

Cambridge Bicycle Committee minutes October 8, 2014

Andrea Williams (AW); Peter Stokes (PS); Matt Nelson (MN); Katherine Howitt (KH); Catherine Hornby (CH); Randy Stern (RS); John Goodman (JG); Megan Ramey (MR); Jonathan Adams (JA); Tom Meek (TM); Ingrid Schorr (IS); Ari Ofsevit (Notes); Cara Seiderman (CS)

I. Minutes approved. RS-JG

II. Committee Activities

A. Bow Tie Ride (JG)

300+ people (311 counted)

Survey (60 respondents): congestion. No serious problems. Ride is slow at that size (don't mind slow pace, but don't like waiting; people like little streets they've never been on before). Lots of kids, can be a problem if kids are not paying attention or all over the place but do want to encourage families/kids who don't have as many opportunities for riding

Also an issue with in-line skaters: they require more width to travel and have different tolerances for pavement quality. One skater fell and had to be taken by ambulance for treatment.

41 comments, most appreciative.

MN: Parents worried about safety, more of a problem than kids.

CS: Is there some way to have a little kid ride, or a separate ride.

MN: Seems to be an issue of really little kids keeping up. All agreed it was great to have lots of kids and families.

JG: Ride management to keep everyone together to not hold up intersections if necessary.

CS: Have we reached a size maximum? Good problem to have.

RS: Is it manageable to have two different speeds, one for kids, one for everyone else?

CS: Do we do two sets of people to mitigate disruption to cross traffic?

MN: Will set up a time to discuss with CPD.

CS: Do we actively discourage in-line skaters? General consensus was to make it clear this ride is not intended for skaters (but not to ban if they do show up).

MN: Pinch points, especially with sharp turns from roads to paths

JG: Trying to find less restrictive routes as the rides get bigger

2015 spring ride ideas:

George Washington in Cambridge

Famous Cambridge Births/residents/visitors

History Ride

Family Ride / Playgrounds

Parks / Nature / Notable Trees

B. Parking Day

It was cold.

Didn't count people but significantly fewer than last year. Would we want to be somewhere else?

Do we want to group everything in a couple areas (easier for DPW)? Something nice for people to be able to see everything together.

PS, AW: keep it more serendipitous.

MR: Dwell Time had a whole garden, a bluegrass duo, and people are going to the coffee shop anyway.

TM: Other parts of the city were pretty quiet.

Affiliate with business(es) near a parking spot?

Decorate a bike wasn't a huge draw, people liked to give information, but we had to stick our hands out.

We're not required to do it, so we should do it with a creative idea, etc, but we can have a different event if we want.

Do we want to put a pop-up cycletrack, involve a school/landscape design firm/etc? HGSD/MIT Media Lab/etc.

Free air for cyclists.

AW: Decent but not great idea this year. Think about and plan it in the spring, more time for execution.

III. Projects and Planning Updates

A. DPW

AW: scaffolding on Main Street (610), who is this for? We like it.

CS: Ames Street: people move cones if they are there to park, Cara will ask for barrels again. AO has not seen barrels.

JA: Live parking in bike lane off of Longfellow on Main Street. Enforcement.

CH: Harvard tunnel: planning to be done before end of construction season.

AO: Flagstaff not expected to be completed before winter, but hoping the curbs will be done before winter

MR: Lakeview: speed limit signs (30) seems too high, electronic sign in place.

B. Pearl Street

Pearl Street to be reconstructed, traffic calming project

First meeting: improvements for bicycling, discussion about parking changes.

Second meeting: people got wind of that and came out against parking removal.

Speeds of traffic, raised intersections

Broader survey of input, we don't want it to just be 10 people at the meeting.

How do people use the street, what are problems, improvements (Katrina)

Katrina: discussed sending postcards, how best to get word out.

Internal discussion of time-restricted parking: bike lane during the day, parking overnight.

Would this be an acceptable compromise?

AO: Shared street, "neighborhood greenway" (evolution of bike boulevard). Especially: narrow from Putnam to Granite.

CS: Timed bike lane idea: something like no parking 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

AW: Morse community? Family liaison. Friends of Morse.

Katrina: According to neighbors, buses can't get through. Mirrors get sideswiped.

C. Outreach Project Updates

CS: How to get around Cambridge maps being redone, more graphics and figures, less text.
AW: Likes pictures of cars, CS: feedback from others was that it was kind of preachy
IS: We need more on the front cover to get them to take it and use it. "Most important things you need to know."
MR: Minneapolis example
CH: Likes the use of humor, visuals.
KH: Put a bicyclist in the picture to check both directions when turning.
KH: How to interact with buses and large vehicles? Bigger piece of work, how do we address that issue.
MR: Commercial vehicles sideguards, we will discuss this soon (CS).
MN: Committee hearing next week? Will check.

D. Other Project Updates

Bike plan: trying to assemble layers a bit complicated. Taken wikimap comments, level of comfort analysis having to do with bus route frequency, etc. Crash data layer. Where are high priority locations for improvements? Develop priority network improvements, can we start to develop school routes (low stress) and major connectors (separately).

Create map, vet internally, meeting with committee (possibly November or a separate special meeting), another open house beginning of December. CH: What does this mean for priority?
CS: These are the things we need to construct to meet our goals. These are the routes we want to see. Missing links, fixing intersections, infrastructure. Some are low-level things (sign, pavement markings), some are higher (construction). More visionary than "right now". MR: Show the Boston plan, the "spine" of the system (cycletracks), bike lanes connecting the spines and neighborways that connect in to higher level facilities.

IV. Development Projects

Next one is next to Ames Street, give committee opportunity to look at it. Review in November or December (with bike or ped). Ped Cmte is Oct 23. Our next meeting is Nov 12. Contingent on getting plans back from developer; PB Hearing is Nov 18 (update: now scheduled for Dec. 2). Bike parking issues, they have not arrived at a solution to meet zoning; new proposal has not yet come in.

Two way cycletrack with signals on either end, envision it going to the river via Ames. On the east side. Will connect to 6th street via the Ames St Midblock Connector, river the other (latter part still in planning; work with MIT)

CS: December 10: social/potluck with transit/pedestrian committees.
Mayor's reception, Nov 5; formal invitation to follow.