

Meeting notes for January 10, 2018

Attendance:

Committee members: Anne Marie Biernacki, John Ellersick, Dien Ho, Michael Proscia, Peter Stokes, Ruthann Rudel, Patrick Lynch, Rebecca Simonson, Stacey King

City of Cambridge: Cara Seiderman (CDD), Greg Hanafin (CDD), Stephen Meuse (TP&T), Jim Wilcox (DPW), Brad Pillen (PHD)

Administrative Business

Cara Seiderman briefly summarized the agenda for the meeting

Members of the Bicycle Committee approved the minutes from the previous meeting after a motion, second, and affirmative voice vote by bike committee members.

Infrastructure Projects

Porter Square Intersection Comments and Questions:

- Could the plaza be made bigger?
- Could bikes go straight across in phase 3 out of the shopping area to go left?
- Could that route be made two way for bikes?
- Could these comments be incorporated before the public meeting, if accepted in the base design?

Jim Wilcox (DPW) reviewed planned projects and discussed 2018 in general

- An update on snow removal was provided
- They are beginning to work on the 5-year street and sidewalk schedule. Streets in the first 3 years of the plan are quite firm in the expectation they will be upgraded / constructed.
- Construction level will be lower than recently during completion of sewer separation process
- Major upcoming projects
 - River St
 - A number of Chapter 90 projects (state and city funded) typically 3 to 6 streets and about 2 MM in size/cost.
 - Willard St to start in spring
 - Belmont Street a combined project with Watertown, will be much bike route discussion and consideration in light of greenway intersection, and possible bike/bus lane.
 - Inman Square design meeting will be January 30, trying to start this 12 to 18 month project this season. Key meeting for providing input.
 - Gore Street construction to connect sewer, probably a 2-year construction process.
 - South Mass Ave will be assessed for bike lane; project planning will get underway in late winter
- Community processes for projects are becoming more standardized.

Bicycle Committee work was discussed

- Previous year was reviewed (See notes below). In short: Events, rides, Community plan input, and legislative attention and tracking.
- Next year plans were discussed (see notes below), including planning of rides, input on projects, and an emphasis on fun in addition to our normal activities. Some themes included reachout to spread the joys and family nature of riding, better cooperation and joint activities with small businesses, and attention to better civility throughout the transportation modes interaction. Other creative ideas some version of bike talks, scavenger hunts around the city with shop owners etc.
- A letter to the state in support of the recent transportation plan bicycle law proposed changes as drafted by Peter Stokes was reviewed and its contents agreed to by the committee. Peter to work with Cara to check any protocols around issuing that from the committee
- It was noted that individual letters from bike committee members to newspapers or online forums are permitted, no need to represent oneself as a bike committee member as opinions presented are the individuals.
- May bike riding planning is ready to start. Mike will circulate a request for people to join planning team, and work with brainstormed ideas.

Notes:

Committee members created the following lists:

Things accomplished in 2017

- Successful Committee bike rides
- Commented on:
 - Development proposals
 - Mt. Auburn Street Corridor project
 - Cambridge-Watertown Greenway
 - State legislation
- Separated bike lane installations
- Wayfinding routes for schools (Ruthann)
- Bike counts
- Participation in Bike Week and Riverfest

Brainstorming for 2018

- Bike Plan update
- Discuss media response strategies
- Address how limit negative reactions to bike projects, and how to respond if faced with negative reactions
- Connect the bike community and local businesses
 - Outreach opportunities
 - Bike benefits

- Broaden community of cyclists
- Get involved with Safe Rides to School
 - Volunteering
 - In-school support important
- Engage with Crimson Bikes
- Engage with professional drivers
- Fun ideas
 - Find a connection to the Cambridge Food Truck Pilot
 - “Bike to Eat”
 - “Wheels to Meals”
 - Bike Talks
 - Bike Bingo