



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE Draft MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives:

Ken Carlson, Chair
Tom Lamar, Vice Chair
Enid Kumin, Secretary
Alex Anderson
Emily Balkam
Mark Chase
Charlie Denison
Alex Epstein
Alan Moore
Brian Postlewaite
Brandon Stafford
Sara Wasserman
Ian Woloschin

Ex-Officio:

Skye Stewart, Office of the Mayor
Maryann Heuston, Board of Aldermen
Commissioner Stanley Koty, Department of Public Works
Terry Smith, Traffic and Parking
Deputy Chief Stephen Carrabino, Police Department
Adam Polinski Office of Strategic Planning and Community Dev.
Mike Tremblay Office of Strategic Planning and Community Dev.

BOLD = Present at meeting.

Guests Present: Katherine Pierce, Sarah Bundick, Lena Webb, Jessica Przysieck, Zac Przysieck, Alex Frieden, Andreas Wolfe, Peter Fleming, Kevin McGrath

Day/Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: City Hall Basement Lounge

Procedural and General Business - 20 min

1. Guest introductions and sign-in sheet
2. Acting Secretary: Emily
3. VOTE: Approve January Minutes – **motioned to be approved, Ken made a few final edits, approved with his edits.**
4. Application of Mark Chase for SBAC Membership – **Mark has lived in Somerville since 1994. He has a Masters Degree from Tufts in Urban Planning, teaches at Tufts currently, and has been involved as an ad-hoc SBAC committee member. He originated Neighbor-ways – making bike and kid friendly corridors in neighborhoods. Likes to bike cautiously, will represent that style. The SBAC is making an exception in Mark’s application on the rule to attend 6 meetings, since Mark has been instrumental in so many bike-related projects in Somerville, including the early efforts for bike lanes on Beacon Street, numerous projects including protected bike lane projects, parking regulations, etc. Members will vote on his application after the meeting {Note after meeting- Mark’s application was unanimously approved by the Committee}.**
5. Use of Calendar by sub teams – Enid - **Everyone please forward anything you have to Enid so she can add it to our Google calendar – the goal is to add all events so we have a complete record. Can access through our website currently, everyone can add to it now. All we have on**

it currently is this meeting and perhaps a Bike Talk, would be good to flesh this out.

6. Acting Secretary schedule and reminder about minute taking – Enid. This has been discussed over email, look for your name. Adam is sending out the agenda in MS Word every month, use this as a template, upload it in Box. Make sure everything is completed by Monday following the meeting so others can make edits or comments as appropriate. Then the final version is approved at the following meeting. If you can't make your obligation, please work on getting someone to switch with you or reach out to Enid.
7. Use of Slack for communication – Tom Messaging software tool – free for basic version, works well on Web and Mobile, could be useful for informal and/or cross-team communication. Concerns about history, extra noise, etc. Benefit is non-members could participate in conversations more easily (can't write to SBAC official email list). Kevin has already done the initial set up, will send out invites.

Annual Report status- Alex A 5 min See City Update below

Vision- Mark Chase 20 min

- **Tufts PBL network** – See presentation “West Somerville Protected Bicycle Lanes – Proposal for Low cost/low stress facilities” by Mark Chase.
 - Two way protected bike lane would fit around the Tufts campus on College Ave, Powderhouse Blvd and Packard Ave.
 - Next to athletic fields / campus, which means would need to remove parking lane on one side. Would still be a parking lane on the other side to fit in the existing curb to curb space and there is a parking garage on the Boston Ave side of campus that is largely unused.
 - Typical cross-section proposed as 10' two-way protected bike lane (5' each direction), 1' buffer with flexposts, two 11' travel lanes, 7' parking lane. Could adjust by 1' or so as needed
 - Need to figure out how to address the bus stop near the circle. One possibility is to relocate bus stop to other side of Powder House Circle.
 - Hard part is transitions when the two-way protected bike lane ends, and as it passes through Powder House circle.
 - Ball field is used for local residents in the summer – need to figure out this piece as well.
 - Powder House Blvd has wide planting strip, not sure of ownership. Could be repurposed in longer term reconstruction, but not in short term build.
 - Employees of Tufts don't want to pay to park on campus, often park in this area. (\$200 yearly fee approx.)
 - There are curb extensions at the intersection of Packard, would need to remove the northeast corner. This would be the only change to curbs.
 - Estimated cost \$100,000, good chance Tufts could pay for this, especially if Somerville would ask for it.
 - Neighbors are about 60% students, 40% non.
 - Mark has met with Brad Rawsomn about the project and he is in favor.
 - Next Steps:
 - Meet with Ward Alderman (Ken Carlson, Brandon Stafford, Mark Chase)
 - Approach Tufts for support (Mark and Brad Rawson will do this)
 - Engineering Team deciding if they have bandwidth/need to attack this project or not.

