

Bicycle Committee Meeting on May 13, 2026

DRAFT Meeting Notes

Attendees

- Members in attendance: Richard Freierman, Gregory Carey-Medlock, Randy Stern, Mark A. Boswell, John P. Ellersick, Muna El Taha, Amy Flax, Alison Harris, Scott Kilcoyne, Carola Voelker, Aman Shankardass, David Yarmolinsky, Eli Miller, Jane Tangen, Nathaniel Ryan, Philip Allen
- Members absent: Martha Birnbaum, Guido Cuperus, Vanessa Nwankwo, Brett Gallagher, Kaili Chen, Martin Gao
- City staff: Nick Schmidt (DOT), Jerry Friedman (DPW), Jessica Horne (DOT), Quinn Murphy (DOT), Steven Magalhaes (CPD)
- Visitors: Paula Cortes, Catiana JP, Debbie Shapiro

Q&A: Meetings, announcements, and project updates

- Announcements:
 - Review of term lengths, tasks to complete onboarding
 - Review of other things going (Transportation Monthly, Spring Bike Ride, Streetwise with Commissioner Brooke McKenna)
- Meetings:
 - Next Bicycle Committee meeting on June 10
 - [Spring Bike Ride](#)
 - [Transportation Fair in Everett](#)
 - [Beech Street at Elm Pop-up Community Meeting](#)
 - [Bluebikes Introduction Spring Workshop](#)
- Transportation Planning Division Projects:
 - Review of projects
 - Question to confirm that something was sent out about bike rack census, this should be sent out again
- Streets Management Division:
 - [Broadway Safety Improvement Project](#): Section B open house, [design survey open until May 22](#)
 - [Cambridge Street Safety Improvement Project](#): slides available from virtual info session on [April 29](#)
 - Main Street Joint Meeting scheduled for May 20, open house in June, lots of movement on this project
 - [Quincy/Kirkland Safety Improvement Project](#): layout for signs and meter work
 - [Outer Huron Safety Improvement Project](#): virtual engagement end of summer, installation to begin summer 2026

- Mass Ave Central Square Project: engagement underway
- Mt Auburn Street: updates at future meeting
- Q: Central Square engagement is fall 2026, will the Committee hear anything before fall?
 - A: Will check with the project manager. The project will need to be coordinated with the MBTA elevator project for Central Red Line station.
- [Cycling Safety Ordinance Overview](#): no changes since February meeting as construction season has just begun
- Department Public Works:
 - [Harvard Square Kiosk and Plaza](#): restarting after delays from MBTA tunnel work
 - [River Street Reconstruction Project](#): making good progress on sidewalks/bike lanes, paving to happen in May and June
 - [Mass Ave Partial Construction Project](#): median removal is mostly done, community open house soon.
 - Chapter 90 Contract 24: wrapping up, street/sidewalk reconstruction
 - Project websites:
 - [Chestnut Street](#)
 - [Dodge Street](#)
 - [Huron Ave/Cushing Plaza](#)
 - [Webster Ave](#)
 - [Elm Street](#)
 - [Park Ave](#)
 - Chapter 90 Contract 25: wrapping up, street/sidewalk reconstruction
 - Project websites:
 - [Centre Street and Dana Street](#)
 - [Maple Ave](#)
 - [Montgomery Street](#)
 - [Sciarappa Street](#)
 - Chapter 90 Contract 26A: construction starting spring/summer
 - Project Websites:
 - [Chetwynd Road](#)
 - [Gray Street](#)
 - [Norfolk Street](#)
 - [Kirkland Road](#)
 - [Haskell Street](#)
 - [Port Infrastructure Projects](#): starting soon, open house meeting soon about schedule
 - 221 Mt Auburn Demolition: demolition complete and street patterns have returned to normal. This project will no longer appear in future Project Updates.
 - Q: Are there Chapter 90 contracts on a website to see plans?
 - A: See links above.
 - Q: Design changes on Mass Ave Partial Construction around bus stops? Floating? Not floating? Also curious about schedule for Garden St repaving.

