



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 2020 MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives: X = in attendance

X Tom Lamar, Chair
X Katie Pierce, Vice Chair
Ted Lester, Secretary
Ken Carlson
X Gregory Ely
Ted Feldman
X Alex Frieden
X Kevin McGrath
X Mark Vollinger

X Lena Webb
X Ian Woloschin
Michael Weber

Ex Officio:

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

Guests:

Tim Houde, Jordan Safer, George Schneeloch, Jessica Bellow, Arah Schuur, Alan Moore

Thursday, November 5th, 2020, 6:30-8:00PM

GoToMeeting link for computers, tablets, and smartphones: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/888952381>

GoToMeeting dial-in number: +1 (646) 749-3112, Access Code: 888-952-381

Procedural, General Business & Updates (15 Minutes)

- Guest introductions and meeting logistics
 - Discussed favorite and least favorite things regarding the coming winter.
- Acting Secretary: Greg Ely
- Approval of October minutes
 - Minutes approved unanimously
 - No comments on minutes
- Upcoming events to be aware of:
 - November 18 Sav-Mor and Somerbridge hotel ZBA meeting with variances related to SBC
 - Mystic Ave bus lane on Tuesday 11/10! <https://www.somervillema.gov/events/2020/11/10/mystic-avenue-peak-hour-bus-lane-info-session> ,
 - some additional information at <https://somervoice.somervillema.gov/quick-build-bus-lanes>
 - Affordable housing overlay meeting November 19th <https://www.somervillema.gov/events/2020/11/19/planning-board-meeting-and-land-use-committee-joint-hearing>
 - Waiting to reschedule MBTA bus meeting, was postponed due to snow.
 - Arah stepping down from leading Encouragement team
 - Michael Weber will be taking over for Arah
- Market Basket covered bicycle parking pilot – Ken / Alex F
 - Alex F: Market basket might be deploying some covered parking and Demoulas reach out to Ken and Alex F
 - Arah: Somerville bike safety also been in contact, should coordinate so that don't miss any connections.

Focus 1: Snow Clearing (10 minutes)

- Any new facilities to be considered or worked into plan?
 - Katie: Which facilitates that are brand new and will need clearing?
 - Ian: How do we sett expectation for snow clearing of bike facilities and communicate that to riders?
 - Ted F: Sharing list from previous years. Are there any changes to the snow plowing based on new facilitates?
 - Greg: Suggest western Washington part.
 - Alex F: Suggests Grand union Blvd. in assembly.
 - Mark: Who is control of the path along grand union Blvd. and responsible for snow removal?
 - We should reach out to the city regarding who controls it.
 - snow clearing of this stretch should reduce the stress on snow clearing on union Blvd.
 - Adam: We might want to add shore drive to this list
 - Routes to update/add to the snow clearing list: **Shore Drive, Western Washington, Grand Union Blvd. Separated bike facilitates on Broadway**
 - We should add the sections to be more specific about snow removal which exact sections.
 - Ian: Comments that DPW has been good communicating which routes are cleared versus aren't cleared
 - Katie: individual interested in meeting regarding discussion of snow removal
 - Ian: we should be understanding of constraints on snow removal due to COVID and be understanding of routes not being cleared.
 - Greg: We should maintain high quality routes for potential increased bike usage this winter with people avoiding the T/Bus who normally would be on transit.
 - Ian: Might see cycling shift with COVID and need to adapt to the conditions and demands we see.
 - Katie: requests that Ted F update the snow list.
 - **Action Item: Ted F will update this list and letter**
- Other thoughts on snow clearing policy
 - Adam: Had a conversation with DPW already. DPW is hiring an external contractor to help with plowing biking infrastructure. Should be more people out, need to temper expectations of new unfamiliar crew and provide feedback to them.
 - **Action Item: What is the best way to provide feedback to DPW regarding snow plowing problem areas/concerns?**

Focus 2: Community Path (10 minutes) – Alan M

- Grand Junction and Community Path proposed connection
 - Alan: we are Jumping to Alan's slide first. Looking at various options for the community path to grand junction connection related to development along McGrath on the Sav-Mor parcel. There are several options for the path from community path to cross McGrath. Two solutions:
 - straight path ramp going down a retaining route with fewer bends.
 - Or a zigzag one going in front of the building would be entirely at grade. See slides.
 - Wants committee to be aware of what is going on and be supportive of the ramp, hoping for endorsements of the plans. Would like them to be a condition of permit/development to ensure that this happens.
 - Katie: Are the two paths the proposed options?
 - Alan: yes, ramp plan might need to be modified to jog slightly to decrease grade slightly to meet required grades. There are some thoughts of changing exits.
 - Ian: What are the options to cross McGrath? Concerned about tight turns meeting McGrath and tight turns and pedestrian conflicts.
 - Alan: agrees, first priority should be maintaining access and easement on the properties. Later we can deal with minor issues and conflicts.
 - Tom: What are the next steps for working with the developers and be sure this plan happens?
 - Adam: Mobility will support but we should reach out to planning/zoning
 - Greg: Have you reached out to City councilor regarding this?
 - Alan: JT Scott is aware of the project.
 - Ted F: Where are they in the planning/development process?

