

Bicycle Committee Meeting on June 10, 2026

DRAFT Meeting Notes

Attendees

- Members in attendance: Richard Freierman, Randy Stern, Greg Carey-Medlock, Phillip Allen, Martha Birnbaum, John Ellersick, Kaili Chen, Brett Gallagher, Muna El Taha, Alison Harris, Carola Voelker, Scott Kilcoyne, Vanessa Nwankwo, Mark Boswell, David Yarmolinsky, Eli Miller, Jane Tangen, Martin Gao, Nate Ryan
- Members absent: Guido Cuperus, Amy Flax, Aman Shankardass
- City staff: Nick Schmidt (DOT), Jessica Horne (DOT), Jerry Friedman (DPW), Steven Magalhaes (CPD), Mus Lamia (DOT)

A quorum was present.

Minutes

- Meeting minutes approved for February 11, February 18, and May 13, 2026, meetings

Q&A: Meetings, announcements, and project updates

- Staff provided an overview of ongoing transportation and infrastructure projects throughout Cambridge and responded to member questions regarding project schedules, design details, and implementation timelines.
- Members noted that project maps distributed in advance do not clearly identify the roadway segments referenced in project descriptions (e.g., Sections A, B, and C).
 - Members emphasized that clearer mapping would improve understanding of project limits and design changes.
- Staff clarified the distinction between Street Management and Public Works projects.
 - Street Management generally implements lower-cost, quick-build improvements such as pavement markings, signs, and operational changes.
 - Public Works projects typically involve full reconstruction and capital construction activities.
- Broadway Safety Improvement Project
 - Members asked about planned signal changes at the Broadway and Ellery Street intersection.
 - The project includes:
 - New signal phasing.
 - Introduction of a fourth signal phase.
 - A diagonal bicycle crossing movement to facilitate eastbound travel.
 - Signal modifications will be coordinated closely with pavement marking installation.
 - New bicycle signal heads will be installed in advance and activated when roadway markings are completed.

- Staff emphasized that signal infrastructure and pavement markings must be implemented simultaneously for safety and operational reasons.
- Outer Huron Safety Improvement Project
 - Staff reported that paving work is currently scheduled for fall 2026.
- Quincy Street / Kirkland Street Improvements
 - Members asked whether traffic detours would be required during implementation.
- Beech Street / Elm Street Intersection Project
 - Members requested an update on the Beech Street and Elm Street redesign effort.
 - Staff explained that the project is primarily led by the City of Somerville. Future project update slides will include the Cambridge portion of this project.
 - The Cambridge portion consists mainly of modifications on Beech Street, including:
 - Additional pedestrian space.
 - Removal of a slip lane.
 - Short sections of separated bicycle facilities.
- Central Square Planning and Design Work
 - Members asked about the schedule for future public engagement activities.
 - Staff reported that initial public engagement is anticipated in August.
 - Members expressed interest in Bicycle Committee involvement before broader public engagement begins.
 - Staff noted that the effort has significant bicycle, pedestrian, and transit implications and may require coordination across multiple transportation committees.
- Speed Hump Program
 - Members requested an update on the City's speed hump installation program.
 - Discussion included:
 - Locations recently installed.
 - Program evaluation efforts.
 - Future installation priorities.
- Intersection Safety Program
 - Members requested a status update on the City's intersection improvement initiative.
 - Discussion focused on tracking progress at previously identified locations and understanding implementation timelines.

Presentation: CSO Progress

- Network Implementation Status
 - Staff reported no significant mileage changes since the previous meeting because construction season has only recently begun.
 - Members requested additional information on larger CSO-related projects, including:
 - Mass Avenue improvements.
 - North Mass Avenue construction.
 - Construction schedules and anticipated completion dates.
- CSO Compliance and Deadlines
 - Members discussed how ongoing projects contribute toward Cycling Safety Ordinance requirements.

- Staff noted that projects generally must be under construction rather than fully completed to satisfy ordinance milestones.
- Questions regarding Mass Avenue implementation and CSO compliance will be addressed in greater detail during upcoming joint committee meetings.

Presentation: DPW Updates

- Port Infrastructure Improvements
 - Members requested updated project information and design materials.
 - Members emphasized the importance of maintaining accurate public-facing project information.
- Mass Avenue Partial Construction Project
 - Members requested clarification regarding floating bus stops and other design elements.
- Broadway Sidewalk Construction and Temporary Conditions
 - Members discussed challenges created by sidewalk construction near Galileo Galilei Way and Broadway. Concerns included:
 - Pedestrian routing.
 - Bicycle accommodations.
 - Construction signage and wayfinding.
 - Members encouraged the City to provide clearer temporary routing and separation during future construction projects.
- Shepard Street Project
 - Members requested an update regarding project status following previous community engagement activities.

