

Bicycle Committee Meeting
September 13, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Scott Kilcoyne, John P. Ellersick, Carola Voelker, Pamela Yang, Randy Stern, Eitan Normand, Conor Henrie, Mark A. Boswell, Alison Harris

City Staff Present: Stephen Meuse (TP&T), Cara Seiderman (CDD), Jerry Friedman (DPW), Bill Deignan (CDD), Michael Mantello (CDD)

Approval of June minutes; July approval?

Intros (Jim Wilcox now city engineer; Jerry Friedman, senior engineer from DPW will be the Bicycle Committee Liaison)

Fitchburg MBTA Rail Crossing (Bill Deignan, CDD)

- Rindge Ave to Danehy Park
- Would like a letter from the committee in support of a federal grant of \$2.4M to advance the planning
- Bridges social justice communities
- City has an easement on a sidewalk through Brickworks Condominiums to connect to Rindge Ave on the north side, and also Danehy connector on the south side
- Also, a long-term vision for a multi-use path to parallel the MBTA line on the north side
- Underpasses in this location are problematic due to very little city owned space on north side, and large storm water pipe
- Q&A
 - At-grade connection to Danehy is possible, even though the bridge would need to be 23 ft high and likely have ramps with u-turns.
 - Bike connection through Brickworks is not great, might want to go down new path along train line to get to Alewife
 - People would like as direct a route as possible to Brickworks without going too far along the tracks
 - No underutilized property on north side that would allow a underpass exit - both Brickworks and CHA strongly object to any taking of parts of their property
 - The committee decides to send a letter of support for the project and the grant.

Bowtie Ride (Mike Mantello)

- Oct 1, meet at 9, ride at 9:30
- History Cambridge will speak briefly at Danehy
- Need more people to sign up for photos and a moderator/announcements at beginning, and someone to help with Bluebikes
- Use the ride planning sheet https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_CHyuFoAZC33p-44obje0PTnAWMxoJ4fyW2MNEezi_Q/edit#gid=601241997
- Thank you Trek for providing mechanics
- Everyone should help spread the word to their communities

TP&T Report (Stephen Meuse)

- Hampshire St being installed!
 - Flexposts will be installed this week. Will be a month before there are flex-posts where there is parking protection due to supply delay.
- Connector to Fitchburg path – Steele Place under design
- Cambridge St outreach continuing in preparation for redesign
- Mt Auburn and Aberdeen signals replaced this fall (separated bike lane on Aberdeen needs to await utility work)

DPW (Jerry Friedman)

- Inman Sq - still getting more bike parking, puddling in one area, and some pedestrian plaza work. Functionally complete
- Bike path markings for Gore St coming soon
- North First St now open
- Harvard Square kiosk still delayed due to MBTA issues
- Port project - bike lane on Harvard St needs repaving, looking into that
- River St in construction mode, tough to drive or bike there now. Major water main work, not complete until 2025-2026
- Binney St park to be complete early 2024
- Outer Huron Ave bike lane should be useable end of this fall
- Mass Ave 4 working group meeting 3 planned for 9/28, community meetings to come
- Q - Oxford St repave, will get refreshed sharrows

Bicycle Data Highlights (Cara Seiderman)

- 2022 bike count data
 - Commuting - Walk 28%, drove alone 29%, public transport 28%, bike 9%, car pool 4%
 - Biking mode increased 23% 2007-2011, and 2017-2021
 - User intercept data - 15-25% arrive by bike to business districts
 - Bike counts 2002-2022 - 2019 high point, 2022 a little lower
 - South mass ave, ridership up 24% 2016-2022
 - People riding on sidewalks decreased by 82%
 - Children counted on bikes (child seat, trailer,, riding) increased 3.5x 2014-2022 – note this data is only from the regular intersection counts, not an assessment of all kids biking or all kids biking to school
 - 36% of all vehicles at Bway and Hampshire were bikes, 80% of vehicles making left from Hampshire to Bway were bikes
 - Bow/Quincy/DeWolfe street - half the users use the contraflow lane
 - Crash rates - reported crash rate down substantially (crash per million bike miles traveled)
 - Crash severity way down from 2015-2022 compared to 2004-2012, eg 5.2% incapacitating injuries down to 0.8%
- Supplemental 2023 data counts will be done this month
- Impact of construction on bike counts - people avoid construction zones

Announcements

- Fitchburg meeting tomorrow
- In person Main st meeting tomorrow

- Next Ped Committee meeting 9/28 is a walking tour of Inman Sq – bike committee member welcome to join
- Sept 30 - Museum of Science doing a day of celebration of biking event