

Cambridge Bicycle Committee
March 11, 2009

DRAFT NOTES

Present: Ellen Aronson, Kathy Augenblick (visitor), Joan Friebely, Ken Field (chair), Catharine Hornby, Megan Krey, George Perkins, C.R. Rogers, Cara Seiderman (city of Cambridge), Adam Serafin (MIT), Karen Sommerlad (Harvard), Peter Stokes, Gerry Swislow.

I. Minutes, Agenda Review, Introduction of New Members

1. New and returning members introduced themselves
2. Minutes to be posted online; may be necessary to summarize more to avoid confusion between opinions of individual members and views of Committee

II. Committee Projects and Planning

A. Go Green Month and CitySmart

1. May 16 Committee Bike Ride (Gerry)
 - a. Theme: Literary Tour
 - b. Route mostly set – many stops around Harvard Sq. Steve, Tom, Joan assisting Gerry on fact and site finding. 5-6 stops, plus maybe some more quick stops.
 - i. Begin between library and Cambridge Rindge and Latin
 - ii. End at Dana Park – tie in there with CitySmart efforts coordinated by city
 - c. Email to list to go out shortly. Can add into to email about signing on to googlegroups
2. CitySmart rides
 - a. Part of pilot social marketing effort in Cambridgeport to encourage mode shifting (Cara)
 - i. Information packets to be hand delivered to neighborhood residents – bike maps, safe biking info, tschotschkes, etc.
 - ii. Suggestions for things to give welcome – email Cara
 - iii. Success of effort will be measured via before/after phone surveys
 - b. Smaller Committee-run rides and events throughout summer –
 - i. Bike fashion show (Joan)
 1. Two meetings so far. Additional volunteers welcome
 2. Targeted for late Sept/early Oct, maybe in Dana Park
 3. Plan to involve fashion majors at local colleges
 4. May have multiple categories – accessories, clothes, helmets?
 5. Need: theme, date, leaders
 6. Planning for press coverage will be valuable (Ken)

B. Bicycle Network Planning (Gerry)

1. Sub-committee in the process of identifying key routes and prioritizing facilities (inc roads) for improvement
 - a. Routes sometimes different in different directions due to one way streets etc
2. Link to initial proposal distributed by email.
3. Should emphasize descriptions (low traffic, bike lane) versus conclusions (“safe”)
4. Other cities do this

- a. Boston has similar site – three-tiered route finding system
- b. NYC bike maps (Ellen) and NYC point to point route finding site (Gerry)
- 5. Options for contraflow lanes
 - a. City is open to adding contraflow lanes on streets that meet established criteria (Cara)
 - b. Could norm be two ways for bikes on roads that one way streets? (George)
 - i. Done in some European cities (Cara).
 - c. Network Planning can be used to identify priorities for contra flow lanes
- 6. Comments welcome (see <http://cambridgebikes.org/Network/>). Email Gerry
 - a. Comments from wider bike community would be helpful

C. Grand Junction (see III.A. below)

D. Other - none

III. Reports, Updates

A. Development Projects: 650 Main Street (Main x Portland)

- 1. Planning Board meeting March 3. Cara, CR, John, and Catharine attended – no public comment permitted
 - a. Some bike committee suggestions accepted regarding bike parking
- 2. Grand Junction “Community Path”
 - a. Genesis – Green Ribbon Report from 2000. Recommended developing path along Grand Junction rail line as multiuse linear park; high priority recommendation.
 - i. Follow up report concluded multiuse path was physically feasible
 - b. Ownership – CSX in parts (soon, the state), also private owners subject to transportation right of way. MIT owns a stretch.
 - c. Some sections complete / underway
 - i. MIT section a few hundred feet south from MIT Brain & Cog Building complete
 - ii. CRA section from Main to Broad under way
 - iii. One Kendall Square owners prepared to build parts
- 3. 650 Main
 - a. Planning Board declined to require MIT to complete section just south of Brain & Cog Building as mitigation for 650 Main traffic impacts
 - b. Background on 650 Main. MIT Investment Management Co. (MIT’s asset management arm) planning to develop site, now a parking lot, as retail and research or office space for commercial tenants. Traffic impacts require mitigation and city had suggested MIT improve portion of path. MIT opposed for two reasons, as stated at Planning Board meeting: safety implications and process by which path is being imposed on MIT
 - c. City committed to working cooperatively with MIT on path – wants to continue discussions with MIT
 - d. See report at <http://www.cambridgema.gov/cdd/et/infra/gj/gj.html>