- Follow up discussion:
 - Have this recommendation come from the Committee, will need a public outreach meeting in order to roll it. Will need to develop a strategy around this.
 - Motion to approve the concept of this proposal and refer the Engineering team to review further. Approved.
 - Alternate suggestion, given work load that the Engineering team has currently, we could all take a look at this (Ken, Mark and Tom and whomever else wants to be involved). Fastest this would actually start paint on the street is August. Will know by the end of March if it's an August 2017 project, would need a design around then or early April – likely will come from Tufts' on-call consultant VHB (a large traffic and engineering firm).
 - Details needed: Who's paving it, plowing it, etc. Show the design on an aerial photograph.
- Neighborways (moved to next month)

Update from City- Adam 30 min

- Meet Mike Tremblay – Mike started as Senior Transportation Planner two weeks ago (position had been vacant since Jennifer Molina left). Worked with Andreas at Howard Stein Hudson, studied under Peter Furth before then at Northeastern. Also worked on the design for the Comm Ave and Connect Historic Boston protected bike lane projects. Excited to be working on this side of the river in Somerville.
- Annual Report - In the hands of the city currently, but need more PHOTOS – more variety and submissions in general. Should have a final version from the city shortly. Adam and Mike looked it over, they feel it's there in terms of content, a few nit-picky changes, goal is to have it done by April 1st, plus/minus two weeks. Consistency in punctuation and abbreviations are the type of changes we can expect. Most important is the cover photo – Photo of Beacon St Cycletrack with Carice from Bicycle Belle in it- Ken recommends this one.
- HSIP status – Might not happen in 2017, consultant said there's been some hang ups on the State Level. Adam working on getting more details around this or see if there's a way to at least get some paint down.
- Beacon St – snow removal policy for protected bike lane. Working with DPW and the Mayor's office to establish a procedure moving forward (thanks Ian for your proposal!), need to work with operations on this to find out what's reasonable/doable middle ground if they can't meet all asks. In addition to snow removal, drainage is an issue. Should be fixed when the project is actually finished. Need to make sure it's ok at intersections with cross streets. SBC proposed raised crossings at minor intersections, but this did not make it into the final design. Worth check into this – but will be better than it is now by mid-summer hopefully.
 - Next month: Let's talk about getting ahead of everything for the Beacon Street project.
 - August Meeting: Let's revisit the snow removal policy before next winter comes.
- Webster Ave construction communication plans – Eversource is digging it up in late spring – will need to coordinating timing on this project. Ken recommends a sub-committee to work on this with the community, parking, with the city, etc.
- Five-year street resurfacing update - New Director of Engineering, updated the list, had a consultant run a model based on this, get as many people as are willing into a room to review the plans on all the streets on the list for both this year and next. Goal is to get plans a year

ahead – should be happening next month. Request to re-stripe existing infrastructure. OSPCD responsible for expanding network, all the maintenance is on Traffic and Parking. Every year they do an eyeball check to see what's the most faded and then have a contractor address. They are working on a better procedure for this. Committee can report back on this for Terry if that would be helpful. Thermoplastic is different from paint – takes longer to fade.

- Traffic Commission and Traffic Board appointees – Currently being reviewed by Brad and Suzanne (director of Traffic and Parking). Looking for a citizen to represent the committee community member. Alex Frieden, a frequent guest at SBAC meetings has applied for the position. The Traffic Board is a special body that meets separately – likely they'll want someone for that as well, currently under review.
- Status of BoA and Engineering Ex-Officio replacement – Selection process is still in progress, no update yet. Ken has an update: Bill White says there are 3 Alderman that are interested, and that BoA president Bill White will make a final decision. Ken has made his recommendation as well. Update: MaryAnn Heuston was confirmed as BoA liaison.
- Bike safety campaign and rolling out of new bike map – Met with communications department, getting the bike facilities map into a mailing, flyering, bike safety posters that can be given to the committee to pass out to local businesses, will have in the next month or can pick up sooner. Bike map is done, has been sent to the committee, will address changes/comments.
- Citywide transportation data layers update – Crash data analysis doc is being put into a web interface that we'll be able to look at to help visualize the data. Don't have the timeline for this quite yet – perhaps a month or two. 2016 crash data will be added shortly as well. GIS guru is working on a golden source data layer which includes parking meters, bus routes, fire hydrants, etc. Will be released this week or next.
- Safety Zones – Traffic commission approved as Board of Aldermen a list of 60 streets that will be 20 mile per hour zones near parks, senior centers, Somerville hospital. Should start seeing the signage in a month. 25 MPH is the new default city limit unless otherwise posted. Recommendation that high volume neighbor-ways would be a place to test lower speed limits and expand the safety zones.
- Conflict of Interest Training – see email from Adam.
 - All Committee Members: Please review attachments and watch the 60 min training video, print out the certificate and email it to Adam.

