Pedestrian Committee Meeting - May 23, 2013
NOTES

Present: Nora Marantz, Sean Peirce, Ben Hammer, Benjamin Williams, Elizabeth Bierer, Magda McCormick, Debby Galef, Helen Rose, Cara Seiderman; Jeff Parenti (Traffic, Parking & Transportation Dept.); James Williamson (visitor)

Intros

Jeff Parenti presents Cambridge Traffic signals
- overview of signals
  City/DCR/MassDot each own signals
- Reporting problems

Engineering Organizational Chart

Crash Rate study
- looked for data -> done next several weeks
- 2004-2012 every pedestrian/bike accident
- partnered with police department
- areas with increased crash rates
- State (MassDOT) data

Types of Traffic signal operation
  Exclusive pedestrian phasing
  Concurrent pedestrian phasing
  LPI = headstart

Traffic signal Policy on website
  Centered around walking
  - Buttons/ Flashing Mode

Question and Answer

Q: New boxes that speak -- process & does it take away from replacing others
A: No – various process getting different places/won’t compete with other projects
  - making new signs for button boxes
  - arrow is raised

Q: Taking out signals? Is there audit?
A: Not engineering questions. No plans to remove; usually happens when doing other things.

Q: Parking Control?
A: New training/ticket people who park in a bike lane.

Q: James (visitor) question mechanical voice/volume concerned about volume/disturbance to others. Also flashing light – Beacon Street – has red light – wants flashing light.
A: If you change one then you have to change others (Helen)

Q: Johnson Gate & Harvard Cambridge Common (still there) and missing buttons.
A: Problem with buttons is they freeze and don’t work.

Q: Is there a City Traffic Engineer? Was there a time when there was one?
A: Yes, there is one and always has been.

Q: About multi-use path where broken yellow line
A: State property – no control.

Project Updates
- Handout on what happening from Bill Dwyer
- Cara will send out updates on meetings

Grand Junction Meeting
- Debby and Elizabeth were there
- Discussion on what MIT owns
- How connects to Somerville path
- How many trains will be there.

James – (visitor) – brought up shipping Ethanol by train. Can be put on agenda meeting

Pedestrian Committee Work – review work done to date

PEDESTRIAN PLAN/PROJECTS/OUTREACH
1. Website – outreach
2. Thematic walks
3. Golden shoes

TECHNICAL
1. Reviewing plans
2. Meetings

PROBLEM INTERSECTIONS
1. Tracking
2. What has been fixed

REPS TO LARGER PROJECTS

DRAFTING ORDINANCE
1. Zoning about fence/visibility
PAMPHLET - about walking
- contribute CitySmart outreach

DPW - Snow stuff (pamphlet, Outreach)

2013
- Pedestrian Plan Update
- Outreach Partnership (i.e. post office)
- Walking w/local businesses

Discussion about restaurant walk
- Pros and cons
- Kendall Square Association
- Pedestrian list serve
- What we do now for outreach

Summer Meeting
- Committee usually does a walk
- Bike Committee – social potluck – August 14
- July meeting - possible walk through Kendall Square
- Business
- Economic Development
- Kendall Square Association

Project – School Children
- schools – walk to school