Committee Administration and Onboarding

- Member Onboarding Status Review
 - Staff conducted a live review of onboarding requirements for committee members.
- Requirements Reviewed
 - Swearing-in process.
 - Conflict of Interest Training.
 - Communications Agreement.
- Key Discussion Points
 - Challenges associated with scheduling swearing-in appointments were discussed.
 - Communications Agreements will be distributed electronically for members who have not yet submitted signed copies.

Officer Elections and Leadership Roles

- Overview of Officer Positions: Staff provided an overview of committee officer responsibilities as defined in the committee bylaws.
- Chair Responsibilities include:
 - Setting meeting agendas.
 - Coordinating with City staff.
 - Facilitating meetings.
 - Organizing committee work plans.

- Overseeing subcommittees.
 - Signing official committee correspondence.
- Vice Chair Responsibilities include:
 - Supporting the Chair.
 - Serving in the Chair's absence.
- Secretary Responsibilities include:
 - Attendance tracking.
 - Meeting notes and recordkeeping.
- Additional Information:
 - Officer terms are one year in length.
 - Officer positions are required by the committee bylaws.
 - Staff emphasized that officer roles are intended to support committee operations and are not intended to create significant administrative burdens.
- Election Process:
 - Nominations
 - Members may self-nominate.
 - Members may also submit “friend” nominations for other committee members.
 - Statements of Interest
 - Candidates must submit a brief statement of interest (approximately 250 words).
 - Statements will be distributed to committee members before the election.
 - Election Timeline
 - Friendly nominations due: June 17, 2026.
 - Statements of interest due: June 24, 2026.
 - Candidate statements distributed: July 1, 2026.
 - Election date: July 15, 2026.
 - Voting Process
 - Voting procedures will depend on the number of candidates.
 - If multiple candidates run for a position, paper ballots may be used.
 - Uncontested positions may be approved through simpler voting methods.

Code of Conduct Discussion and Adoption

- Discussion Topics
 - Members reviewed and refined several provisions, including:
 - Expectations for participation and discussion.
 - Use of hand-raising during meetings.
 - Balancing dynamic conversation with orderly facilitation.
 - Encouraging broad participation.
 - Agenda-setting practices.
 - Meeting operations and member responsibilities.
- Key Themes - Members generally agreed that:
 - Dynamic discussion should be encouraged.
 - Facilitators should retain flexibility to manage conversations.
 - Members should actively make space for others to participate.
 - Committee members should be encouraged to propose future agenda topics.

- The Code of Conduct should focus on behavior and committee culture rather than operational procedures.

Work Program Discussion

- Purpose - The work program serves as:
 - A framework for committee priorities.
 - A mechanism for tracking projects and assignments.
 - A tool for organizing committee activities and initiatives.
- Structure - Staff emphasized that the work program:
 - Does not need to be complicated.
 - Can be maintained using a simple spreadsheet or tracking document.
 - May include timelines, responsible members, and project updates.
- Potential Work Program Topics:
 - Bicycle-Friendly Community Designation
 - Staff discussed the possibility of supporting a future application for Bicycle Friendly Community status through the League of American Bicyclists.
 - Cambridge has not applied since approximately 2013.
 - Committee Letters and Advocacy
 - Members discussed how committee letters are developed and transmitted.
 - Individual members may advocate independently but may not represent committee positions without formal committee action.
 - Community Bike Rides
 - Members expressed support for continuing annual community bike rides.
 - Bicycle Lane Obstruction Reporting
 - Members discussed the Bike Lane Uprising platform and its potential value as a tool for documenting bicycle lane obstructions.
 - Interest was expressed in learning more about how the platform could support transportation planning and advocacy efforts.

Future Agenda Items and Member Requests

- Members suggested several topics for future meetings
- Transportation and Infrastructure Topics:
 - Status update on the Speed Hump Program.
 - Update on the Intersection Safety Program.
 - Overview of Chapter 90 roadway projects and opportunities for bicycle improvements.
 - Early engagement opportunities related to the Cambridge Access and Mobility Plan (CAMP).
 - Presentation on Level of Traffic Stress (LTS) analysis and findings.
 - Bicycle facility planning opportunities associated with small roadway reconstruction projects.
- Committee Operations:
 - Calendar planning for future committee meetings.
 - Strategies to reduce scheduling conflicts with other transportation-related meetings.
 - Review of geographic representation across Cambridge neighborhoods.

- Project-Specific Updates:
 - Mass Avenue implementation and CSO compliance.
 - Shepard Street project status.
 - Port Infrastructure project updates.
 - Floating bus stop implementation updates

Next meeting:

- July 15, 2026
- Major agenda items are expected to include:
 - Officer elections.
 - Continued work program development.
 - Project status updates.
 - Review of future committee priorities.

Public Comment

- None