

Bicycle Committee

Meeting on January 14, 2026

Meeting Notes

Attendees

- Members in attendance: Richard Freierman, Gregory Carey-Medlock, Randy Stern, Mark A. Boswell, Michael Burke, John P. Ellersick, Brett Gallagher, Alison Harris, Denise Haynes, Scott Kilcoyne, Vanessa Nwankwo, Carola Voelker
- Members absent: Martha Birnbaum, Guido Cuperus, Muna El Taha, Amy Flax, Camille Jonlin, Eitan Normand, Leah Pickett, Ling Zeng
- City staff: Nick Schmidt (DOT), Jerry Friedman (DPW), Jessica Horne (DOT), Leah Grodstein (DOT)
- Visitors: Bill Byrn, Mimi G., Melissa Quest-Mercadante, Nahid Chowdhury, Marlees Owayda, Catiana JP

Minutes

- December 10, 2025, draft meeting minutes approved

Q&A: Meetings, announcements, and project updates

- Final meeting of this 2-year term for committee members will be the next meeting on February 11, 2026
 - Application process is open for new applicants through February 13, 2026.
- Joint Meeting of the Transportation Committees is next Wednesday, January 21, 2026.
- Bluebikes station updates
 - Craigie St at Brattle St / Sparks St launched
 - Mass Ave at Albany St will be replaced on January 22
 - 125 Cambridgepark Drive will be installed in January or February
- Street Management Project Updates
 - Working groups and planning in progress for [Broadway Safety Improvement Project](#), [Cambridge Street Safety Improvement Project](#), [Quincy-Western Kirkland Safety Improvement Project](#), and the [Outer Huron Safety Improvement Project](#)
 - Future meetings will cover new projects for Central Square and Mt Auburn Street (near Harvard Square)
 - CSO Overview
 - Remaining mileage to fulfill CSO requirements
 - Special4: 7.49 miles required, 3.41 miles installed
 - Other: 11.6 miles required, 10.42 miles installed
- Department of Public Works Project Updates

- Harvard Square kiosk delays are related the MBTA's Harvard Square station ceiling issues that they must resolve before work can proceed
- River St
 - Curbs for bike lane are getting installed, work will continue during the winter
- Follow-up information from Jerry in response to questions asked:
 - Garden Street trolley pole removal? City is coordinating with the MBTA on trolley wire and pole removal. The priority is pole removal on Mass Ave. The priority for Garden Street is wire removal.
 - Can Chapter 90 Contract 26 plans be shared and reviewed? Chapter 90 Contract 26 plans are not finalized but will be provided soon.

Discussion: Winter Community Bike Ride

- March 7, 2026, selected as date for the next ride
- Route should be no longer than 7 miles
- Need a route and volunteers for roles – Randy and Scott will plan the route, and John and Scott will test the route
- City will choose a sponsor which will determine the starting and ending point of the route

Presentation: Roadway Safety Audit Program

- Created in response to a 2024 Policy order from City Council; a reaction to multiple fatal crashes
- Program goals
 - Safe systems and Vision Zero
 - Will proactively address safety at intersections beyond the fatality locations
- Top intersections
 - Limited to City-owned intersections using crash data over the last 10 years. Screened intersections that are signal controlled, have recent complaints on file, or had at least one vulnerable road user crash.
 - Vulnerable road user crashes are weighted more (5x multiplier)
 - Intersections that were fully reconstructed, like Inman Square, recently were removed
 - Question from Committee member: these may have been reconstructed under old guidelines for safe intersections?
- List of top intersections from the analysis:
 - Mass Ave/Albany
 - Hampshire/Prospect (City not anticipating further changes at this time, as recent changes were made from a prior project)
 - Mass Ave/Vassar
 - Inman Square (City not anticipating further changes at this time, as recent changes were made from a prior project)
 - Lafayette Square
 - Cambridge Street at Cardinal Medeiros
 - Broadway at Prospect Street

- Cambridge at Windsor
- Sullivan Square
- Cambridge at Prospect
- Mass Ave at Windsor
- Mass Ave as Norfolk
- Some of these top 10 are part of current CSO projects
- Design and Analysis
 - Created crash diagram for each intersection, collected turning movements, count data, and observed each intersection. Looked at most recent design plans
 - Design steps
 - Go over design history, identify trends, account for stakeholder feedback
 - Do preliminary design, determine type of project (quick build, capital, etc.)
 - Final design
- Public engagement, gather feedback
- Program toolkit
 - Mini projects (signs, minor signal timings, ped countdown displays, street markings, maintenance of existing devices)
 - Quick build (like Cycling Safety Ordinance projects)
 - Capital (like reconstruction projects)
- Q&A
 - Q: Are there intersection design guidelines?
 - A: Cambridge does not have them, but NACTO and MassDOT do have guidelines, these will influence designs
 - Q: Will there be a review by the Bicycle Committee before implementation?
 - A: Mini projects → informal, information on safety problems will be sent out
 - A: Quick-build and capital projects → could probably come to the Committee first for review
 - Q: What will timing/pace be for implementing this?
 - A: Some quick things like pavement markings are done quickly. Some will happen with CSO projects. Brand new projects may be delayed while collecting traffic count data via a vendor, needed for many design decisions. This intersection improvement project is a new project, so it will take some time to ramp up the process

Presentation: Biking in Cambridge 2025 Data Report

- Published every two years
- Data
 - Data comes from bike counts, survey data, Bluebikes data, crash data, emphasizing growth percentages
- Four main sections
 - How much are people biking in Cambridge?
 - How has Bluebikes influenced biking in Cambridge?
 - Does bike infrastructure encourage biking in Cambridge?

- How safe is biking in Cambridge?
- Switched to MassDOT database for crash data. The 2023 Data report used Cambridge Police reports which is limited in how far back it goes, could have less information for each crash, and may not include crashes on State-owned streets
- Starting to collect additional data too
- Bluebikes trips are tracked with on-bike GPS equipment, but resulting route data is confidential and not shared or usable
- What is the definition of “full coverage” for Bluebikes? → the goal is for everyone to be within a 1/8- mile walk from a station (about a 3-minute walk)
- Q: Is there a mode share data for all types of trips, not just commutes?
 - A: Do not have the data, just counts based on commute mode of residents, so missing about 80% of all trips, but this is a limitation for everyone, not just Cambridge
- Q: What percentage is personal bikes vs. Bluebikes
 - A: Don't have that now but anticipate counting in the next round of bike counts
- Q: Can the City add more permanent counters to calculate seasonal factors?
 - A: We are actively investigating this and beginning additional count research and data collection.

Discussion: Chair Updates

- Application for Bike Friendly Community
 - Level of interest not clear, but have until June
 - Some data may be hard to obtain, i.e. average traffic speeds on all streets
 - Richard and Mark expressed interest. Nick agreed to meet with them to evaluate the difficulty of doing it. Others can join.
- Outreach Subcommittee
 - Have 3 members (Randy, Denise, Amy), Richard will ask for any others who are interested, up to max 6 members can join a subcommittee
- Reid Overpass reconstruction project (DCR)
 - Should Bicycle Committee weigh in with a letter asking for high priority for bike/ped/transit and lower for Memorial Drive throughput?
 - Agreed to add to the agenda for the January 21, 2026, Joint Meeting of the Transportation Committees. Add to the beginning of the agenda to avoid conflicting with the Streetwise presentation that same evening.

Bike Parking Database Update

- Can still use more volunteers to help with this project. More information to come from Nick and Tenzin with sign-ups and data collection routes.

Public Comment

- None