Team Updates- 45 min

- Education Team- 10'
 - Bike Talk series for 2017 – Next one is on Wednesday – Phil Goth “The battle for a complete street in East Arlington”. A great example of how Advocacy can work even when someone put \$100,000 of funding against the infrastructure.
 - Bike Month Kick-off Event- May 7 Aeronaut (with Encouragement Team) – Get all the local organizations to table, Panel will be on how to advocate for Safer Streets, moderated by Jon Ramos.
 - Team Goals –
 - Looking for a liaison with the High School
 - Increase Publicity
 - Continue Bike Talk program, track attendance, table to provide info
 - Update materials used for tabling. Emulate Cambridge's “Street Code” booklet – aimed at drivers, pedestrians and cyclists equally. It came from the city – Ken

will talk to Tegin to see if we can use most of it.

- **Engineering Team- Brian 15'**
 - **Elm St Short/Medium/Long term plans – Andreas put together three plans for the length of Elm Street:**
 - **Short – Only paint and flex posts. Bike lane on both sides up until Beech. Green Paint near Willow/Beech intersection to show conflict points. Bus Stops are the same locations as currently. Bike lane switches sides by Cedar. There's an advisory bike lane at Wilson Square at the end. Concern: Slip lane is a hazard when cars turn from Somerville Ave into the slip lane. Needs to be addressed in next version. Can we use Bollards in addition to paint? Paint isn't effective there. Let's add 200ft to the concept to address the problematic slip lane between Somerville Ave and Elm St. Also, repaint crosswalks. Existing ones will be preserved. Note, everyone agrees this short term plan is a huge improvement over the existing infrastructure.**
 - **Medium – Also consider taking away parking. Parking is removed along the south side from Cutter until it widens enough. Estimate removing 55-60% of the on-street parking throughout the corridor. Would need someone to measure carefully to determine exactly how far would need to be removed. It's mostly resident permitted not commercial parking. Add some bollards to shorten cross walk distances if possible in a low cost way, without changing curbs. Buffered loading zone by the Star Market in Porter Square. Question: can we restrict trucks at certain times of day? Use a bike lane the rest of the time when not needed for loading. Can be done with paint and bollards to show that it's a loading zone. This has been done in Allston.**
 - **Long – Magic wand to remove curbs, protected bike lanes, etc. Closing off the middle of Beech would have a rebuilt pedestrian island. Proposal to consider a round-about. Coordinate with Cambridge.**
 - **Section from Cedar St to Somerville Ave is being repaved in the short term as part of Cedar St utility work. So opportunity to propose something better.**
 - **Recommendation: Add Cutter Ave, Beech, Cedar and Mossland to show the connections to the rest of the network.**
 - **Also add Neighborway on Hancock – hope is that this will be built as pilot this year. Will need to do a parking study for Elm St in March.**
 - **Summary of Inman Square Proposals – Final design this summer, 25% in March or April, breaking ground this fall potentially.**
 - **Let's discuss this at the next meeting, running out of time to take a formal position. Cambridge Safe Streets Facebook page has the latest designs.**
 - **City doesn't have a formal position currently, may change in the next month.**
 - **Coordination with Arlington on Broadway – Alex E Brad is aware of this. Broadway is currently lacking any bicycle facilities. Tom and Alex E will update committee next month after meeting with Arlington advocates.**
 - **Medford is repaving Boston Ave and adding a bike lane in one direction as part of Complete Streets grant. There are about three blocks of Boston Ave in Somerville (near Whole Foods / the Mystic River), Medford proposed including Somerville's section.**
 - **Team Goals –**

- Elm Street Corridor
 - West Somerville Protected Bike Lane Project
 - Powerhouse Circle Re-design
 - Need volunteers for Parking counts, especially late night
 - Beacon Street – second part - Building a small team to reach out to business, residents and do Parking Studies.
- Enforcement Team- Greg 10'
 - Webster Ave Parking Study – Did counts two nights already, doing another one tomorrow night at 11:59pm, need to analyze the data. Main takeaway is the garage is very underutilized.
 - Team goals – Will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Eval & Planning – Tom 5'
 - Team goals - Didn't meet this month.
 - Western terminus of Minuteman Trail is getting extended another 2 miles in Bedford, from Railroad Ave to Concord town line. We're adding a letter of support, as this connects to the Somerville Community Path.
 - Changing team lead – Looking for volunteers – email Tom or Ken if interested.
- Encouragement – Alex A 5'
 - Team goals - Didn't meet this month.
 - Rush Hour Challenge should happen on Monday June 6th, will depend on Red Bones schedule. Want to keep it outside of Bike Month. {Note after meeting- red Bones confirmed June 6}
 - Goal 1: Expand awareness to more neighborhoods
 - Goal 2: AM and PM commutes
 - AM - Dudley Station to Faneuil Hall
 - PM - From Faneuil to Red Bones
 - 6 Modes of Transportation: Public Transit, Private Car, Bike, Hubway, Pedestrian, etc.
 - Partner with other groups – e.g. Open Studios relationship

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.