



## SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes, November 1, 2018

#### **Committee Attendees:**

Ken Carlson, Chair  
Katie Pierce, Secretary  
Alex Anderson  
Emily Balkam  
Mark Chase  
Alex Epstein  
Ted Feldman  
Alex Frieden  
Ted Lester  
Brandon Stafford  
Mark Vollinger  
Ian Woloschin  
Lena Webb

#### **Ex Officio:**

Adam Polinski, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Dev  
Deputy Chief Steve Carrabino, Police Department

Thursday Nov 1, 2018, 6:30-8:00 PM, Academy Room, Police Department, Washington St

#### **Procedural, General Business & Updates (15 Minutes)**

1. Guest introductions and sign-in sheet
  - a. Guests: Walter Xu, Ben Holmes, Sky Rose, Greg Ely, Cedric Nicolas (Somerville Times), Ellyn Thompson
  - b. Stories about worse bike crashes during introductions. Editor's note: This topic should not be repeated.
2. Acting Secretary: Ted Lester
3. VOTE: Approve October Minutes
  - a. 9 members approved
4. Welcome Mark Vollinger – new member
5. Truck Safety Training by all of DPW- Ken
  - a. Want video to be seen by truck drivers in the region. Somerville DPW has committed to showing video to all city truck drivers. City of Newton and Cambridge may join. **Action to all SBAC members:** Looking for any connections to truck driving fleets in order to get it put into their annual training.
  - b. Can training be added to city contracts? Send to Vision Zero task force (Alex E).

#### **City Update (15 min) Adam**

- a. Los Angeles – cool demonstration to slow down cars using giant letters crossing the street
2. Update on end of season bike facility work (i.e. Beacon St, Webster Ave, Cedar, Calvin St...)
  - a. Lowell St, Cutter Ave, Mt Vernon St, Marshall St, Davis Sq (except few flex posts) paving/painting projects all Done!
  - b. Bike/Ped counts complete and went smoothly. Initial analysis by end of the year.
  - c. Cedar St – Almost done. Upper section north of Highland will be painted by next week, except maybe green paint.
    - i. Lower one-way section – painted as buffered bike lane. Did not get contra-flow. Would require signal changes.
    - ii. Cameron Ave uphill bike lane pushed to 2019. Cambridge completed their section. Locals are concerned about painting bike lane with bad pavement conditions. Paved schedule for 2023. **Action Engineering Team:** Look at whether to paint given the quality.
    - iii. **Action E&P Team:** Provide recommended changes to repaving priority equation. City wants to stick to data-driven paving priority scheme. City wants to avoid streets degrading and crossing a threshold where more expensive and extensive projects would be required. This means sometimes the worst streets aren't repaved first.
    - iv. Calvin St – pushed to 2019. Sorry to get people's hopes up, but contractor didn't paint despite being on site. City is struggling to get the attention of the paint contractors (only two in the region), not returning calls etc. due to the high demand for their services. [Note added after meeting- Calvin St bike lane was painted one week after meeting]
  - d. Beacon St
    - i. Curb-to-curb trench repairs Park to Oxford. Spot repairs to rough conditions. Striping to follow 1-2 weeks later (Cambridge to Washington St may get done sooner)

- e. Webster Ave
  - i. Paving scheduled for next week. DNR is contractor.
  - ii. Flex posts will be installed in the second half of November. No paint this year.
  - iii. Flex posts in other locations around the city will be done as stock allows (100 total).
    - 1. Prospect bus/bike lane flex posts are in bad shape with many bent over after being run over. Will assess as part of prioritization of locations. City open to suggestions for key locations for bollards.
    - 2. Mark: Two pins holding them in. May be able to saw off the broken sections of flex posts, drill holes, and re-install. Need a \$10 tool.
    - 3. OSPCD working with DPW to establish long term maintenance plan for bollards
  - iv. Alex F: Webster/Prospect Intersection. Not extending flex posts to eliminate left turn lane. **Action for Adam:** Take it back to Rich to figure out over winter what can be done before paint is applied in the spring.
- 3. Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) update and should we pursue in future?
  - a. 3+ year ordeal. Proposed projects in 2015, 2016 first draft of plans, markings/signage in Spring 2019. (After the meeting Adam estimated that the MassDOT contracting snafu added about a year, so normally this should have been a 2 year process).
  - b. Ken: city should own small projects that are quicker to avoid the delays
  - c. HSIP did allow lots of flexibility in creating progressive plans with Toole.
  - d. TNC funds can be used in the future for smaller sign/paint projects
  - e. Parking removals – were approved, but some (e.g. Park St) need to re-approve due to changes and delays
- 4. Before/after vehicle counts on Marshall St, Mt Vernon St
  - a. Mt. Vernon St – observed reduced speeds with bike lane
  - b. Lowell St – Cars went faster after double yellow line – as predicted
  - c. Marshall St – Contra flow and yellow line didn't slow cars. Members expressed the observation that when no bikes are around, drivers ignore the yellow line.
  - d. City is looking to expand this sort of data collection.

