

## **Draft Meeting notes for Cambridge Bicycle Committee meeting February 14, 2018**

Attendance:

Cara Seiderman (CDD), Dien Ho, Patrick Lynch Michael Proscia, Stephen Meuse (TP&T), Peter Stokes, Rebecca Simonson, Mark Boswell, John Ellersick, Andrea Williams, Randy Stern

Guests: Tegin Teich (CDD)

### **Administrative Business**

Randy wanted to add an agenda item to discuss creating a statement in support of new bike lanes

Members of the bicycle committee approved the minutes from the previous meeting

### **Tegin Teich – Belmont St. infrastructure project**

- Cambridge and Watertown received a Barr Foundation grant of \$100,000 plus technical assistance to upgrade this corridor. This is an opportunity to conduct a pilot using street restriping (as opposed to construction)
- Two corridors are being addressed, covering the 71 and 73 bus routes.
- These routes have 12,000 bus riders per day and 19,000 vehicle trips. During commuting hours, most travelers are by bus in spite of the fact that the Brattle-Fresh Pond Parkway area is one of the most unreliable transit stretches in Cambridge.
- The project features bus priority lanes to get more people to take buses and improved bicycle facilities
- The project would involve striping, signal changes, marketing, and enforcement. No impact on parking
- Shared bus/bike facility on the inbound side and a dedicated outbound bike lane
- Work with MBTA to make sure bus drivers don't go around bicycles.
- DCR is also engaged in a process to study the Mt. Auburn corridor with implementation targeted for summer 2018 and has more extensive long-term plans that aren't fully funded
- Belmont St is slated for reconstruction in 2020-21
- Tegan was asked if there is room on the buses, and she replied that we'd love to get the buses full so that the MBTA would add more capacity. Improving bus speed and reliability would increase capacity even without adding more buses though.
- Timeline – public process is currently ongoing. Implementation in June. Would stay in place until long-term plans are implemented.
- They are working with a firm on branding the project
- Tegan showed the DCR designs for Fresh Pond Parkway
- The committee asked questions:
  - o regarding drive behavior and impact on travel times for cars
    - travel times should be similar for cars in the morning, and +1 min in the evening
  - o giving buses priority to merge left
    - buses will get a jump on the light, and they already need to do this merge
  - o long-term plans for Brattle Street
    - Answer: – 3-committee meeting on 3/22 to discuss plans
  - o Do bikes hold up buses in a shared lane?

- 8mph speed is sufficient for buses, an improvement over current speed
- Is the T aware of this?
  - Yes
- Are private bus operators on board?
  - They are still trying to reach out
- Width of bike lane?
  - Mostly 6'. 5.5' at some pinch points

### **Jim Wilcox – DPW Updates**

- Currently working on 5-year plan. Meeting next week to discuss.
- Portland Loo opened in Central Square, some issues with freezing
- Working on Dudley drainage issues
- Stormwater project in Central Square out to bid (parking lot at Mass Ave / Columbia)
- Willard St is going to be in construction this fall as a 2-way street with raised intersection, doing utility work first.
- Gore St reconstruction – new sidewalks, water main. Community outreach for surface design
- Inman Sq meeting during the first week of March
  - Move ahead with plaza design
  - Study on how to save trees as part of redesign, but that turned out not to be feasible, so new trees will be planted instead. Requires state approval.
- 2/27 meeting on Highland St design
- April meetings for 6<sup>th</sup> St, Cottage St, and Lopez St.
- Budget request is in for River St. Design starts in July

### **Cara Seiderman – Other City updates**

- Porter Square
  - Discussed keeping driveway from shopping center to make left turn
  - Construction this year
- South Mass Ave bicycle improvements – Sydney St to Memorial Drive
  - Process starting in March/April – public process, website, stakeholder committee
- Brattle – Eliot loop pushed out
- Longfellow Bridge should be done in May
  - Construction on Main St ongoing
  - Discussed Main St. bicycle lane plans
- Bicycle committee work:
  - Bike ride is the most urgent project
  - Leaders can organize team meetings for other projects

### **Mike Proscia – Bike Ride**

- Discussed themes for bike ride
- Decided on an architectural ride: period buildings or landmarks, interesting/modern buildings
- John, Dien, and Mark will be helping

The committee discussed project topics and took volunteers for each topic.