



## 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  
\*Katherine Pierce  
\*Brian Postlewaite  
\*Brandon Stafford  
\*Lena Webb  
\*Ian Woloschin

### **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 October 5, 2017

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

Location: Police Department/ Washington Street

\*Present

### **Procedural, General Business & Updates (20 Minutes)**

1. Guest introductions: Jessica Bethune, Jeffrey Shwom, Ted Feldman, Adam Stack, John (Jay) Pielmeier, Ted Lester, Mike Thramann, Michael Wrede, Adrian Tanner, Liza Burkin, Ian Schneider, Michael Weber.  
\*\*Special note: Today is the one year anniversary of the passing of Joe Lavins, cyclist who died after being hit by semi on Massachusetts Avenue at Porter Square.\*\*
2. Acting Secretary: Alex Frieden
3. VOTE: Approve May, September Minutes
4. Merging of Teams: Engineering and Evaluation; Education and Encouragement –  
Engineering and Evaluation is being merged chaired by Alex Frieden. Discussion of what happens when you have quorum. Mike goes over you need to post agenda 48 hours beforehand.  
Education and Encouragement is also merged. Ken discusses enforcement team headed up by Kevin.
5. Burning Questions: Discussion of what happens when you have quorum. Mike goes over you need to post agenda 48 hours beforehand. Ken plugs for nonmembers to come.

### **Focus Section I – (25 Minutes)**

1. Update blitz on 2017 projects – Mike
  - o Park St/Beacon St/Broadway/Webster Ave/Prospect St (signal timing and PBL status)Mike gives status on projects. Sometime in November is where we end construction. Mike reminds us time is short.

Discussion:

Top four projects are the bigger projects: Park Street (between Somerville Ave and Beacon Street), Beacon Street (North Beacon), Webster Ave (from Prospect to City Line), Prospect St. for Winter and signal timing. Mike surprised that Park Street not happening until the Spring. Climbing bike lane from train tracks to Beacon St and from train tracks to Somerville Ave, sharrows the other way.

Ken: We were not successful in getting parking removed (more than a couple) on Park Street.

Mike: It's an incremental upgrade (on Park Street).

Brandon asks how parking removal was reduced from what we expected.

Ian says that one option was to remove all parking, another option was to remove some parking.

Brandon: I think the result is it is still going to be pretty dangerous.

Ken thinks we should revisit this in the future

Ian notes that Park Street has been going on since he joined committee. Wonders how we guarantee it gets done.

Mike figures it's just a matter of getting contractor out there. Just a matter of getting cogs in a row.

Ken: Look at where we can put a crosswalk, ask evaluation and planning to look into this.

[Note after meeting- Maryann thinks we should re-visit Park St in terms of parking removal and Ian has agreed to take the lead on making improvements to the Park St plan}

Ken: **Beacon Street** is next.

Mike: Cycletrack on southbound side (towards Inman Sq) on Beacon is getting finalized before winter. High friction green paint will be used at conflict points (driveways). Temporary bike lane on northbound (towards Porter Sq) side.

Ken: Can bollards be installed on bike lane on north side? Gas work may have to be done and that precluded getting the cycletrack finished this year

Alex Anderson: Will any bollards go from Somerville Ave onto Beacon? Mike says he will look into it.

Ian: Will call go out to remind motorists not to roll through stop sign and stop in cycletrack? Katie is working on mailer on this as well as working on where trash cans are going.

Kevin: We are also working with this on enforcement team. Working on nice graphic for this.

Ken: What is timing for enforcement materials?

Ken: Will cyclegrip be installed before the winter on the cycletrack? Ken wants to have it installed for safety

Ken: **TO DO ITEM Make official letter for clearing snow from cycletrack an agenda item for next meeting.**

Guest Liza Burkin reminds everyone that winter cycling survey going out from BCU.

Mike goes over improved pavement conditions for Beacon St from Cambridge City Line to Washington Street. It's going to be in a reasonable state for the winter.

Ken: Going up towards Oxford St from Washington Street almost unusable.

Ken notes lots of complaints on Beacon. 400 bikes an hour during morning/evening rush hours.

Ian recommends making Beacon detour permanent rather than limiting it to construction period/construction signage.