- A: Garden St: Due to Council decision to keep the street's current configuration, repaving is not necessary. However, Eversource work is scheduled, so paint and flex posts will be returned to their state after this work is complete.
- A: Mass Ave: Only section that is underway is Section B, with some changes due to rising costs. Showed to working group on April 29, then it will be presented to Joint Meeting soon for the Committees to review.
- Q: River St: When will the bike lane be finished? In segments?
 - A: The separated bike lane on River Street will be raised to sidewalk level, so it likely won't be open alongside repaving and may be opened in block-by-block segments. City is aiming for it to be complete by the end of this construction season.
- Q: The Port Project: is the 30-month timeline year-round or during construction season only?
 - A: Continuous/year-round. First portion of work can be done during colder months. Open house expected in early June when exact timeline will be clarified.
- Q: Was a bid selected for contract work in The Port?
 - A: Yes, we've worked with the selected contractor before. They will start investigatory work soon. Park contract has not been awarded yet.
- Q: What is the "construction season?"
 - A: Generally mid-April to mid-November for surface work. Sub-surface utility work could continue through winter.

Training: Onboarding and orientation

- Committee member introductions
- Committee Background
 - Established in 1991, oldest of three transportation committees
 - Members include residents and City department representatives
 - Works to improve conditions for biking in the city and promoting biking as a form of transportation
- Requirements and rules:
 - Open Meeting Law:
 - Anything the committee does has to happen in a public setting. Agenda must be posted at least 48 hours in advance, all decisions and substantive work must happen at publicly accessible meetings.
 - Subcommittees of 6 or fewer members can work, meet, and discuss without violating Open Meeting Law
 - Committee communications are also subject to this rule, emails etc. fall under this, so group email chains are not allowed. This is called "serial deliberation."
 - Subcommittees making meetings available to the public is best practice, it makes a lot of sense for established/recurring meetings. This is practical constraint, so not necessary for short-lived tasks like ride planning.

- Quorum is needed to hold an official meeting.
- Conflict of interest law → complete the training!
 - State law that covers all city employees, including people on committees and commissions
 - You will only receive the email with a link to your training after you are sworn in.
 - Q: If I have already completed this training for my job, do I have to complete it twice?
 - A: We have confirmed with the Clerk's office that you do not need to complete it again in this situation.
- Communication Agreement:
 - Two-page document that should be reviewed, signed, and given to Nick for record-keeping. Completion of this form is a requirement to be a Committee member.
 - Read over norms
 - Q: Who put this together?
 - A: The City's Community Engagement Team prepared this for all events and engagement, reflective of trying to create a space that is equitable and safe. The CET does a lot of work to create welcoming and safe environments during equitable engagement.
 - Q: Is the full handbook available?
 - A: We can follow up.
 - Reminder about participating in other City events. The communication agreement holds outside of times for the Bicycle Committee.
- Code of Conduct:
 - Members completed a Code of Conduct activity with four steps: individual brainstorming, small group sharing, collect / combine ideas, and large group refining.
 - Code of Conduct defines the rules of how we operate as a Committee, essentially a group agreement
 - Code of Conduct will be included in future meeting slides
- Officer roles:
 - Brief overview of the different positions. Will have a formal call for nominations after the meeting.
 - Q: Can we have co-chairs?
 - A: No
 - Q: Can people temporarily chair for just a meeting to share the responsibility/make room for growth?
 - A: Unsure
- City policies, plans, ordinances:
 - Overview of the City's work that informs the Committee's work and the context it exists within
 - Overview of what kind of actions the Committee can take and how they interact with other bodies
 - Work plan is required through bylaws. One was started, but it didn't take hold.

- Next steps:
 - Contact Bernice to schedule your swearing in appointment (BTaylor@cambridgema.gov)
 - Complete conflict of interest training (check your inbox for online training link, which you will receive **only** after you are sworn in)
 - Review and sign Communications Agreement
 - Send updated contact info to Nick if you have not already done so (nschmidt@cambridgema.gov)
 - Nominate yourself or a friend for an officer role. Officer elections will take place in July.

Public Comment

- Debbie Shapiro, lives up the street on Broadway. Lifelong bicyclist. 10 years ago, added a rear mirror to bike to improve safety. Here to advocate for this solution, wondering why it's not more popular. It's a boost to safety with no downside
 - City comment: City gives out safety related items; mirrors have been discussed but this is something that we can bring back up