

Draft minutes from the Cambridge Bicycle Committee Meeting, January 19, 2011

Present: Ellen Aronson, Ken Field, Catharine Hornby (chair), Megan Krey, Sgt. Kathy Murphy, George Perkins, Chris Porter, Cara Seiderman, Adam Serafin, Randy Stern.

Visitors: Bill Boehm, Bill Connolly, Alan Moore (Somerville Bike Committee / Friends of the Community Path), Liz Powers (LIFT Boston Bike Project), Carole Sousa, John Goodman, David Loutzenheiser,

I. Introductions; agenda review; (for approval of minutes, see below)

II. LIFT Boston Bike Project.

Liz Powers, a Harvard student and founder of the LIFT-Boston Bike Project, talked to the Committee about LIFT-Boston, a program that collects donated bikes, refurbishes them, and distributes them to low income and homeless Boston area residents in order to help meet their transportation needs. Liz asked us for advice on bike donations and, especially, on soliciting volunteers for bike refurbishment. Suggestions included United Way and Broadway Bicycle School.

III. Cambridge / Somerville Community Path.

Alan Moore of the Somerville Bike Committee and Friends of the Community Path outlined successes achieved and challenges facing the extension of the Community Path alongside the Green Line extension. Alan seeks to get more consistent, broader support from the Cambridge Bike Committee and others in negotiations with Mass Dept of Transportation (MassDOT). Despite MassDOT's promise to design and build basic infrastructure, no funding source has been identified for remaining \$10-15 M in costs for extending path from Lowell St to Inner Belt. Fitchburg Commuter Rail tracks represent a major physical barrier to extending the path past Inner Belt to Lechmere and the Charles River.

After discussion, Committee members indicated that if the Friends of the Community Path and/or Somerville Bike Committee would continue to take the lead (tracking upcoming meetings, etc), Committee members would be willing to provide support, for example by writing letters and attending MassDOT or Mass Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). Cara will invite MassDOT to come talk with us about the Grand Junction and the connection between it and the Community Path.

For more information, see: www.pathfriends.org

In closing, Alan mentioned three other areas for closer coordination between the Cambridge and Somerville Bike Committees – a joint ride, coordination on Beacon / Hampshire St (Somerville section due to be reconstructed soon), and signed routes linking Central Square to Union Square.

IV. Announcements and Updates

A. Police report. Sgt. Murphy relayed that four bike-related crashes were reported to the police last month: at River & Howard (failure to yield by left-turning car, no citation); Granite & Rockingham (bike hit from behind by car, no police involvement, reported from hospital); Memorial & Pleasant (cyclist struck in crosswalk); Fernald Drive (cyclist fell off bike).

B. December Minutes approved.

C. Striping river paths. Ken reported that he met with Logan at Charles River Conservancy, who was supportive of adding arrows and, where not too narrow, center stripe to paths along Charles River. Plan is to stripe path this spring or summer.

D. Greenport. Randy reported that Steve Miller organized meeting on paths crossing Charles River bridges. Cambridge may not have been officially represented. Another meeting will follow in 2-3 months, and Randy agreed to keep Cara in the loop about upcoming meetings.

E. Fresh Pond Day. Ellen asked whether the Committee and/or the city would be interested in having a visible bike-related presence. The city has had a bike-related table in the past, but the event occurs during a very busy month. Ken suggested Ellen post a notice on the Committee's Facebook page.

V. Projects for Review and Comment

A. River; Western. Cara recently received draft proposals for River St and Western Ave. More meetings coming up. The BU Bridge cross section has garnered some complaints. Western Ave project is moving into detailed design phase. Technical review meeting scheduled for Jan 31.

B. Broadway between 3rd and Ames. Proposal would narrow the roadway and add parking, enhanced bike lanes, wider green areas, and an improved pedestrian crossing at the Volpe Center/Marriott crosswalk. Catharine agree to draft letter of support, to follow up on earlier similar letter. Public meeting scheduled for January 26. [NOTE: meeting was postponed due to weather.]

C. MBTA Route 1 bus priority. MBTA is engaged in planning to improve Route 1 bus service along Mass Ave, in part by reducing the number of stops. One idea is signal prioritization, meaning where stops immediately precede traffic lights, buses would get a brief head start allowing them to pulling into Mass Ave ahead of other vehicles. Some discussion followed on implications for bikes.