

## Bicycle Committee Meeting on March 12, 2025

### Meeting Notes

#### Attendees

- Members in attendance: Richard Freierman (Chair), Gregory Carey-Medlock (Vice Chair), Randy Stern (Secretary), Martha Birnbaum, Mark A. Boswell, Michael Burke, Guido Cuperus, John P. Ellersick, Diane Gray, Alison Harris, Denise Haynes, Camille Jonlin, Scott Kilcoyne, Eitan Normand, Vanessa Nwankwo, Leah Pickett, Carola Voelker, Ling Zeng
- Members absent: Amy Flax
- City staff: Nick Schmidt (CDD), Tenzin Choephel (CDD), Quinn Murphy (CDD), Stephen Meuse (TPT), Andreas Wolfe (TPT), Jerry Friedman (DPW), Sean McKendry
- Visitors: Nahid Chowdhury, Chloe Wu, Nnenna Ijomanta, Shane Kelly, Abebe Kelemework

#### Minutes

- February 12, 2025, meeting minutes approved

#### Executive Session

- Motion approved to enter into executive session in response to Open Meeting Law complaint

#### Project Updates

- From Stephen Meuse on behalf of the **Traffic, Parking & Transportation (TPT) Department:**
  - [Broadway Safety Improvement Project](#)
    - Andreas will cover later
    - In community engagement stage
  - [Aberdeen Avenue Safety Improvement Project](#)
    - SBL being added in Spring 2025
  - [Cambridge Street Safety Improvement Project](#)
    - In community engagement stage, planning open house for spring
  - [Main Street Safety Improvement Project](#)
    - Working on final design and public review in spring
    - Installation summer 2025
  - [Garden Street Safety Improvement Project](#)
    - City Council requested report on options to possibly revert to 2-way motor vehicle operations
    - Will be presented at March 24 City Council meeting
    - Eversource work has delayed restoring damaged bike lanes

- Comment – needs more green pylons temporarily if flex posts can't go back for a while
  - Maintenance
    - Flexpost maintenance beginning
      - Mid Mass Ave and other locations
    - Citywide markings will start to be addressed in April
- From Jerry Friedman on behalf of the **Department of Public Works (DPW):**
  - [Harvard Square Kiosk](#)
    - No new info
  - [River Street Reconstruction Project](#)
    - No new info
  - [Port Infrastructure Improvements Project](#)
    - Some new dates
- From Nick Schmidt on behalf of the **Community Development Department (CDD):**
  - New Department – Cambridge Transportation Department will be created by merging CDD Transportation Planning Division into TPT. More information to come at next meeting.
  - Linear Park Redesign bids will be received in April; construction starting in spring
  - GJP to Community Path design study will start in spring
  - Boston Bike to Work Day Festival is scheduled for May 16. Committee members and members of the public are encouraged to participate, including volunteering to be ride leaders.
  - Participatory Budgeting voting is ongoing through March 16, including a traffic calming item-please take a look
  - The Resident Bike Lottery has started
  - A number of upcoming public meetings related to the CSO and general city planning are scheduled
- From Richard Freierman on behalf of the Bicycle Committee:
  - Bicycle Committee met with City Manager, Yi-An Wang, Brooke McKenna (TPT), and Melissa Peters (CDD) to discuss Garden Street request by City Council
    - March 24 City Council meeting will include the City's presentation of options moving forward
- From Andreas Wolfe on behalf of the **Traffic, Parking, & Transportation (TPT) Department:**
  - [Broadway Safety Improvement Project](#) Update
    - Focusing on Columbia Street to Portland Street
    - Reduced separation at certain spots – quick-build so curbside bus stops required, accessible parking, and corner by Fletcher Maynard Academy has school bus curbside space for children with special needs
    - Daylighting added with flex posts at corners where possible
    - Separated bike lanes will have 7 feet clear from curb to flex posts on this section of Broadway
    - *Questions from the Committee:*
      - Can we use precast barriers rather than flex posts?

- No, Broadway is generally too narrow for that and to keep the 7 feet. Precast is 12 inches wide, flex posts are 3 inches wide. Need 18 inches more to include precast concrete barriers. There may be some short areas where they could be used where width allows. The City is evaluating precast curb policy, since flexposts are not the most attractive or durable solution for the longer term
- Can the signals be timed for a bicycle “green wave”?
  - A green wave requires all signals in a corridor to have identical signal cycle lengths. Broadway may be a good candidate after full installation of the Safety Improvement Project because many of its intersections are similar in scale, but that must wait for all segments to be implemented. Not guaranteed, but a good idea to consider.

### **2025 Spring Bike Ride Preparation (Tenzin Choephel, CDD)**

- Spring Bike Ride annually scheduled for May 2025
  - Usually 11 or 12 miles, with a few stops
  - Bluebikes training associated with the ride would be nice
  - Need a theme
    - Proposal #1 – Cambridge Immigrant communities, Ethnic history
      - Very important to not showcase areas that might endanger new immigrants—focus more on historical communities
    - Proposal #2 – Dog Parks of Cambridge and other Animals of Cambridge (turkeys, rabbits, dogs, etc.)
  - By a vote of the Committee:
    - Ride theme Proposal #2 chosen
    - Saturday May 17 selected for ride to not conflict with Mother’s Day or Memorial Day
  - Spring Ride Subcommittee formed: Randy, Greg, Martha, Diane with support from Richard
    - For April 9 Committee meeting, Subcommittee will have identified draft sites, route, and/or speakers (if desired) for consideration

### **Bicycle Committee Work Plan (Nick Schmidt, CDD)**

- No time to discuss today. Will make it top of the agenda for our next meeting

### **Public Comment**

- None