



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MARCH 2020 MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives:

[x] Tom Lamar, Chair

[x] Katie Pierce, Vice Chair

Ted Lester, Secretary

[x] Emily Balkam

[x] Ken Carlson

[x] Ted Feldman

[x] Alex Frieden

[x] Kevin McGrath

[x] Alan Moore

[x] Mark Vollinger

[x] Lena Webb

[x] Ian Woloschin

[x] Michael Weber

Ex Officio:

Katjana Ballantyne, City Council

Adam Polinski, OSPCD Mobility

Deputy Chief Steve Carrabino, Police Department

[x] indicates in attendance

Guests in attendance:

Mark Boswell

Gavin Lund

George Schneeloch

Gary Trujillo

Gregory Ely

Thursday, March 5th, 2020, 6:30-8:00PM, Somerville Public Safety Building Academy Room, 220 Washington St

Procedural, General Business & Updates (15 Minutes)

- Guest introductions and sign-in sheet
 - Small talk of the evening: in what are people interested?
- Acting Secretary: Ted F
- VOTE: Approve February Minutes
- Annual report for 2019 – Tom
 - It is necessary to complete writing the report.
 - The time line for the report is based upon roll out the first week of April in time for events in April and May. Thus we have established a draft deadline of **March 19th**
 - Drafts can be placed in Box for review.
 - Photo and image content for the report can be extracted from newsletters and/or the Box photo folder
- Announcements of upcoming events and calls for volunteers was posed to the committee
 - Ian announced that the first bike breakfast will be at the end of April, weather-permitting

- Bike month kickoff was announced for April
- Depending on global health situation, SBAC will try to purchase lights and distribute through the Somerville Police Department (SPD)
- There is a Traffic and Parking Committee Meeting, led by Councillor Niedergang, focused on bike policy tentatively scheduled for March 16th
- The Healey School Bike Fix Up will be held next Wednesday, March 11th at 6pm

City Update (60 min) – Adam

- Holland design is underway by the firm: Kleinfeld
- West Broadway (pavement markings not resurfacing), design somewhat synchronized with Holland in that the same firm is reviewing plans. Synchronicity of implementation will depend upon public process on Holland St.
- Alex Frieden asked about the status of the Washington St-West projected, listed by the City as, not developed. Adam Poliniski (OSPCD) explained that this is because there is currently no contract. It will be official project next year as it is on resurfacing list
- Lena Webb asked about the status of the current paving schedule as it relates to West Broadway. West Broadway is not being repaved.
- Ian Wolschin inquired as to the status of the final components of completing Beacon Street. Adam Polinski (OSPCD) explained that coordination of final work is ongoing and should be completed by April.
- Tom Lamar, Chair, reminded SBAC that SomerVision 2040 Comprehensive Plan is accepting comments till the end of March.
- Adam also revisited the David Square Neighborhood Plan
 - He advised that it would be beneficial for the Committee to provide comments
 - Close to adoption of the plan that would include a 4-way intersection and squaring off of the Davis Square intersection of Holland, College, Dover and Elm.
- Citywide Bike Network
 - Adam explained that the network plan was delayed by delay in Vision Zero Plan
 - Alex Freiden asked for clarification given that the anticipated work would be completed by a consultant. Adam explained City needs to work out scope of work
- Adam announced that the NACTO conference is being cohosted by Boston, Somerville, Cambridge this Fall.
 - Preparations for hosting will require some time from City
 - However, the conference will also motivate City to finish projects for “walkshops”
 - Adam advised Committee members to stay tuned for ways to get involved
- Mystic River Crossing update
 - Adam summarized that DCR has committed to building a bridge
 - Alan added:
 - Given that the project is funded by the Casino there was some discussion of plans to replace the bridge concept with a gondola
 - However, given the funding source, it is questionable if DCR can control project.
 - SBAC can plan to discuss design alternatives
 - Alan will write a letter of support of the bridge with an extension to Assembly and no gondola
- Review of Holland / College meeting and next steps
 - SBAC discussion of design alternatives
 - Adam P. explained that the first public meeting went well

- He noted good support, large support for sustainable, active transportation
 - The meeting included a map where people could add comments where needed infrastructure
 - The map is available online at somervoice.somervillema.gov
 - Feedback can also be provided online
 - There is ongoing outreach/engagement includes merchant and customer intercept surveys
 - Some trends in comments include a crosswalk at Thorndike
 - Will West Broadway be in next discussion? This needs to be figured out, but do not want to overload the committee.
 - Ken Carlson noted that in the current plan there is a broken design rule w/missing uphill bike lane. Might make for uncomfortable biking. Adam answered that this was noted by the City and the team is working on mitigation strategies.
- Review of Gilman Square meeting and next steps
 - SBAC discussion of design alternatives
 - Katie Pierce, Vice Chair, advocates for safer alternatives during the closure and safer uses of public space, e.g. closed bridge only open for bicycles
 - Closing Medford – use for bike access
- MassDOT grant for new Blue Bikes stations
 - The City was awarded a \$278K from MassDot to add four additional Blue Bike stations
 - The funding will provide no-cost bike share membership for school dept employees
 - Will track municipal employee memberships to measure utilization
 - Lyft is considering implementing e-bikes
 - Q: Any other options being incentivized to use alternatives to cars? Considering future options
 - New stations and winterization will likely to end toward end of March

Education & Encouragement (5 min)

- Ken Carlson discussed preparation of tabling material for 2020 – Ken
 - He mentioned that the Committee needs new materials in several languages, similar to past years
 - At events the Committee frequently receives requests for pocket-size bike maps
- Katie Pierce, Vice Chair discussed the Future of Somerville Bike News
 - She explained that she has worked to produce good resources and templates outlining how to put together
 - In appealing for a new editor she said that it is a “small lift,” typically requiring under two hours
 - Lena Webb concurred that it is easy to do and other Committee members willingly contribute content.

Engineering & Evaluation (10 min)

- Ted Feldman, on behalf of Nate and the Teams proposed 2020 low hanging fruit priorities presentation
 - Ken proposed inverting the order so that Powder House and an Elm Street concept were listed about “low hanging fruit,” i.e. markings or signage projects to reflect and reaffirm the importance of safety.
 - Ian Woolschin seconded this changing, noting that contraflow could be implemented time and crew-permitting
- Gavin Lund presented a new Lower Medford street terminus design
- The Engineering and Evaluation teams will review the City’s proposed Lower Medford Street Design at their next meeting.