B. City street projects: Concord Ave., Broadway. Western Ave., River St., Brookline St. (Cara)

- 1. River Street
 - a. Will be striped with 4’ bike lane this year – start with paint; if working effectively, eventually thermoplastic. Will do observations.
- 2. Western Ave
 - a. To be restriped (after snow stops)

- b. More major reconstruction to follow fuller community input process
- 3. Brookline St. Construction to start soon
- 4. Concord Ave. Alewife Brook Parkway to Blanchard Road
 - a. Community meeting – participants very positive on bike-friendly plans
 - b. City applying for \$1.2 M state Public Works Economic Development (PWED) grant
 - i. Grant criteria: developing area, tied to city plans, tied to state and city sustainability plans
 - c. Rebuilding roadway, with:
 - i. Raised bike lane, separated from travel lane
 - ii. Added ped crossing at Spinelli (by school)
 - iii. Details – eg driveways, greenspace – still being planned
 - d. Possible to link with Belmont? (Ellen)
 - e. Snow. bike lane will be cleared with sidewalk plows
 - f. Helps support efforts to fund/construct ped/bike bridge
 - g. Committee approved letter in support of city application for PWED funds
- 5. Technical review to follow

E. Other (out of order)

- 1. MIT Bike Fix It Centers (Adam)
 - a. Two sites – outside Student Center, and Stata Center.
 - b. Bike stands to support bike during repairs, with attached tools and air pump
 - c. Free to use. Geared to MIT community but available to all
 - d. Scheduled for installation within 1-2 weeks
 - e. Cost - \$1200 plus (easy) installation
 - f. City might consider similar stations
 - i. MIT will monitor fix-it centers to see how well they hold up

C. DCR Projects: BU Bridge, Craigie Bridge/Dam, Magazine Beach Ped. Bridge, DCR Bike/Ped Advisory Committee; DCR Bicycle & Pedestrian Network (Cara)

- 1. DCR put out RFP for Charles River basin consultant services on bike/ped planning.
- 2. BU Bridge. Share the road markings to be added when snow ends
- 3. DCR Bike Advisory committee – no update.
- 4. Plans for Committee to meet with DCR still pending (Ken)

D. Police Report – deferred

E. Other (continued) (Cara)

- 1. DPW priorities – update over next months to be distributed
- 2. Prospect St
 - a. Some changes planned – maybe shared lane markings but otherwise no new bike facilities
- 3. Electronic signs.
 - a. Would it be possible to use construction electronic billboard signs to say “use bike lights”? (CR) No, because signs rented in connection with construction projects/budgets (Cara)

- b. Might be possible to push similar idea via billboards – similar efforts some years ago evolved into bus shelter signed (Joan)
- 4. Harvard Yard (Kathy (visitor))
 - a. Closing Harvard Yard to cyclists obstructs route from NE of Yard to Church St area.
 - b. Suggest bike route through Harvard Yard or improvement to conditions of sidewalk on outside perimeter of Yard
 - c. Harvard unlikely to change policy on bikes in Yard, but might be open to improving perimeter – members could contact Harvard (Ken)
 - d. Cyclists are permitted in area in front of Science Center, and planned Flagstaff path might ease problem (Cara)

IV. Announcements and Next Meeting

Next meeting: April 15 (**third Wednesday**), 5:30-7:30pm at the City Hall Annex at Broadway and Inman.