



## SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE DRAFT MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

### **Community Representatives:**

- \* Ken Carlson, Chair
- \* Tom Lamar, Vice Chair
- \* Enid Kumin, Secretary
- Alex Anderson
- \* Emily Balkam
- \* Mark Chase
- Alex Epstein
- \* Alex Frieden
- \* Kevin McGrath
- \* Alan Moore
- \* Katie Pierce
- Brian Postlewaite
- \* Brandon Stafford
- \* Lena Webb
- \* Ian Woloschin (Acting Secretary)

### **Ex-Officio:**

- Skye Stewart, Office of the Mayor
- Maryann Heuston, Board of Aldermen
- Commissioner Stanley Koty, Department of Public Works
- Terry Smith, Traffic and Parking
- Deputy Chief Stephen Carrabino, Police Department
- Mike Tremblay, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Dev.

Day/Date: Thursday Nov 2, 2017

Time: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Location: Police Department/ Washington Street

Meeting Start: 6:35 pm

Guests: Adam Polinski (Transportation Planner, City of Somerville)

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

1. Guest introductions and sign-in sheet
2. Acting Secretary: Ian
3. VOTE: Approve Oct Minutes – Enid motions to approve, Ken seconds. October minutes were approved.
4. Wrapping up 2017 projects – Adam
  - a. Bike counts done, excellent data collection this year (36/42 completely submitted so far)
  - b. Beacon St
    - i. Green conflict paint being put down before winter where construction is already completed, unclear where this actually is though
      1. Ken asked about driveways since they are mostly done, Adam unsure
    - ii. Raised crosswalks will not happen until next year
    - iii. Stop signs & line striping should be done before winter
    - iv. Outbound bike lane between Inman Sq & Washington will be redone next week
    - v. Outbound between Museum St & Oxford will not be resurfaced, but flexposts will be installed this month and some pavement patching will also occur before winter
      1. Flexposts will be 7' from the curb because temporary driveway aprons extend into the street.

- vi. Existing bike lane striping should be restriped, **City will confirm**
- c. Webster Ave
  - i. Resurfaced by end of next week
  - ii. Parking ban for resurfacing will become permanent parking ban
  - iii. No ETA on when protected bike lanes will actually be fully installed
  - iv. There is a plan for a crosswalk by the garage, may not be painted until spring
    - 1. **City will share plans**
  - v. City figuring out communication with residents to know about parking in the garage
- d. Prospect St
  - i. Large barrels will be removed, replaced with flexposts and "BUS/BIKE ONLY" lane paint
    - 1. Signs will be installed as well
    - 2. **City will have conversation with SPD to make sure enforcement is available for change**
  - ii. Signal at Prospect St & Somerville Ave signal timing, waiting for consultant to get back on feasibility to add 10 second lag for easier left turn
  - iii. Tom asked about any other project work, Adam says he is not aware of any other outstanding work
- e. Elm St (Somerville Ave to Cedar St)
  - i. Full bike lane will be painted tonight (11/2)
    - 1. Brad had a conversation about starting "striping season" in the spring, but depends on budgeting and may not happen immediately
  - ii. Temporary yellow dashed line cannot be removed, should fade over the winter
  - iii. Might be able to add BMUFL signage on the downhill section
- f. Dane St
  - i. Being restriped tonight (hopefully)
- g. Medford St
  - i. Parking ban will go into place when signage is installed, probably around the same time as the markings next year
- h. Other
  - i. Faded facilities – Work is ongoing but budget is limited
  - ii. Somerville Ave Slippery Paint – Contractor did an audit and repainted the areas they found that were degraded "unusually quickly"
    - 1. Kevin pointed out a few problems:
      - a. Carwash runoff is a problem
      - b. Sludge from trash trucks
    - 2. Ken has talked to ISD about carwash runoff, no response yet
    - 3. Mark suggested putting down thermoplastics here
  - iii. Neighborways – Signage and paint will be going down in a few weeks
- i. Bike Ped Counts
  - i. Successful year, lots of new people helping
  - ii. Captured turning movement counts this year
    - 1. Approach and then what direction cars/bikes/peds took through the intersection
    - 2. 4 locations this year
  - iii. Concern about Age/Gender counts being too hard so removed from some intersections
  - iv. Added 3 new locations based on GLX, wanted pre-GLX data
  - v. New sign in sheet worked much better