**Vision Zero Task Force Update (incl. SBAC alternate)- Alex E (10 min)**

- a. 9 residents who are part of Task Force are developing VZ action plan by end of 2018
  - i. Alderman Hirsch attended
  - ii. Open meeting, but not a public body
- b. Google document with possible action items 1-5 years out
- c. **Action to all SBAC members:** Please review and embed comments or provide feedback to Alex E by next week
  - i. Next meeting: Library Conference room, Nov 13 at 6-7:30pm
- d. Goal setting and metrics setting
- e. Engineering traffic calming and policy items
- f. "CoS" = City of Somerville
- g. Didn't discuss an SBAC alternate. [Note after meeting- Alex E and Ken agree that Tom Lamar or Mark Chase would be good alternates)

**Engineering (30 min)**

- 1. Holland St options
  - a. Adam: Holland repaving in fiscal year 2020, so likely sidewalks in 2019 with repaving in 2020 (subject to reprioritization based on city-wide road conditions)
  - b. Proposed Plan-Brandon
    - i. Parking removal could be temporal or permanent.
    - ii. Bus/Bike into Davis Sq starting at Jay St, Outbound starting at the same location
    - iii. Question: Why not bus/bikes on both sides? Width is an issue. Also don't want to overuse bus/bike lanes where they aren't needed (Mark C).
    - iv. If only remove parking on one side, recommend downhill side bike lane to avoid door zone bike lane.
    - v. Recommend left turn lane at Cameron Ave (allows busses to pass)
  - c. Engagement with Better Bus Project- Lena
    - i. Better Bus Project co-sponsored Cambridge and Arlington pop up bus/bike lanes. Grant from Barr Foundation applied by cities. MAPC is another possible source.
      - 1. Better Bus already in discussions with city (Brad/Mike) on Broadway. Adam is contact person on this
        - a. Doing public outreach this winter for Broadway changes
        - 2. Could present at Bike Talk
      - ii. Better Bus staff that Lena reached out to recommended getting city input and guidance
        - 1. Can help facilitate public meetings
      - iii. Need people fired up and participating in the community
      - iv. Attaching MBTA name provides more universality to projects
      - v. Can fund professional data collection for temporal changes.
- a. City input/guidance

- i. Ken: getting city buy-in is #1 priority. Need a small write up with the concept to pass around OSPCD and city offices.
- 2. Webster/Prospect Intersection- Alex F
  - a. Already discussed

**Encouragement (10 min)**

- 1. Tour de Neighborways recap – Mark
  - a. 25 riders. Some families went just to learn how to get kids to school safely. Good turnout despite the cold weather  
Hot tea break was appreciated.
- 2. Winter Biking Clinic- Emily
  - a. Somerville Bike Kitchen, Wed Nov 14 at 7pm
  - b. Wheel Works owner Jason or one of his employees will be there with bike clothing. Also winter bike maintenance and riding safety topics.

**Evaluation (10 min)**

- 1. Recap of DPW Snow Meeting- Ted/Tom/Ken
  - a. SBAC gave DPW priority list. DPW was receptive and will address priorities.
  - b. Second Ravo plow should have arrived Nov 1. Question: will it handle more than light snow? DPW said it would be equipped to handle heavy snow on cycletrack using plow attachment. Same equipment used in Norway and Montreal.
  - c. Two-way communication is key before/during/after storms
    - i. Ken will be POC.
  - d. Flyers – need a draft (Michael Webber?)

**Banter over Beer: Location- The Independent**