SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
June 2013 Minutes
Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives:
Alex Epstein, Chairman
Charles Denison, Vice Chairman
Ken Carlson, Secretary
Brian Postlewaite
Enid Kumin
Alan Moore
Ron Newman
Tim Talun

Ex-Officio:
Janice Delory, Office of the Mayor
Bob Trane, Board of Aldermen
Commissioner Stanley Koty, Department of Public Works
Terry Smith, Traffic and Parking
Chief Pasquarello, Police Department
Sarah Spicer, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development

Day/Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2013
Time: 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Location: City Hall basement lounge

Alex called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Procedural Business:

1. Acting Secretary: Enid
2. Guest introductions: Andrew Breck; Laura Chichisan; Lauren Clayton; Michelle Moon.
3. VOTE: May 2013 Minutes approved unanimously, as amended (Ron motioned, Alan seconded).

New Business:

Policy and Enforcement:

1. TRIP Committee update. Transportation Research Innovation Policy Committee does not meet every month. No meeting since May SBAC meeting.

2. Traffic Commission regulatory requests status and implementation. Process: after favorable vote, changes advertized for three weeks, then take effect. Changes occurring: no parking in bike lane - $50 fine; no municipal requirement for bicycles to stay in bike lanes. Outstanding request: (June 20, 2013 Traffic Commission agenda): change 9 temporal-do-not-enter locations to make exceptions for bicycles. Ron suggested that at next opportunity, request be made for Laurel Street so people will go down Laurel rather than Central the wrong way.

Events, education and outreach:

1. East Somerville Bike Night. Tuesday, June 25th, 5-6:30, East Branch Library. Shape Up Somerville and MA Bike outreach event. Ken will organize SBAC presence.
2. Boston Cyclists Union Mobile Market events. First at Mystic Housing on June 22nd and then Clarendon/North Street at later date. Will include bicycling information and bike repair services. Goal to reach out to new/underserved populations. Market will be in Mystic on summer-fall Saturdays in morning-early afternoon and Clarendon in late afternoon. This schedule may change based on demand. Ken will put on SBAC website and Facebook page.
3. Bicycle Friendly Community upgrade: Sarah will send out draft to members. Sarah will review comments by League of American Bicyclists of our last application. Ken: Somerville compares very favorably to many communities already at Silver level; Somerville has been doing a good job of increasing outreach efforts, an area that the League emphasizes. Sarah noted that some of our major efforts are under consideration/in the development phase (cycle

tracks, more cycle-friendly zoning codes, for example). Bicycle Friendly Community application deadline is July 16. Review is in 2013 for the 2014 award.

4. SomerStreets schedule reminder. Next one is July 28th on Highland, from the end of Cedar Street to School Street. August SomerStreets is at Rte 16. Thereafter: September – Shore Drive; October – Somerville Avenue. July 28th tabling: Alex, Alan, maybe Laura. Ideas for focus on kids include: getting balance bikes; having a question-answer game; running a little raffle. Sarah will check into posters. Laura will put posters up at MIT (work center), Stellabella at Porter and Inman; Knucklebones day care centers. Question for future consideration: Is it advisable to shorten the linear length of SomerStreets events (*e.g.*, Cedar to Lowell or Central rather than Cedar to School)?
5. Tour de Somerville. Saturday, October 19th, starts 10 a.m. in Seven Hills Park. Possible theme: Bridges and Underpasses. Ron would like to hand off ride leadership; SBAC looking for new point person.

Infrastructure:

1. 2013 repaving priority follow-up: Neighborhood Street Repaving Program (NSRP)/Pavement Management Plan should be online. This will be a perpetual plan, prioritizing pavement reconstruction. Sarah will send (1) link and (2) DPW report if available publically. Medford Street is included in first round. Areas slated for large scale reconstruction are taken out of ranking system. Should be easier going forward for SBAC and others to track repaving schedule.

