

## Cambridge Pedestrian Committee

### Meeting Minutes – 9/26/13

Present: Victoria Farr, Andrea Yoder, Bill Dwyer (DPW), Debby Galef, Helen Rose, Allen Breed (MIT), Sean Peirce, Nora Marantz, Elizabeth Bierer, Ryan Westrom, Rose Billeci, Ben Williams

#### MINUTES, AGENDA REVIEW, INTRODUCTIONS

- Approval of Last Minutes: Passed

#### THE DWYER REPORT (DPW)

- Pedestrian Committee generally finds The Dwyer Report to be helpful

#### Western Avenue

- Utility work, street and sidewalk paving
- All crosswalks have been maintained.
- The road is currently open during repaving, but it isn't smooth for bikes or for cars.

#### Huron A&B Projects

- Huron A and Huron B are two separate projects, but both are total rehabilitations related to sewer separation
- Huron A: Currently doing utility work along Huron Avenue to Concord Avenue to the Fresh Pond Parkway
- Huron B: Currently pruning trees and mobilizing along the south-side of Huron Avenue towards Brattle. Some utility work is beginning shortly to remove double utility poles.

#### Myrtle/Magnolia

- This project is finishing up. There may be some excavation and repaving around 93. This project should finish up by Halloween.

#### Land Blvd / Binney

- This project is finishing up.

#### *Binny St Infrastructure*

- 1<sup>st</sup> Street to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street is undergoing utility enhancement to accommodate new development, paid for by the developers.

- 6<sup>th</sup> Street opposite the Police Headquarters should have their sidewalks reconstructed in a couple of weeks.

#### Longfellow Bridge

- This project is underway, but it isn't under Cambridge's jurisdiction.
- Construction-related traffic issues appear to have settled out.
- There is a relatively new intersection configuration and signalization on the Cambridge side, which occurred independently of the Longfellow Bridge project.
  - There has been discussion internally about the apparent lack of warning and lack of signage informing users of the intersection.

#### Miscellaneous

- Scott Street: Switched contractors, and now work is moving along. □ Broadway, Prospect St & East: Grinding all day in preparation for paving. Beginning final paving on 10/7
- Quincy Street: Really successful paving project for all parties involved. Pedestrian ramps from the cooling pipe project are nearly done, and there have been very few problems.
- Broadway in Kendall Square: Paving is most likely temporarily stalled while the rest of Broadway is paved.
- Cambridge Common: There is a dismantled portion of sidewalk in the Common which needs to be repaired.
- Sewer Separation: Projects won't be completed anytime soon. The City is also working to retain storm-water to prevent runoff in the first place.
- Email Bill Dwyer or use the iReport app for any particular concerns or issues with any projects or public infrastructure!

#### EVENTS

##### PARKing Day Debrief

- Cara: Thank you everyone for helping out! This was a much bigger PARKing Day than in previous years.

## *Brainstorming*

### Issues:

- Location was not ideal. Not enough foot traffic during the day.
- Time period missed peak commute times, exacerbating location issue.
- We had no signage or information about the Committee, the space, or PARKing Day.

### Ideas:

- Tent for next year? A tent seemed to lend visibility to Bike Committee.
- Sign-up sheets for volunteering or list-serv emails?
- Create signage for our spot, advertising beforehand.
- Having spaces nearby was really helpful. Having a critical mass of other spots really helps attract engagement.
- Possible Locations: Central Square, Harvard Square, place with high volume and some pedestrian conflicts during all times of the day.

### Space Ideas:

- Create an actual mini-park (Astroturf, potted plants, lawn chairs, etc.)
- Create seating or extra sidewalk space in cramped areas like Harvard Ave/Mass Ave in Harvard Square.
- Could create a crosswalk themed space, or just create a new crosswalk and staff it over the day.

### Spring Event Ideas

#### *Kendall Square Walking Tour / Taste of Kendall*

- The event can be several events: a small tasting tour, a large walking tour, a tour of shortcuts and pass-thrus. This would allow for varying group sizes.
- Can create permanent goodies: walking tour maps, information sheets for future use

- Potential partners: restaurants, Kendall Square Association, Culinary institute
  - Kendall Square Association sponsors lots of similar events fairly regularly, and may be able to handle some of the organizational tasks or some advertising. Alan Breed will send their contact information to Nora Marantz.
- Nora Marantz will be our go-to point-person moving forward (after her wedding, that is). Once we have more info, we can create a dedicated subcommittee to ensure things go smoothly.

