

Notes - 2/10/21 Bicycle Committee meeting

Attendance

Committee Members: John Ellersick, Randy Stern, Ruthann Rudel, Jon Anjaria, Todd Robinson, Alison Harris, Mark Boswell, Julian Astbury, Amy Flax, Qian Mei

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

Public: Raymond Haywurst, Gavin Lund, John Bowman

Minutes from last meeting approved

- TP&T
 - No updates
- DPW
 - Inman Sq construction continues, April/May for limited surface restoration start
 - Park Ave, Walden, Webster, Chestnut, Dodge, Elm - contract to bid in March or April
 - River St bid documents, bid to go out in spring
 - Harvard Sq kiosk/plaza project to start this spring
- Other projects
 - McGrath Hwy/Green Line new cycle track starting to appear, should be completed in 2021. From Land Blvd to 3rd St.
 - At end of Morgan Ave in Cambridge Crossing (near 22 Water St) one can see the (very high) new bridge for peds/cyclists to Somerville Community path (which itself is not quite done yet)
- Development project updates
 - 269-301 Vassar St, MIT Dorm - now includes raised separated cycle track. This is an improvement over the lanes shown as the previous meeting. Going to the Planning Board next week.
 - Ragon Institute, 600-624 Main St, between Portland and Albany St - 70,000 sq ft of office and labs, bike parking per zoning requirement
- Discussion of construction details for cycle tracks (more general discussion)
 - Question about best mulch to use around trees to not scatter on the cycle track - MIT thinks larger stone mulch is an improvement than the older version with smaller stones, because it is easier to keep in place. There is a flexi-pave coating for stones that helps keep it softer if someone falls on it and MIT likes that detail. The general detail for Vassar Street a 1-foot buffer between cycle track and tree wells. (Standards for buffers actually require 2 feet but Vassar Street was designed almost 20 years ago)
 - There was a question about why the cycle track on Western Ave is rougher than the roadway. Permeable asphalt used for cycle track on Western Avenue. Permeable asphalt provides benefits for stormwater runoff and drainage and also results in less ice and slipperiness on the cycle track. Permeable asphalt requires significantly more maintenance ("vacuuming" is needed 2x/year) and

pilot efforts with using the material in the main part of the roadway have not been successful. It may be used in a more limited way in parking lots.

- Buffer needs to be designed with a material that is smooth and will keep it at the same level as the track over time.
 - Cycle track on Commonwealth Ave in Boston has pollinator gardens used for buffers. DPW investigating the possibility of pollinator corridors and will bring back information about that to the committee. Will have a future discussion/presentation on green infrastructure in general.
 - Question- while it is great to see DPW getting snow cleared from the separated bike lanes, the bike lane plowing is destroying bollards. A - getting best equipment is a work in progress; the narrowness of the bike lanes requires special equipment, which DPW has invested in getting, but there still may not be enough resources and the larger vehicles are sometimes used.
- Public comment
 - Kitty Knox bike path is degrading already - Is it permeable too like Western Ave? A - No, that is different, a non-permeable material to protect tree roots. Needs to be looked at and any issues addressed.

Committee Work for 2021

- Bike Ride this Spring. Assume virtual for now. Since virtual, could do more than one ride.
 - Amy - idea - Health Advances in Cambridge, e.g., Moderna, received positive response
 - John - Could diversity, equity, inclusion be tied in in some way? Qian – E.g., a ride highlighting Black-owned businesses.
 - Qian - Also reach out to more diverse communities for the ride than we have achieved in the past. (what would this mean for a virtual ride? May be more relevant for when in-person again)
 - Jon - feedback from [19th amendment ride](#) last year that was online via StoryMap? - A - Had good feedback, no way of knowing how many people actually rode it. Many people did look at the StoryMap.
 - Qian will take lead on identifying Black-owned businesses
 - Mark will take lead on identifying health advance locations; Amy will assist
- Qian idea - crowdsourced routes from people, maybe with photo/selfie of contributors. Fill up a map of Cambridge with photos of people and their favorite locations to bike to or pass through. Could happen over the summer.
- Officer Elections
 - Mark Boswell interested in being chair
 - Amy Flax interested in vice chair
 - Randy Stern interested in secretary
 - So voted
- There is a new community engagement staff member in CDD. He will meet with the bike committee at some point.
- 2021 Committee Work Plan
 - Several major work categories for 2021
 - Development Project Review – follow along with and report to Committee on large projects in Cambridge carried out by private developers
 - City Infrastructure Projects – follow along with and report to Committee on projects being undertaken by the City of Cambridge. In some cases, serve as a liaison on a Working Group.

- Community Rides – develop and publish themed rides for the community. Virtual rides as of now, possibly in-person later in the year depending on circumstances.
 - Outreach – many opportunities to increase awareness of the Committee’s activities, support bike outreach in the Cambridge community, and plan future events. Some will be City initiatives the Committee can support and others Committee members can create on their own.
 - Data Analysis – CDD data analysts will present to the Committee at the March meeting. Committee members have the opportunity to shape what kinds of data analysis they want to pursue/be involved in.
 - Other – any other topics the Committee is interested in that don’t fit into the other categories.
- Committee members should sign up for the topics they are interested in working on in 2021
 - People who missed tonight’s meeting should also sign up. Could use more people on bike ride planning.
- Next month - presentation on bike related data. Scott Walker at CDD working with Greg to create a website on bike count data, to be available to the public. Also, Miles Weule Chandler, data analyst from the police department, will talk about stats.
 - Will be a tri-committee meeting in March too (March 17).