

Minutes for 1/22 meeting of the Somerville Bicycle Committee

On 1/22, the Somerville Bicycle Committee convened at the Visiting Nurse's Association facility on Lowell Street.

These minutes record the items discussed in the meeting:

- [Members in attendance](#)
- [Guests in attendance](#)
- [Report from Jeff Levine, OHCD](#)
- [Report from Joel Bennett, Friends of the Community Path](#)
- [Review of the Proposed "Article XIII: Non-Motorized Transportation Regulations"](#)

Members in attendance

Greg Palmer, Turil Cronburg (membership pending), Adam Kessel, Darren Carlton, Jeff Levine, Jim Gallagher, Ron Newman, Andy Rubel, Lars Kellogg-Stedman (membership pending), Jim Hodgdon, Somerville Police

Guests in attendance

Joel Bennett (Friends of the Community Path), Brian Harris (OHCD), Tuck O'Brian (OHCD)

Report from Jeff Levine, OHCD

- The city will allot \$50,000 from a Federal community block grant towards the design of the community path. Total estimated design cost is \$180,000 to \$200,000.

The city's grant administrators are discussing whether to use this grant and \$30,000 from another federal grant (earmarked for improvements in the area of East Somerville) to design part of the path, or to wait until they've secured enough funding to design the entire path.

Jim Gallagher noted that the city could have a better chance of getting funds for construction if they were to design the entire path because such a path would have a large, positive regional impact.

The city continues to search for additional sources of funding for design. (NOTE: typically, cities are expected to pay for the design of such projects, and then the commonwealth funds the construction.)

- Chris Davetea, OHCD, is leading the effort to make the Sacramento Street underpass ADA-compliant. Darren Carlton will contact Chris for information about the design and relay it to the committee, which expressed a concern that the underpass be usable, at the very least, by bicyclists who want to walk their bikes down the new ramps to cross from Somerville Ave to Beacon Street, which are two corridors heavily used by bicyclists.
- IKEA and the Twin City Plaza development are in under environmental review by MEPA. Jeff encouraged the bicycle committee to review the developers' environmental impact statements and to respond. He believes our response will carry more weight if it is included as part of the city's official response. Greg will forward comments to Jeff.

Report from Joel Bennett, Friends of the Community Path

Currently focusing on the following areas:

- Soliciting letters of support from Somerville and area businesses.
- A community outreach effort to reach every abutter of the proposed Community Path.
- Working with the City on the Masspike tourism grant.

Review of the Proposed “Article XIII: Non-Motorized Transportation Regulations”

For the remainder of the meeting, the committee discussed the bicycle regulations that Andy Rubel, Jim Gallagher, and Adam Kessel have proposed.

Andy will update the document per the discussion and will circulate it to committee members via email.

We plan to approve of the proposal in the February meeting, after which Andy, Jim, and Adam will present it to the Traffic Commission.