

Joint Bicycle/Pedestrian/Transit Advisory Committees
3/17/21
Meeting notes

Attendance

Bicycle Committee: Ruthann Rudel, Randy Stern, Alison Harris, Gloria Huangpu, John Ellersick, Amy Flax, Mark Boswell

Pedestrian Committee: Robin Bonner, Theresa Tobin, Wade Smith, Pam McLemore, Magda McCormick, Debby Galef, Sandy Goldberg, Jenny Turner-Trauring, Erik Tillman

Transit Advisory Committee: Rachel Nadkarni, Matthew Coogan, Saul Tannenbaum, Jackie Jones, Jim Gascoigne, John Attanucci, Bill McAvinney

Staff: Greg Hanafin (CDD), Cara Seiderman (CDD), Andy Reker (CDD), Adam Shulman (TP&T), Kara Falise (DPW)

Guests: Selma Mandzo (VHB), Ken Williams (MITIMCo), Adriana Santiago (VHB)

Public: James Williamson, Raymond Hayhurst, Gavin Lund

Huron Ave/Glacken Field - Kara Falise (DPW) & Michelle Danila (Toole Design)

- Community meeting held in February 2021
- Two-way bike facility will be located within the existing curbs on Huron Ave, while maintaining 85% of parking
- Intersections/transitions
 - Operator controlled flashing cross walk at golf course to get to new bike path from Huron Ave headed east
 - At Aberdeen headed West, bike signal when cars turn left so bike can also make left turn onto Aberdeen
 - At Fresh Pond Pkwy, still need to coordinate with DCR about how to cross headed East. Cyclists must use ped crossings to get to Huron Ave headed East (note this is an exclusive signal)
 - Q. How cyclists could get down to new Watertown path. A - No plan to make that connection there. Too steep and complex.
 - Q. Bike queuing area at Aberdeen. Could it use bike box turn arrows in markings? A - yes will look into it.
 - Q. Bus delays of 10 minutes on Huron Ave now AM inbound - how to improve that? Major delay is at the Aberdeen signal. Concerned his change (10.5 ft travel lane and 7 ft parking) will slow down buses. It needs a dedicated bus lane. Also, the bus stop near the golf course does not have enough space for bus to pull over into and out of it. A. Initial proposal was to locate bike/ped lane into the reservation, but the reservation goals are a barrier to that.
 - Q. At the golf course, cyclists should have a separate green crosswalk from ped crosswalk to minimize conflicts. A - will think about it. Q. Huron Ave has exclusive light for peds and bikes, so diagonal crossing is possible when headed East on the new path to get to Huron Ave east. Could paint a green diagonal at FPP to make it clearer?
 - Q. At Huron, could eliminate right turn lane in AM to give bus priority.
 - Q. This will cost transit. Better to eliminate parking on the East bound side to enable a bus lane.
 - Q. Why can't bike path go in reservation if its porous asphalt?
 - Q. This will be bad for transit. Will there be a traffic analysis to show what delays will be expected with this plan for transit and other vehicles? A. Yes, have been trying to optimize Aberdeen signal using pre-covid data. Will bring back analysis to these committees.

Volpe/MIT - Ken Williams (MITIMCo) & Selma Mandzo (VHB)

- [Presented updates since last meeting with the Committees.](#) Aiming for April 6 planning board and a second meeting as well.
- Removed left turn from Bway into garage, now left further east at 5th street, then left into garage. Saves trees, and reduces bike/ped conflicts
- Original plan at Kendall Way allowed peds and bike access through pocket park at Bway. Now allows service vehicles to turn off Bway, so fewer trucks coming on Broad Canal Way, making it more friendly.
- Potter St at 5th St, widen and round intersection to improve visibility for bikes/peds, maybe raised area too
- Potter St - replace sharrows with 2 way cycle track, eliminating parking there.
- 5th St - original plan had some cycle tracks, new plan has full 2 way cycle track for entire stretch of 5th st. Still open questions about crosswalk locations
- 82 parking spots overall reduced to 41 parking spots. Plus more reallocated for short term/loading, and active curb.
- Q. Broad Canal Way is supposed to be pedestrian oriented and comfortable. Won't be successful if ubers etc are there. Better to have on Potter and 5th. A. Safety is at the forefront, critical for, but retailers want pick up drop off (projections only 15-20 in AM and PM?)
- Great to have cycle tracks on 5th and Potter, how will they connect to adjacent infrastructure, eg at Third St? A- Still much to design.
- Where will shuttle bus stop be and for whom? A - TBD
- Fifth St and Broad Canal Way would be good to have traffic calming at intersection, eg raised intersection.

Public comment

- Gavin Lund - Thank you for revised proposals for 5th and Potter, much better.
- Broad Canal Way - to be shared ped/bike zone with drop offs by vehicles. Curbless.

MBTA Updates - Andy Reker (CDD)

- Less frequency on bus routes, some route suspensions (68, 72, 79, 351)
- Red/green reduced schedules, but only by a few minutes
- Fitchburg line - no weekend service, only 6/7 daily trains, plus through April 30 bus replacement only
- Green Line extension. Lechmere station to open late summer 2021. Service will then extend to Union Sq station. But no elevator for at least a year in Union Sq Station.
- Q - James Williamson. What is the delay on the 77 bus now? Why is the elevator in Union Sq delayed? A - Specifics not on MBTA web site. Elevator delayed because the developer, who is funding it, did not get funding in time.
- Q - Gavin Lund - Is the community path still on track to open at end of the year. A - Don't know.
- Q- Gavin Lund - Is the city pushing back on MBTA reductions? A - Yes, especially on 68. Students at Rindge and Latin need buses.

Ragon Institute

- MIT Infectious disease center on Main St, between Albany St and Portland St
- Raised cycle track eastbound on Main St. Design ensures there will be space for a separated lane on other side of street for when that work is done.

- Small park-like entry way open to public on Main St and intersection of Main and Albany St
- Green roof
- Q – Concern that in this area evenings will be a deadzone. Maybe good lighting would help? Becoming a wind tunnel on Main St. Maybe trees could help. A- Good idea.
- Q - Some sidewalk on private property, is that an issue? No, there will be an easement.
- Q - Public access to bathrooms near bike parking would be nice. A - Unlikely, its a secure room.
- Decided: memo to Planning Board noting need for enhanced lighting for pedestrians, at a pedestrian scale and could be creatively and artistically done (e.g., incorporate with seating), also concerns about wind tunnel effects and could trees/landscape help mitigate. Note appreciation for creating a public space that welcomes the public and provides additional opportunities for pleasant place to sit, eat lunch, etc. Also happy to see the additional crosswalk near Albany street.

Public Comment

- Q - James Williamson - Newtown Court is diagonally across Portland St. Need lighting that does not bother the residents, and maybe amenities for residents. Eg Artistic lighting.

Other Announcements

- Belmont St Reconstruction
 - Meeting 3/24 at 6:00PM
 - Will post summary video by 3/22