- vi. Initial results show an increase in cyclists from 2016 (most cyclists ever!)
- vii. Emily asked about weather impacts
  - 1. No good historical data but Adam is starting to collect that this year
- viii. Liza asked if the top 5 areas actually have the best infrastructure?
  - 1. Tricky question because a lot of focus goes towards where the most crashes actually occur, which isn't always the most frequented streets
  - 2. SBAC will discuss this more this winter
- ix. 2017 data will be uploaded soon
- j. Vision Zero
  - i. City working on new webpage this winter
  - ii. City is collecting more traffic data (speed, number of cars, etc)
    - 1. Lots of data comes from developers (required by city for new projects)
    - 2. Pneumatic tube systems do not really pick up bicycle traffic well so modeshare calculations are tough to make
    - 3. Will work with consultants/contractors to try and improve bike counting reliability
    - 4. Mark says they may need to be calibrated
- k. Traffic Calming Study
  - i. Prioritized streets based on speed/volume/crashes/etc
    - 1. Sycamore St, Powderhouse Blvd
  - ii. Have a list of streets for working on when funding becomes available
  - iii. Consultant gave list of best practice treatments
  - iv. Next steps include presenting to the Board of Aldermen, outreach with residents and establishing a funding source
  - v. Neighborways will be extended into East Somerville this fall (Gilman St and Oliver St)
- l. Snow Clearance
  - i. Conversations have already occurred between City directors, more will occur soon
  - ii. DPW has a snowcat so equipment is not an issue
  - iii. Liza asked if we've asked other snowy cities
    - 1. City staff are on NACTO listservs and have talked with other cities, need to make sure DPW is onboard with plans though
  - iv. One question that needs to be answered is what priority is for plowing Protected Bike Lanes & Cycle Tracks
  - v. Ian asked if residents on Beacon St will be educated to avoid putting snow back on the cycle track
    - 1. Katie & Education will add to their list of educational outreach work
    - 2. Mark suggested getting interested residents to help shovel the cycletrack
  - vi. SBAC has a Winter Maintenance letter that is ready to be sent to the City
    - 1. **Kevin will send on behalf of SBAC**
- 5. Burning Questions (**AFTER you have read all the updates on the 5' E's Spreadsheet:-)**
  - a. Bike Talk (Nicole Freedman) was recorded, link will be sent out later
  - b. SBAC Annual Party – 11/12 1-3pm @ Aeronaut
- 6. Meeting w/ Mayor
  - a. Ken, Mark & Tom meeting with Mayor
  - b. Discussion about parking permits, Beacon St, and 2018 Top Projects

- a. Tom tabled this item to allow a longer discussion of the other items.

### **Winter Maintenance & Beacon St Educational Outreach**

1. Winter Maintenance Letter – Kevin
  - a. **Kevin will send letter out to Stan Koty**
2. Beacon St Cycletrack re-opening- Stop on the Line campaign and Cycletrack safety handout- Kevin/Katie
  - a. Education working on this, hope to have something ready by December
  - b. Katie needs help identifying home addresses within 1 block of Beacon St (to send mailers to).
  - c. Kevin asked if it's ok to send to Cambridge residents. Adam doesn't think there is a problem with that. (In fact, he thinks it may be a good idea to flyer closest homes on other side of city border.)
  - d. Flyers cannot be placed in mailboxes! May mail if there is budget.
    - i. May be able to use City's mailing services, will talk to Brad to see if possible
  - e. Tom asked about distributing to businesses too, Katie will do this
  - f. Ken would like SPD to take on the "Stop on the line, every time" campaign
    - i. Kevin thinks it might work well when the Beacon St cycletrack reopens
3. 2018 educational material in parking permit flyers
  - a. Make list of rotating content
  - b. Maybe include with excise tax mailers too?
  - c. Education wants to prioritize 25 MPH speed limit for 2018
  - d. Ken suggested 25 MPH/Stop-on-the-line in the context of Vision Zero

### **Team Update – Education (10 minutes)**

1. Working on Beacon St
2. Talking about doing video snippets to educate about best practices on the road
  - a. MassDOT has a contact that we might be able to work with, need to find out if fees are involved
  - b. Somerville High School has a video program which may also work
  - c. Want a list of ideas, open to suggestions (2-3 minute videos)

### **Other Items**

1. Tom & Ken may change the agenda moving forward to be more project based, for example:
  - a. Beacon St
    - i. All teams have actions that need to occur as the cycle track opens and construction wraps up
  - b. Elm St
    - i. Again, all teams have actions that need to occur as Elm St work progresses
2. Meetings for Ball Sq & Magoun Sq
  - a. Preliminary thoughts on redesigns for this area
  - b. City is working with MIT Students to find low hanging fruit to make easy changes to make the spaces better
  - c. Big concern is safety of the streets, reducing speeding
3. Next meeting on 11/30 6pm @ VNA

Meeting adjourned: 8:00pm