

## **Pedestrian Committee Meeting - May 23, 2013**

### **NOTES**

Present: Nora Marantz, Sean Peirce, Ben Hammer, Benjamin Williams, Elizabeth Bierer, Magda McCormick, Debby Galef, Helen Rose, Cara Seiderman; Jeff Parenti (Traffic, Parking & Transportation Dept.); James Williamson (visitor)

### **Intros**

#### **Jeff Parenti presents Cambridge Traffic signals**

- overview of signals  
City/DCR/MassDot each own signals
- Reporting problems

#### Engineering Organizational Chart

#### Crash Rate study

- looked for data → done next several weeks
- 2004-2012 every pedestrian/bike accident
- partnered with police department
- areas with increased crash rates
- State (MassDOT) data

#### Types of Traffic signal operation

- Exclusive pedestrian phasing
- Concurrent pedestrian phasing
- LPI = headstart

#### Traffic signal Policy on website

- Centered around walking
- Buttons/ Flashing Mode

#### Question and Answer

Q: New boxes that speak -- process & does it take away from replacing others

A: No – various process getting different places/won't compete with other projects

- making new signs for button boxes
- arrow is raised

Q: Taking out signals? Is there audit?

A: Not engineering questions. No plans to remove; usually happens when doing other things.

Q: Parking Control?

A: New training/ticket people who park in a bike lane.

Q: James (visitor) question mechanical voice/volume concerned about volume/disturbance to others. Also flashing light – Beacon Street – has red light – wants flashing light.

- A: If you change one then you have to change others (Helen)
- Q: Johnson Gate & Harvard Cambridge Common (still there) and missing buttons.  
A: Problem with buttons is they freeze and don't work.
- Q: Is there a City Traffic Engineer? Was there a time when there was one?  
A: Yes, there is one and always has been.
- Q: About multi-use path where broken yellow line  
A: State property – no control.

### **Project Updates**

- Handout on what happening from Bill Dwyer
- Cara will send out updates on meetings

### **Grand Junction Meeting**

- Debby and Elizabeth were there
- Discussion on what MIT owns
- How connects to Somerville path
- How many trains will be there.

James – (visitor) – brought up shipping Ethanol by train. Can be put on agenda meeting

### **Pedestrian Committee Work – review work done to date**

#### PEDESTRIAN PLAN/PROJECTS/OUTREACH

1. Website – outreach
2. Thematic walks
3. Golden shoes

#### TECHNICAL

1. Reviewing plans
2. Meetings

#### PROBLEM INTERSECTIONS

1. Tracking
2. What has been fixed

#### REPS TO LARGER PROJECTS

#### DRAFTING ORDINANCE

1. Zoning about fence/visibility

PAMPHLET - about walking

- contribute CitySmart outreach

DPW - Snow stuff (pamphlet, Outreach)

2013

- Pedestrian Plan Update
- Outreach Partnership (i.e. post office)
- Walking w/local businesses

Discussion about restaurant walk

- Pros and cons
- Kendall Square Association
- Pedestrian list serve
- What we do now for outreach

Summer Meeting

- Committee usually does a walk
- Bike Committee – social potluck – August 14
- July meeting - possible walk through Kendall Square
- Business
- Economic Development
- Kendall Square Association

Project – School Children

- schools – walk to school