

SOMERVILLE BICYCLE COMMITTEE
Joseph A. Curtatone, Jr.
Mayor

Alan Moore, Chair
Ron Newman, Vice Chair
Kaminsky
Greg Palmer, Secretary
Bhupesh Patel

Jim Gallagher
Jenifer

Dereck Mangus

Mike Buckley, Office of the Mayor
Board of Aldermen
Jim Hodgdon, Police Dept.
Traffic and Parking Dept.
Dept. of Public Works (vacant)

Denise Provost,

Todd Blake,

Stephen Winslow, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (SPCD)

MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, September 28, 2004, City Hall

ATTENDEES Alan, Ron, Greg, Steve

1. Minutes - Alan Moore, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. The July and August minutes were reviewed. As a quorum was not present, the minutes were not approved.

2. City Report - Steve Winslow

A. Community Path - Phase 1, Cedar St. to Central St.: The support letter (see July '04 minutes) from Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) has finally been received. Steve meets with Guilford, freight railroad leasee, on Oct. 1 to talk about abandoning freight rights from Cedar St. to Lowell St. He has also heard from Transit Reality that the MBTA Operations Dept. has no problems with Phase 1; and that the T's Planning Dept. had reservations due to the ongoing Green Line study, specifically around Lowell St. Ezra Glenn in the Somerville Planning Dept. has a meeting scheduled on Oct. 4 with Steve and the T. Alan asked about the impact on the Path if a Lowell St. stop is planned on the proposed transit extension. Steve replied that Vollmer Associates, the design consultant for the Path, says any plans for a station would keep it on the north side of the railroad right-of-way. Phase 2, School St. to North Point, Cambridge: Steve said that the city has submitted a grant request to MassPike for the tourism grant of \$40,000 to fund a landscape design/art competition (see Aug. '04 minutes).

B. Somerville/Cambridge/Belmont path improvements - Steve will be meeting with MHD, City of Cambridge, and state Rep. Anne Paulson on Sept. 29 for an update on the project. Greg said that the Davis Square Task Force voiced some concerns about potential conflicts between cyclists, pedestrians, and motor vehicles.

C. Capital plan - The city is developing a capital plan, programming money for future projects. Steve put in several proposals: a program line for bicycle and pedestrian improvements; \$60,000 for a Bicycle Master Plan- using the existing bike route map as a start; \$700,000 design money for the Central St. to North Point portion of the Community Path; for the Cedar to Central portion, matching money that may be need for environmental cleanup; and money for rebuilding the embankment along the right-of-way if the T doesn't do it for the Green Line project. Another capital plan proposal is for the city to buy the CHA parking lot and turn it into a park with a dog run.

D. Assembly Square/Main Street - Steve said that the Planning Board has granted conditional approval of the Special Permit with Site Plan Review for buildings (including 3 residential with retail) proposed for Main Street in Assembly Square. Conditions the Board attached include: language on street furniture, including bike racks; shower and changing facility requirements; bicycle parking spaces outside buildings and in garages; bicycle storage requirements for residential buildings.

E. Mystic River - Steve helped craft a memo to the state Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) about issues of community concern for Somerville and the city of Everett regarding the Amelia Earhart Dam crossing.

F. Draw 7 Park to Route 99 path extension - Steve called the T for information on the commitment to secure room for a path along the Mystic River and the bus yard- DCR, the T, and the Environmental Protection Agency are in negotiations.

G. Stop and Shop - Bike racks have been installed. **Action:** Steve will ask the store not to chain shopping carts to the bike rack nearest the main entrance. Greg also suggested that a curb cut is needed where the second bike rack was installed; cyclists either have to hop the curb, or might be tempted to use the curb cut at the northerly store entrance, coming into conflict with pedestrians.

H. McGrath Highway - Steve and Todd Blake checked out the new loop detectors at the various intersections.

Greg asked why the wording on the bicycle loop signs doesn't conform to the industry (MUTCD 2003) standard: the signs installed say "BICYCLE STOP ON LINE FOR GREEN". It should read: "WAIT ON [bike symbol] TO REQUEST GREEN", otherwise bikes may not be detected by the loop. **Action:** Steve will ask Todd Blake about this.

3. Tour de Somerville - Alan will make some calls for volunteers. Dereck is designing the poster. Ron is sending out PSA's and making the route map and cue sheet. Greg has contacted the Police Dept. for escorts, and Redbones for refreshment donations.

4. Bike racks at schools - The Brown and Cummings schools sent out an email request for bike rack information. Alan is following up. Steve said that the city's expenses would be \$400./day for installing 10 racks at each school. Members thought that was a bit excessive. Steve explained that labor costs are the same for installing one rack as 10.

5. Policy issues - Discussion was deferred until the next meeting.

6. Bike lanes - The second phase of street repaving begins in May 2005. Steve said that Allison McDonald, a Tufts environmental engineering student, will be working on a bicycle-related project, in conjunction with the city, using computer assisted design. Greg asked before moving ahead on a side of the street bike lane for the section of School St. that is one way uphill from Medford St. to Highland Ave., that a subcommittee be formed to examine bike lanes on one way streets in general. Steve said that he saw this proposed lane striping as an example of moving beyond a study to implementation. Ron suggested that the Tufts student's study purpose be defined as how to facilitate movement of two-way traffic for bicycles on School St. It was decided that a subcommittee on one-way streets and bicycle movement will be named later.

7. Membership - Jenifer has resigned from the committee effective Nov. 28. Derek Mangus's appointment to the committee has been confirmed by the Board of Aldermen. His membership is effective Nov. 24.

8. Other issues - Clyde/Warwick neighborhood meeting is being set up to find out what residents do, and don't want. Tuck O'Brien in SPCD is heading this up. Alan said the SBC should make a list of things important to cyclists. He will be following up for the next committee meeting. Greg told what he found out about the accident that killed a cyclist at Washington and Dane sts. He said that Lt. Paul Upton, head of the Traffic Bureau for the Police Dept., should be invited to a future meeting. Also: that Charlie McCarthy in DPW Engineering (x5418) can be called to report bad utility trenches and potholes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

The next SBC meeting is Tuesday, October 26, at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Palmer, Secretary