2. Grounding McGrath and Washington Street. Last month SBAC looked at letter written by Tim based on Grounding McGrath Study. Letter was comment on meeting held by MassDOT. Revised letter sent to the Mayor and MassDOT -- via Sarah.

   Tim: holistic vision needed in designing Washington Street projects including building design, widened sidewalks, narrowed roadways. Perhaps the City could require broader sidewalks à la the Maxwell Green covenant: if developers had to get a special permit contingent on city approval. A number of ideas mentioned including floating traffic lane on Washington; cycle track. Ken will put link (from Tim) to plans for reconfigured Washington Street on SBAC website to encourage continued discussion by SBAC members and others. Members also had an abbreviated discussion of bike parking (parking on two of four floors) proposed for new buildings on Washington Street.

3. Bike facility network. No budget information publically available to accompany Neighborhood Street Paving plans. T+P has been maintaining on existing striping (sharrows on at least part of Bow Street, for example). Under discussion: plans to push forward with green bike lanes, climbing lanes on Summer and Central Streets.

   Sharrows on Prospect Street are planned as part of Safe Starts. No sharrows on Webster for now. Likely to be different after Union Square redesign. Brian suggested bike box on Somerville Avenue (left turn from right side). A number of members mentioned that motorists do not seem to drive appropriately when navigating similar arrangements at two locations in Cambridge. Two-stage-left alternative was suggested. Michelle will provide link to video showing two-stage-left example in Copenhagen. Brian will draw up a two-stage-left alternative.

4. Hubway update. New installations coming to Teele Square; Powder House Boulevard at Packard Avenue; Highland at Somerville Hospital. There will also be a Hubway station on the MA Avenue side (at T) of Porter Square. City will look at use data and relocate stations if the data warrant this. Sullivan Square station to expand to East Somerville has been discussed, but installation postponed for lack of a supporting station/connection to wider Hubway network nearby.

5. Green Line station design. Design updates call for increasing the number of bike parking spaces at Green Line stations -- from 70 to 86 bicycles at Ball Square; from 50 to 78 bicycles at Lowell; from 120 to 202 bicycles at Union. It was announced at last week's Union Square-Washington Street meeting that the Green Line and the Community Path will be designed together. The Community Path will provide a means of emergency egress for the Green Line and as such must be in place when Green Line stations are opened.

6. MassCommute Bicycle Challenge. Somerville came in third (based on per capita commuter miles).

7. Beacon. Twenty-five percent design approved -- with comments. Nothing to jeopardize design advancing to next stage (75 - 100 percent).

8. Cedar Street between Highland and Broadway. No recent meeting or status update re traffic calming efforts. Considering chicanes similar to Columbia Street in Cambridge. Would be complemented by raised crossing at Community Path. Traffic and Parking has a consultant on retainer.

9. Gilman Street Bridge. No action currently required by SBAC. Gilman Street Bridge to be reconstructed as part of the Accelerated Bridge Program. Design includes bike lane requested by City on 5-foot shoulder (on McGrath Highway). Lane runs from Virginia Street to the light on the southwest side on Medford. Only 0.1 or 0.2 mile. Lanes narrowed. Design also includes an improved tunnel. Reconstructed tunnel will be less dismal -- one span, more light. During construction, Gilman will be closed, McGrath open.

   Time is limited to make changes, but Friends of Community Path sent letter to massDOT to ask for cycle track or other more protected accommodation rather than a bike lane. SBAC members commented that Gilman is good place for two-way underpass for bikes in future. May be possible to advocate for better bicycle accommodation later.

10. New bicycle zoning in Cambridge. Also noteworthy development: new Cambridge bicycle parking guide with more rigorous indoor parking requirements.

11. Community Path. Green Line to Washington Street- Union Square – Lechmere will be open by end of 2016. Less incentive to make funds available for Community Path thereafter. This means less than three years to secure Community Path funding (?)

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM (Ron motioned to adjourn, Brian seconded; approved by unanimous vote).