

Draft Minutes of the Cambridge Bicycle Committee Meeting November 2012

Present: Cara Seiderman, John Goodman, Andrea Williams, Catharine Hornby, Taylor Walker, Tegin Teich, Adam Serafin, Peter Stokes, Jim Wilcox, Tom Meek, Amy Linne, Matt Schrupf, Carole Sousa, Randy Stern

Agenda Review, Approval of Minutes, Other Logistics

The October minutes were not complete at the time of this meeting.

The city is going to form a Transportation Committee to focus on public transit. How this committee interfaces with the pedestrian and bicycle committees is to be determined.

There will be more discussion at the December meeting with the Pedestrian Committee.

Committee Projects / Subcommittee Reports

Matt gave an Infrastructure subcommittee update. The subcommittee met with the DPW to discuss how the bicycle committee can make recommendations to the DPW as they develop their 5 year plan. The bicycle committee was asked to make suggestions about streets and areas that need improvements in the next 3-5 year based on the findings of the Infrastructure and Wayfinding subcommittees. The Infrastructure subcommittee should also review the streets slated for improvements in the next 1-2 years and see if there are specific recommendations for improvements or nearby additions that could be made. Additionally the DPW asked if the committee could come up with some additional language/goals that would be included in the report pertaining to bicycle improvements and best practices during construction. Tegin and Matt are going to work on this language and present it to the committee for review. The DPW's reporting app, iReport, was discussed at the meeting and the DPW can add items to the list such as: missing road markings, broken signals, debris in the roadway, construction-related issues. Traffic enforcement such as double parking is a separate issue and should be reported to the police or traffic department. The Infrastructure subcommittee will have another meeting soon.

Tegin gave an update for the Wayfinding subcommittee. The subcommittee is planning to meet on Wednesday 12/5 to finalize the BU bridge route and identify missing links in other routes.

Carole and Catharine and members from the pedestrian committee are going to meet with the Council on Aging staff to discuss senior outreach.

Amy gave an update from the Public Image subcommittee. They are interested in creating poster or other public service announcement to promote biking and safe practices. They are looking graphic designers/ artists to help create these announcements. The committee suggested students at MassArt, or people at CCTV. The committee also recommended that the idea be more concrete and flushed out before enlisting help of a designer.

DPW Update

Jim gave an update from the DPW. Large projects on going: work on Broadway, Western Ave, Huron Ave, Myrtle Ave/Magnolia Ave, Forest Street. Mass DOT Bike path, punchlist ongoing.

Bicycle Parking Zoning Proposal

The new bike parking zoning was not discussed at the planning board on 10/30. It will be

up for discussion at a future meeting.

Huron Ave

Catharine gave an update from the latest meeting. The idea of a separated bike facility was not presented at the most recent public meeting. Parking and traffic was a bigger concern for the general public at the meeting. The committee discussed sending another letter to the department head to follow up on why the committee's request to have the separated bike facility be presented to the public was not addressed. The committee discussed whether having a stronger stance on separated bike facilities in general would improve the chances of them being included in future designs.

Central Square

The meetings have not really focused on transportation thus far. Committee members should look at the recommendations when they come out and respond directly with their comments to the project managers.

Beacon St in Somerville

Amy attended a meeting in Somerville about planned improvements for Beacon St. She gave an update of the plan presented which includes improvements from Oxford St to the city line. The plan includes cycle tracks where the road is wider and bicycle lanes where the road is narrower.

Craigie Bridge/Dam (O'Brien Highway)

MassDOT has said that DCR is the reason the bike lanes have not been put in on the Craigie Bridge. MassDOT is having a public meeting on 11/29 to discuss their policies and future direction.

Spring Ride

The spring ride will be 5/18/13. There is potential to collaborate with the Cambridge Historical Society on a theme. One theme idea was candy, the route could include locations where different candies have been produced around the city.

Educational - Planning for Bicycles

One of the things the Infrastructure subcommittee requested was for the committee to learn more about different bicycle facility designs that are in use in other cities and their pros and cons. Cara showed the beginning of a video, a lecture given by John Pucher at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. John is professor of planning at Rutgers University and has focused his study on bicycle and pedestrian planning. The video can be watched here: <http://www.qsd.harvard.edu/#/media/promoting-cycling-and-walking-for-sustainable-cities-lessons.html>

Next Committee Meeting Wednesday December 12th - joint potluck with the pedestrian committee.