

Cambridge Bicycle Committee, September 9, 2015

Minutes recorded by AO: Ari Ofsevit

Present: Jon Adams, Amy Flax, Caroline Jaffe, John Goodman, Sean McDonnell, Mechthild von Knobelsdorff, Ari Ofsevit, MP: Mike Proscia, Cara Seiderman (CDD), Jim Wilcox (DPW), Joseph Poirier, Ruthann Rudel, Matt Nelson (CPD), Steve Bercu, Peter Stokes, Ann Marie Biernacki, Ingrid Schorr, Randy Stern, David Soares (TP&T)
Guests: Nancy O'Connell, Allison Quach

I. Agenda review, Approval of Minutes, Introductions

Minutes approved (JG, AMB)

II. Events

A. Debrief on Summer Committee Bike Ride

People happy with bike ride and how it went. Two non-committee members showed up. Committee members felt that it was helpful to see the locations we've been talking about to talk about it to others. Interest in making this a more regular event, and perhaps even having a self-guided program.

B. Parking Day (AMB)

Idea for the space is to have a tent and have several examples of bicycles. Bike tech companies providing info, and a board where people can write what issues need to be solved and how they might be able to be. City will provide tables. RS: will provide fake grass mats. More volunteers would be great, and the idea is to have more "vendors" there rather than fewer so if people bail out, it's okay. Hubway has some new bikes, and they might be a good backup if we want to have them. RR: bring delivery vehicles to showcase Metro Pedal Power, etc? Purpose is not to endorse anything, but to showcase.

Other table, bring maps, watch for bikes, etc.

MP: Zagster, talk to them.

AMB/CS: Try to have two people at all times.

AMB: Hype & promote!

C. Bow Tie Ride:

Food is doing well: Chipotle, Felipes, Honest Tea. Two streets need to be vetted by DPW (JW): Vassal Lane and Second St. CPD (MN): Only issue is crossing Land Blvd; should be okay on a Sunday morning. Regroup on Cambridge Pkwy. Start and end at library, but bathrooms not open.

Ride in three legs, and after first two it goes to bathrooms (one is Fresh Pond, but let them know in advance). Cambridgeside Galleria could also be a stop with bathrooms in food court. Get to do Western Ave twice. We need people to watch start, sweep, etc.

MN: tough to have a lot of bikes turn in to the cycletrack. Had to push people on to the street.

JG: Won't have people go to library mid-ride. There is the ability to get back after the first loop.

Is there a way to sort people, to get families towards the back? We don't want the group to split apart. Give people the directions in an app?

More promotion? Tweed Ride? Bike Party? Don't call it a bike party, but whoever wants to come can come.

D. Honk Festival (AF)

Interest for something in between music? October 11 parade from Davis to Harvard. Columbus weekend. Walk or very slow bike. They need things in between the bands to be able to hear the bands. Visual interest.

E. Safe Routes to School

New SRTS person. 6 schools signed on, lots of enthusiasm, and lots going on at the high school. High school on board, principal really interested. October 7 is walk/ride to school day. MN: Vassal Lane, Tobin, Rindge Ave, Peabody ... Spring was national walk/ride day, walking school bus and bike train. Planning to try to staff up to 6 bike trains. Potential for a few people to help out for ~2 hours; will get email.

SRTS: Program to support kids walking and biking to school. Justin Schreiber at the city is the lead for SRTS.

III. Projects

A. Markings/signs for EcoTotem Counter

David Soares:

Bike counter, promotion and marketing. "Ride here to be counted." Language and symbols (currently using the "stop bar" symbol). Temporary or permanent signs, too. Need to be able to be understood quickly.

CS: Lots of people don't ride over it, don't know it's there; can't have detector in car lane. Few vehicles likely to be in bike lane at this location. Lots of cyclists take the lane, especially outbound w/o much traffic off the bridge. Both directions.

Needs to be highlighted (AW), looks like a regular bike; needs to look difference. DS: don't put it right on top in case of service. No other colors (other than yellow, which we don't want to use

on the right side). “Stay in lane” a bit too preachy/regulatory. AO: “Use Bike lane” RR: “Bike here to be counted.” DS: Won’t get 100%. Need to be less wordy, get 75% comprehension.

Sign earlier (perhaps before intersection) with info. Pavement markings to be really quick, should interline with earlier signs. CS: Did bike party go over? AMB: too many people, pileups getting in to lane, not everyone knew.

CS: Combination of sign and paint. “Ride in bike lane to be counted.” MP: Green paint? CS: Use green for conflict zones. We want something we can do quickly, and then we can explore other options. We’re getting regular data, we want to see if it spikes in the fall and/or if we put in signage.

DS: Has direction, will work with it.

B. DPW updates

Western Ave almost done; will be paved back to Mass Ave. Adding signs (e.g., wrong-way cycletrack signs), and River St.

Alewife sewer, lots of work coming; sidewalks on Concord from Huron down the hill; bus route on Garden St.

Ch 90: main thing Mass Ave paving Linnean-Everett. Fulkerson, Main St.

Kendall Main: lots of sidewalk work left. Overnight work at some T entrances.

Harvard Sq: Continuing on Mt Auburn.

Cambridge Common: Going well, paths done before winter. Landscaping will remain.

Binney St: Mostly done for now. Two stage turn symbols there and on Western Ave. More info: <https://www.cambridgema.gov/traffic/News/2015/09/newleftturnforbicyclesintroduced.aspx>
Biogen steam repair up at 6th St.

CRA Grand Junction has started btw Broadway and Main. First part of path.

Starting outreach on Area IV infrastructure improvements: Bishop Allen, Columbia, Cherry, Pine, includes sewer separation. Meetings will be posted.

DPW cookout next Thursday, Green Rose Park (Harvard and Windsor). All DPW divisions will be there. 6 PM.

C. MIT Development

Special meeting September 21 5:30.

Ames/Main/Amherst/Wadsworth and across near Broad Canal. Huge project. All online. Committee will want to make comments, two public hearing before planning board, second upcoming. Links sent in previous email.

Bike/Ped committees can comment on bike parking, bicycle entrances, etc. Goes to Planning Board, for decision. Comments made at a meeting, then written up by a member. Any discussion has to happen in a public meeting. Look at it in advance. Ped committee may discuss on the 24th, Bike committee is welcome to attend that committee.

We could have another committee meeting to discuss.

CS: We have discussed with them constructing the rest of the two-way cycletrack on Ames St, other parts of bike master plan as appropriate. MIT also interested in Mem Drive, etc. Lots of common ground.

IV. Committee Workplan

Not much time; move to later?

V. Media issues

Committee can write letters to the editor, and any individual can under their own name.

AO: Should we have something ready to go so that we have something to respond with quickly. Something pre-approved, with data, statement of support for long-term infrastructure.

CS: Bike plan is ready and being proofread. Hope to have it up in time for the Bow Tie Ride.
[update: will be early in October]