

## Bicycle Committee Meeting on May 7, 2025

### Meeting Notes

#### Attendees

- Members in attendance: Richard Freierman, Martha Birnbaum, Mark A. Boswell, Michael Burke, Muna El Taha, Amy Flax, Diane Gray, Alison Harris, Denise Haynes, Camille Jonlin, Scott Kilcoyne, Vanessa Nwankwo, Carola Voelker, Ling Zeng
- Members absent: Gregory Carey-Medlock, Randy Stern, Guido Cuperus, John P. Ellersick, Eitan Normand, Leah Pickett
- City staff: Nick Schmidt (DOT), Jerry Friedman (DPW), Stephen Meuse (DOT), Tenzin Choephel (DOT)
- Visitors: None

#### Minutes

- April 9, 2025, draft meeting minutes approved
- April 30, 2025, draft meeting minutes approved

#### Project Updates

- From Stephen Meuse on behalf of the **Department of Transportation, Street Management Division (DOT)**:
  - Broadway: Paving began between Portland Street and Columbia Street; working group meeting scheduled for May 20 to discuss next segments.
  - Aberdeen Avenue: Separated bike lanes installation and curbing adjustments near Mount Auburn Street in progress; paving scheduled for the following week.
  - Cambridge Street: Westbound separated bike lane on the one-block section near Inman Square completed; planning open house for remaining project area east of Prospect Street.
  - Main Street: Paving scheduled for late May/early June; final design received with minimal expected changes.
  - Waverley & Brookline Streets: Cleanup project in partnership with DCR; separated bike lanes being added; some flex post installations pending agreement with DCR.
- From Jerry Friedman on behalf of the **Department of Public Works (DPW)**:
  - River Street Reconstruction: Full-depth roadway construction begins June; initial segment is from Mass Ave to Franklin Street.
  - Harvard Square Plaza: Construction ongoing into next year.
  - Mass Ave (Section B): Contractor mobilized; removing medians and prepping for work near Cambridge Common.

- Chapter 90 Contracts: Streets across the city undergoing various phases of sidewalk, curb, and utility work (e.g., Chester, Dodge, Illis Streets).
- Shepard Street: Parking removal between Mass Ave and Walker Street deferred; exploring adjustments to existing daytime parking restrictions to enable bicyclists to use the existing bike lane during commute times.
- The Port Infrastructure project is moving forward with bids for park improvements and additional streetscape upgrades.
- From Nick Schmidt on behalf of the **Department of Transportation (DOT)**:
  - Bicycle Planning Analysis: The city has started a preliminary bicycle planning analysis to update Bicycle Level of Comfort scores and inform future bike infrastructure planning.
  - The Mystic River Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge project has been reintroduced, with an upcoming public meeting.
  - The Grand Junction Connector project has begun early planning.
  - A new operator contract for Bluebikes is currently in progress, as the existing contract with Lyft expires in 2026. The City, alongside other municipal owners of the Bluebikes system, anticipates selecting the next operator in July.

#### **Bicycle Committee Work Plan and Subcommittees (Richard Freierman, Chair)**

- The committee discussed a new structure for subcommittees organized by thematic topics.
- All members are expected to sign up for at least one subcommittee by the next meeting.
- The subcommittees will conduct work and coordinate between regular committee meetings and will be asked to report on their progress periodically.
- Subcommittees are designed to allow for flexible participation and evolving focus areas over time.

#### **2024 Citywide Bicycle Counts (Nick Schmidt, DOT)**

- The City completed its most recent biennial bike count in September 2024, capturing peak-period data using video technology instead of manual counts. Counts will be published online this spring.
- Data categories included bicyclists, children bicyclists (riding their own bicycle or as passengers), and micromobility users such as scooters.
- Since 2002, the City has observed a nearly fivefold increase in bicycle ridership at the 16 count locations
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- The 2025 Bicycling in Cambridge Data Report is in development and scheduled for release this summer.

#### **Spring Bike Ride Planning (Tenzin Choephel, DOT)**

- The Spring Ride is scheduled for May 17 with a 9:30 AM gathering at the main library.

- A route created by committee members has been finalized, and food will be provided by Pemberton Farms.
- Mechanics, refreshments, and outreach have been arranged, and the event has been widely advertised.
- Committee members volunteered for ride roles: ride leads, sweepers, marshals, photographers, counters, and tablers. All roles have been assigned.
- Volunteers who are uncertain of their availability were asked to follow up via email to confirm participation.

**Action Items and Next Steps**

- For Committee Members:
  - Join at least one subcommittee – Deadline: next committee meeting.
  - Submit feedback on 2024 bike count data presentation or desired metrics for the 2025 report.
  - Check availability for May 17 Spring Bike Ride and confirm assigned volunteer roles.
- For DOT Staff:
  - Finalize and publish 2024 bike count data by June 30, 2025.
  - Begin drafting the 2025 Bicycling in Cambridge Data Report.
  - Review Bluebikes operator bids, as received

**Public Comment**

- None