

Bicycle Committee Meeting on February 12, 2025

Meeting Notes

Attendees

- Members in attendance: Mark Boswell (Chair), Amy Flax (Vice Chair), Randy Stern (Secretary), Michael Burke, Greg Carey-Medlock, Guido Cuperus, John P. Ellersick, Muna El Taha, Richard Freierman, Diane Gray, Alison Harris, Denise Haynes, Camille Jonlin, Scott Kilcoyne, Eitan Normand, Vanessa Nwankwo, Leah Pickett, Carola Voelker
- Members absent: Martha Birnbaum, Ling Zeng
- City staff: Nick Schmidt (CDD), Charlie Creagh (CDD), Tenzin Choephel (CDD), Quinn Murphy (CDD), Stephen Meuse (TPT), Jerry Friedman (DPW)
- Visitors: Nahid Chowdhury, Ahmad Khamis, Marc Levy, Nonie Valentine, Eppa Rixey, Charles Teague

Minutes

- January 15, 2025, meeting minutes approved

Bike Committee Elections (Nick Schmidt, CDD)

- Reviewed Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary roles
- Nominations – each member can nominate themselves or others
 - Richard Freierman nominated and elected as Chair
 - Greg Carey-Medlock nominated and elected as Vice Chair
 - Randy Stern nominated and elected as Secretary
 - All approved for 2025 by acclamation

Winter Bike Ride (Tenzin Choephel, CDD)

- Ride scheduled for March 9, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. (9:30 a.m. gathering)
 - CambridgeSide sponsoring the event with food and gathering space at canal park, outside, near the intersection of First Street and Thorndike Street
- Tentative 6-mile route includes streets in Cambridge Crossing, East Cambridge, Area 2/MIT, Cambridgeport, and The Port
- Committee members volunteered for planning, logistics, and event roles:
 - Ride lead: Greg
 - Sweeps: Richard, Guido
 - Bike count: Leah
 - Photos: Mark
 - Tabling: Greg, Mark, Denise
 - Marshals: John, Alison, Carola
 - Bluebikes help: Camille

- Set up: Mark, Richard, Denise
 - Route planning: Randy
 - Route testing: John, Scott
- Suggestion was made that City staff provide a poster with updates on bike-related street projects that can be displayed during gather time

May Ride (Tenzin Choephel, CDD)

- Coming up soon in May! Date TBD.
- Committee will be prepared to begin logistics planning at the March meeting. Each member should think of ideas and bring them to the March meeting. Can repeat an old idea.
 - Recent rides and themes can be found [here](#).
 - Archived rides can be found [here](#).

Linear Park Bike Detour (Charlie Creagh, CDD)

- 2025 reconstruction
- Contract by March, likely a year of work or more. In the best-case scenario, the work would take the better part of 2025 once work begins.
- A map of the detour plan can be found [here](#).
- Given the one-way streets in the area, the bike detour results in out-of-direction travel. The detour uses Harvey St (west), Clifton St (south), Dudley St (east), Cameron Ave (east), Thorndike/Shea Rd (west).
- The renovation on the section from Mass Ave to Davis Square may be completed quickly, so big Cameron Ave detour may not last very long.
 - The actual timing for this section can't be finalized until the contract goes out to bid and is awarded.
- A simpler route east from Dudley to Mass Ave to Shea by continuing to Norris then looping back to Shea was brought up by committee members but was rejected by the City as too dangerous.
- The City staff believe this is the best we can do for now. Many alternatives were considered.
- More information on the Linear Park Redesign can be found [here](#).

Project Updates

- From Stephen Meuse on behalf of the **Traffic, Parking & Transportation (TPT) Department:**
 - [Broadway Safety Improvement Project](#)
 - Meeting and 2 open houses were held
 - [Aberdeen Avenue Safety Improvement Project](#)
 - Spring 2025 install
 - [Cambridge Street Safety Improvement Project](#)
 - Feedback survey closed
 - [Main Street Safety Improvement Project](#)
 - Working on a final design, 3rd community meeting soon, install in summer of 2025

- [Garden Street Safety Improvement Project](#)
 - Reviewing options to revert to 2-way street to present to the City Council, as required by a policy order. Need to report back to City Council
 - Options had been looked at in original project, will review latest data to inform an updated analysis
 - *Questions from the Committee:*
 - Will flex posts be restored before the City Council decided on what to do?
 - Eversource is supposed to restore to original condition. This was supposed to have been done before this winter. They still must do this as part of their contract.
 - A question about parking in North Point
 - The City only owns East of Gilmore Bridge, the rest is private ways
- From Jerry Friedman on behalf of the **Department of Public Works (DPW):**
 - [Harvard Square Kiosk](#)
 - Work will continue through 2026
 - [River Street Reconstruction Project](#)
 - Work continues, curb/sidewalk/roadway work begins in Spring 2025
 - *Questions from the Committee*
 - Will the River Street separated bike lane be opened incrementally?
 - Still working on the phasing. Carl Barron Plaza will likely be done first, so may have a section open there sooner
 - Directionality change has already been done at Green St/Magazine St to make Magazine a one-way street going south.
 - New contraflow bike lane has been added on Magazine Street from Franklin to Green, then a left turn is allowed onto Green—thank you!
 - [Mass Ave Partial Construction](#)
 - Linnaean to Porterhouse
 - The contract is out to remove the median, but new separated bike lanes not there until mid 2026. The separate contract for median removal allows for an overall faster timeline (i.e. remove median while designing the project)
 - Public events will be scheduled for the remainder of the corridor in 2025, it is all still in concept development
 - Broadway at the MXD construction site:
 - Stretch from Galileo to Ames will have a two-way bike facility and one-way motor vehicle traffic during Volpe and Eversource projects
 - [Port Infrastructure Improvements Project](#)
 - A new contraflow bike lane will be added on Harvard Street on the section east of Prospect that is one way
 - There will be pedestrian-friendly Shared Streets on Pine Street and Cherry Street

- *Questions from the Committee:*
 - Can speed bumps be added on Harvard Street?
 - There will be a few raised intersections
- From Nick Schmidt on behalf of the **Community Development Department (CDD)**:
 - [Linear Park Redesign](#) open house tomorrow, 2/13/25
 - E-bike tryouts at CambridgeSide Galleria on [2/19](#) and [3/1](#)
 - [Adaptive cycling tryout](#) event also planned for 2/20

Committee Letter Regarding Garden Street Improvement Project

- In response to the recent City Council policy order requesting options for mitigating traffic issues in the vicinity of Garden Street, several committee members requested that the Chair write a letter to the City Manager requesting Garden stay one-way (as it currently is) and instead work on traffic calming/reduction on side streets.
 - The way it is now is safer: better Garden traffic calming, safer with parking-protected bike lanes than with speeding traffic on a two-way thoroughfare. We should make this point clear
 - We want an option presented by staff to the City Council with focus on side street traffic calming, and not Garden Street changes.

Public Comment

- None