

Cambridge Bicycle Committee, January 14, 2015

Notes by AO: Ari Ofsevit

CS: Cara Seiderman
DS: David Soares (TP&T)
JA: Jonathan Adams
RS: Randy Stern
DS: David Soares
JW: John Wilcox
IS: Ingrid Schorr
MR: Megan Ramey
JA: John Adams
MP: Mike Proscia
BH: Ben Hammer
MS: Melissa Shakro
AW: Andrew Williams
MN: Matt Nelson

Visitors: Nancy O'Connell, Ruthann Rudel, Caroline Jaffe

I. Prior Minutes approved

II. Committee Activities

A. Facebook Page

IS: Outreach subcommittee for social media, with Jen Lawrence. There has been a Facebook Group for a long time called "Cambridge Bikes!" Lots of members and activity, but you have to apply to join; it was started by a prior member of the bike committee but is not an official site of the Committee. We created a "Cambridge Bikes" open page, and there is much confusion. Not clear who speaks for what, where.

City manages a Twitter feed at @CDDat344, and that Tweets (via Jen).

CS: Comments on a public site were not accurately reflecting projects and made erroneous assumptions about who was running the website. "!" page is clarified that it is not affiliated with city or CBC. For our page, we are looking to have a new name, cleaner, and be more responsive, new people coming to committee soon who will be interested in outreach. Staff can post, anyone can comment. [Discussion of Facebook page name.] Decision to make the name "Cambridge Bicycle Committee."

RS: Who can post, do we take things down at some time

B. May Bike Ride (JG)

JG: "Don't Bike Like My Brother" as a name for the May ride, in honor of Tom Magliozzi. IS: does this ride theme make sense? JG: If we're not doing that ride, we don't want that name. Other option: "Our Fair Bike Ride."

CS: Do they have any related promo items, like a "hang up and drive" type bumper sticker that we could distribute.

Email from Matt Nelson, might be able to get here later on to talk about working with CPD.

AO: Will email contact re: "Don't Bike Like My Brother" Ride.

MS: What does MIT have about them?

III Projects and Planning

A. DPW (JG) & TP&T (DS)

5 year Streets & Sidewalk Plan, including pavement inventory, March would be a good time to talk about that. CS: This will be overlaid with the Bicycle Network Plan to help prioritize projects. Construction: utility work on Huron B, Concord Ave, Fern Street Design: shared use path connection from Field Street to Concord Ave, raised intersection on each end. Will be published soon. Modification of plan keeps some parking, and the side with the multiuse path is unchanged, adds some parking on the other side by taking away green space.

MR: No problem with the design as connections between Tobin and Danehy are maintained. Worried that we are setting a precedent about giving up positive elements such as green space for parking.

Cambridge Common, lighting, drainage. New Street meeting (Tobin School, 6 PM, Weds Jan 15). Committee has not reviewed it. Community meeting: two concepts, both include bicycle facilities. Some property which could be redeveloped, and how much scope do we do now if it might get torn up again.

JG, IS: people like it.

Flagstaff Park: City would like to see it open, DPW is pushing, MassDOT reluctant. Some signal work still needs to be, MassDOT is reluctant to do it in the winter. Unsafe to open it without the signals, which will make it a full facility.

Harvard Square underpass: surface is completed, but traffic markings will be put in when the weather is warmer. DS: budgeting for 3M reflective tape inlaid in cement, which would include black edges, inlaid, and would last a long time. MR: it is still frightening, with the noise; bollards would make a big difference. Boston is testing bollards for installation on Congress Street in Boston which has a double parking problem. DPW & TP&T would have to review. MR will forward information.

