

## Cambridge Pedestrian Committee – February 27, 2020

### Attendees

Committee Members: Robin Bonner, Magda McCormick, Pamela McLemore, Angie Meltsner, Sean Peirce, Helen Rose, Erica Seidel, Wade Smith, Theresa Tobin, Olivia Turner, Jenny Turner-Trauring, Alanna Williams

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

Minutes from January were approved

### Updates

DPW (Brian McLane) - plans for upcoming street construction in 2020 Difference between base rehabilitation (a/k/a full dept reconstruction) vs structural improvement (grind & overlay or crack sealing)

Review of [Five-year plan for Sidewalk and Street Reconstruction](#): not written in stone; timing of projects can change. Coming next year: sewer separation around Cherry Street in Area IV/The Port

Inman Square construction ongoing, but not sidewalk work yet. 10-20 feet of utility work per day (a good day is 100 feet per day) Glacken field - field must be ready by March 2021. 1 1/2 year's worth of work in 10 months

Miscellaneous sidewalk funds: put in a [SeeClickFix](#) for sidewalks you see need repairing. Sometimes there is a long wait but they will get to it in time

Better to pre-treat surfaces, makes it easier to move/remove snow

If anybody sees something that isn't going right during construction (e.g. not appropriate crosswalk), report it. SeeClickFix (for larger/longer projects) or a phonecall. DPW likes to handle complaints pretty quickly.

There is a [map of construction projects around the city](#). Website has details including contact information.

Does the city ever do construction at night? Only with an official hearing (with the exception of emergencies). Most contractors avoid it. Traffic department does paint lines at night.

Dana Benjamin from Traffic Parking & Transportation. Davenport Street: proposed to change from two-way street to one-way street. Many side swipes happening due to narrowness plus parking and truck traffic. Will be one-way headed southbound from Saginaw to Mass Ave. Potential for contra flow bike lane.

Process of installing RRFB (Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon), plus 20 mph signs. All signs should be up during 2020. Is there ever a plan to put "welcome to Cambridge, the traffic laws have changed" signs up? DCR roads do not conform to the same speed limits as city streets. What happens with cars that show speed limits on the in-vehicle signage? How do the Route Mapping App companies get updates of new speed limits? Some streets have traffic signals timed for vehicles that travel 25 mph.

Crosswalks: any place where a road intersects another road is a crosswalk, whether marked or not. Crosswalks should be no more than 300 feet apart. If you're on a street without a cross street, then you're allowed to cross mid-block legally. The city likes to keep a crosswalk near a pedestrian desire line. However, they take yielding, sight lines and other safety factors into account.

Inner Mount Auburn: quick build bike infrastructure project not on DPW website, this is on TP&T website. For the most part, if there is no street construction or rehabilitation, those projects will not make it onto the DPW site.

For any DPW construction, including a grind & overlay (but not pothole filling), ramps must be reconstructed if not ADA compliant.

Mass Ave & Rice Street: Sean reports walk & don't walk both showing at the same time (Dana thought it was already fixed).

River Street: most recent meeting was cancelled, will be rescheduled for some time in March (with public meeting in April). More discussion to happen about Carl Barron Plaza. When the public meeting date is finalized it will be published in the weekly report. How do you fit all ideas about Carl Barron Plaza into one space?

No updates on Grand Junction. Still a proposal from Alexandria to construct their portion of the Grand Junction, but it has not been finalized.

CDD Transportation page has a [map of major roadway projects](#).

### **Development Projects**

87-101 CambridgePark Drive: meeting this past week. Very important that members of the conservation commission hears why it's important that a fully separated pathway is constructed. Actual hearing has not yet happened. We now have an opportunity to send a letter to the conservation commission should we choose. Will also be going to the planning board on March 10. The idea is to have a separate multi-use path (that would go through MBTA property) rather than what is currently proposed, where pedestrians are forced to either walk in the bike lane or in the street. Separated multi-use path is more enticing to use to pedestrians. Developer has already paid MBTA for property.

Would the Pedestrian committee write a similar letter to the bike committee's letter, making appropriate language changes? Would want to point out why the connections are more important for pedestrians. Safety issues are particularly of concern for people walking. Important for the committee to send such a letter rather than city staff. Developer has done their due diligence. Value to the general public is what the conservation commission would like to hear. Sean & Pamela to collaborate on letter agreed to by the Committee.

Conservation commission needs to know about flood plain, climate change, etc. They have a higher level of concern about the impacts to the resource area. The planning board has a different purview.

Revolution Clinic: Concern was expressed about the number of security cameras proposed. If a crash happens, one of the first things the police does is canvas buildings nearby (businesses, usually) and ask for video. That is how footage can be gathered. City cannot put up cameras of their own, so relies on private cameras. Future meeting: have police come to talk about the pros and cons of cameras. There is

a proposed law to allow red light cameras wending its way through state legislature (S2553). Also technology that does counting but does not keep a record.

### **Committee Strategic Work Plan & Working Groups**

Data & Analytics Subcommittee are going to meet jointly with Bike Committee on Thursday March 12 at 6pm. Bike Committee had a bunch of really good ideas. Cara provided an Access database of traffic counts.

Communications: A tweet was sent from the CDD site authored by Elka about spheres. With any ideas send them to Sandy and Elka. Should photos be sent via Instagram?

### **Other Updates & Announcements**

Reminder: ideas can be sent between members. Decision making should not be discussed via email, but logistics can be. Should we have a moderated e-list (where Greg and/or Cara would vet the content) to exchange logistical plans? Working group/subcommittees CAN have electric lists but for logistics only.

Bike Committee's May ride will celebrate the centenary of some women getting the right to vote, but also how important it is to vote in general. There is an art project to celebrate it that will have a new sculpture on Cambridge Common. Perhaps jump off from this for a fall walk.

March meeting: Executive Director of Commission on Persons with Disabilities will be attending. We could talk about areas where our committee and the Commission could collaborate (accessibility, public realm, snow, etc).

Future meeting: city electrician to talk about lighting. Current electrician is retiring, new position will not be posted for some months yet. Concerns about visibility & street lighting. Future discussion about street lighting about concerns of our committee. More formal study? Use SeeClickFix for particularly dark areas.

Another possibility: police person.

Also: dog mess