

Cambridge Pedestrian Committee Meeting

Notes 5-26-16

Present: Allison Quach (CDD), Helen Rose, Matt Nelson (CPD), Lt. Rick Riley (CPD), Brian McLane (DPW), Debby Galef, Sean Peirce, Elizabeth Bierer, Sam Stern, Dana Benjamin (TP&T), Jen Lawrence (CDD)

I. Agenda review, minutes

- Confirmed we have plenty for the walk, so we progress as scheduled...
 - Jen Lawrence came to meeting to confirm that we had #'s
 - Putting Longfellow Park back on the route, at least to peer down at it from our actual route
 - Elizabeth to send link to the work on the park, and we'll update it with that information
 - Story map, map for the walk goes live later ...

II. Discussion with Cambridge Police – Rick Riley

- Trends in citations are very much seasonal...Lower citation rates in winter, higher in the summer...
- \$200 fine for failure to yield to a pedestrian for a car...\$20 for bikes failure to yield...
- Writing more tickets for “impeding the free flow of traffic” – blocking bike lanes or blocking crosswalks...
- Speeding tickets are down b/c of both congestion and street redesign...
- Emphasizing texting more...
- Doing some targeted campaigns – distracted driving, click it or ticket, etc.
- Focusing on Cambridgepark Drive for gridlock / block the box enforcement
- 2 fatal pedestrian crashes – Porter Square (State police investigate for fatal crashes)
 - Dorothy Steele – Riley was personally involved in this one...
 - Found a camera of the footage, found the car they were looking for (Homeland security traffic camera in Union Square – good to know)...Followed the car to the Somerville Ave. carwash. Suspect has been charged, strong case...
 - Victim was wearing a DPW reflector vest, and the driver was going the other way and crossed over to the other side of the road when he hit her...
- Riley keeps referring to them as crashes, glad to hear it...
- Both Inman and Porter square are under road studies from an outside consultant...
- Officers in the traffic enforcement unit are assigned geographically...Sense of pride/ownership
 - Lot of enforcement on Brattle Street now – the speed readout sign, and cross walk signs...people want us to put the crosswalk signs back if they get bumped out...
 - Matt Brown is the officer in the Brattle area...
 - Does Brattle Street have a design problem? (underwent redesign not long ago)

- Tour buses in Harvard Sq is another issue...Ticketing them as much as possible...
- Trying to reduce residential streets speed limit from 30 mph to 20 mph...Brattle is only 25 mph...
- Bad pedestrian behavior...Educating pedestrians...Save your own life...
- Off-duty Boston officer who was in the news today – Riley said chill out dude...“The heinous crime of jaywalking does not necessitate pushing someone down on the ground”
- 2/3 of enforcement is Harvard sq and east...Lots in Kendall, lots in Central...
 - Bulk of crashes are Harvard sq east...
 - Question about cyclists in crosswalks at multi-use path crossings -- there’s a design solution on the minuteman trail to have crosswalks and paralleling bicycle crossing. *(later add: there is a proposed legislative amendment to allow cyclists to use xwalks at path crossings).*
- Elizabeth asks: Cambridge residents vs. non Cambridge in terms of citations?
 - Riley: Majority are non-Cambridge residents (but that’s anecdotal)
 - Every morning – police clear out the bike lanes...Problem with loading zones, need more loading zones in front of businesses, and push metered spots onto side streets...
 - Rideshare drivers are bad w/ it...
- Matt: May is bicycle safety month – and engaged with over a thousand

III. Updates

- Brian from DPW to give updates...
- Central square tree wells are getting flexi-pave...
- Huron projects moving along...Huron B still a way to go...
- Pearl Street starting soon...
- Encouraged us to tell him about sidewalk issues that we come across...
- Sam talked about Envision Cambridge Alewife meeting
- Elizabeth talked about Mt. Auburn / Fresh Pond Parkway meeting...

IV. Announcement & Planning for future meetings

- June is elections, and we’ll plan for our July/August walks...