

April Pedestrian Meeting 4-28-16

1. Agenda Review, Minutes

- Previous minutes were approved...
- Attending: Debby Galef, Sean Pierce, Helen Rose, Magda McCormick, Elizabeth Bierer, Jodie Cohen-Tanugi, Sam Stern, Liza Cohen, Cara Seiderman (CDD), Matt Nelson (CPD)
- Guests: City Councillor Jan Devereux, Marie Macchiarolo (CDD), Allison Quach (CDD), Jim Wilcox (DPW)

II. DPW 5-year streets and sidewalk plan

- Complete streets approach – use of the street by everyone, people walking, people biking, people using transit, people driving, disabilities...
- 15 years ago – city wasn't looking at ped and cyclist facilities as much, but that has shifted...
- Review the entire city for need every three years (1/3 each year). Analysis of whether a street is deteriorating and needs to be prioritized
- 50% of Cambridge streets in high priority areas, near T stations, bus stops, parks, schools, senior centers
 - 20% of money held for rest of 50% of sidewalks...
- City has its own scoring for sidewalks and pavement – with scoring...
- Track pedestrian crossing ramps...
- \$4.5 million per year for street and sidewalk maintenance/construction...
 - Get pots of money for specific projects – Main Street, sewer separation project...
- \$500k pot of money to fix sidewalks in need – particularly for seniors/disabilities nearby...
- Lots more detail about raised crossings, sidewalk materials (brick, concrete, asphalt, etc.)
- Flexi-pave is new – last 2 years, so seeing how it holds up over longer-term...
 - Changed to wire-cut bricks, smoother, tighter sidewalk...

III. Street ambassador program

- Marie to talk about the street ambassador program...
- Idea of being people who help work through conflicts for different users of the streets...
- Bronze, Silver, Gold – have to get involved with community outreach...Each tier w/ three hours of training, and additional involvement in being ambassadorial...
- Trying to create more awareness for pedestrians, cyclists, etc.
- Target city employees, taxi drivers, uber drivers, other professional drivers?
 - Who else should we / could we target?
 - If you want to sign up, email Marie – mmacchiarolo@cambridgema.gov

IV. Updates

- Development projects
 - MIT back before planning board in a few weeks. They did not satisfactorily address the issues in our letter or make changes in their plan to reflect our concerns...
 - We will re-forward our letter, with Debby writing a cover letter...
- June walk – great job sub-committee

- In Harvard Sq west – down towards Mt. Auburn hospital and back, lots of interesting landmarks, secret passageways
- Water bottles for people to not get dehydrated...
- 1 round of comments on email, with Debby sitting with Allison in-person...
- Watertown-Cambridge Greenway
 - Public meeting on June 2nd, Russell Youth Center on Huron Avenue, 6:30 PM
 - Fresh Pond Advisory Board meetings as well would be relevant...And they're open to public

V. Announcements and planning for future meetings

- May: Police to present figures on distracted driving, bike and ped stuff...Matt said he could get that for us, and we could send questions to get answers in advance
 - May is bike month – giving Helmets away...Giving lights away instead of tickets...
- Mt. Auburn intersection DCR study – more info to come