

Cambridge Pedestrian Committee  
DRAFT Minutes  
June 22, 2017

Present: Debby Galef, Magda McCormick, Sean Peirce, Helen Rose, Joseph Rose, Andrea Yoder, Cara Seiderman (CDD), Dana Benjamin (TP&T), Brian McLane (DPW), Matt Nelson (Police)  
Guests: Sam Almon, Olivia Turner, Paul Fallon

(1) Introductions: committee members introduced themselves, as did guests. We approved the minutes.

(2) Recap of the committee walk on June 10. Greg (the intern) did a great job producing the brochure, and did work to pull the walk together. In future years, we need to make sure we name one point person as coordinator, and that worked exceptionally well. Advertising was really lacking this year. It would have been nice to send out notifications (from each individual committee member) on social media. We should also notify city councillors, who could include the advertisement in their weekly newsletters. Different people heard about the walk from different places.

The length of the walk and what was being shown were good. The walk was almost 2.5 hours. Half the group did not make it through the entire walk, and it was good to have proximity to the T so people could leave when they wanted to.

Starting an hour earlier worked out very well (especially because the walk did not start on time).

Now we need to consider where to explore for next year. For later discussion.

"Improvement of the Year" or "Project of the Year": we brainstormed about this during the May meeting. We could consider making this a standing item on the agenda. Magda pointed out that it can be difficult to remember which project or improvement took place in the past year. Perhaps have "ten great things about walking in Cambridge" list. Tie it to something on the calendar. CDD did a magazine this year, and if that happens next year, we could potentially tie into that. Perhaps look at the five year plan for recent completion dates. Consider also a "most wanted" list. Winner & runner up. "Ten things that make Cambridge a walkable city". Consider this for the agenda in September or October.

Cara said we did not get funding to update the pedestrian plan this year, but they are going to try again for a future year.

(2a) Police Update: Matt said that there is one finalist for the Police Commissioner who is going through the process. The whole "meet the finalist" is on the website. The finalist gives a 30 minute talk, then there was a little time for Q&A. The final decision is up to the city manager.

(2b) Vision Zero: An international movement to reduce/eliminate injuries & fatalities from transportation down to zero. Cities formally adopt it and then implement it. In Cambridge, Sean is the Pedestrian Committee's representative. They are trying to figure out what their work plan is. Cambridge is already close to zero. Incidents here are so rare and idiosyncratic, that it can be hard to draw conclusions from data. Central Sq, Harvard Sq, Inman Sq are the hotspots. There is a draft

Vision Zero plan. Figuring out how to engage with ride sharing organizations (Uber, Lyft) is a challenge, as drivers sometimes do not obey the law (e.g. sitting in bike lanes).

(3) Intersection and Signal Improvement Requests: Dana described our intersections and explained concurrent with leading pedestrian indicator. Sam (in absentia) had four locations where there are no concurrent signals and wanted to know why. Garden & Mason: crossing Mason is concurrent, but crossing Garden is exclusive (with a button). Dana says the signal phasing (the order in which people get green lights, and when they get the green lights) is fine, but the signal heads need replacing. Dana said a new signal controller has been installed that will allow some of these changes. The buttons will be removed, and every crossing will be protected (no vehicle conflicts). Changes should be made by the end of the summer.

Garden & Linnaean (waiting on traffic counts to make a decision on what to do, currently requires a button, is exclusive phase), Huron & Lakeview (waiting for DPW project to wrap up, Dana doesn't see any problems adding concurrent signals). Brattle & Fayerweather (currently on a button, with loop detection, although the loop detection is broken so cycle is coming on over every time).

Mt. Auburn St & Belmont St: two out of three crossings are on push buttons. The third button comes up every time (with no conflict). Cambridge will be revising the crossing to remove the buttons. Will be a two stage crossing for Belmont St. There is no signage for cars not making a left turn from Mt. Auburn onto Belmont (double yellow lines and the geometry prohibit it).

Linear Park Crossing (Mass Ave & Cedar St): New ramps have been added, there will be several bike signals, for Linear Park cyclists to cross Mass Ave. Should be happening this summer.

(4) Infrastructure Project Updates: Brattle St: contraflow bike lane (into Harvard Square) is a desire. Done through participatory budget process. A lane of traffic will be removed. A buffered and protected two-way bike lane will be installed on the East Side of Brattle. Contraflow bike traffic has been counted and is significant. Brattle & Mason will become a four way stop.

Mass Ave between Trowbridge & Bow St will have a protected bike lane added (is currently a regular bike lane).

Inman Square: the current plan is closest to "bend north side" that was previously shown to the committee. The Inman Square neighbors & business association also preferred that option. The city will be putting together an advisory committee that will review things as we move forward. There will be other opportunities to have input as the design advances. Cambridge St going to four lanes between Hampshire St (Antrim St) to Springfield St. There are also separated bike facilities and ample sidewalk space. This intersection is very complicated, given all of the protection (for crosswalks & bike facilities), support firehouse, allow bus stops. We could have another bike/pedestrian/transit committee meeting to discuss signal timing and more nitty gritty details. Antrim Street is flipping directions. City is considering flipping Fayette. The overall signal cycle is very long (2m), and will come down to the standard (90s) length for Cambridge.

Fern Street: there have been concerns about skateboarders using the street; concerns include whether this will cause some of the artwork to deteriorate, or whether their presence will impact other users. Observations and conversations with users to/from the school indicate street users are enjoying the street. There is a sidewalk on the other side if people do not want to walk on the path.

(5) Development Project Reviews: Broadway between Ames & Galileo. Sean reports that where there is no sidewalk, some pedestrians are walking in the street (unsafely).

Willard Street: Magda said a presentation has been made to the bike committee (the plan is happening because of sewer separation and flooding); do we want to hear from them too? Adding 4' bioswale, and keeping bike lane, one side of parking, and one travel lane, plus two sidewalks. Additional street trees will be added. Not a high traffic street. Parked cars are on opposite side of street from bike lane.

(6) Next meeting: we will meet to walk the Volpe Site. Cara has a staff person coming from CDD to talk about the rezoning. Meet at the Otto Pina sculpture (steaming ball) at Point Park at 6pm on July 27. Sean will see if he can get someone from Volpe to talk to us (succinctly).

July 19 there will be another meeting (Cambridge Redevelopment Authority) to talk about Binney Street. Cara will send out further details in the Pedestrian Report.

Cara will be away for two weeks so if there are any changes or announcements for the pedestrian report, send them to Greg the intern.

We will decide at July meeting where we will meet/walk in August.