

Cambridge Pedestrian Committee – September 24, 2020 Minutes (Zoom)

Attendees

Committee Members: Debby Galef, Robin Bonner, Helen Rose, Jenny Turner-Trauring, Magda McCormick, Olivia Turner, Pamela McLemore, Sandy Goldberg, Erica Seidel, Wade Smith, Erik Tillman, Angie Meltsner, Sean Peirce

Staff: Cara Seiderman (CDD), Greg Hanafin (CDD), Dana Benjamin (TP&T)

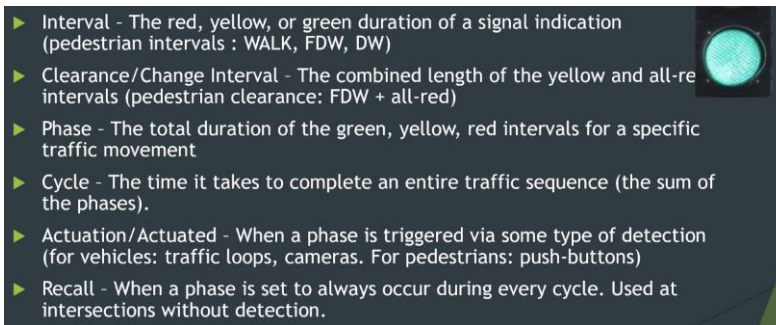
Updates / Review

1. Agenda Review, Zoom Meeting Protocols

Wade moves to approve last month's minutes, seconded by Debby, no objections

2. Signals and Crosswalks, Dana Benjamin dbenjamin@cambridgema.gov (TP&T) spoke about signal operations and guidelines for crosswalk markings

- Review of traffic terminology



- Exclusive pedestrian phasing creates large delays for pedestrians, with short walk intervals and delays for vehicles; a big advantage is no conflict between lawfully crossing pedestrians and vehicular traffic.
 - Jenny asked whether exclusive pedestrian phasing always has concurrent no turn on red; Dana confirmed this to be the case in the city of Cambridge
 - Sandy asked whether pedestrian signals could face diagonally to indicate that diagonal crossing is permitted; Dana replied that accessible ramps would be required for any diagonal-facing signal.
- Concurrent pedestrian phasing reduces delays for both pedestrians and vehicles, with longer walk interval and greater vehicular throughput; big disadvantage is conflict between lawfully crossing pedestrians and turning vehicles.
- Porter Square safety issues raised by Pam and Jenny:
 - Signal or light issue crossing Somerville Ave just north of T station sculpture; Dana will investigate signal timing and pedestrian experience
 - Lots of illegal right on reds from Mass Ave N onto Somerville Ave E; placement

of turn arrow, bike signal, and “no turn on red” sign; Dana acknowledges and will investigate placement and pole height.

- Cara explained city efforts to educate street users about crosswalk use; Sean mentioned that the committee work plan highlights the safe use of unsignalized crossings
- COVID-19 has led to pedestrian signals being on recall rather than actuated; some of those will be switched back to actuated, despite concern about having to push a button manually re: public health

3. Project Updates

- City Projects: committee to review [Tobin Montessori School](#) project independently and consider whether to add to future meeting agenda for group discussion.
- Mt Auburn St project is done
- Harvard Sq improvements partially made for bike separation; plaza/crosswalk improvements will happen over the course of the next year
- Next River St community meeting this fall/winter

4. Ideas for Participatory Budgeting

- Submit ideas by September 30 to <http://pb.cambridgema.gov>
- Pam suggests more benches to make Mass Ave more pedestrian friendly for all users
 - Erica and Wade vocally support bench PB proposal

5. Development Projects

a. [CambridgeSide](#)

- Cara highlighted the breadth of use proposals and “design desires” for the First St corridor, as a major artery connecting Kendall, East Cambridge, Cambridge Crossing
- Transportation study aims to investigate whether competing uses may be spread across First St and Second St
- Debby commented she would like to see additional green space included as part of the proposal
- Helen commented that the First St and Land Blvd activities should be more inviting as community-facing spaces

b. [325 Binney St](#)

- Is there sufficient lighting and visibility to the street coming out of the building as

a cyclist/pedestrian?

- Binney redesign at Little Binney/Binney/Fulkerson should ease current traffic backup on eastbound Little Binney approaching Fulkerson;
- Committee appreciates the proposed contribution to the construction of a section of the Grand Junction multi use path

6. Pedestrian Subcommittee Work

- No updates on subcommittee work
- Continue to update doc and reach out to members:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DzjismwevzHSolodu1Ep-wZQB3T14OEWmFnAHLISU4/edit#gid=0>

7. Public Comment

- No public attendees present

8. Other updates/Announcements

- Next meeting October 22 will include the Cambridge Snow Operations