DS: It's budget season, so for larger financial issues, now is the time to bring it up. Signs or markings not associated with a construction project. MP: Concord Ave bike box, people drive over it, how do we get people to stop before the line. Stop stencil? Permanent Ames Street signs. AW: No bikes on sidewalks stencils. MR: snow removal for cycletracks in Chicago. JA: Green paint at intersections (Mass & Vassar, Cambridge & Cardinal Madieros). CS: There is some national research, and a project looking at bike lane markings at intersections. But for specific locations, we can add in to it. RS: Mass Ave intersections: all intersections with bike lanes. JA: Longfellow in to Main Street. In discussions with MassDOT, as the current proposal is not good.

A2. Police (MN)

Will set up a meeting with community relation officers, John will be able to meet, Matt will set up dates.

B. Bike Plan

Comments closed on this plan; only 800 comments this time (thousands last time). Lots of people are interested and engaged. Probably won't be major changes, but tweaks. From here, draft language to explain this, and draft a chapter with some graphics, internal review with City and Committee before publication. In process. Prioritize the network plan so that when projects come up we have made a statement about the importance of bicycle facilities, and funding. Request for design money for Grand Junction Path, Alewife bike/ped bridge. JG: Contraflow on one-ways? Two-way cycling on one-way streets? Do it on a network street. We will put this in the discussion.

C. Pearl Street

Don't intend to have a long discussion; we can have a separate meeting if need be. Pearl Street has a low level of comfort and connects important origins and destinations (commercial districts, schools, parks, through connections). Level of comfort is low. Speed of traffic, ability to cross the street, parking study. Support for

complete street option. Also good for buses and pedestrians. Neighbors got upset, and started flyering and people wrote to council and wrote in support and there's 50-60 emails to City Council. 350 comments on an online survey. Two different council orders: 1 for a permanent, full time facility, one for no facility, council meeting Jan 26. Construction project can move ahead, ongoing discussion about traffic regs. Get information, additional conversations. Proposed: 8 am to 6 pm. "Increase separation" would meet the intent of the plan (bike lane without parking and a buffer between bikes/cars) but some people would like a cycle track. That would mean no parking on that side of the street at all. Coming to a head that we've put in facilities in places where it's easier, now we have to make these improvements in places with more substantial changes. Needs to be a community dialog. City policies support active/sustainable transportation, but citizens don't necessarily see it that way when it comes to their own convenience. Education/politics/experience.

Two streets in Cambridge with this sort of restriction: daytime restriction on one side. Brookline in the past, and Shepherd, and Prescott in Harvard Square.

Enforcement: would start with a learning period before escalating to towing and the like.

RS: How does this become city policy? Many policies are undermined by politics.

AO: In theory, it could change in the future, it's not construction but paint. DS: It depends if Jim will let him grind up the old lines.

CS: Fill out survey, provide comments.

D. Inman Square MassDOT

Will talk about this in more detail in the future. MassDOT money to assess Inman Square. 12 cities and towns, Cambridge is one, assess Inman and related problems. Two things that could come of it, with potential for MassDOT funding, and intersection study with TP&T in Inman as well. Inman is the main intersection. Traffic counts through design proposals. Public input? DS: not sure. CS: We should have a discussion about this.

AO: Cambridge and Hampshire are both Bike Network streets. CS: Give that info to the consultant.

E. Bike lanes on Craigie Bridge and Dam

MassDOT will install bike lanes on Craigie Bridge, which will connect to upstream bike lanes. Not separated lanes; less room, not part of the Northpoint reconstruction. 5' lanes. Won't be done until Longfellow is done. Charles River Basin master plan meeting next week. May be a mini-discussion at a future meeting. More info to come.

F. Other

MR: pathway plans, DCR has not responded. Ask DCR to come to committee meeting.

MN: Discuss crash data from CPD with Jeff Parenti's analysis.

Discuss enforcement of cars in bike lanes. Needs to be proactive enforcing this, someone could be assigned to Central Square and write a ticket every five minutes.

Other: Upcoming meetings, Facebook page

Next meeting, Feb 11. AO won't be here, someone please take notes! Mike said he'd take notes!