

Cambridge Pedestrian Committee
Minutes from March 28, 2013, 6-8 PM

Attendees: Helen Rose, Robin Finnegan, Deborah Galef, Allen Breed (MIT), Joe Rose, Sean Peirce, Andrea Yoder, Rose Billeci; Visiting: Magda McCormick, Nora Marantz, Nancy O'Connell

City Staff: Jeff Parenti (TP&T), Cara Seiderman (CDD)

1. Minutes from the February meeting were adopted.
2. Harvard Science Center underpass project: Jeff Parenti provided an update on the project, which is currently under construction. The tunnel will be getting new paint and lighting. Paving is scheduled for July or August. The proposed design for the tunnel roadway has 2 motor vehicle lanes plus a 6-foot bike lane in each direction (plus extra shy distance from the tunnel wall). Committee members had previously asked whether the roadway might be reduced to 1 lane in each direction to reduce speeds and improve the pedestrian environment at the tunnel exits. Parenti showed a conceptual design for this (with one general purpose lane and one bus/emergency lane) noting that his simulation showed that this was adequate for traffic volumes in the tunnel itself. However, multiple lanes would still be needed at the signalized intersections at the exits to the tunnel, which is where most of the pedestrian issues are. MBTA buses would benefit from a bus-only lane, but the effects would be small since the tunnel roadway is a very small portion of the overall route. Parenti and Committee members also discussed options for pedestrian signal timing at "1000 Islands" (Cambridge St. and Mass. Ave.) but there is no single solution that works for everyone, due to the many constraints including the MBTA bus tunnel exit.

The underpass project also coincides with a new bicycle/pedestrian path alongside Flagstaff Park connecting to the northbound bike lane, which will be constructed along with the Cambridge Common design project. The design calls for the existing lane that carries southbound Mass. Ave. through an (almost) U-turn onto Peabody Street to be replaced with green space and the path.

3. Huron Avenue: An intercept survey is planned for mid-April to gather data on trip purpose and mode choice in this area. Volunteers will work in shifts to administer a very short, paper-based survey to passersby in the Huron Village shopping district. The goal is at least 100 completed surveys.
4. PARK(ing) Day: The Committee has an opportunity to brainstorm ideas on how to transform on-street parking spaces.
5. Development project updates
 - a. 130 Cambridgepark Drive: The developer is contributing to a fund that would build a bridge over the commuter railroad tracks to connect to the Quadrangle area. The proposed design needs wider sidewalks on the access road to accommodate pedestrian volumes.
 - b. 240 Sidney Street

- c. Martin Luther King School (Putnam Ave. / Kinnaird St.): design includes raised crossings.
There are safety issues with children being picked up and dropped off by car.
- 6. Concord Avenue project: There is an upcoming meeting on this project.