



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives:

*Ken Carlson, Chair
*Tom Lamar, Vice Chair
*Katie Pierce, Secretary
*Alex Anderson
*Emily Balkam
*Mark Chase
Alex Epstein
*Alex Frieden
*Enid Kumin
*Kevin McGrath
*Alan Moore
*Brandon Stafford
*Lena Webb
*Ian Woloschin

Ex-Officio:

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

Day/Date: Thursday Feb 1, 2018

Time: 6:30-8:10 p.m.

Location: Police Department/ Washington Street

*Indicates present

Procedural, General Business & Updates -Ken (20 min)

1. Guest introductions and sign-in sheet
2. Acting Secretary: Lena Webb
3. VOTE: Approve Jan Minutes (acting secretary: Kevin McGrath)
- Motion to approve minutes: minutes approved by a vote
4. Introducing Jesse Clingan as our new BOA Liaison
- Jesse was unable to attend but we are excited to welcome him aboard!
5. Annual Report reminder
-**Action item:** Alex A is collecting materials for the report and we have TWO WEEKS to complete it. Following the three E's, each team write a page about what was accomplished and plans for the future.
6. Recommendation for MassDOT-City-Newport meeting to review Beacon Street reconstruction project
-**Action item:** Due to prior poor communication, delays, and complaints about the project, Ken suggests we call for a meeting with MassDOT. Mike warns it won't be easy to get a meeting, but agrees communication with the city is important. It would be a meeting with MassDOT only, not Newport.

- Skye told us that a dedicated construction communicator coordinator will be hired for this and other projects.
7. SBAC Membership update: Renewals, departure, Ted Lester's application
-Brian Postlewaite will step down after 12 years of service but will still participate in the Engineering

subcommittee.

- Ted Lester's membership application: Somerville resident in Spring Hill since 2006. He says every bike ride is uphill for him and yet he persists. Ted has always been interested in urban planning and saw SBAC as the best way to get involved. He attends city meetings and helped out with Mark's Neighborways painting. As a problem solver he plans to focus on Evaluation and Engineering subcommittee.

-Following the meeting, Ted's application was unanimously approved by the SBAC and by the Mayor's office. Welcome, Ted!

City Update (20 min)

1. Update on snow removal (Skye)

-Working with DPW to assess and address post-plow bollard loss. Cambridge removes bollards and puts up cones, and the bollards at Harvard-Porter on Mass Ave survived the season; we need better equipment. **Action:** Skye is happy to schedule a meeting with Stan and the SBAC and other interested parties to discuss snow removal procedures as they impact bike lanes and sidewalks.

2. Broadway- plans and timing for 2018 (Mike)

-Mike presented a series of concept plans to improve bicycle mobility and bus movements for various sections of Broadway

-Issue: The 87, 88, and 89 buses are stymied by significant congestion during peak hours. Based on data collected, travel times between 7-9am are on average are 70-80% longer.

-Concept: Red painted bus/bike lane requiring parking removal during peak hours, no change in off-peak. **Action:** how do we define peak hours? Also will need to work with businesses.

-Challenge: Ken raises issue of only having a bike facility in the direction of rush hour traffic, and also that the bus stops are too close together—possible to extend?

-Bike infra-focused alternatives: One side permanent parking removal with two buffered bike lanes, or a lane diet and climbing bike lane.

-Challenge: Enforcement for both bike bus and bike only infrastructure concepts.

Broadway-Magoun

-Wide intersection; suboptimal, only needs one travel lane in each direction

-Currently no bike accommodations

-Tom brings up potential road diet where Broadway becomes two lanes.

East of Magoun

-Good candidate for temporal bus lane. Action: parking removal/counts.

Enforcement Team Update: Stop on the Line Every Time Campaign -Kevin (10 min)

Issue: Road users encroach on pedestrian crosswalks—effects everyone.

Action: Communicate with neighboring cities, advocacy groups. VMBs and targeted enforcement by SPD. Target date for campaign launch is April 1st.

Focus Topic: SBAC Team Goals (50 min)

1. Overview- Ken 5 min
 - Over 60 goals captured in our goal-setting exercise
 - Leadership goals/actions include: focus equity areas (Broadway, East Somerville), continued communication with OSPCD, encourage participation from ex officio members, increase interactions with aldermen, actively participate in Vision Zero taskforce, make use of gold level BFC report feedback towards future improvements, and try to move striping projects up to the spring.

2. Enforcement- Kevin 10 min
 - Actions:** Finish crash survey; currently do not have a good picture of what happens surrounding a crash.
 - Uber letter: reach out to other advocacy groups for participation.
 - Winter action plan: review feedback based on winter season
 - Work with SPD specifically regarding the use of VMBS.

3. Education- Katie 10 min
 - Updating materials, infrastructure handouts
 - Build up better infrastructure project support.
 - Actions:** Ramp up in the spring-- organize social rides, business survey, and continuing to support bike-friendly businesses.
 - Aldermen involvement/communication.
 - Action:** make sure Aldermen have easy access to SBAC info materials
 - Bike safety-related PSA.
 - Action:** working with SCATV, ultimately share online by spring/summer)
 - Handing out bike safety gear targeting underserved areas (East Somerville)
 - Potential high school student involvement.
 - Actions:** showing PSAs, forming a club

4. Encouragement- Alex A 10 min
 - Increase participation in community rides. Ideas: "Bike train" route/convoy for commuters, rides to show off new infrastructure.
 - Soliciting help for Bike Commuter Breakfasts and start thinking about Bay State Bike Month Kickoff.
 - Increased wayfinding signs needed.
 - Action:** Skye says there is budget for improving wayfinding, Ken wants us to promote desired bike routes, like how to get to Assembly.

5. Evaluation/Engineering- Alex F 15 min
 - project prioritization: use crash tableau visualization for establishing priority and low-hanging fruit (ex. contraflow a la Marshall St).
 - Multi-year bike map showing future plans for infra that's on the way
 - Routes project.
 - Action:** use Strava to track bike routes
 - Establishing champions: Key people to push and shove the projects. Engage the E's of the committee, engage Aldermen, etc.

Banter over Beer: Brainstorm about additional low hanging fruit ideas Location TBA