

Draft Minutes of the Cambridge Bicycle Committee Meeting November 2011

Present: Cara Seiderman, George Perkins, John Goodman, Adam Serafin, Randy Stern, Jim Wilcox, Viola Augustin, Andrea Williams, Catharine Hornby, Devin Mann, Madeleine DeBlois, Scott Walker, Sam Lipson, Devin Quinn, Peter Stokes, Taylor Walker
Guest: Matthew Schrompf

Kendall Square Planning Update & Discussion

There are two components to the process, one is the development and organizations involved and the other is the layout of the streets, sidewalks, bike lanes and park area. The scope of the study is bounded by Binney St, the River and Galileo Galilei. Cara presented traffic figures for the City of Cambridge showing that an increase in development did not correspond to an increase in car traffic. Also Cambridge has the highest percent of residents who walk and bike to work in the country. Some of objectives of the planning exercise are to make Main St more "main street like" and to make this area more of "gateway" to Cambridge. Cara showed some slides of examples of various street designs from other places, including shared streets, plazas, and various creative designs for making streets feel like special places. Questions: what elements could potentially be used for Main St. – could it be a shared street, could it be a "hybrid" version, how does it feel for cyclists to share the road vs. have a bike lane, what would make it feel like a pedestrian priority street, what are the messages the street is trying to convey? A discussion followed weighing the pros and cons of the various options for the redesign of the traffic flow of the area and how it would affect bicycle commuters if this space becomes a shared street or more of a pedestrian priority street.

DPW update

There has been lots of progress on paving project in the last month. Huron Ave communities meetings are scheduled for the first week of December

New Charles River Basin Update

The bridge from Charlestown to N Point is underway and there will be progress on the redesign of the Bascule bridge to include a pedestrian/bicycle component

Craigie Bridge Update

There is resistance from the DCR to the bicycle markings planned on the Craigie Bridge.

Bike Share Update

It is the City of Cambridge's intention to bring Hubway to the city by spring 2012. They are working with adjacent communities to make it happen.

Mass Ave Bike Lane Harvard to Arlington Update

The City is looking at what is achievable in the short term regarding the desire to have a bike lane from Harvard Square to Arlington on Mass Ave. The section from Harvard to Porter will be completed next year (funded in part by money from Harvard and Lesley as part of development mitigation requirements). The portion from Porter to Arlington will be re-evaluated as to what is potentially achievable given that the road is not immediately scheduled to be repaved.

Wayfinding Update

Wayfinding signage has been designed from the river to Central square and will be installed soon.

Advanced Bicycle Signal Update

The concept of allowing bicycles to get a head start (with pedestrians) at certain intersections with a stop light was discussed. This could be accomplished with a bike signal (similar to a walk signal) or with signage. The committee discussed the pros and cons of this idea. The conversation will be ongoing.

October Meeting Minutes Approved

Next Meeting Wednesday December 15th 6pm-8pm Potluck with Pedestrian Committee