

Bicycle Committee 10/14/20 Draft Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members: Gloria Huangpu, Jon Anjaria, Dien Ho, Mark Boswell, Qian Mei, John Ellersick, Todd Robinson, Amy Flax, Randy Stern

Staff: Cara Seiderman (CDD), Greg Hanafin (CDD), Stephen Meuse (TP&T), Jim Wilcox (DPW)

Guests: None

Prior minutes - approved

Street projects

- Banks St
 - Contraflow lane from Mt Auburn to Copperthwaite, then two-way sharrows
 - Prioritized because Putnam Ave, the main parallel St, is not bike-friendly and people commented on that in the bike plan feedback
 - Although not a key part of the boike network, this opportunity presented itself - as a continuous improvement project - simply paint.
- Hampshire and Broadway
 - Broadway to Cardinal Medeiros, repaving funded as participatory budgeting project
 - Opportunity to improve this intersection headed east, since its being repaved, Currently, it has a left turn lane, a bike lane for straight, and a right turn/straight lane
 - Best/safest solution might be to move the bike lane that is currently between left and right turning lanes to the curb, but that would require a signal change or bike signal to give bikes the straight movement -- like on Mass Ave north at Porter Square. But this project does not have funding for signal changes.
 - Perhaps, then, make no change and just repaint as is.
 - Question - are opportunistic projects such as this one evenly distributed across neighborhoods? Eg. the Port may not be receiving as many bike infrastructure projects as other neighborhoods. Do we have statistics based on neighborhoods. Do not have these now. There is however a DPW 5-year plan map which shows larger projects.

Project updates

- Traffic and Parking
 - Ames St contraflow lane is complete
 - Many bike lanes being repainted right now
 - Flex posts added or will be added in Harvard Square, Mt. Auburn St, One Broadway, Cambridge Street replacement of missing posts, Main St at Mass/Main. 95% of flex posts will stay in for the winter.
 - RR tracks on Mass Ave being repaved, bike lane will be repainted
 - Quincy St contraflow lane - ready to be striped. Waiting on new signals. Hopefully next week. (Harvard is managing the project)

- Working on update to “Bike Facility Map”
- Most of Mt Auburn reconstruction is complete
- DPW
 - Temporary separated bike lane on Galileo and Binney will be built by Boston Properties because the actual planned separated bike lane is delayed due to other construction work
 - Cambridge Watertown Greenway - alignment shifted a little
 - Planning snow removal from new bike facilities for this year
 - Huron - Concord to Garden, final plan includes curbside bike lanes as you approach the lights. No changes recently.

Tobin School/Vassal Lane

- Looks like path marked number 1 on east side no longer has car/bike conflicts
- Multi-use path adjacent to the driveway at west side - drawing in presentation shows no separation between the path and the driveway - there really should be a barrier between the cars and the multi-use path.
- Not clear if anything is being done to improve bike connections to the school from the surrounding neighborhoods to encourage bike to school rather than car drop off.

325 Binney St (Metropolitan Pipe site)

- Will include a portion of the Grand Junction path
- City park across (Little) Binney St will include a raised cycle track head south, as will the section directly in front of the building headed north
- Planning board wanted more activity on Binney St, so the developer is looking at moving the bike parking at ground floor level right to the front of the building on Binney St next to the main entrance as an “activation” location. Bike parking area would include a bike repair section for excitement.
- Arts Council involved in visual design for Grand Junction/RR barrier in this area. Some concern expressed about the need for quality lighting on the Grand Junction side of the building.

Other topics for bike committee, or subcommittees

- Dien - Shared Street launch without input from the bike committee was a missed opportunity - eg. street prioritization (such as Oxford St)
- Qian/John - How can we engage better with people of color? We have an engaging non cyclists project - now there has also been discussion at BLM rides about how to engage better with the black and brown community, we need to rethink how we are doing this. The winter bike ride did not have broad outreach and involvement. How can we reach these communities? Can we fit this into our existing Outreach subcommittee to do we need a new committee to improve diversity and inclusion in our activities. Different concerns in addition to just “safety” with respect to cars and trucks - eg. police singling out POC when biking, less infrastructure in poor neighborhoods. EG - Reaching out to BLM ride organizers or Bikes Not Bombs or other groups driven by people of color.

December meeting - how to get together with pedestrian and transit committee distantly?

Cambridge Bike Safety Ordinance was passed by the city council last week - the city will build a protected bike network in the next 6 years. Hooray!