

Bicycle Committee

Meeting on February 11, 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, Scott Kilcoyne, Vanessa Nwankwo, Martha Birnbaum, Guido Cuperus, Amy Flax, Denise Haynes
- Members absent: Muna El Taha, Camille Jonlin, Eitan Normand, Leah Pickett, Carola Voelker, Ling Zeng
- City staff: Nick Schmidt (DOT), Jerry Friedman (DPW), Jessica Horne (DOT), Tenzin Choephel (DOT), Marcella Cannattii (DOT), Steven Magalhaes (CPD)
- Visitors: Bill Byrn, Nahid Chowdhury, Catiana JP, Jane Tangen, Gavin Colbert

Minutes

- January 14, 2026, draft meeting minutes approved

Q&A: Meetings, announcements, and project updates

- There will be no March meeting due to change of committee membership in progress.
- The Bicycle Committee's longest serving members - Mark, Randy, John, are eligible for one more term
- A new [Transportation Monthly](#) newsletter has been launched
- [Bike to Work Day](#) will be May 7th
- Work is proceeding on a bike facilities map and a newly defined bicycle level of comfort for rating all streets in the city
- Notes on Transportation Project Slides
 - [Cambridge Street Safety Improvement Project](#) - utilities work has been completed, ready for separated bike lane installations in the spring
 - [Aberdeen Ave Safety Improvement Project](#) flexpost spacing - Will evaluate flexpost spacing
 - [The Port Infrastructure Improvement Project](#) will include some shared streets
 - Q: Since no March meeting, can an update be sent to the bike committee on [Mass Ave Partial Construction](#) and Mt Auburn Street projects?
 - A: Yes

Training: Bike Parking Inventory

- Tenzin is looking for Committee members to help with inventorying existing bike rack locations in their neighborhood

- There is a spreadsheet to sign up for streets and a form for collecting data – Tenzin will send the spreadsheet when it is available
- Please check for racks on both sides of each street when inventorying
- After you finish a street, mark it as complete
- Make sure to take a photo of each rack
- Q: What about racks that are covered in snow right now?
 - A: We won't be doing this until March at the earliest, when Tenzin returns from leave

Discussion: Spring Community Bike Ride

- Committee voted to establish a subcommittee to plan and test a route and identify a theme by April 15. Members include Martha, Scott, Mark, John, and Randy.
- Committee confirmed a ride date of Saturday May 16

Presentation: Bike Level of Comfort Thesis Research

- Thesis research project presented by Marcella Cannatti
- Literature review so far:
 - 1994 article/survey from Madison Wisconsin
 - 2006 study in Portland Oregon defining 4 levels
 - 2016 article by Peter Furth et al - most current definitions, heavily influenced Cambridge definitions
- 2026 - Cambridge update in progress
- Research on buffered bike lanes
 - McNeill et al 2015 - has photos of types
 - Foster et al 2015 - has video footage
- Marcella has a survey. There is a QR code in the most recent transportation newsletter
- Q: Will Cambridge use Marcella's results?
 - A: Not for the 2026 update, but will look to include in future level of comfort updates
- Cambridge, like other communities, treats quick-build bike lanes and constructed bike lanes the same in terms of comfort level. Constructed bike lanes are likely a higher comfort bikeway, however.
- Q: When is the survey deadline?
 - A: Mid March
- Q: Marcella can survey people at Winter Community Bike Ride
- Marcella will complete her thesis in May

Discussion: Chair Updates

- Winter Community Bike Ride:
 - Richard is the point person. City staff are not available that day.
 - Q: Can the City provide hot cocoa since there is no sponsor?
 - A: Will look into it
 - Richard will be there for set up
 - Route is done

- Nick has flyers, contact him if you can post some
- Bicycle Committee letter to DCR on Reid Overpass
 - Committee members generally agree that the current proposals for the Reid Overpass redesign do not sufficiently address bike or ped safety, or transit priority
 - City confirmed that each transportation committee should author its own letter to MassDOT. A “joint letter” is logistically complicated, as each committee would need to edit and approve the letter. However, Richard and Randy, along with a few members from the Pedestrian Committee and Transit Advisory Committee, drafted language for a letter that the Bicycle Committee can adapt for its own letter.
 - Bicycle Committee voted and approved to:
 - Create a subcommittee to draft a comment letter by February 18
 - Include in the Bicycle Committee letter an endorsement of the letter written by transportation advocacy groups (e.g., Cambridge Bicycle Safety, Livable Streets, etc.)
 - Hold a virtual-only special meeting on February 18 to edit and approve a letter

Public Comment

- None