

Draft minutes of the Cambridge Bike Committee Meeting 3/9/11

In attendance: Sgt. Kathleen Murphy, Megan Krey, Scott Walker, Viola Augustin, Randy Stern, Peter Stokes, Walter Willett, George Perkins, Cara Seiderman, Catharine Horny, Adam Serafin, Ellen Aronson, Jim Wilcox, Sam Lipson

Visitors: Taylor Walker, Bill Connolly, Tegin Teich, Dick Fanning, Matt Schruppf, Jai Chawla, Peter Zaroulis

Pedestrian Committee: Alan Greene, Helen Rose, Debby Galef, Robin Finnegan

Grand Junction Railroad

- Presentation by MassDOT (Ned Codd and Matt Cibowski), who recently purchased the GJR from CSX, from Allston Landing on the Boston side to Somerville. They also intend to purchase the line from Worcester to South Station before Sept 2012. They are starting an analysis of the effects of connecting the two for a commuter rail line from Worcester to North Station, since South Station is too congested for more commuter rail
- This would be up to 13.5 round trips (27 trains) per day at some speed between 10 and 60 mph (probably something like 30), in comparison to the current 1 freight train (the “fruit train” from Florida to Chelsea Market) at 10mph
- There would probably be a station in the Kendall square area –this will be evaluated for demand and impact to local streets. Grade crossings for these faster trains would be upgraded with arms, flashers, and more delay for street users.
- The initial analysis will be limited to benefits to riders and impacts to vehicle, bike, and ped traffic and \$ costs – quantitative, not qualitative. They currently do not intend to consider broader costs, such as health impacts of diesel in an urban area and noise pollution
- Many questions from bike and ped committees on effects on shared use path along the GJR right of way. MassDOT stated that they know they need to respond to this. The right of way has limited extra space, so the tracks can not be relocated to expand the area for a path. However, especially near Vassar St, there are currently 2 tracks, so potentially more space, and there may be space for a path the whole way, but that is TBD.
- GJR does not preclude the Urban Ring, now spec’ed as single track rail, 2 way bus, + shared use path from Boston side to Fort Washington, then buses over Albany St.
- Schedule: Travel modeling, spring 2011, Traffic analysis summer 2011, results Fall 2011, then probable public meetings

DPW – 2 new bike fixit stands at Main library and city parking lot under Harvard Inn.

Info: http://www2.cambridgema.gov/cdd/et/bike/bike_repair_stands.pdf

Police Report – usual number of minor incidents

Upcoming Meetings

- Western Ave meeting planned for next week cancelled since there is no new information
- On 4/5 there will be a public meeting at Cambridge City Hospital on a sewer separation project involving Magnolia and Myrtle Ave

Mass Ave. Corridor Planning – Cara sent out information. This is at conceptual analysis phase – no money has been allocated for engineering or construction. Committee members should all fill out the on-line survey at the link sent via the weekly update.

Wayfinding – There were clear preferences from the responses. We will plan another tour of the route to work out final details before sending recommendations to DPW for signage to mark the route. An email poll will be taken among interested parties to schedule a time for the tour.

May 21 Bike Ride – George reporting

- Music history and famous musicians of Cambridge is the theme. Let George know if you know any musicians who might participate with actual music, either on a porch, street corner, or a bike
- George is working on musicians and route, but needs volunteers to take leadership positions on (a) leading and coordinating the actual ride, (b) sponsors/food contributions. Randy will contact Whole Foods. George will set up a meeting to organize these items.
- Time is of the essence. 4/18 graphics deadline
- The same day, there is an Area 4 walk from 11-2:30. Probably something to avoid
- Also the same day, is Somerville PorchFest – which would have music! Perhaps the ride should traverse at least some of these porches in Somerville!
- Urban AdvenTours will supply some loaner bikes, and ride tech support

Development Projects

- Proposal to revise bike parking requirements in zoning laws. Cara will be asking for input in the next few months
- Underpass at Harvard will be renovated by DPW in July 2012. In early design phase now, bike committee will review when ready
- Walter Willett approached Harvard about improving bike access between river and Oxford St. A Harvard planner would like to meet with Community Development to discuss
- Bike Share should be on track if financial support comes through – Boston, Cambridge, and Brookline have applied for funding. It will be a regional plan. It is hoped that it could launch this summer in Boston, and in Cambridge in the fall, and be fully operational by next spring
- Bridges
 - Craigie is in final design – the most recent plans for the final design include bike lanes the entire way. MassDOT needs to get an internal design waiver because less than 11 foot motor vehicle lanes are being

proposed (this is their own requirement; there are not federal requirements nor any studies that show this is a problem).

- Anderson Bridge meeting was held last week for final review on environmental impact statement. After doing a large study, MassDOT is proposing no underpasses on either side based on cost, time, risks building so close to river, and conflict with historic preservation requirements. But they are including 5 foot bike lanes on each side connecting to same on Boston and Cambridge streets, 3 10.5 ft vehicle lanes (2 into Cambridge, 1 out), more rectangular corners to shorten ped/bike crossing distances parallel to river, and no left turns at Cambridge side with head starts for peds and hopefully bikes..
- BU Bridge design is running into difficulties. New designs being proposed on the Boston side would not support the currently planned 3 lane design (1 lane at entrance to bridge, expanding to 2 lanes at the exit end.) This could set back all the agreed design plans.

Air Quality Survey – This has been a huge success, with lots of committed volunteers – 10 at a time reliably carrying particulate sensors. The health department will be looking to expand his to peds soon