No update on Broadway Street though it is currently being re-milled.

No striping, just resurfacing on Broadway and Cedar.

Mike thanks everyone for coming to **Webster** meeting. He reports that Eversource is about to be out of Webster. Full steam ahead, bollards ordered. Still deciding what to do with handicap spot, won't go on Traffic Committee meeting this month. Might be instances where cars are there and blocking the lane. Hopefully condition will only be there until the spring.

[Note after meeting- removal of on-street parking approved at Oct 19 Traffic Commission meeting]

Ian asks what is happening at the Cambridge line. Mike is reminding counterparts in Cambridge.

Mike's team getting content to submit to Traffic Commission.

Prospect Street – Mike says we have 40 extra flex posts to put on Prospect, to epoxy where barrels are now.

Immediate goal is to ensure safe condition for winter. Current bus rate is three buses/hour. Need to make sure cars don't use that lane. Different options are presented for keeping cars out of bus/bike lane.

Prospect left onto Washington: Discussion of having a leading left so cyclist can make the turn onto Washington.

Ken proposes a ten second window for making left turn. Mike will bring to consultants.

### **Focus Section II – (25 Minutes)**

1. Case studies in emerging playbook of projects that require parking removal.

- o A) Dane Street-Mike B) Medford Street-Alex F. C) Webster Ave – Ken C.

Discussion: When can we provide better bike facilities by removing parking (emerging playbook – in search of applications for case studies/our experience)?

A) Dane Street. Mark says it is helpful if abutters advocate for better facilities BEFORE they are officially introduced. All businesses in complex including Aeronaut and Artisan's Asylum wrote letters. Most residents there have driveways so not a large issue. Mike: Engineering has five year repavement plan. This is when you want to do restriping. Thanks to Alderman Heuston who supported project. There are complaints, not many. Parking has been gone for a week. Adam did most of project from city perspective. Mike: It's up to ward Alderman whether public meeting is necessary. Question to Mike on policy on removing parking. Mike: Really at will of ward alderman.

B) Medford Street. Tom and Alex comment on strategy for Medford Street. Found very few residents ever there. Mostly non-residents using street. Rounded up letters of support for removing parking for protected bike lanes. Mike: Won't be Spring 2018 until Medford Street gets repaved and redone. Ken: 130 bikes/hour on Medford Street. Cambridge is also doing Gore Street.

C) Webster. Ken says we were motivated to do project because of Geren Stone. He got involved in road rage incident last year. Kudos to Deputy Chief Carrabino for helping to get conviction. Removal of all parking was presented to Mayor and Alderman Heuston. Mayor told Bike Committee to make it happen. Got support from residents, found more residents, had neighborhood meetings for discussion. Created 50-resident mailing list. Did lots of different parking counts. We found heavily underutilized parking garage. Held public meeting last week with over 50 people in attendance- there were no opponents to the project. Got seventy signatures from residents and neighbors.

2. Application to Beacon Street from Washington Street to Inman Square.

Mike – City last week committed to Vision Zero. Webster Ave is exactly the type of project and outcome that Vision Zero strives for. Alderman Maryann Heuston: Traffic and Parking will need to do their job and enforce resident only parking. Guest: We need to be careful where we are going to remove parking as certain areas of city are overused for parking. Mark describes program he is proposing to City. Involves having parking zones limited to particular neighborhoods; no issuance of more parking permits than there are spots. Allow for waiting lists. Ken wants to try to form a team, take all lessons learned, involve BCU, and involve neighbors to complete Beacon Street.

### **Enforcement Team Update**

Kevin describes Enforcement Team. Enforcement expects to work more with the Evaluation and Planning Team to work on new projects to figure out enforcement needs. Also expect to work with Encouragement Team with

“stop on the line every time” project. Work on helping to define what’s best for local signage restricting entry or turning movements- residents-only and abutters-only. Rolling out crash survey soon.

**Encouragement Team Update (Historic Ride)**

Alex Anderson makes plug for Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, bike ride that starts at City Hall at 2pm.

**Last Call**

Kevin presents Somerville Bicycle Crash Survey.

Ken reminds others about upcoming Bike Talk.