



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE JUNE 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives (bold = present):

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

Mark Vollinger
Lena Webb
Greg Ely

Ex Officio:

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

Thursday, June 4th, 2020, 6:30-8:00PM, on-line via

GoToMeeting link for computers, tablets, and smartphones:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/865420053>

GoToMeeting dial-in number: +1 (872) 240-3212, Access Code: 865-420-053

Guests: Brad Rawson, OSPCD Mobility; Alex Epstein (ex-member), Zachary Rosenberg (member of the Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee), Nate Kaufman, Arah Schuur, Ellyn Thompson, Emily Balkam (ex-member); George Schneeloch (Cambridge Bike Safety)

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm

Procedural, General Business & Updates (20 Minutes)

- Guest introductions and sign-in sheet
- Ice breaker question - *what project are you excited about being complete soon?*
- Acting Secretary: Alan Moore
- VOTE: Approve May Minutes: Tom made the motion to approve, Ted L. 2nd, unanimously approved (only change – add that Ted Feldman attended)
- Finalizing Annual report for 2019, needs to be completed ASAP – Kevin M. “in-charge”. Get any comments to him by June 11.
- Letter joining Arlington advocates in requesting changes to Mass. Ave. and Appleton intersection where Somerville resident was killed.
 - Improvements were planned 8 years ago that were never implemented.
 - The letter supports local advocates who have presented a 2-phase plan.

- Alex F. asked how long the study will last?
- Various participants on the call made comments, including concerning shrinking or reducing the turning radius.
- With this change in the letter re: turning radius, Ted F. made the motion to approve sending the letter and Alex F. 2nd the motion. It was approved unanimously.
- Upcoming FY2021 Budget
 - Last year the SBC supported the proposed Mobility Dept. budget.
 - Tom suggested we do so again and asked about the revenue from parking fees and Uber/Lyft
 - Brad explained the sober situation of the City's budget revenue shortfall due to Covid-19 but the City hopes to avoid severe austerity. The City does feel that Vision Zero and Climate Change policies are important.
 - Alex F. asked if the SBC could "see" the proposed budget.
 - Brad thought that an un-official version could be shared but that the process would move quickly.
 - Adam said that, if necessary, a special meeting could be arranged with 2-day public notice.

Focus Discussion #1: Shared Streets, SBC Feedback (30 min)

- Adam's presentation on Shared Streets network, Phase 1 Implementation, was shown
 - Next phase is to monitor results, gather feedback, ideas for "Connector Streets" to complement Shared Streets
 - Most feedback was positive, there were a few "naysayers". City councilors have asked for more.
 - Looking for "street stewards".
 - Greg asked is there could be an advisory slower speed on the shared streets. Brad said that the City would be moving ahead with more 20 MPH streets. And that meetings will be held with neighbors.
 - Mark asked about the street signage
 - Ken asked if these are shown on Google maps and that we should spread the news on social media.
 - Ian thought it's a great start, could there be more?
 - Greg asked if Orchard St. could be shared Cambridge/Somerville shared street?

Ted L. reported on the "Covid-19" survey that the Evaluation/Engineering subcommittee undertook

- ~200 comments as of June 1.
- Many comments were about motor vehicle speeds making biking uncomfortable
- We could open and close the survey and get the results to the City
- Google map of Somerville for viewed for comments on connector streets and more shared streets.
- Alex F. thought that Broadway north of McGrath/Rt. 28 could be better, and asked about the schedule for Phase 2. Brad answered in the next 2-3 weeks.

VOTE: Joint PTAC/SBAC “high level” letter urging the City to implement robust transportation responses to COVID-19. Tom first summarized the letter and ask for comments and/or discussion. Lena made a motion to approve and Ted F, 2nd the motion, unanimously approved.

Focus 2: GLX Bridge Reopenings

- Broadway Bridge
 - Striping should happen in September but will only be painted 5-6’ bike lanes and two 12’ travel lanes by the GLX project.
 - Emily was very happy that the bridge has been re-opened.
 - Mark felt that cars will continue to speed with this design.
 - Alex F. felt we should push for 10.5’ lanes and physically protected bike lanes
 - Ted F. said that the E/E subcommittee recommends 10.5 or 11’ lanes and flex post protected bike lanes; and that crosswalks must be added.
 - Tom mentioned the protected bike lane and ask the committee to reaffirm that flexposts were desirable; the consensus was that the flexposts are desired.
 - Tom asked if the City could pay for green painted bike lanes.
 - Adam wondered if we need to vote on 10.5 or 11’ travel lanes. A vote was deemed unnecessary.
 - Brad could not “guarantee” that improvements could be made in 2020.

- Washington St. GLX bridge
 - Adam showed the plans drawn up by McMahon with the MBTA’s concurrence but DOT is still reviewing the 2-way cycletrack on the south side
 - Brad thought that the final asphalt could happen in the next month.
 - Ted asked whether there will be a crosswalk to cross Washington St.
 - Someone suggested a bus/bike lane westbound, or maybe a combined bus/bike lane in the middle?
 - Alan asked how will westbound cyclists get to the Community Path entrance on the southeast side of the overpass.
 - The E/E subcommittee will look further into this design.

Last issues

- Status/schedule of all other City projects have not changed since the last meeting’s report. Brad said the City is looking at fading green paint in bike lanes around the City
- The City will install flex posts on Beacon St. Ken asked exactly where?

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm