

Pedestrian Committee April 26, 2018 Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

Attendance

Members: Andrea Duchesneau, Steven Gniadzowski, Amy Kaiser, Magda McCormick, Sean Pierce, Johanna Pittman, Sam Stern, Olivia Turner

Staff: Cara Seiderman (CDD), Greg Hanafin (CDD), Dana Benjamin (TP&T), Brian McLane (DPW), Devon Bracher (CPD), Rick Riley (CPD)

Agenda review – March meetings minutes approved

Crash analysis – Devon Bracher & Rick Riley from the police department

- Involved with Vision Zero work
- Call for service is what triggers a motor vehicle crash statistic...
 - Crash must have EMS Transport/injury and/or \$1k and above damage for required reporting to be triggered. Cambridge Police err on the side of more information, so often reports are taken that don't necessarily reach those requirements.
- Crash trend is down...
 - Seasonal variability – Peaks in October, low in March (why?)
- Bike and ped involved crashes are fairly level, spiked in 2016, back down in 2017, but from the high # of 2016...
 - Cycling counts tripled from 2002 – 2012, and flat since then...
 - Any pedestrian/bicyclist crashes (with each other, a tiny #) are coded as pedestrian crashes...
 - Not really reporting on single-vehicle crashes – like if a bike hit a pothole... although thinking is going on about how to capture those
- Pedestrian crashes with injury data – not a strong seasonal pattern...
 - Overall decrease in pedestrian crashes
 - Pedestrian crashes follow a predictable pattern of when people would be on the streets in terms of time of day...
- Pedestrian crashes are the most likely to require EMS transport, more than 4x the average rate for all crashes ...
- For pedestrians, the hot spots in Cambridge are: Porter Sq; Central Square/South mass Ave.; Harvard Square
 - These crash maps are behind where we focus for safety improvements....
 - Pedestrian counts are tough – peak hour counts in some locations, and Devon has extrapolated from population increases in the city overall...
 - Fewer younger people represented as drivers in Cambridge crashes, likely reflecting fewer teenage/college age kids driving in the city ...
 - Have two officers who are dedicated to responding to crashes, 8 am – 12 am M-F, and they cover a third of the crashes in terms of total responses...
 - State is redesigning the crash form (2-3 years out though...)

- Police writing more crosswalk violations, and a lot more distracted driving tickets getting written...
- Speed will be a big point of emphasis going forward – 1 in 10 survivability at 40 mph, 9 in 10 survivability at 20 mph for pedestrians
- Sean asked about the lower speed zones – hard to enforce in the squares – it causes traffic pileups, or blocking bike lanes if/when they do it...
 - Two ways of measuring speed: 1) Using radar to measure speed, not as accurate 2) LIDAR is better, more accurate, binoculars built-in
 - Buying 8 more of those...

Pedestrian Committee Projects

The Walk

- Art-based MIT walk – MIT’s art museum does lots of tours of its art, so that’s cool
- Sub-group meet a few weeks ago to talk through the details of the walk...
- June 16 – 10:30 am
 - Start at The List Museum, end at Stata center
 - Plenty of ideas for what we should see, including art, and some underground tunnels...

Cambridge Street

- Andrea wrote the letter/statement – Thanks! – and it looks good, but keeping it for the files until it’s needed...
- Stakeholder group is meeting in June – updated information will be presented (Before and after, etc)
- Speed data went down from 31 to 25 mph on Cambridge street – design the street for the speed you want people to drive!
- Let’s walk it this summer, and maybe the south mass ave corridor...
- Extra review meeting May 14...
- Brattle, Huron, Cambridge, South Mass Ave.
 - All candidates for summer walking meetings...
- We like the statement, we’ll make it final, and attach it to the meeting minutes...

Punch List

- Cara is still checking off the ones that are done...
- We may need to freshen up

Olivia update on health/fitness angle...

- More links to different fitness options/angles, “Run fellows”
- Collaboration with food and fitness policy group – she does a lot of that outreach...
- Talk more w/ Jen Lawrence about these options...

Updates

- Lots of DPW sidewalks happening...
 - DPW website has current and future construction projects...
 - Long conversation about bluestone, and its qualities...

- Bluestone appreciation society
- Traffic, parking and another T
 - Broadway and Ellery – full signal proposed
 - Porter Square public meeting
 - Rapid Flash Beacons being added at Mass and Dudley (Greek Corner/Bus depot crosswalk, one of the worst in the city)
 - 10 more beacons to install, so we can make suggestions to Dana at other intersections...
 - Porter Square – the island is back in the plan at the crossing of Somerville....construction work will be done this year...
 - Inman Square – still going to happen, working on plaza designs...
 - South Mass Ave corridor improvement project – meeting at MIT, May 3
 - Longfellow bridge – advocates pushing for 1 lane of traffic – maintaining it as it is...Wider bike lane that could be used by emergency vehicles as well...
 - Emergency vehicle lanes that allow bikes (rather than bike lanes that allow vehicles...)