

## March 24, 2022 Pedestrian Committee Meeting

### Approved Minutes

#### Attendees

**City Staff:** Cara Seiderman (CDD), Adam Shulman (TP+T), Kelsey Tustin (CDD)

**Pedestrian Committee:** Ray Hayhurst, Robin Bonner, Jeannine Powers, Sandy Goldberg, Arnav Murulidhar, Sarah Willis, Debby Galef, Brooke Williams, Jenine Turner-Trauring, Elizabeth Paden, Sean Peirce

**Public:** Alan Greene

#### Meeting Summary

1. **Introductions**
2. **Minutes from last month** - approved
3. **TIS (Transportation Impact Study) Update** - Adam Shulman (TP+T)
  - Why does the Zoning Ordinance require a TIS?
    - City staff and the Planning Board need info from the project proponent to determine potential transportation impacts - so as to avoid or mitigate negative impacts
    - Project proponent provides analysis using standard, accepted transportation estimates
  - TIS Requirements & practices
    - Required under Zoning article 19 Project Review for projects at certain thresholds:
      - Projects > 50,000 sf
      - College/university that create 150 new parking spaces or reallocation of 250 spaces, or any combination thereof
      - Retail and consumer service projects > 25,000 sf
      - Primary school > 40,000 sf
    - Comprehensive of all modes (vehicle, bikes, transit, walking, loading, and parking)
    - Requires estimates of the new trips that a project will create for all modes
    - Evaluates the impacts (positive or negative/adverse) that the new will have
    - Requires evaluation of cumulative impacts with other area projects
    - Requires evaluation of 5 Planning Board Special Permit criteria
    - Determines whether the project has substantial adverse impacts on city traffic (all modes)
  - Process
    - Existing Transportation Conditions
    - Estimate # of trips made by different modes based on proposed amount of development
    - Develop Build Conditions
      - Project impacts evaluated against Planning Board Transportation Criteria
    - Add Background Growth Rate and Other Area Project Trips
    - Future Transportation Conditions (approx. 5 years after project is built)
      - Evaluate future cumulate transportation impacts
  - TIS Impact Criteria
    - Project vehicle trip generation (new daily and peak hour vehicle trips created)
    - Change in level of service (LOS) at study area intersections during peak hour(s)
    - Increased volume of trips on residential streets
    - Increase in length of vehicle queues at intersections
    - Lack of sufficient pedestrian and bike facilities
      - Pedestrian level of service (PLOS) -
        - Will the average pedestrian crossing delays at intersections get longer?
        - Q: Is this PLOS useful if it's based on signal phasing? Is it useful for unsignalized crossings?
      - Safe pedestrian facilities - sidewalks. Crosswalks, or walkways meet City Design

standards.

- Do safe pedestrian facilities exist adjacent to the project?
- Q: Does the TIS account for pedestrian level of comfort and the quality of the pedestrian experience (e.g., trees, shade, lighting, buffers, etc.)?
- Safe bicycle facilities - must exist or be preserved where sufficient ROW exists.
  - Do safe bicycle facilities exist, or space being preserved for safe bicycle facilities adjacent to the project site?
- Current Pedestrian Evaluation in a TIS
  - Collects current pedestrian counts at adjacent and nearby streets, intersections, sidewalks, and pathways
  - Describes existing and proposed sidewalk conditions in front of the site
  - Provides pedestrian crash data at study area intersections for the past 3 years of available data
  - Describe or shows existing and proposed roadways/streetscape conditions
  - Describes or shows intersection conditions
  - Pedestrian LOS analysis at all study area crosswalks
  - Analyze pedestrian crossing gap at unprotected crosswalks, and conduct yielding survey when number of haps falls below 60/hour
- Opportunities to Change Pedestrian Impact Evaluation in a TIS
  - Add new pedestrian specific criteria
  - Modify existing criteria
    - Criteria 1: Replace new vehicle trips criteria with new person trips criteria and establish impact thresholds for # of trips by mode, such as number of new pedestrian trips
    - Criteria 5: Pedestrian LOS (currently uses Highway Capacity Manual formula)
    - Criteria 5: Safe pedestrian facilities meet city design standards
- What does the Committee want to know about a project's impact on pedestrians?
  - Think about the goals and targets in the 2000 Cambridge Pedestrian Plan, Envision Cambridge, and other Citywide Plans
  - One staff idea is to develop metrics and thresholds for the level of impacts (Low - A Grade, Medium - B Grade, or High - C Grade) that a project would have on pedestrians
    - Potential Metrics
      - # of new pedestrian trips
      - Clear sidewalk width
      - Buffer/furniture zone between sidewalk and streets
      - Average vehicle speeds
      - Connectivity
      - Pedestrian level of service (PLOS) impacts
  - Term "impacts" may not be appropriate
  - Other metrics suggested by the Committee
    - Curb cuts
    - Travel time / directness of route
    - Desire lines
    - Pedestrian crash exposure
    - Quality of the build environment, specifically abutting buildings
    - Pedestrian comfort / quality

#### 4. Subcommittee Work / Committee Work Plan

- Neighborhood 9 / Avon Hill walk - Sarah and Debby to lead. Cara to connect them with the Cambridge Historical Commission.
  - In the past, the Committee has done these walks in June in the past, but the Committee can decide when – an early fall walk was also discussed as a nice option. City could support and advertise
- PARK(ing) Day in September - Sandy and Jennie to lead. Unclear what is happening in Cambridge with some staff departures.
- Cambridge Crossing walk?

- NACTO Designing Cities Conference in September 7-10th
  - Committee could organize “walkshops.” Ray to lead.

**5. Project Updates**

- a. DPW - Broadway, between Galileo Way and Ames Street; Eversource Electric in East Cambridge; Inman Square reconstruction; River Street (out to bid); Willard Street (out to bid)
- b. See notes below for DPW upcoming projects

**6. Public Comment - None**

**7. Other Updates and Announcements**

- April - Open Space Planning
- April - Committee to plan walks

## DPW Updates

### On-going construction:

- Broadway between Galileo Way and Ames Street- The Loughery walkway is closed at the intersection of Broadway and Ames Street for drainage work. Pedestrian and bike detours are in place. Bikes are encouraged to use the new separated lanes on Galileo Way. This detour will be in place until June 2022.
  - Eversource Electric – Multiple crews will be performing test pits on the eastern side of the City. Bicycle and travel lanes will be obstructed. Test pits are for the design of transmission cables associated with the new Kendall electric station.
  - Inman Sq.- drainage and water main work scheduled as weather allows. sidewalk and roadway work resumes in spring
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- Port Infrastructure Project- design and community engagement on-going
  - River St- preparing bid docs
  - Willard St – preparing bid docs

### DPW Upcoming Projects

- Chapter 90, Contract 24 – preparing bid docs.
- Park Ave. – Huron to Holworthy
- Walden St.- Sherman to Garden
- Webster St. – Lincoln to Hampshire
- Chestnut St. – Sidney to Pleasant
- Dodge St.- Western Ave to Callendar
- Huron at Cushing Plaza (green infrastructure)
- Chapter 90, Contract 25- design and community engagement.
- Green St- Pearl to Landsdowne
- Maple St- Broadway to Cambridge
- Centre St – Dana to Hancock
- Montgomery St – Harvey to Rindge
- Sciarappa St- Charles to Winter

