

Bicycle Committee

Meeting on September 10, 2025

Meeting Notes

Attendees

- Members in attendance: Richard Freierman, Gregory Carey-Medlock, Randy Stern, Martha Birnbaum, Michael Burke, Guido Cuperus, Amy Flax, Alison Harris, Denise Haynes, Camille Jonlin, Scott Kilcoyne, Leah Pickett
- Members absent: Mark Boswell, John Ellersick, Diane Gray, Eitan Normand, Vanessa Nwankwo, Carola Voelker, Ling Zeng
- City staff: Nick Schmidt (DOT), Jerry Friedman (DPW), Tenzin Choephel (DOT), Stephen Meuse (DOT), Andreas Wolfe (DOT), Steven Magalhaes (CPD), Phil McDavitt (CPD)
- Visitors: Catiana JP, Kasey Owen, Luke Smith

Minutes

- July 16, 2025, draft meeting minutes approved

Q&A: Meetings, announcements, and project updates

Members ask questions about City project updates.

- Announcements:
 - August social went well, and it was a nice time to meet each other.
 - Eco-totem counter is broken because of a battery issue. City is working with the manufacturer to identify and resolve the issue.
 - Lyft will soon launch a new Bluebikes suggest-a-station tool.
 - Bluebikes stations at Cambridgepark Drive and Vassar Lane coming this month.
- [Broadway Safety Improvement Project](#)
 - When will flex-posts be installed on Broadway?
 - Starting on Thursday, September 11, 2025
- [Vassar Street Safety Improvement Project](#)
 - Can there be wayfinding from Vassar Street to the traffic light on Amesbury Street?
 - There will be a bike box at Vassar at Amesbury to help bicyclists take a left turn. That should help the connection. We will add a sign but it will likely be installed after the project striping is completed.
- [Memorial Drive Phase III](#)
 - What is the project timeline?
 - The project began construction this week.
 - Are there plans to create a better bike connection to the Charles River at the western end of the Phase III project?

- DCR does not have an active project at that location. They did complete the [DCR Parkways Master Plan \(2020\)](#), which would be the best resource for identifying planned improvements to regional parkways.
- Pedestrian crossings coming to Memorial Drive at Sparks Street and at University Road will use HAWK signals. Would it be better to have a pedestrian activated red-yellow-green traffic signal? These are already in use in other parts of Memorial Drive and Fresh Pond Parkway.
 - Committee voted to request City staff to express the Bicycle Committee's preference for a standard traffic signal instead of a HAWK signal.

Presentation: [Aberdeen Avenue Safety Improvement Project](#) (Andreas Wolfe, DOT, Project Manager)

City staff present latest project information, including flex-post spacing and project timeline; members ask questions.

- Project will use left-side separated bike lanes with flex-posts.
 - Right side separated bike lanes are not feasible for emergency vehicle access. Car travel lane would have been too narrow or many parking spaces would be removed.
- Traffic signal changes make it easy to enter and exit the bike lanes from Mt Auburn Street and Huron Ave. There will be separate phases for bikes, pedestrians, and motor vehicles.
- There will be a new pedestrian refuge island for crossing Aberdeen Ave. Its construction is complete.
- Narrowed travel lanes should have a traffic calming effect, reducing vehicle speeds.
- Flex-posts are typically placed every 15 feet but will be placed every 30 feet for this project. This will allow motor vehicles to pass cars and delivery vehicles that park at the curb.
 - Comment: 30 feet is too long of a gap. Drivers will park in the bike lane or at least drive over the buffer and into the bike lane.
 - The bike lane, parking lane, and travel lane are all at minimum acceptable dimensions. That's why the concern is that large vehicles legally parking or other motor vehicles that may be parked a little too far from the curb will make it difficult for other vehicles, especially large vehicles like delivery trucks, to safely pass without striking and destroying flexposts. A longer spacing for flex-posts, like 30 feet, mitigates this issue.
 - Comment: Left-hand mirrors mean if cars block the bike lane it's even more dangerous to go around a blocking vehicle to the right.
 - The plan is to use cones that are more difficult to move initially to evaluate how the design operates in practice.
 - Question: Is there a compromise solution with flexposts every 30 feet, but some sort of mountable bump every 15 feet to still provide some visual indication that the bike lane is not to be violated?
 - That's an idea. We may need to expand our toolbox for quick-build projects.
 - Question: Can the corner radius at southbound Aberdeen Ave to westbound Mt Auburn St be smaller? Drivers can make that turn at high speeds and may accidentally turn into the two-way separated bike lane on Mt Auburn.

- We will look to quick-build options to make the corner appear and feel sharper.

Discussion: Chair Updates

Chair facilitates discussions on a variety of topics.

- Bow Tie Ride planning, volunteers, and communications:
 - Bow Tie Ride scheduled for Sunday, October 5, at 10 AM
 - Proposed route was tested and is about 12.5 miles in length
 - Members agreed to shorten the route by eliminating a portion in Cambridge Crossing. The route will instead continue on Charles Street and make a right on First Street.
 - Bathrooms at Danehy Park
 - Members volunteered to signed up for tasks / roles
- August 20, 2025, Joint Meeting of the Transportation Committee recap:
 - This topic was skipped as the Committee member with a question was not present at this Bicycle Committee meeting.
- Member participation in City project working groups:
 - It would be good to have more Committee members on working groups to have more insight into project issues.
 - City staff will continue to reach out for Transportation Committee representation on future working groups.
- Scope for a future discussion with the Cambridge Police Department (CPD)
 - The Committee would like to host a conversation with CPD at a future meeting or meetings to explicate issues / topics identified by the Committee: goal of random enforcement, red lights, bike lane blocking, etc.
 - CPD approach to training officers about crashes involving cyclists:
 - Medical recommendations, treating cyclists with same respect as drivers
 - Committee should frame specific questions in advance to ensure CPD has time to research and come prepared
- Other discussion:
 - Bike racks at the new Tobin Montessori & Darby Vassall Upper Schools are already full. Can more be added?
 - Will forward this note to Tenzin, who manages the bike rack program.
 - Beginning of a Tobin Bike Bus
 - Peabody Elementary School bike bus already has 90 people participating this new school year

Public Comment

- None