



## SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 2020 MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

### Community Representatives: (Present members in Bold)

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

**Mark Vollinger**  
**Lena Webb**  
**Ian Woloschin**  
**Michael Weber**

### Ex Officio:

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

Guests: Elyn Thompson, Eric Weisman from (Director of Operations at DPW), Greg Ely, Nate Kaufman, George Schneelock, Brad Rawson (Director of Mobility at OSPCD), Gavin Lund

Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 6:30-8:00PM, Somerville Public Safety Building Academy Room, 220 Washington St

### **Procedural, General Business & Updates (10 Minutes)**

- Guest introductions and sign-in sheet
- Acting Secretary: Emily
- VOTE: Approve January Minutes, Motioned by Ian, Seconded by Mark, Approved.
- Annual report for 2019 – Tom is creating a template and distributing it, deadline March 1<sup>st</sup> as an internal deadline – get your team's content in!
- Volunteer opportunity: Pedestrian & Transit Advisory Committee liaison – has started! Partner committee to this one, they would like someone from this committee to attend their meetings and vice versa. Also on Thursdays, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, in this room. Next One: Feb 20.
- Upcoming events:
  - Bike Party is next Friday, Valentine's Day themed.
  - Gilman Square meeting (will be in the City presentation)
  - Powder House Meeting - Monday March 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Bike Breakfasts at Whole Foods – March/April start depending on weather, Ian will reach out to them.

**City Update (40 min) – Adam**

- DPW maintenance – *Eric Weisman, Somerville Resident, Bike Commuter, Director of Operations at DPW.*
  - - Working to figure out ways to up capacity for snow removal, equipment, sweeping, etc.
- Open meeting law and committee conduct
  - The SBAC is an official city committee, and all members are considered unpaid employees of the City of Somerville
  - The SBAC was created by an act of the City Council, and the enabling ordinance can be found on Box.
  - Bylaws created in 2015 are also available on Box.
  - All meetings are open to the public, are subject to open meeting law.
  - When we're deliberating on the SBC google group, that's a violation of the meeting law.
  - Subcommittee meetings ARE acceptable, so conversations should happen there instead, as long as Quorum is not met.
  - Ex: Letter about Washington street that happened last month. Should reach out the Officers so they can get in touch with the City representatives, decide if a special meeting is needed, or if it should wait until the next scheduled meeting. Not for group discussion on the Google Group.
  - We can extend monthly meetings or add additional meetings as needed.
  - David Shapiro (General Council) can provide more details around this, Katjana can facilitate this.
  - Don't want a legal liability to compromise the work that is being done by this group.
  - Announcements are Ok – don't want people talking back in forth in response.
  - Tom, Katie and Ted meet with Adam and Brad every month, we can be efficient and take advantage of that meeting and make announcements back to the committee.
- Washington St underpass update
  - To follow up to last month's discussion, Viola and Brad are appreciative of our feedback and have a revised plan. Showed a draft for comments. Key elements:
    - Existing bike lane from McGrath stays, buffered from Joy St to Washington East Bound.
    - Mixing zone with the community path and the subway station.
    - West Bound – bike path mixes with a bus lane with a painted buffer, a few curb cuts that are needed. Right turn/mixing zone at the end.
    - Given to the GLX team, they will work with this. Paint (Red/Green) will be provided by the city.
    - Initial Reactions: Bus Priority Signaling? Yes. Very positive reception by the committee.
- Holland St & College Ave project update
  - First public meeting is tentatively Monday, Feb 24<sup>th</sup>
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be early to mid April, and a third early to mid may
  - Outreach will include merchant surveys, customer intercept survey, office hours and a new online tool called SomerVoice page to help ppl engage on the internet.
  - Construction is expected to start in Davis Square in May, going up College ave, goal is to finish by the end of the year. 2021 is a fair expectation for final paving.
  - Feedback from committee that the process seems vague, need more advance warning.
  - Request by Committee to get slides in advance from the City to review ahead of the meeting. Adam will work towards this.
  - Budget is set aside for West Broadway, but it's not at the same priority level for Holland getting done.

- Preferred Concept plan is what Brian and Jesse shared at earlier meeting.
- Medford St / Gore St project update
  - Engineering to meet with contractor this month to discuss timeline for 2020 for both upper and lower Medford St.
  - Cambridge is doing work on their end of the street as well, opportunity to work together on a safe transition. The EE team should share what they have for this.
- Spring Hill Sewer Separation project update
  - First meeting was Monday night, Presentation was followed by breakout sessions with test cross section activities.
  - Staff will consolidate feedback and start to move toward some concepts for Highland, Summer, Central and School over the Spring.
- Adding “low hanging fruit” to project tracking
  - Need SBAC’s help prioritizing amongst all of the projects that have been identified.
  - One way to prioritize will be to compare the list of projects to the Vision Zero action plan items
  - Also important for committee members to ask:
    - How can a bike network plan help us prioritize amongst all of the projects we undertake?
    - Is that something that what we want our bike network plan to do?
- Issues with Beacon St mountable curb
  - Have asked Parking to install in-street pedestrian signs at Forest St crosswalk
  - Discussion regarding the 3” curb between sidewalk and OB cycle track. Vertical piece can be dangerous
  - Hecklers – add to priority list.

### **Education & Encouragement (15 min)**

- Tour de Somerville – *Emily*
  - Kid Friendly Theme – Email Emily if you want to be involved with planning, route etc.
  - Fixing Bikes at Schools Project - Michael – Targeting schools with a training curriculum and fixing up old bike to give to kids, kids can sign up in one school to see how it goes. Arah working on this with Shape Up Somerville. Need some more bike maintenance volunteers. Email Michael or Arah about this.
- Bike Friendly Business applications – *Emily & Ken*
  - Aeronaut, Whole Foods, CLYPD, Brooklyn Boulders, Form Labs, True Grounds, RedBones, Forge.
  - Email Emily (emilyrbalkam@gmail.com) if you want talking points, she created a page on our Website as well.
- Bike Month Kickoff planning – *Emily & Ken*
  - April 26<sup>th</sup>. 1-3:30 for Tabling, live music. 3:30-4:30

### **Engineering & Evaluation (20 min)**

- Washington St resurfacing – *Alex F*
  - Micro Neighborhood Meetings provided positive feedback, progress being made, annotated designs have been sent to the city, next steps are design from the city, neighborhood engagement, public meeting, possibility to implement during street repaving in 2021 to improve the streetscape.
- White St – *Alan*

- Contra-flow, Joe Bar in Cambridge still supports this. Everything is in Cambridge. Conceptually, city is in support, Councilor Mark Niedergang is in favor of it. Adam thinks this will need to get approved to the traffic commission.
- Vote to ask the city to work with the traffic commission and Cambridge to implement this design? All in favor.
- Community Path Design & GLX – *Alan*
  - Motion that the SBAC requests that the mayor funds incremental width of the community path with the Friends of the Community Path to make it wider. Full details will be sent on to Adam and Brad.
  - Vote: Unanimous Yes!

**2019 In Review (5 min) – Tom**

*(Tabled to a future meeting)*