

Cambridge Bicycle Committee, March 2017
Minutes recorded by AO: Ari Ofsevit

Members

- * Jonathan Adams
- Steven Bercu
- * Annie Marie Biernacki
- * Amy Flax
- * John Goodman
- Stacey King (Harvard)
- Caroline Jaffe
- * Sean McDonnell
- * Ari Ofsevit
- * Michael Proscia
- Joseph Raser
- * Ruthann Rudel
- * Ingrid Schorr
- * Melissa Shakro (MIT)
- * Randy Stern
- * Mechthild von Knobelsdorff
- * Peter Stokes
- * Andrea Williams

Staff

- * Cara Seiderman
- * Jennifer Lawrence
- Justin Schreiber
- Greg Hanafin
- Patrick Baxter
- * Jim Wilcox
- * Matt Nelson
- Sam Lipson

I. Agenda review, Approval of Minutes, Introductions

February Minutes approved.

II. Development

a. MIT NOMA

Proposal for a raised bicycle facility along Third and Broadway adjacent to NOMA. SM: Why build a short section of raised bike lane around One Broadway? There will be a separated facility from the Longfellow Bridge to the NOMA building after the Longfellow Bridge project is complete; NOMA will build the rest; they are already committed to raising the section in front of the new building where the new crosswalk will connect to the Sloan School. Without a barrier cars will pull in to the bike lane to drop passengers. Also, this project changed significantly from the original proposal, with vehicle access all on 3rd Street and more retail, including a grocery store, along Main and 3rd Streets. Project proposal already shows requested delivery/drop-off zones and currently the situation is a nightmare with vehicles blocking the bike lanes, this project will exacerbate the problem and cause safety issues. Future fixes to the remainder of Third Street will come as part of the major Volpe redevelopment project.

AF: With high volumes of vehicles in bike lanes, could CPD help with this? CPD will never have person-power to fix it and have formally stated that they support a permanent design fix.

RR: Has to be designed so that we don't need enforcement. CC: Hard to enforce. Can't enforce all at once. MN: Less-so residents, more trucks and TNC drivers.

We need to write a letter. Ask for loading zones to be made safer as well. SM: concern about bicycle access in and out of building in the proposed pedestrian/congested zone. Project is making competing statements, by saying that the only access to the bicycle parking is in the "walkway" between Main and Broad Canal but saying that they don't want people bicycling there. *MP will write letter with these two points.*

b. Alewife (195-211 Concord Tpke / Lanes and Games)

Two new buildings along Route 2. Path exists behind buildings; DCR did not allow path to be paved in previous iteration. Property owners seeking a special permit, will have to satisfy flood plain issues.

JW: Drainage will be affected by sea level rise (drains to Mystic) so this will need to be mitigated more in the future.

CS: Several possible rights-of-way enabling people to walk/bike from roadway to project from Acorn Park Drive (and Alewife); this is controlled by several different property owners. They planning board can try to influence this, but can't force the other property owner to agree to easement. Property owner has indicated willingness to consider one option for ped/bike access. We want to make sure it's decent (not on Route 2).

May want to revisit bike parking at some point as people in nice weather prefer outdoor parking. But people still may want to leave bikes indoors in winter (this is general comment about bicycle parking, not specific to this project).

AW: Is there a way to get developer fees from this for the Cambridge Park Drive bridge? JG: How do we get DCR to allow the path there to be paved? Work with DCR to get the path paved so it can be plowed.

AO: What is the status of the road off of Route 2? Could it, and the sidewalk along it, be improved? Is this something the City controls? Mostly MassDOT. Multiple agencies.

MP: Status of dilapidated bridge over Route 2. JL: Not ADA accessible bridge so it can't be rebuilt/refurbished. Access road may try a pilot of a bus lane and improve sidewalks. Idea for multiple-committee letter led by transit with support from other committees.

Letter: safe, lit, improved, paved, protected path between this development and the T station. Permeable pavement? New DCR commissioner may be more supportive of different ideas. May be worth reaching out (has been receptive to Mem Drive improvements).

Letter: reach out to transit/ped committees to write a combined letter.

III. Events

a. May Ride (May 20)

AMB: Thanks to JG for downloading and documenting all the information from previous events. Idea: women's ride, start drafting test rides, will use information from the Womens' Commission. MP: Map it out, test the ride route, work on food, volunteers, etc. Permit for park and parking, intern at CDD can help as well, MP has talked with CPD. Make sure we avoid races/walks/runs, etc; walk in Daney is different. Fresh Pond Day is the same day, so avoid. Change day? We've been on this day for 25 years. JL: How many CDD staff do we need: need to coordinate people to do both events. AO: Might be good for kids to have a different option than city ride.

