

SOMERVILLE BICYCLE COMMITTEE
Joseph A. Curtatone
Mayor

Alan Moore, Chair
Ron Newman, Vice Chair
Greg Palmer, Secretary

Jim Gallagher
Dereck Mangus
Peter Coyle

Mike Buckley, Office of the Mayor
Aldermen

Bob Trane, Board of

Police Dept. (vacant)
Dept. (vacant)

Traffic and Parking

Dept. of Public Works (vacant)

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

MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, July 19, 2005, Visiting Nurse Assn.

ATTENDEES Alan, Ron, Greg, Dereck, Peter, Phil, Steve
 Guests: Jimmy Cypher-Larz Anderson Auto Museum; Dan Barrett

1. Minutes - Ron called the meeting to order at 6:50 pm. Approval of the June minutes was postponed.

2. Union Square - Jimmy Cypher, Operations Manager for the Larz Anderson Auto Museum in Brookline, is producing a transportation-related event called "Union Square X-Roads: An Industrial Happening". We will look into providing bicycle parking using police barriers.

3. Tour de Somerville - Saturday, October 15 was decided as the Tour date; Sat. Oct. 22 is the backup if scheduling conflicts arise. Steve will check the Mayor's calendar. It was decided not to extend the ride into Medford, an earlier suggestion. A subcommittee was formed: Greg, Ron, Dereck, Peter, and Dan Bartlett

4. Davis Square -

A. Abandoned bicycles/MBTA - Greg will follow up with the MBTA about their proposal for removing abandoned bikes from the racks on T property. Greg also mentioned a raft of recent bike thefts reported by the Somerville Police around the station. It was mentioned that we need to work with the T on procedures for implementing removal of bikes. Steve suggested doing an inventory every few months. Another question: who determines what is abandoned?

B. MassHighway path project/T busway - Steve attended a recent meeting of the Davis Square Task Force, and spoke about the Community Path, and the current proposal for bicycle movement in the busway corridor. He told them that currently about 95% of the traffic on the existing path is pedestrian. In answer to a question about the community garden and path construction impacts, he said there would be no net loss of garden space. Several questions were raised about the potential for conflict between pedestrians and bicycles traveling in the busway corridor.

Alan asked if the MBTA has agreed to the new design proposal along the busway (widened sidewalk that includes path space). Steve replied that he is waiting for MassHighway's engineering design. Alan asked if there will be another public hearing, and Steve responded, probably not. Greg expressed his continuing concern about bikes on what will be in essence a widened sidewalk shared by pedestrians.

Steve mentioned that Traffic and Parking will be repainting the "no bikes" circle/slash

stencil on Davis Sq. curb ramps this summer.

C. Davis Square on-road route - Greg said that the on-road alternative route proposal needs to be moved forward, and that Traffic and Parking needs to be in on the discussion.

5. Bicycle parking ordinance - The CVS/Boston Sports Club project in Davis Sq. was brought up regarding bike parking. Steve said that our proposed ordinance will address bicycle parking, but not changing rooms or showers. He remarked that the SBC can continue to comment on development projects and make these suggestions. Ron will write to the Planning board before this project's hearing, encouraging a binding agreement for bike parking be part of required mitigation for motor vehicle parking.

6. Bicycle racks/rings - Steve said that Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds are available for bike racks, and that they require a local match. The biggest cost is for installation. The money could be available by September 30. Traffic and Parking has between 30-40 bike rings in storage, and could be put on private property, according to Steve. The City could try to buy posts for the existing rings.

7. On road bicycle accommodations -

A. Cutter Ave. - The subcommittee recommends striping left/right turn lanes at the Highland Ave. intersection. It is not opposed to a bike lane on the street, on the left side, that becomes dashed before Highland Ave. A voice vote was unanimous in recommending this design to Traffic and Parking.

B. School St. - Public Works has suggested painting a sharrow on the left side, but not on the right side, of the road. A site visit by the SBC, T&P, and DPW was to be scheduled.

C. Bike lane tour - Phil asked if the August SBC meeting could be a riding site visit tour of bike lanes in Cambridge to examine what works and doesn't. It was agreed to, and Phil will plot out the ride.

8. City Report - Steve Winslow

Community Path - Presentations at Brickbottom, and STEP (transportation advocacy group) went well. Greg asked that these presentations be tailored to the respective audience. There is no news about the lease to be negotiated with Cambridge Health Alliance regarding the parking lot land. There was a rumor that there would be tree clearing in the wooded portion of the lot, as was done 7 or 8 years ago. Alan expressed concern that neighbors would lose their green buffer behind their homes, and that the Path effort would get blamed.

9. Beacon Street - There still seems to be an opportunity for suggestions to the Beacon Street reconstruction design.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

The next meeting is Tuesday, August 16, meeting in Kendall Square, Cambridge, for the riding tour of bike lanes.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Palmer, Secretary