

Cambridge Bicycle Committee, May 2016

DRAFT Minutes recorded by AO: Ari Ofsevit

[initials; * = in attendance]

JA: John Adams *

NB: Nora Bent

AMB: Ann Marie Biernacki *

EC: Evadne Cokeh

AF: Amy Flax

JG: John Goodman

CJ: Caroline Jaffe

MVK: Mechthild von Knobelsdorff

JL: Jen Lawrence (CDD staff)

SM: Sean McDonnell *

MN: Matt Nelson (CPD)

AO: Ari Ofsevit *

MP: Mike Proscia *

AQ: Allison Quach (CDD intern) *

MR: Megan Ramey

JR: Joseph Raser *

RR: Ruthann Rudel *

DS: David Soares

JS: Justin Schreiber (CDD staff, SRTS)

MS: Melissa Shakro *

CS: Cara Seiderman (CDD staff) *

RS: Randy Stern

PS: Peter Stokes *

KW: Kathy Watkins (DPW) *

AW: Andrea Williams

JW: Jim Wilcox (DPW)

I. Agenda review, Approval of Minutes, Introductions

Minutes approved (JG MP)

II. DPW 5 year streets and sidewalk plans (KW)

Document to be posted within next couple of days on DPW network. Add link to interactive map (also in document).

Complete streets for all users. Complete streets policy passed by council.

Budget uncertainty, especially years 3-5. Winter deterioration can cause this as well.

High priority pedestrian areas: near parks, squares, libraries, schools, etc, bus routes, major traffic routes, commissions and disabilities. Look at each sidewalk and how cross slopes, driveways and tree conflicts affect it.

Pavement management, every three years to manage conditions of roadways.

\$4.5m annually for street and sidewalk reconstruction: \$2.5m from Ch 90 (state) and \$2m from city sources. Other special appropriations (Kendall, Harvard, Waverly Path) and sewer/stormwater management but the focus is on utility infrastructure but includes streets above. Map shows when project is funded, and sometimes spans multiple years.

Eliot St: money programmed, design beginning, city has been picking off different projects based on earlier Harvard Square plan.

River and Kirkland programmed for 2020; River has funding.

Some utility projects are driven by local flooding issues. Not all sewers are necessarily replaced and separated, some are lined separately.

Miscellaneous sidewalk: \$500k/year, missing ramp, small sections of sidewalks (up to a block), focusing on access issues.

Bicycle plan feeds in to 5-year plan work.

Bicycle access through construction, full warning, bike use full lanes, raised casting issues when utility covers are raised – painted bright pink as visibility warning.

AO: How does the Bike Committee work with the DPW to make sure priorities happen?

KW: Comprehensive conversation about larger areas, not just single details.

CS: What should the committee be most focused on coming up?

KW: Binney from Third to Little Binney (and then maybe to Broadway; funding only to Little Binney, and then developer).

CS: Note that the 5-year plan doesn't capture upcoming construction done by developer (e.g., Northpoint)

IS: Development like Northpoint, what is the committee's role? CS: Committee looks at large developments during the PUD process through the planning board.

CS: Also separate are parks projects and state projects (Mt Auburn)

RR: Design lead time before construction?

KW: Design happens, and then several projects are pulled together for a bid, so it can vary; design is for year shown, construction usually the next year. Streets under construction are updated for the current year.

III. Projects & Updates

a. Reel Ride! (JG, IS, RS)

Grant through public health department: \$500 to spend on food through CRLS; sandwiches and cookies (this should cover two rides, how is this sustainable: by partner with CPS). Need one person to get food, one to watch site. Water, snacks and megaphone at the start of the ride. Brattle and Kendall Square donated movie passes to give away. Guy from a Big Screen Boston book will come and talk to the ride for a few minutes as well. One more announcement this week, and an announcement the day before depending on weather.

Two riders (Urban Adventours and Cannondale) coming for repair/adjustments. Both plan to ride the full ride. CS: Make sure we have a parking spot for them?
Also: Bring clicker to count riders.

b. Development Projects: MIT PUD (CS)

Ames Street: protected bicycle facility to river including Mem Drive, will replace one side of parking. Improvements at Wadsworth Street, separated bike path off of Longfellow coordinated and ped crossing east of Kendall. Shared streets through project area. Attention to wind mitigation, parking, Hubway.

Plaza issues: through movements and we don't want it to have stay/through activity conflicts like Harvard overpass (committees, planning board, staff). MIT response was that it is an open space a destination, not for through use. Ped committee wanted clear paths of travel for people going through the plaza. MS: outer edges of plaza much more accessible than Harvard overpass.

Comment: Not a huge cross connection, but people will be biking through this area, especially to access bike parking, how do we accommodate what we know is going to happen.

MP: Impact to Main Street during/after construction not addressed.

Ped Cmte wrote a memo that they liked ABC but still had issues with XYZ.

Bicycle circulation does not include through routes in plaza or contraflow lane to Main Street. MP: Bike parking not right at T station, but some nearby. Link in materials sent to committee. IS: repeat short term bike parking paragraph in letter. MS: often difficult to find space for bike parking. RR: could some street parking become bike parking if parking were overextended?

MP: Resend letter with emphasis on things that weren't picked up. MP volunteers to write letter based on committee's comments. JA: Include more bike parking.

Next meeting May 17 at 344 Broadway. There will be additional hearings to review each building.

c. Watertown-Cambridge Greenway

Next project meeting June 2, Russell Youth Community Center, 680 Huron.

Support project and specific details, including additional access from streets (particularly from Sofra), lighting on path (opposed by small group of people). Lights may be funded by Cambridge, low-level, dimmable. Can be dimmed or turned off overnight; there may also be options for technology where motion triggers the lights so that if someone is walking/running/bicycling they would have safety. The City is looking into purchasing the rest of the path which the railroad is abandoning along New Street, but the process regarding disposition of railroad property is complicated.

DCR is supposed to come to bike/ped meetings to show 75% design.

d. Mount Auburn Street

Meeting June 1, and comment link is available and will be sent out. Project area goes all the way out to Star Market.

IV. Announcements, upcoming meetings

Officer elections June 8.

For summer bike committee meetings: Summer potluck July 13 (RS). City Ride August 10, look at projects, plan closer to event.

Street Ambassador Program, subcommittee meeting date May 16, see email.

Cambridge Open Studios this weekend, Mayfair Sunday.

Riverfest in June, is there interest in a table? RR will be there, would like company.
June 4.

Bring your jokes for the next meeting.