



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives:

Tom Lamar, Chair

Katie Pierce, Vice Chair

Ted Lester, Secretary

Emily Balkam

Ken Carlson

Alex Epstein

Ted Feldman

Alex Frieden

Kevin McGrath

Alan Moore

Mark Vollinger

Lena Webb

Ian Woloschin

Michael Weber

Ex Officio:

Katjana Ballantyne, City Council

Adam Polinski, OSPCD Mobility

Ali Kleyman, Sr Transportation Planner, OSPCD Mobility

Deputy Chief Steve Carrabino, Police Department

Guests: Stephanie Le (Assembly Connect out of Assembly Square), Lillian North, Ellyn Thompson, George Schneeloch, Nate Kaufman, Scott Moucka

Thursday November 7, 2019, 6:30-8:00 PM, Somerville Public Safety Building Academy Room, 220 Washington St

Procedural, General Business & Updates (20 Minutes)

- Guest introductions and sign-in sheet
- Acting Secretary: Alex Epstein/Emily Balkam
- VOTE: Approve October Minutes
Approved unanimously.
- Alex E stepping down
Delivered unprepared remarks.
- Upcoming events
 - Somerville is tentatively updating its goal from 50% of new trips to tentatively 75% of all trips by 2040 should be by bike/walking or public transit
 - Nov 24th – Cranskgiving, Scavenger hunt plus food drive using cargo bikes if possible.
 - Bike talk last night was great with Galen Mook, Will Brownsburger (State senator) is next month, please attend.
 - Open house session with Ayanna Presley coming up in East Somerville – Sunday the 17th (sign up over email, address provided once you RSVP).
 - Winter Bike Clinic at Brooklyn Boulders coming up next Thursday or the Thursday after, date TBD. Featuring Ace Wheelworks.

- 3 vacant ex officio positions still being determined (Engineering, DPW, Parking)

Focus: Winter is coming (25 min)

- Wrapping up construction season

Beacon street is missing green conflict paint – by Bicycle Bell on Oxford Street where cars are parking and shouldn't be.

Forest and Eustis street intersection is dangerous and needs attention

Adam: Brad thought there may be only 3 more nights of work left, was issues of supply of paint and rainy weather in October, should be done in the next 2 weeks. If there are more things to be fixed, can be identified over the winter and Newport will fix in the spring.

Raised Crosswalks were not built to the elevation wanted to, going to build speed humps 20 ft back to slow folks down before they get to these intersections (Forest and Sacramento).

GLX for the Washington Underpass – going to be staying closed for the winter but opening up in the spring.

Marshal Street Speed Hump and one on Paulina street will be removed for the winter as they are made of temporary materials. Spec for permanent one would follow the size used on Powerhouse.

Constructability limited height of raised crosswalks/bikes at Forest/Prentiss/Eustis/Sacramento. Mitigation will be adding speed humps on approaches (Newport to implement in next few days)

Tom pointed out **speed bump on Marshall extends through bike lane**. Adam said if it's modular the bump can be shortened. **Follow-up**.

Medford Street bike lanes (from Somerville Ave to Ward Street) are faded and looks like one wide travel lane. **Prioritize for refresh**.

Poor weather has limited pavement marking windows of opportunity in October. Need to prioritize next few weeks. **Neighborways still not painted**.

Webster Ave needs bollards replaced.

But Webster has been well cleared of leaves, etc.

- Ideas for projects to be done over the winter
Tom: we can request signs, extend bike breakfasts if Whole Foods is willing

Emily: 1. **T-shirts** that her friend is willing to design, we can sell. 2. Wayfinding project that Emily was working on with Brian Postlewaite and Mark Chase [these are actually getting installed next

week: Adam. They will be dark/light blue]. 3. **Planning additional neighborways for post-GLX future**, e.g., Highland Rd. from Path to Ball Square.

Signage-based contraflow [Adam noted that paving crews lay off workers over winter]

Ken: **delivery zones such as Dosa and Curry**—engaging businesses. Also talking to businesses that are bike friendly to encourage them to apply for the BFB designation, deadline February. Currently only 4 businesses, would like at least 20.

Ken: let's do **wayfinding beyond neighborways**, similar to Cambridge's very specific signs to the squares.

Lena: BMUFL signs outside of construction zones to reinforce to drivers that bicyclists can always take the lane

Ken: come up with schedule of events and projects to be repaved next year. Should make sure Somerville does **Parking Day next year** (not just one spot in Assembly). Meet with mayor and city councilors.

