Ken

1. What can we expect/push to get done between now and winter? How do we mitigate if needed?

Ken opened by stating 2018 could be a depressingly slow year for addition of bike facilities if Beacon, Webster, and Broadway do not come to pass. Mike agreed that Beacon Street completion by end of season is 50% probability. If Eversource gets its act together, the best case scenario is final pave in November. Ian questioned why the center double yellow was painted on lower Beacon but not the bike lane. Ken expected that mitigation would be needed if Beacon remains unsafely incomplete.

Webster has been a year on hold, but a contractor and money are lined up; there is no mitigation available for this route not being completed.

Broadway would be a \$60k-\$70k job, so there is the lead time of bidding for a contractor.

Vision Zero Task Force call for volunteers is going out from Communications tomorrow. Ken, Tom, and Katie will advise on selection of 2-3 SBAC members who would apply, per Mike's recommendation. All interested should email Ken.

Holland Street bus/bike has not been a focus at OSPCD so is unlikely to be implemented this year.

Powderhouse Blvd will be re-surfaced from Powderhouse Circle to Curtis. The remaining section to Alewife Brook Parkway will be done next year. Bike lanes will be striped but there is still the possibility of a cycletrack. Mark Chase to inform the committee about this.

Sacramento Street underpass construction activity notices that Alan Moore observed were not known to Mike; however there is OSPCD desire to add this location to the pedestrian and bike counts. The construction may be only to repair the failing concrete and accessibility deterioration of the underpass.

Pedestrian Committee will be a Vision Zero action item.

Elm Street Traffic Calming is going to be taken up by the E&P team, with Brian Postlewaite. For repaving it sooner, adding a bike route weight to the paving priority list determination formula would be the best strategy, rather than street by street.

Washington Street PBLs (HSIP) not happening this year since Washington St will be closed at the GLX overpass

Lower Medford Street PBLs delayed until next year along with the final pave.

Mike advised us that SBAC and OSPCD should focus on designing streets for next April 15. The TNC funding will allow more planning capacity at OSPCD to do this.

Evaluation (20 min)

1. Community Path crossings at Cedar St and Willow Ave

Ted Lester discussed how Mass General Laws, the Mass Drivers Manual, and the MassDOT separated bike lane design guide may affect the yielding right-of-way. Mike believes there is a rule that a stop sign is directed at the route with less traffic, which at the Cedar/Comm Path intersection may be a toss-up. Discussion about whether we're concerned about the practical operation or the legalities. Brandon said the issue might come up when bicyclists on the road fail to yield to bicyclists on the path. Good reason to figure this out now because there will be four more at-grade CPX crossings upon completion. Mike advocates for adding a stop sign at Buena Vista crossing. **ACTION:** confirm rule about stop sign placement at crossings that Mike remembered, then create guidance for current and future crossings.

Discussion about adding bollards to the Comm Path at each crossing to stop inadvertent as well as potentially malicious entry by motorists. **ACTION:** develop guidance for adding bollards to secure Comm Path at crossings

2. Winter snow plowing priorities

E&P Team recommended a priority of facilities to be cleared in winter, separated by those requiring special equipment and those on roads where there is no room for cars to pass if bike lane not plowed. Committee recommended removing Community Path from priority list since it is already a priority for pedestrians. Asking SBAC to approve sending the letter. **ACTION:** review the priority list and send feedback to Ted Lester prior to meeting with Stan in about 2 weeks.

3. Recommendations for a Broadway bicycle detour

GLX detour at Ball Square will be a one-year bridge closure of Broadway starting Fall 2018. E&P recommends advisory bike lane or priority bike lane around and under Harvard Street bridge (in Medford), Warner Street; also traffic calming both Boston Ave and Winchester Street. As this will require Medford to cooperate, undertake the following **ACTION:** send proposal to Medford BAC (Patrick Bibbins). Also E&P suggests City seek easement between Cedar Street and Boston Ave to dramatically shorten the official detour for bikes. City's new GLX Coordinator starts Monday. Mike pessimistic about the likelihood of the easement happening. **ACTION:** Ted to write letter summarizing recommendations to City. Katie suggested engaging the Ball Square GLX group, stating they may have more power than we think. Brandon recommended allowing two-way biking (contraflow) on Boston Avenue between Highland Rd. and Morrison Ave as a low-cost detour-shortening strategy.

4. Request for Calvin St bike facilities

Skipped topic.

Encouragement: (10 min)

1. Sports Bar Tour

Laura Borrelli announced the first tour of this type departs Sunday at 4pm from Highland Kitchen. Route is about 6 miles and will feature 9 different bars, stopping in 2-4 bars. The megaphone will be put to good use at each stop. All please come. If raining, Laura will announce through Facebook; no raindate.

2. Bike convoy tomorrow 7:45 a.m. from Diesel Convoy.

3. Mike recommended planning a future bike ride themed on lesser-known parks.

4. Handing out Somerville biking info at block parties
Please send feedback to Laura.

Banter over Beer: Location TBA