

Bicycle Committee

Meeting on December 10, 2025

Meeting Notes

Attendees

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

Minutes

- November 19, 2025, draft meeting minutes approved

Q&A: Meetings, announcements, and project updates

- Regular Committee meetings resume in January
- Joint Meeting of the Transportation Committees scheduled for January 21, 2026
 - Topic: Quincy/Kirkland and Huron Ave projects

Members ask questions about City project updates.

- Announcement:
 - [Biking in Cambridge Data Report for 2025](#) to be released next week
- Bluebikes:
 - New station at Craigie/Brattle will launch next week
 - 125 Cambridgepark Drive to be installed in January
 - Other repairs in progress
- [Mass Ave Partial Reconstruction Project](#):
 - Will restart process in 2026
 - Construction focusing now on Waterhouse to Roseland with the median removal and utility work, then separated bike lanes will be installed
 - Other segments (Harvard Square, north of Porter Square) on a staggered schedule because of varying levels of complexity
- [Harvard Square Kiosk and Plaza](#):
 - Q: Why has construction been started so far ahead of the completion date?

- A: Work on the project exposed parts of the MBTA station roof structure and the MBTA determined that roof repairs were needed. Those repairs are underway, but it has added time.
- Little Mass Ave:
 - Q: Is it possible to move bike lane to sidewalk height if curbs are being moved?
 - A: This has not been discussed yet as discussion and planning has focused on landscape plans.
- Garden Street Safety Improvement Project:
 - Q: There are any temporary green pylons at this site which get knocked down. Can there be an effort to reposition them on a regular basis?
 - A: This work is covered by a position, but this role is in transition
- Mass Ave 4:
 - Q: What is the status of the bus lane in Harvard Square as a part of this project?
 - A: City Council asked for a pedestrianization study of Harvard Square, so bus stops are being reviewed as a part of that study.
 - Q: Update on Central Square portion of Mass Ave?
 - A: Due to budget constraints, the planned large capital project has been pushed back, so there will be a quick-build project in Central Square to meet CSO requirements
- Roadway Safety Audit Program:
 - In response to a City Council request, all 153 intersections have been rated internally according to crash data. The emergency crash response process has been updated as well. Planning has started for three high-crash-rate intersections. More information will be made available in the City Manager's response to the City Council in the coming months.

Bike Parking Inventory

- Bike Rack Census from FY26; the goal is to complete it by spring 2026:
 - Student volunteers cataloged 5 of 13 neighborhoods
 - More volunteers are needed to help finish data collection by late March
- Will enter bike racks in Cartograph software as assets for better management as city owned assets:
 - These will also populate a GIS map layer
- Benefits:
 - It will streamline See-Click-Fix requests with clearer data for residents
 - It will inform future planning
- Q: Each rack post must be reported or clusters of them?
 - A: The database is for individual posts, but if there is a group that can be added to the GIS data afterwards
- Q: Can a sign-up sheet and a street to-do list be made?
 - A: Yes
- Q: How to follow up on old requests for improved racks?
 - A: Let Tenzin Choephel (DOT) know

- Q: Is data available for what has already been completed?
 - A: Yes, that can be made available

Outreach Committee: Focus on Safe Behavior

- Brainstorming locations:
 - Crosswalk in front of City Hall (Mass Ave at Inman St)
 - Crosswalk in front of Smith Center (Mass Ave at Dunster St)
 - May be lower priority because of so many conflicts, cyclists are a little nervous there
 - Table at plaza by Inman Square
 - Running reds by the fire station
 - Corner of Brattle and Craigie, or Mason → two-way bike lane
- Maybe expand this outreach effort to include handing out lights at the same time to give a more positive message:
 - There was some feeling that scolding people will not be effective, that people speeding through intersections are unlikely to engage in dialogue or be influenced by signs/messaging/shaming
- It's nice to have a pocket-sized hand out with how to ride safely. If we can draft one, the City might be able to print it:
 - Benefit: more positive interaction
 - Educational sign (i.e. "Please yield to pedestrians")
- T-shaped intersections and mid-block crosswalks should maybe be the highest priority:
 - Although law violations here are usually safe and movement by cyclists is often made in the interest of safety, i.e. to get ahead of cars when there is no roadway conflict
- There are two more positions on the planning team; please email Randy or Denise

Presentation: Biking in London

- Many types of bike lanes and routes, but not a connected network of separated paths
- Amy only felt safe biking in parks, but there are many cyclists on the streets
- Not like Amsterdam or Paris
- Santander bikes are a bikeshare similar to Bluebikes
- London has a great "Central London Cycleways Map," but many of the routes are on the road
- The London cycling webpage is a great resource and template for others to follow

Chair Updates

- Follow up on Cambridge Police Department section of previous Bicycle Committee meeting:
 - Some people would like more systematic information from the police, some feel it is not useful since police have no time for enforcement

- Perhaps when Biking in Cambridge 2025 Data Report comes out with crash data, the Committee can discuss more dangerous locations with CPD
- Budget impacts on capital projects:
 - Central Square full rebuild is delayed
 - Uncertain impact on Mass Ave 4
 - Maybe not useful to track in Bicycle Committee
 - City staff will provide an update at a future Bicycle Committee meeting of remaining CSO projects and their general timeline
- Bicycle Friendly Community Application:
 - Do any Committee members wish to work on this? City staff do not have time to work on this without help from Committee members.
 - The application is on the League of American Cyclists website
 - It is marketing for the City and positive feedback for cycling supporters
 - Value of getting designated platinum may be to show City Council and others that all this political work and investment is paying off
 - Richard will review the application and let the Committee know if it looks doable; there will be a follow up at the January meeting to see if there is any interest in volunteering
- Committee email protocols:
 - Open Meeting Law means that we can't discuss substantive issues in email with a quorum of the Committee (more than 6 people)
 - Comment from Committee Member: this was a recent issue in reviewing a draft of a Committee letter. Feedback from some members requested more visibility into edits, and time was too short to wait for a review at a Committee meeting. In the future, Richard will try to have a draft available online if possible so members can see each other's comments.
 - Procedure: Emails to the whole group should BCC as a safety measure to prevent the thread inadvertently turning into a discussion. Nick will confirm this policy with the City attorney and get back to the Bicycle Committee

Public Comment

- None