Stephanie (Assembly Connect out of Assembly Square - first on signup list): **wayfinding to Assembly would be great**, has discussed this need previously with Wig Zamore. Ken suggested **Assembly Row could contribute labor or funding to help City develop wayfinding. Follow-up.**

- Planning for snow clearance
Eric following up with Steve MacEachern, the new DPW commissioner, to set up a meeting in the next couple of weeks.

Question: how are changes in streets such as Beacon identified and discussed for snow clearing in the next winter? Adam: there is an annual discussion of changes and how to deal with them.

City Update (40 min) - Adam

- Senior transportation planner introduction
Ali: Went to Tufts, met Mark for grad school. Most recently worked for Boston Region MPO, where worked closely with MassDOT. Wanted to work at muni level, closer to implementation. Interested but concerned when it comes to biking, mostly walk and transit; owns a bike.

Focus areas: I-93/28 planning study and Silver Line extension feasibility study (coordinating with Everett)

Adam: now that Mobility is fully staffed (5 FTE), **100+ projects** are being assigned and prioritized for consulting support, etc. **Adam can share list** (per Tom's request).
- Central Broadway bus lane
One day of work left to finish flexposts, otherwise completed. Traffic signal timing revised. Even opponents agree traffic is flowing better now. Public meeting scheduled by City Council to let voices be heard.

Ken and Mark: **bus riders' very positive perceptions** and having data lead rather than anecdotes is key. **Collect that data before a public meeting.** Adam: we will. We also understand that behavior change can take 6 months in other cities, just a hard message to say.

Ken: signal engineer in-house would be good to have to better prevent signaling delays
Adam: delay in signal timing was due to Transit Signal Priority (consultant took longer) and then the signals were held up 6 weeks.

Ted F: can City give data to City Council before the public meeting? Adam: yes, not much time but as much as can plan to

FYI: Licensed drone operator in OSPCD can now take cool aerial photos.

- Remaining conflict paint on Beacon St and final walkthrough
Signal timing inspected today
Park Street signal changed to exclusive
2-3 more methylmethacrylate (MMA) grippy treatments, but asphalt needs to be 40+ degrees
Plant materials will go into bumpouts—probably shrubbery-type
- Bike Plan update
Economic Development will be involved as the business liaison with small businesses. They are in regular touch with business owners, and liaise to Mobility for things like bike parking.

Planning to install another tranche of bike parking. Lena: **how do schools get bike parking?**
Adam: school property bike parking requires working with schools to site and purchase them.
Schools Department does have much larger budget, ideally they can pay for more racks at schools.

We could **increase on-street bike parking this winter**, Mark Vollinger volunteers to engage businesses. A business needs to pay for the corral, TC needs to approve. **Winter Hill Brewery is example—will explore.** Would be great to have the car-shaped (“12 bikes in 1 car space”) corrals. Revival Café is likely doing a custom corral, with their logo, and the corral is donated to the City—handled through negotiation like a small development. Nookie is the proprietor—a small bike friendly business that initiated this.

Katie: **how do we get more parklets?** Adam: there was a person working on it, but program doesn't seem to have had much steam. May be limited interest. **Adam will check on program/staff status.** Alex: **would be great to have one on Elm Street to promote pedestrianizing** the corridor, give people a flavor.

Ken: Dosa and Curry had double parked drivers, but these were independent GrubHub, etc. drivers and the business actually wants to not have drivers do this. **How to act on businesses' desire for a loading zone?** Adam: they could go through Econ Development, but **easiest is to connect proprietor directly to Adam.** Mark Vollinger: I observed Dosa and Curry bike lane and it was blocked by cars 61% of the hour (between 4 and 6 pm).

Mark: **Somerville Ave has 12-foot travel lanes and 8-foot parking lanes** (designed by MassDOT back in 2009) → **could create protected bike lane by mirroring the parking lane and bike lane.**

BlueBikes station expansion is complete for now. New stations only through significant developments or if a business wishes to sponsor a station (\$75k over 6 years). All but four stations will be on winter sidewalks in Somerville this year. \$1.5k storage cost over winter motivates City to maximize number of year-round stations.

- Opportunities for contraflow
Adam: no updates, but **yes we're open to adding new contraflow with signs only over Winter, such as White Street.**
- Process for working with business requesting bike parking, loading zones, Bluebikes stations etc

Brian and Jess from Engineering will join next meeting to discuss 2020 project, process improvements, better working with contractors, construction communication

Education & Encouragement (5 min)

- Historic Ride recap – Michael
Did not discuss