## PROJECTS & PLANNING

### Grand Junction Path

- Unclear if there has been another meeting since May. City is re-taking the Grand Junction Path as a project, and is going to work with the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority to develop Galileo Galilei Way to be used as part of the Grand Junction Path. There's also some money from MIT to study the path from Galileo to the river.
  - Jeff Rosenblum will be taking on design, working with committees and the FotGJ group
  - "Friends of the Grand Junction" : a private citizens-group focusing on building the Grand Junction Path, independent of MIT or Cambridge
- Could we walk it?
  - There are currently active trains on MIT's portion. MIT has led a walk on it in the past. The land is currently MIT's, so any city-sponsored walk would require MIT approval. The rail line is currently pretty heavily-used, so unclear in MIT would approve a walk due to potential liability issues.
- Current potential hurdles for GJP: Financing and MIT approval. However, the piece between Main Street & Binney Street is moving forward as part of a park design.

### Fern Street

- Fern Street will fulfill the 1% for Art Requirement for the street work occurring in West Cambridge. The Cambridge Arts Council committee is soliciting proposals, and will choose one project from four different finalists.
  - CAC is using the concept of streets as open spaces, an idea of the playful city, and they are encouraging interactive art pieces aimed towards students moving along Fern Street.
- Two raised intersections along Garden Street have been well-received by the public and the committees (including the Bike Committee), but now the Fire Department Chief says the City can only put in one. The City is choosing the one at Garden St and Hazel St, across from the entrance to Danehy Park.
- City working on figuring out what "bicycle priority" means in terms of pavement markings.
 

Design of street is more or less complete, but pavement markings are still required. Any input would be helpful. This project is going out to bid in approximately one month.

### Harvard Square Place-making

- Very well-attended meeting run by the Project for Public Spaces, held at the

### Harvard Square Starbucks

- a.
  - Participants broke into groups to discuss open space in the square, then were assigned an individual portion of the square to brainstorm at.
- b.
  - Focused on short-term, quick-and-easy solutions. One PPS solution is the new tables and chairs in the small theatre behind the T entrance.

### Walk/Bike to School Subcommittee

- A focused effort to support with subcommittee of Healthy Children Task Force and our combined subcommittee
- Call from Safe Routes to School Massachusetts has things to offer
- Think about our goals and short-term/long-term plans
- Middle schools now have kids traveling further without a bus than they did before
- Constant biking on Garden Street of HS kids going to CRLS
- New census data is available, and our numbers are good (good modal split). Aiming to be the top combined bike/walk city in the country
- Looking at public bus stop locations for access
- Safe Routes to School case-study communities showed effective & non-effective groups

### WINTER CONCERNS & WINTER CONCERNS

- Debby Galef was on a citywide task force to clear the sidewalks, and she would be a good person to contact if committee members have any particular thoughts, concerns, or questions about the snow
- Joann Haass works with Committee for Residents with Disabilities
- City does not plow most sidewalks, but does support sidewalk cleaning through fines and plowing in very high-traffic locations
- Cambridge iReport app allows citizens to report uncleared sidewalks
- Meeting Thursday afternoon for concerns for the new year
- Maybe we could do more research. There are cool innovative ideas for citizen cleaning of sidewalks (snowblower zipcar!) Any way the city can facilitate
- Wider, concrete sidewalks are easier for machines, and mostly only exist in Kendall Square. Most of Cambridge cannot use machines for cleaner, so we need hand-shoveling. And Cambridge is not going to hire folks to hand-shovel the sidewalks for citizens.
- Other idea: using snow patches on the streets as reverse desire paths to advocate for

narrower streets in particular locations. Could organize a small group and

NEXT MEETING ON 3RD THURSDAY OF NOVEMBER

Last two years, joint December meeting. December 11th, @ 5:30 or 6:00?