

DRAFT Minutes of the Cambridge Bicycle Committee Meeting, November 10, 2010

Present: Dave MacNally, George Perkins, Cara Seiderman, Catherine Hornby, Henry Lewis, Ellen Aronson, Richard Holton, Viola Augustin, Chris Porter, Peter Stokes, Megan Krey, Kathy Murphy, Jim Wilcox

Handouts:

Jim Wilcox – On-going Sidewalk and Roadway Work
Cara Seiderman – Summary of the Conflict of Interest Law for Municipal Employees
Catherine Hornby – Categorized list of potential Committee projects

AGENDA REVIEW, APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

October meeting minutes were approved.

PROJECTS

Longfellow Bridge

- The Better City Transportation Management Association (formerly Artery Business Committee) supports protected bike lanes
- Project requires Environmental Assessment Report.
- Bicycle committee prefers one car lane as discussed in previous meeting.
- Can find all information on web site
<http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/charlesriverbridges/LongfellowBridgeDocuments.html>

Anderson Bridge

- Chris Porter attended last meeting and reported.
- The plan is to have three car lanes; one lane towards Boston and a bike lane in each direction.
- The plan is to have no left turns at the Memorial Drive/JFK intersection (these are already restricted during rush hours). One question is where those turns could be made. One of the next steps is a traffic study to evaluate the options, looking particularly at Hawthorne Street and DeWolf Street.
- The project is at 25% design stage.
- Mass DOT does not support creating underpasses for the Dr. Paul Dudley White Bike Path. MassBike does not have an official position on this.

Craigie Bridge

- The bridge is closed in the Cambridge to Boston direction except for bicyclists and pedestrians.
- To mitigate impact, traffic is routed to Longfellow Bridge.
- Comments about the detour changes at Longfellow Bridge and any other issues at the Longfellow bridge should be reported to Mass DOT – Accelerated Bridge Program.
- Issues mentioned at committee meeting (these will be forwarded to MassDOT):
Bicyclists are forced across a car lane.
Motorists might not see bicyclists because of large traffic sign.
Cars turning right onto Longfellow bridge have a smaller turning radii therefore compete with bicycle lane.
State police vehicle has been parking in/blocking the bike lane.

City Project Updates - Western Avenue

- Megan Krey attended last meeting.
- Lots of people attended meeting.
- Meeting went smoothly with broad support for separate, raised bicycle lane (cycle track).
- Design at intersections with regard to cycle track is still being developed in detail.
- It was suggested to write a letter of appreciation from the committee.
- During previous design phases the option of having a two-way bicycle lane was looked at and for various reasons rejected.
- Cycle tracks as part of a system: the question was raised if cycle tracks as a complete system are practicable in Cambridge. A larger study to look into this was suggested.

Wayfinding

- Dave MacNally posted maps with routes between BU and Inman Square for a Survey.
- Cara will send a link to committee.
- Committee members are asked to look at maps and submit comments.
- Eventually the maps will be available for the public.

Prospect Street

- Cara welcomes comments on how Prospect Street is functioning after the repaving and new pavement markings (with left turn lanes). Are there other things that might be considered, such as shared lane markings?

City Council Meeting on 11/9

- Meeting was held to gather input from citizens on what they love about/want to see improved in Cambridge.
- Lack of younger people at the meeting.
- Lots of people commented on biking.
- General support for bicycling in theory but also concerns were expressed about bicyclists' behavior, such as:
 - Riding too fast
 - Riding on sidewalks
 - Not obeying traffic rules
- Committee should consider these comments in public outreach/education efforts.

REPORTS, UPDATES, MEETINGS

Construction and Public Works Updates

- Jim Wilcox went through list of city projects on his handout.

Police Report

- Kathy reported changes in the police department division structure.
 - Steve Ahern is head of Traffic Unit.
 - The bicycle unit no longer exists as a separate entity but is now part of Community Outreach/Relations.
- Kathy is still the liaison relating bicycle issues.
- Kathy also reported that Cycle Kids is now an integrated part of 5th graders physical Ed curriculum in all Cambridge public schools.

Musical PSA

- WMBR (MIT)
- CambridgeBikes.org

Fresh Pond

- Ellen attended meetings and reported that at this point the group is still gathering information on rules/regulations/interests.

Open Meeting Laws

- Cara distributed handout and summarized some of the new/clarified requirements:
 - Can't have discussions via email.
 - Meetings have to be announced.
 - Cannot discuss/make decisions outside of meetings.

Somerville

- Alan Moore from the Somerville Bicycle Advisory Committee asked the Cambridge Bicycle Committee to give support to bike path connecting Washington Square to Lechmere. The path also includes new ideas for Grand Junction. MassDOT seems to be interested in this connection.
- The committee decided to schedule discussion at January meeting.
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BICYCLE COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

- Catherine distributed handout about possible committee projects. She stated the goal of a work plan to create more opportunities for committee members to become active.
- The committee listed projects accomplished last year and goals for next year

Accomplished 2010	Goals for 2011
Infrastructure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Avenue • Wayfinding • Concord Avenue • Brookline – Bicycle Lanes • Accelerated Bridge Program (ABP) • Broadway • Planning Board Comments on Development Projects • FixIts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass Ave – entire length of Cambridge • Wayfinding: Review Harvard to Alewife Route Wayfinding maps Create Alewife to Porter Square Route <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike Network Planning Desire lines, maps • Bike parking in business districts
Educational Outreach	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swiss consulate • City Smart • PSA • Research/Investigation of other places • Bicycle count support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education on winter riding • Addressing less desirable behavior by bicyclists • More bike counts • Workshops – Bike repair (e.g. in conjunction with bicycle shops)
Advocacy/Public Participation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Avenue • P.B. Projects • ABP projects • North Cambridge Meetings 	
Events	
Bike rides GoGreen Commuter Week Kids – Swiss consulate/Science Festival	More great rides Workshops: Bike repair/tune ups Provide bike parking at events, e.g. Riverfest, Clinics

- Other topics that came up and were discussed:

Cambridge Bicycle Plan:

Cara reported that a draft plan exists but hasn't been published. The problem with a plan is that once it is published it is more or less static. Electronic versions may be more flexible.

Boston Bike Sharing program:

It is a regional program.

The RFP had to be readvertised.

Logistical and financial questions still have to be answered.

Bicycle Traffic Counts: The city conducts them every other year.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

- December 8, 2010. Potluck.

End of Meeting Notes