



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE 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
Ian Woloschin

*Gillian White
*Katie Pierce
*Lena Webb
*Alex Frieden
*Kevin McGrath
*Greg Shill

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
Mike Tremblay, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Dev.
*Adam Polinski standing in for Mike Tremblay

Day/Date: Thursday Jul 20, 2017

Time: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Location: Police Department/ Washington Street

- **Procedural, General Business & Updates (25 Minutes)**
- Guest introductions and sign-in sheet
 - Meeting started at 6:35
- Acting Secretary: Tom Lamar
- VOTE: Approve May, June Minutes
 - Minutes were approved
- New member applications- Kevin McGrath and Alex Frieden
 - Ken announced that Charlie Denison is stepping down after 10 years on the committee due to time constraints. He will stay involved with the Engineering team.
 - Alex F shared that he has been biking for 5 years, but was motivated to get involved after traffic delayed a brief bus ride by 2 ½ hours. He leads the Eval & Planning team and has volunteered with many projects.
 - Kevin shared that he got involved after biking from Boston to Washington DC and was inspired by infrastructure in other cities. He worked with BCU, Bikes Not Bombs, and other bike groups. He has been leading the Enforcement team since the Spring.
- Burning Questions (**AFTER you have read all the updates on the 5' E's Spreadsheet:-)**

- Kevin asked about the status of the BFC application. Ken said that the application is largely done. **Action item: Ken and Tom to take the lead on finishing “extra credit” sections, pulling in team leaders as needed.**
- Alex F asked about Webster PBL.
 - Adam said he is optimistic but timeline is not certain. TC approval not happened yet.
- Alex F asked about Webster and Prospect two-way conversion.
 - Adam said switch is scheduled for July 29. Striping of bike lanes etc happening at that time, but centerline not until later.

Focus Section (45 Minutes)

1. Mid-year check-in on our priorities for the year- Ken 15'
 - Ken presented a mid-year check-in on how the committee is doing in 2017 and what we want to focus on in the remainder of the year. See the slide presentation [HERE](#).
 - Membership: at 11 current members, 2 elect, 2 in the pipeline. 2 ex officios show up regularly
 - Teams: all 5 teams are successful, but could use more membership. Emily asked if we can update the shared calendar and make it easier for people to attend teams they're not usually on. The consensus was that teams to meet regularly if possible, and publicize meetings better, including on the shared calendar.
 - Education: second Monday of the month at Aeronaut at 6:30.
 - Ken shared 2017 highest priorities from January, including managing safe bike detours during Union Sq construction. Adam shared that the traffic management plan was extensive and included temporary protected bike lane in cones.
 - Low hanging fruit (from January), including
 - Released updated bike map (done)
 - City Transportation survey (planned for fall)
 - Promoting lower speed limits
 - Deputy Chief Carrabino shared that SPD has helped enforce the lower limit to change behavior. There are significant resident demands for temporal Do Not Enter signs. SPD traffic enforcement is often based on specific resident complaints.
 - Enforcement of no parking in bike lanes:
 - Greg was pessimistic about enforcement, mentioned importance of protected bike lanes. Alex E pointed out fleets can be more responsive.
 - Ken presented on collected responses from the committee by way of a mid-year check-in. Things we're proud of accomplishing so far:
 - Highlights:
 - Neighborways and bringing on Mark Chase.
 - Building a coalition for Webster Ave PBLs.
 - Bike safety mailings.
 - Enid added the passage of city-contracted truck sideguards ordinance.
2. What do we want to get done in the rest of 2017? Ken 15'
 - Continued focus on bike safety
 - PBLs on Webster and elsewhere. Waiting for city rollout.
 - Bike improvements on Elm St from Somerville Ave to Cedar St
 - Adam is drawing up a plan. **Action Item: Adam to share striping plan for Elm St**
 - Better data, especially where PBLs are being added on Washington St
 - Should look at bike counts each year

- Some traffic volume data but not speed (costs extra).
 - Organize a workshop with SPD to educate the public about sharing the road. Carrabino suggested the meeting could be held at the police station.
 - Low hanging fruit
 - Variety of bike lanes, esp contraflow
 - Track priority projects
 - Overall there are many engineering projects are in the pipeline but most haven't happened yet.
- 3. Vision Zero- plans and what it will mean Adam 15'
 - Adam discussed VZ. Formal commitment to reducing death and serious injuries from traffic crashes, including a target date. City is interested but wants to make sure to bring all departments on board and do it right. City would formulate action plan, taking data driven approach. Involves legislation, education, engineering, and timeline.
 - Primarily measured by eliminating fatalities, but also involves measuring early indicators like infrastructure and speeds.
 - After announcement, likely a year to develop action plan and prepare baseline data.
 - "Serious injury" means "incapacitating" on a 1-5 scale used by police officers on the scene. Not necessarily related to whether an ambulance was called. Adam estimated that there are 30 "serious injuries".
 - Not sure yet how to count state roads, since the city does not control them.
 - Members emphasized that VZ is not just cyclists, but is all modes. Adam agreed, but mentioned that people biking and walking are often victims in serious crashes in Somerville.
 - Alex F asked about funding. Not lined up yet.

Engineering Committee Update/ Help Needed (20 Minutes)

1. Engineering
 - a. Brian presented on selected projects from the Engineering team.
 - i. Cedar St contraflow
 1. City initially proposed buffered bike lane. SBC suggested contraflow, which Adam also suggested. Parking could potentially be on either side. Having contraflow against parking may actually help due to better visibility.
 - a. There was discussion of whether TC approval is needed.
 - b. Handling contraflow movement across Summer St still needs to be fleshed out.
 - c. Ideally would be extended along Mossland.
 - ii. Elm St (Cedar to Somerville Ave)
 1. Room for bike lane in one direction without parking removal. Climbing lane probably preferred.
 - iii. Powder House Blvd
 1. Developing plan for two-way PBL
 - iv. Powder House Square
 1. Most dangerous intersection that does not already have a plan underway
 2. Roundabout vs traffic circus
 3. Current pavement has width of 3 travel lanes
 4. Could achieve traffic movement using only "inner half" of circle. Lots of leftover room for park/plaza space, two-way PBL.
 5. Two-way PBL is preferred because there is significant demand to avoid going entirely around the wrong way of the circle.

6. Because of angle of legs, would have mini “lobes” to route near streets.
7. Pedestrians could use HAWK signals, no stop control.
- v. School St
 1. Finalizing recommendation for two-way buffered bike lane on School St going uphill
 - a. SBC discussed whether School St further south is comfortable in its current form.
 2. Other E's-- what's one big goal for next month and help that you need to accomplish it?

Meeting adjourned at 8:09.

Banter over Beer: Location TBA

1. What are the low hanging fruit we should pick this year?