

Bicycle Committee

Meeting on June 11, 2025

Meeting Notes

Attendees

- Members in attendance: Richard Freierman, Gregory Carey-Medlock, Randy Stern, Mark A. Boswell, Michael Burke, Guido Cuperus, John P. Ellersick, Muna El Taha, Amy Flax, Alison Harris, Denise Haynes, Camille Jonlin, Vanessa Nwankwo, Carola Voelker
- Members absent: Martha Birnbaum, Diane Gray, Scott Kilcoyne, Eitan Normand, Leah Pickett, Ling Zeng
- City staff: Nick Schmidt (DOT), Jerry Friedman (DPW), Stephen Meuse (DOT), Quinn Murphy (DOT)
- Visitors: Greg Cook, Nahid Chowdhury

Minutes

- May 7, 2025, draft meeting minutes approved

Project Updates

- From Stephen Meuse on behalf of the **Department of Transportation, Street Management Division (DOT)**:
 - Broadway:
 - Portland Street to Quincy Street meetings still happening in the future
 - Section A has been paved. Crosswalk painting tonight, signage changes and separated bike lane striping over the next few weeks.
 - Aberdeen Avenue: Paving next week
 - Cambridge Street: Prospect Street to Willow Street installation this fall
 - Main Street:
 - Tech Square to Albany Street installed last week
 - Sidney Street to Portland Street work after paving, in one to two months
 - Waverley Street: Paving complete with separated bike lane striping coming soon
 - Vassar Street:
 - Project scope includes Memorial Drive to Amherst Alley with installation planned for August before students return
 - City held open house
 - City presenting draft plans at the June 18 Joint Meeting of Transportation Committees
- From Jerry Friedman on behalf of the **Department of Public Works (DPW)**:
 - Harvard Square: No change to streets since last update
 - River Street: Full-depth reconstruction in the street now happening. Beginning in Central Square area and heading south.

- Mass Ave Partial Construction: Median removal underway
- Garden Street:
 - Eversource Gas will complete utility work next month and repaving to follow later this summer
 - Street layout will be restored to previous conditions with separated bike lanes, though the City thinking through specific materials for vertical separation and markings given the Council-ordered changes to the street in summer 2026
- Chapter 90 projects: Ongoing construction in Cambridgeport and The Port
- Broadway from Galileo to Third Street: Broadway's temporary two-way separated bike lane will extend from its current eastern terminus at Ames Street to a new terminus at Third Street to accommodate Volpe redevelopment.
- From Nick Schmidt on behalf of the **Department of Transportation, Transportation Planning Division (DOT)**:
 - Bridge construction on Minuteman at Alewife Station detouring pedestrian and bicycle traffic along Alewife Station Access Road
 - Greg Cook of Cambridge Arts discussed the River Festival (June 21) parade, seeking any interest from members of the Bicycle Committee:
 - Parade starts at 11:30 AM at Memorial Drive and JFK Street
 - Greg can print 2-3 ft wide signs
 - Richard will follow up with Committee members to gauge interest

Bicycle Subcommittees Work (Richard Freierman, Chair)

- Spring Bike Ride Recap and Thank Yous
- Question: Should the Committee write a letter to City Manager (and copy the City Council) requesting the City stick to the Broadway plan under the current Cycling Safety Ordinance (CSO) schedule. This would be just in case there is a policy order introduced to City Council at the June 16 meeting that either delays Broadway or removes it from the CSO. Options considered included:
 - A - Either approve general letter disagreeing with either of the two above directions
 - B - Plan a special Committee meeting for next week
 - C - Do nothing
 - Committee voted unanimously to approve Option A and authorize Richard to draft a general letter to the City Manager and copy the City Council and send before Monday, June 16, if such a policy order is introduced to the Council agenda posted on June 13 that either delays the Broadway project or removes it from the CSO. The letter, in a positive way, should speak to the importance of Broadway to a safe and connected bike network in Cambridge, and that the City Council maintain the CSO.
- Committee reviewed the Subcommittee spreadsheet:
 - Bike bus is missing from subcommittee projects. Add under "group rides"
 - Subcommittees can each have no more than six members, in compliance with Open Meeting Law
 - Committee members volunteered to serve as Subcommittee Coordinators:

- Community Bike Rides: Mark Boswell
- Transportation Project Reviews: Gregory Carey-Medlock
- Outreach: Randy Stern
- Bike Plan: TBD
- Beyond Cambridge: John Ellersick
- Support: TBD

Preliminary 2025 Bicycling in Cambridge Data Report (Nick Schmidt, DOT)

- Summary – Bicycling in Cambridge has gone up
 - Last report published in 2023, this report will be published in summer 2025
 - 2025 Data Report will include new data, too: Bluebikes, infrastructure investments
 - More complete crash data that includes state-owned roadways, like Memorial Drive and Fresh Pond Parkway
- How much are people biking in Cambridge?
 - More people biking than ever. 2024 exceeded pre-pandemic counts.
 - Children biking up nearly 400% since 2014
 - People are less likely to bike on sidewalks: 5% in 2024 vs 14% in 2004
 - Micromobility is growing quickly: 65% growth since 2022, mostly near universities
 - Comment - rush hour starts earlier (3:00??), in future should start counting earlier
- People arriving in commercial centers by bike is up. For example, East Cambridge in 2013 at 11% arrive by bike, but 30% in 2023
- Bluebikes use continues to grow:
 - Nearly 1 in 2 Bluebikes trips start or end in Cambridge
 - Cambridge saw over 2 million trips starting or ending in the City in 2024
 - Ebikes very popular and accounted for all of the growth in 2024 trips
- Increased biking seems correlated with increases in separated bike lanes
 - Report should include quantitative info on various infrastructure improvements the city has made

Public Comment

- None