



## SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE DRAFT MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

### Community Representatives:

\*Tom Lamar, Chair  
\*Katie Pierce, Vice Chair  
\*Ted Lester, Secretary

Lena Webb  
\*Ian Woloschin  
Michael Weber

Alex Anderson

Emily Balkam

\*Ken Carlson

Alex Epstein

\*Ted Feldman

\*Alex Frieden

\*Kevin McGrath

\*Alan Moore

\*Mark Vollinger

### Ex Officio:

Skye Stewart, Office of the Mayor

Katjana Ballantyne, City Council

Commissioner Stan Koty, Dept. of Public Works

\*Adam Polinski, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Dev

\*Deputy Chief Steve Carrabino, Police Department

\*In attendance

Thursday June 6, 2019, 6:30-8:00 PM, Somerville Public Safety Building Academy Room, 220 Washington St

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

1. Guest introductions and sign-in sheet. Guests: Viola Augustin (OSPCD), Justin Schreiber, (OSPCD) Emily Warren, Ellyn Thompson, Arah Schur, Gary Trujillo, George Schneeloch, Nate Kaufman, Nathan Chung
2. Acting Secretary: Ken Carlson
3. Alex Anderson stepping down as a member. We need someone to take over the Somerville Bike News
4. VOTE: Approve May Minutes- Unanimously approved
5. July 4<sup>th</sup> meeting moved to July 11<sup>th</sup>- Mark, Ted and Ken will not be present
6. Tour de Somerville- Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> 3 PM at Davis Square- Nathan Tufts Park. Family friendly
7. Vision Zero Meeting- June 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM at the Library

### City Update (40 min) – Adam See City Slide presentation [HERE](#)

1. Striping timing – HSIP (Park St, Temple St, Washington St, Broadway), Beacon St, Webster Ave, Central Broadway, Powder House Blvd, Lower Medford
  - a. Construction Season Items-
  - b. HSIP- All projects finished and functioning as designed. Waiting on thermoplastic for Broadway and Washington St and green paint (conflict zones only) for all streets. Temple- note bike lane ends towards Mystic. Ground out sharrows
  - c. Beacon St- Sidewalks completed in next 2-3 wks. Northbound cycletrack construction beginning later this month. Repaving likely early in July. Requests for barrels at sidestreets to slow cars was made by Ken
  - d. Union Square- Next week- soft opening of eastbound Somerville Ave. Bikelane re-opened as of Friday. Eversource has more work to do near SCA-TV so street has been opened up. Bow Street to be re-striped soon
  - e. Request to the city that if roads are going to be closed the city needs to do a better job of communicating closures and detours (e.g. Somerville Ave eastbound- cyclists walking their bikes not practical).
  - f. Webster Ave- to be striped next Wed/Thursday (previous attempts have been rained out) and flexposts will be replaced.
  - g. Request made to streamline flexpost maintenance and for T&I to deploy rather than DPW. Request to replace damaged flexposts more quickly. City feels they are getting better at replacement. City will add flexpost replacement category in 311 requests.
  - h. Central Broadway- Much of the signal maintenance work has been performed on old signals (re-wiring, replacing signal heads, signal communication with busses, etc.). Markings and signage plan is being finalized in the next few weeks. Lots of work with the MBTA to consolidate bus stops
  - i. Powder House Blvd- Community process ongoing. City taking a step back
  - j. Cameron Ave- Likely to be pushed off until July/August but plan is to fill potholes, grind out centerline and add uphill bike lane
  - k. Medford St- Contract execution on sidewalk and re-surfacing work almost in place- Pavement late this construction

year. Parking enforcement has been just warnings but so far- likely switch to ticketing soon. Gore St has lots of construction ongoing. Cambridge committed to two way bike lane on south side

- l. Holland St- MAPC has collected parking counts and will share data soon. Justin will be the new project manager for bus/bike lane pilot
  - m. Senior transportation planner position- Interviews in progress
  - n. Markings maintenance- Somerville Ave done. Bow St will be done. soon. Bike lane treatments coming to Broadway (Teale to Ball Sq), Neighborways, Summer St, Willow Ave, Central St
2. Vision Zero Action Plan – Justin. Next Mtg June 13<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM in the library
3. Community Path Extension Planning – Viola- (See City’s linked slides for details). 10 ft paved width, 1 ft gravel shoulders. 4.9% maximum slopes. Green spaces of various widths. Chain link fence next to rails. Will proceed through Somerville Junction Park and CHA Parking Lot (which will be made into a new park). North of School St- Community Path will be on a structure. Will proceed on the road on Washington St Bridge. From Brickbottom to Cambridge Crossing will be carried in toip of a bridge structure. Central, Sycamore, School, Walnut Medford St will be at-street crossings. Medford St section of path was supposed to be on sidewalk but city helped change design. Access also from Chester at Cross St- under and up to existing bridge. Another access point will be from Washington St sidewalk. Stations- Gilman Station- 140 bike spaces. East Somerville Station- on grade access. 70 bike spaces. Some of the plans are considered proprietary by the MBTA- City officials have had to sign confidentiality agreements
4. OSPCD: FY20 Municipal Budget- City has proposed splitting T&I into a Mobility Division and a Public Space and Urban Forestry Division. OSPCD Budget Hearing June 20<sup>th</sup> (with no public comment- meeting with public comment the week after). New Director for Public Space Division will be sought. Additional funding has been requested for T&I (e.g. Citywide parking study, bike network plan). The SBAC should support T&I budget hearing. **The Bike Committee voted to write a letter in support of funding of bike network plan**

#### **Recent Meeting Recaps and Next Steps (25 min)**

1. Grounding McGrath meeting – Katie- In next five years McGrath Highway will be grounded into a boulevard. It’s not in the current TIP but could be added into the 2025 TIP (TIPS cover a five year period). We must continue to advocate. There should be a city update on the comment period on the upcoming TIP. The Bike Committee voted to endorse the writing of a letter to funding grounding McGrath (8 yays, one nay). (McGrath Highway is all state owned).
2. Powder House Boulevard meeting – Arah- Huge turnout at meeting. Moderated by a professional. Parking removal opponents were disruptive and led to a tense meeting. SBAC led door knocking campaign prior to the meeting and effort is ongoing. 50% of people reached are supportive of bike lanes, 25% opposed, and 25% didn’t care. Arah noted that specific parking mitigation interventions are available on and around Powder House Boulevard in the short term while city-wide parking management strategies are being explored. Adam concurred. SBAC is working with Church and Funeral Home for creative solutions. We should encourage residents to send public comments directly to the City or fill out existing Powder House survey. The Survey was recently modified to require respondents to add their address to the survey. Adam is seeing a similar percentage on responses to the door knocking. Adam said parking removal decision will need to be made first to understand what will be the optimal bike lane design. Alex F brought up that the City needs to do the right thing on Powder House in order to comply with Vision Zero policy. Emily stated that we should make sure at these public meetings that the safety aspect of the various bike lane options should be considered.
3. Somerville won the MassBike Commute Challenge!!