



## SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

### **Community Representatives:**

x Ken Carlson, Chair  
Tom Lamar, Vice Chair  
Katie Pierce, Secretary  
x Alex Anderson  
Emily Balkam  
x Alex Epstein  
x Ted Feldman  
Alex Frieden  
Ted Lester  
x Kevin McGrath  
x Alan Moore

Mark Vollinger  
x Lena Webb  
Ian Woloschin  
Michael Weber

### **Ex Officio:**

Skye Stewart, Office of the Mayor  
Katjana Ballyntine, City Council  
Commissioner Stan Koty, Dept. of Public Works  
x Adam Polinski, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development  
x Deputy Chief Steve Carrabino, Police Department

Thursday Feb 7, 2019, 6:30-8:00 PM, Academy Room Police Department, Washington St

### **Procedural, General Business & Updates (25 Minutes)**

1. Guest introductions and sign-in sheet. Guest: Kristiana Lachiusa, Arah Schuur, Clara Wogram, Doug Mayor-Wells from Arlington Bike Committee, Viola Augustin from City of Somerville, Brent Woo
2. Acting Secretary: Lena
3. VOTE: Approve January Minutes -- APPROVED
4. 2018 Annual Report Draft Update – Ken  
Working draft by March, gives OSPCD time to refine it, and we use for tabling, etc. **Action item:** Emily to edit. Katie is all set. Engineering all set. **Action item:** Eval needs a lead. Kevin on deck. Tom good.
5. Bike Month Kick-off Panel concept- Ken  
Bring together bike advocates, entrepreneurs, discussion panel (this year's theme: biking with kids. Bicycle Belle owner be on panel; kids of bike families, etc). **Action item:** volunteer coordinator (entails reaching out to advocacy orgs, letting them know what we're doing—lots of e-mails, agenda, timelines, logistics). No swag from MassDOT this year.
6. Bike Committee transitions- Ken/Tom
7. SBAC roles and responsibilities that need filling- Tom  
See slide for roles filled/not filled. Volunteers are also able to fill these roles (otherwise people will be assigned)

### **City Update (25 min) - Adam/Brad**

1. Staffing update  
Mike is gone. His job is available and staff-level position are open and posted with early May as a start date. Adam doesn't know how many applicants so far; Ken encourages us to spread the word. Mike's workload needs to be distributed: main 10 projects (VZ action plan, HSIP paint on bike lanes on a few streets in Spring, Powderhouse resurfacing/roundabout, Courtney is the new streetscape planner (beacon St, bluebikes, central hill, bus route, Davis Sq). Viola is taking some heat off re: traffic calming projects, etc. Ken points out we've increased our capacity staff-wise.
2. Report back on Winter Hill in Motion meeting  
Positive reception! Lots of bike friendly folks, general consensus that the plan wasn't aggressive enough. Uphill Bike Lane strongly considered. Pavement quality (resurfacing project maybe to be brought up again/transparent with SBAC—Ken wants a smoother resurfacing process). Adam confident that the pavement marking, signal changes, etc will go smoothly.
3. Bike/ped counts

6 locations used a count vendor (TMCs use video cameras) vs. volunteers (ex. Teele/Broadway). Volunteer efforts stymied by weather/inaccurate data. **Action item:** increase number of volunteers at certain locations bc of complexity and high volume. Consider automated counters a la Longfellow. **Action item:** inquire about a corporate sponsor for automatic counters. Adam does not believe in the pneumatic tube sensors for counting. Bike crashes vs. bike use rate are lower. In the AM: beacon Medford Somerville all high concentrations. AM Ped counts high in Porter/Davis. PM ped counts in Assembly square.

4. Vision Zero report – next steps  
The bones are there and Mike did a good job. We're in the outreach stage now, and within 6 months it will be published.
5. Preparing for 2019 construction season  
Lower/upper Medford, Holland 2020 likely (funding contracting there). Broadway bridge closure begins in March. Look at the slide for details.

#### **SBAC High Priority Project Updates (25 min)**

1. Holland St- Lena/Jon  
**Action item:** Viola to send new bus detour maps. What is a good bus lane pilot timelength: a week with cones, ideally a longer pilot with semi-permanent infrastructure. Other pilot examples indicate it takes about a week to get people used to it, then you see the behavior as if it was live (recommendation against a too short pilot). Putting down cones is a lot of personpower and is discouraged. A painted pilot is recommended using cheaper paint.

Viola says that we can still have extensive public process without a complicated pilot. Adam agrees that a pilot is not the only way to reach people. Reach out to the businesses prior, street teams, flyering, etc.

**Action item:** Team Holland to meet with Kristiana from LSA, add in Adam and Viola soon thereafter.

2. Powderhouse Blvd- Mark  
Tabled!
3. Park St- Ken  
Goal: climbing bike lane towards beacon, etc, look at slides for graphics—losing 16 spots. **Action Item:** Reach out to JT.

#### **New Contraflow Projects (15 min) – Mark**

Hancock/Gilman data will be sent to NACTO. There is a high density of one-way streets in Somerville, and here are some potential next Neighborways targets: Glen St, Sycamore (broadway to highland/richdale to wiloughby), White St (work with Cambridge), Pearson to avoid Powderhouse blvd, Wallace St, Tufts connections, Grove St off the Community Path. **Action item:** help Mark with neighborhood outreach— specifically flyering bike riders. Pass out info to bikes, reach out to people who live on the street to ask if they would support better bike infrastructure, etc.

#### **Banter over Beer: Location TBA**