

# Pedestrian Committee Meeting

## September 29, 2016

minutes

Present: Helen Rose, Debby Galef, Sean Peirce, Magda McCormick, Joseph Rose, Jodie Cohen Tanugi, Sam Stern, Liza Cohen, Brian McLane (DPW), Matt Nelson (CPD), Cara Seiderman (CDD); Bicycle Committee: Mike Proscia, Amy Flax, Ingrid Schorr, Jon Adams

Guests: Dan Driscoll (DCR), Tracie Lenhardt (VHB), Doug Brown (Friends of the Greenway), Bill Deignan (CDD)

### Agenda review, minutes

### Watertown – Cambridge Greenway (60 minutes) – Dan Driscoll (DCR), Tracie Lenhardt (VHB, consultant)

- Phase 2 of the project is the one we're discussing (since some of it is already constructed in Watertown...)
- Connectivity from Charles River path system to Minuteman path system\* (caveat that the pinch point near Alewife over the bridge crossing train tracks)
- DCR got easement from Cambridge so that they can fund it out of state funding...
- Funding from a lot of sources...Athena health, and some other foundations and interested parties kicked in...
- Path is 12 ft paved, 2 ft shoulders on each side...DCR says this is wider than most paths they do...
  - Greenough is 10 ft w/ 2 ft shoulders, so this one is 2 ft wider...
  - ADA compliant – plowable too...
- \$2.3 million construction budget – not secured. Tufts Health Plan expected to fund a crossing by their building, which they want...
  - DOT as possible funding source - \$60 million to spend on ped/bike projects to spend in next 5 years, \$15 million to be spent in fiscal '18, which starts half-way through '17, I think
  - 12 months of construction, starting in spring or summer of next year...And people will start using it as soon as the path is open...
- Lighting?
  - Open to it, but worried about the height of it, and if it's solar, then people can vandalize???
    - Lighting in other sections....DCR is worried about precedent-setting of lighting paths that would mean they have to light longer, more remote paths...
    - Lots of unsubstantiated claims coming up in this Q&A: Cape Cod, bright enough to not need lights...concern from abutters, and from fresh pond advisory committee...However, the records show that there is overwhelmingly more support than opposition – mostly opposition is from a couple vociferous people.
    - It is absolutely possible to have path-appropriate lighting (not highway lighting), which can be operated remotely and dimmed or turned-off at certain times, particularly the overnight hours
    - Committee members cited safety for kids traveling to/from school; women's concerns; the low-levels of lighting during early morning and late afternoon hours for much of the year
    - For those with environmental concerns, they should be doing everything possible to support sustainable transportation
    - People are legally allowed to travel along the path 24/7 so it is safer for lighting to be there
    - Cambridge official city position is light the path!
- Safety?
  - Liza asks about lighting as safety, and other safety features like call boxes...

- DCR says Connected paths are better patrolled by local police (asserted, not sure there's data for this – police support lighting in any case)
- Doug Brown notes that the lack of lighting is a safety issue for the abutters too, since they don't know what's happening if they can't see...
- Lighting from Cambridge is the key...
- Lighting for tunnel under bridge Mt. Auburn is happening...Not Huron Ave. bridge in current proposal
- Other stuff?
  - Abandoned RR from Concord Ave. to Danehy Park (behind shopping center) has been purchased by the City
  - Challenge of all the connectivity in and around the shopping plazas and Alewife, and Fresh Pond too...
- Ped-Bike Committee Statement
  - We support the project. We advocate for a wider path, 14', with 2' shoulders on each side...
  - Lighting is essential.

## Pedestrian Committee Work

- PARKing Day – ped committee folks supported city spots and bike committee separated bike lanes in two different spots. Discussed the relative success of pop-up bike lanes that were perhaps a bit confusing for cyclists.
- Ideas for Ped interventions next year...
  - Do a temporary bulb out at a cross-walk that needs one...
  - Do a temporary mid-block crossing with yield to pedestrian signs at long blocks
    - Several people recommended a pop-up crossing at Huron Ave...Fresh Pond market...
  - Look for other problem intersections, or hot spots, and then cross them with where people are doing other PARKing day installations...
  - For next year, provide better description of what PARKing day is for passers-by ...
- Joint committee meetings – Transit, Bike & Ped
  - Joint meetings once in a while, as needed for projects, or Sean mentioned having Liaisons to the respective committees...
  - Some conflict w/in committees... need to have meetings where people feel comfortable talking, concern about being overshadowed
  - Can we find ways to work together to advance our parallel/shared goals...
- Big future shared projects to discuss: Mass Ave redesign...
- Future meetings – October 27, November 17,
- Proposing Wednesday, Dec. 14 – joint meeting
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