



# SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

## **Community Representatives Present**

Ken Carlson, Chair

Tom Lamar, Vice Chair

Michael Weber

Alex Anderson

Mark Chase

Ted Feldman

Alex Frieden

Enid Kumin

Ted Lester

Kevin McGrath

Alan Moore

Brandon Stafford

Lena Webb

Ian Woloschin

## **Ex Officio Present:**

Mike Tremblay, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Dev

Deputy Chief Steve Carrabino, Police Department

Thursday Oct 11, 2018, 6:30-8:00 PM, Police Department (Lower level), Washington St

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

- Guest introductions and sign-in sheet
  - George Schneeloch
  - Liza Burkin
  - Sky Rose
  - Akash Pillai
- Acting Secretary: Mark Chase
- VOTE: Approve September Minutes
  - Mark Chase moves to accept Enid Kumin 2<sup>nd</sup>'s; all in favor/ none opposed
- Update – Zoning reform reintroduced – Tom
  - Somerville is putting forward it's new zoning code for review and passage. Eval and Planning Subcommittee will review it.

## **City Update (20 min) Mike**

1. Vision Zero Task Force update: Vision Zero Task Force is now formed. It includes SBC member Alex Epstein. The group will meet a few times a month until a draft plan is released. After that the group will oversee implementation of VZ practices. SBC comments are welcome. The VZ Task Force will focus on serious crash reduction and data collection. Mentioned eventually there will be a pedestrian advisory committee. There will be benchmarks that the Task Force will make sure happen.
2. Beacon St and Webster Ave winter prep timetable (including overall Webster implementation). Beacon Street... Asphalt patches are planned for Friday 10-12. Bike racks by 10-19. Temp Pavement markings will be done for the entire length. Spot treatments along Museum to Oxford will be put in because they can't mill this section. If there are specific spots to patch please report them. Committee recommends travel lane be minimized (ideally 10 feet) so that bikes get more smooth space to work with. Ian recommends that City suggest Park Street to Somerville Ave detour so that people avoid this section.

Webster: Paving crews are in the City doing Cedar and Powderhouse. They are hoping the crews will make it over to Webster before the end of the season. Rich Reich is optimistic. Alex Frieden asks for plans of the project. November 15<sup>th</sup> is the moratorium day by which projects must stop. After that every week after 11/15 is go-no-go on a week by week basis.

3. BlueBikes rideship after expansion: There are 8 new stations and one more added on 10-12 (Dane St/ Ames Parking Deck). Expansion has resulted in 67% increase trips starting in Somerville. 10,000 starting trips in 2018; Best ever! See Mike Tremblay's slides for some great data on the expansion. Ken asked how they are dealing with empty docks at rush hour. Mike says BlueBike has gamified rebalancing bikes and they are also valeting bikes to meet demand. They hope to add more stations to areas next year.
4. Union Square detours: Mike showed a map of the detours because of the closure of Somerville Ave near Bow St. Sky asked: will they be working in bike lanes and not replacing them. Mike doesn't know if they will replace pavement markings when they put the lanes back. Ian asks if we should discourage bikes use of Dane Street. It's going to be uncomfortable. Discussion took place about whether to use Hawkins as a temporary overflow. City has considered this but is hesitant to

consider this because it's so narrow and the sightlines are bad looking up Washington. We realized during the discussion that Somerville Ave will remain open for bikes so there is no issue for bicycle mobility.

### **Focus – How should building construction improve bike infrastructure? 25 min**

1. Central Hill Campus Plan options – Mike: As part of the High School project the City is looking at the whole campus.
  - a. Discussion: how do we link the Community Path, N/S bike routes, Neighborways and Highland Ave? Members should be sure to look at the slides that Mike showed as they show the major options. There's also a separate file that is on the City site for the Campus Planning efforts. Parking is a big issue at the campus as people come from outside of the City and want to park. The key thing is to get comments in the project website so that people can weigh in. Ken said we have to make this a model and get facilities at least in this section of Highland. The other big issue is that there's strong opposition to removing mature trees and this makes a wide two way cycle track very unlikely. Mark asked if perhaps five or six feet can be made available for west bound bike traffic with East bound using 6 feet of the 40 foot carriage way. Mike will look into this.
2. 515 Somerville Ave plans – Mike
  - a. Discussion: what improvements should we expect from medium-sized developments like this? Concerns about Uber/ Lyft drop-off. Mike says that we can make a condition that they have to keep Ubers/ Lyfts off the bike-lane and use only their on-site drop-off. The group discussed using geo-fences so people can't call Uber's in front of the hotel. We also discussed making the curb side bike lane on this block of Somerville Ave a bollard protected bike lane. This should go on the SBAC's low hanging fruit wish list for 2019.
3. Others (Assembly, US2, Clarendon): Mike talked about the range of possible mitigation asks of developers. See the presentation for the punchlist of options available. Tom would like members to work with developers to make sure that developers are incorporating good bike policies in their project proposals.

### **Updates from recent meetings with Mayor (10 min) - Ken**

Ken gave update of meeting with Mayor: we want to be number 1. See meeting slides for the topics covered. Responding to one of Ken's bullet points, Mike mentioned that there's an internal parking committee which is looking at parking innovation in the City.

### **Engineering (10 min)**

1. White Street Contraflow – Alex E: Tabled as Alex couldn't make meeting.

### **Encouragement (10 min)**

1. Tufts ride recap – Katie: Mark said it went great!
2. Upcoming Neighborways ride – Katie is in Nepal: October 21<sup>st</sup> meet at White and Elm 2pm. Need help promoting it.
3. Ken gave a brief overview of the Truck Driver training video. Ken is looking for ways to get the video out to members of the trucking industry. Sky mentioned that it would be great if bus drivers also saw this video. Mike mentions that cyclists should also see the video so they can see where the bike blind spots are.

### **Banter over Beer: Location TBA**