CS: Will plan to test out new bike racks as part of recent competition at library. Will have them set up to test with a variety of bikes (before and after).

Ideas brainstormed for names:

Remember the Ladies

Bike Like a Girl

Our Bodies Our Bikes

Biking in Heels (this is a blog)

Women on Wheels

Women Ride the World

Left on Pearl

Cambridge Bicycle Belles (this is a store)

Womens Power on Wheels

History of Women Leaders (HOWL Ride): Schlessinger Library (docent with microphone)
Leading Ladies

Helen Keller lived on Dana Street

Other ideas ... IS: Let's go to the Plough and discuss.

Authors, historians, municipal buildings, academic buildings, etc.

JL: Needs to know staffing needs for bike ride volunteers.

b. RiverFest (June 3) JL

Bicycle bonanza again. Same place, but we'd move bikes to the other side if JL can get her way. Many other participants (CPD, SRTS, MassBike, maintenance, tech, products, giveaways, etc). Involvement: formally as committee or as volunteers. Create something for Park(ing) Day? MP: Table something, test something (e.g., comment map).

Planning meeting late April/early May. Bandwidth with bike ride two weeks before?. AW: Something to engage people (quiz last year). Need volunteers. Straight-forward and low-prep. We'll do something, will let JL know.

JL needs to know what we want to do within the next month.

c. Park(ing) Day (Sept 15)

What are we going to do? AMB: Build protected bike lane, put some sort of measurement on it. RR: Data tool? Request a specific location. DPW and TP are both interested in continuing to do this. Long stretch, look for what we can do, stretch without bus stops or parking. AW: Contraflow on Brattle? CS: Being designed. For one-day thing, we shouldn't make it too hard; city is already doing a lot of this (floating bus stop, etc). RiverFest to design more banners?

Need to know location by June 16 to JL a general location (North Mass Ave?). Getting permits for the night before, how to enforce that. Wary of:

- Disability parking
- Residential spots (hard to enforce ahead of time; people will forget it's no parking)
- Loading zones, especially near many businesses
- Not a lot of time to set up before cyclist rush

AO: Better information about bike lanes, and more advance notice for cyclists.

d. BowTie Ride (Oct 1, Sunday)

Ribfest is Oct 1 in East Cambridge. Would we want to do it the weekend before? Danehy Park day is Sept 16 (Hub on Wheels the 17th). We could do it Sept 24; the last weekend is "split."

Move to Sept 24th ? Yes unless something is identified as an issue.

IV. Other Projects

Cambridge Street separated bike lane pilot project (CS)

Design this spring (Cambridge Street pilot bike lane)

Design and implementation participatory budgeting projects

- Mass Ave Trowbridge-Bow Streets
- Brattle from Eliot to Mason. Contraflow with some other design; this will remove a travel lane, some parking adjustments.

For Cambridge St: Data collection, parking study of street and side streets. Reach out to business and abutters. Complex bus stops -- can't just stop bus in middle of street, need bus to cross bike lane, or need to build floating stops (ADA issues). Less temporary and more expensive for floating stops, but harder to do as a pilot. AO: should we try a floating bus stop in one place? Before-and-after web surveys, outreach materials, etc. Stakeholder advisory group (2-3 meetings). AMB will rep bike cmte. We will review other things as well. Hope to start installation in May or June.

Moving ahead on Inman; meeting last month. Decision to be made. RS: Who will decide? City manager with all the input from process, technical info, etc.. Make an input-based decision. Lots of shared desires. Most disappointment will likely be from people who want to retain parking since any option makes significant changes in order to provide the separated bicycle lanes.

Current temporary bike lanes don't have a specific expiration date, but at Mass and Main it will have to be taken out due to major sewer work. Mass and Main development project on hold due to court challenge, but when built will reinstate such lanes. (question about the Hubway station that had been on-street at Lafayette Square: that had already been moved to sidewalk across the street; City won't put Hubway on street permanently anymore, in order to ensure that year-round operations are viable).

V. Committee Work

Tabled to next meeting.

VI. Announcements

New appointees and reappointments for Bike Committee delayed due to other work priorities but expected soon, most likely April.

MVK will be moving to Budapest, next meeting will be her last.

JW: Huron/Concord kickoff meeting Open House at Tobin School next Thursday at 6-8 p.m.

Bike bill review: date input. March 27. See meeting announcement in Reports.