- Alan: Somerbridge hotel is approved two years ago, asked for 1-year extension of approval. Might need to get pushed back and need reapproval. Sav-Mor site ZBA hearing to occur on Nov 18th for variances. Friends of community path has drafted letter for Sav-Mor variance to include a condition to allow for community path connection through the edge of the property.
- Katie: next steps, Friends of the Community path will write a letter and share with SBC, Katie asking to vote to support letter. Asks if SBC can support this letter without seeing the full draft.
- Tom: we can make a conditional vote to support
- Katie: calls the vote, vote passes unanimously to support Alan's letter

Focus 3: Eval and Engineering Review (20 minutes) – Ted F

- Gilman Square
 - Ted F: Going over Gilman square plan. Questions about how the connection to CPX. Would like to see plans
 - Ted F: concerned about mixing at grade with peds.
 - Adam: Mostly getting horizontal alignment, will figure out vertical alignments.
- Holland/College
 - Ted F: Going over the holland/College letter, concerned regarding curb extensions and bike safety preventing bike infrastructure in the future. Bump outs will make future PBLs be significantly more expensive. Would like to see a safe all ages infrastructure from Davis to Teele and Davis to College. Would also emphasize strong connections of community path through Davis square and making the connections less stressful and safer. See letter.
 - Lena: In favor of traffic island over speed cushions, concerned about effectiveness of
 - Katjana: has concerns with speed cushions, Katjana would like to read through it. Concerned about intersection of Cameron and Holland and potential unsafe issues.
 - Tom: Concerned about curb extensions for bike lanes in the future and safety in the future.
 - Adam: At a minimum curb to curb width will be 30 feet, would still allow for bike lanes and would not preclude quick build project. That would require removing the bus lane on section.
 - Greg: Is there a guide for which roads should have protected bike facilities based on volume and speed?
 - Adam: No, we should have protected bike facilities whenever bike possible and on all arterial roads. This is why we should have a bike plan.
 - Katjana: What would the optimal plan for this corridor for bikes pedestrians, and bus users? Suggests that the city should go bigger. What would our optimal project look like?
 - Adam: Project is a not full depth reconstruction and limited in scope.
 - Mark: Recommended a raised table to Cameron and Holland and wants to know how much that would add
 - Adam: school and evergreen cost roughly \$150,000.
 - Kat: lots of concerns regarding Cameron. Concerned that this won't address the safety on this corridor.
 - Ted: Jon Ramos put together a plan, there was a concern about parking removal and parking counts were too high for implementing the plan
- Shore Drive
 - City's plan was good. See the letter.
 - Makes sense with wellington Bridge plan.

City Update – Adam (40 Minutes)

- Remaining projects before winter: Washington St, Wellington Bridge, Shore Dr, Mystic Ave
 - Adam summarizes the project status.
 - Western Washington street work will start Nov 16.
 - Mystic Ave Meeting Nov 10th for peak hour bus lane. We are Awaiting MassDOT review of proposed striping plan. Once that goes through will start striping. Hoping to start in 2 to 3 weeks.
 - Tom: Concerned about peak offer travel lane, seems silly if rush-hour car demand is low would make sense for 24 hours.

- Adam: Stakeholders were easier to get to agree to temporal plan, hoping for 24 bus lane going forward.
 - Katie: How is the city getting info out regarding mystic improvements?
 - Adam: there will be flyering and Variable message boards to inform motorists.
- Wellington Bridge: Also waiting for MassDot. Hopefully will start by the end of week.
 - Barriers for protected bike lane will have heavy duty base such as curbstop. Going to use heavier duty protection than traditional flex posts used throughout the city. Barrier might have to wait until spring. Need to figure out snow removal and order barriers.
 - For now, it will likely be paint only and barriers will have to wait until spring.
- SBAC requests:
 - Flex post installation on Beacon St and in other buffered bike lanes around city
 - Will be installed in coming weeks
 - Signage for southbound bike lane on Sycamore St
 - City will look into it soon but doesn't want to add too much signage since there is already a signed detour. SBAC can send a more specific request of desired signage.
- Katie thanked everyone for sticking around and adjourned the meeting.