

Cambridge Pedestrian Committee Meeting January 25, 2018

Attendees

Fatima Akter, Andrea Duchesneau, Jodie Cohen-Tanugi, Debby Galef, Magda McCormick, Sean Pierce, Johanna Pittman, Helen Rose, Joseph Rose, Sam Stern, Greg Hanafin (CDD), Dana Benjamin (TP&T), Brian McLane (DPW)

Agenda Review, Minutes

- December Minutes approved

Snow (Presentation by Brian McLane from DPW)

- Historical snow data shared. Cambridge averages about ~48 inches per year...
- There are many factors that go into predicting winter weather and snowfall
 - El Nino...And all sorts of other weather anomalies...
 - Siberian snow cover and temperatures
- Seeing less towing need during snow parking bans, social media alerts seem to work...People actually moving cars
- Residential exemption program – if you are elderly, or infirm, city workers shovel for you ~80 people on the list; have to be infirm + low-income...
- Space-savers: Unwritten rule that they don't get touched for the week...That's starting to change, and it is a written rule that they're illegal...
- Questions? Middle of night snow removal complaints, what is the balance of that?
 - Yes, get complaints, but night time is the only time to do it without causing overwhelming congestion...
 - Not clearing parks well? Snow clearers start with city services/buildings/schools/heavy use parks, so lesser use parks get lower priority...
- Do you have data on the # of tickets issued? Or the amount of \$\$\$ raised? Have data, but didn't bring it...
 - DPW puts fliers on doors to get people to shovel...
 - Checking sidewalks the day after
 - PCOs take routes too, to look for unshoveled sidewalks...
 - Could we raise the rate on tickets? To discourage scofflaws...Challenge is that tickets don't get someone to shovel, and we can't do liens on their property tax bill, so we can't enforce them shoveling, or shovel it for them and bill...
 - Raise taxes to pay for more clearance? Several people raised this...
 - Something like Snowbuddy.org?
- Ice can be tricky for clearing crews, and sometimes forms on streets even when temperatures don't drop below freezing
- Catch-basin map? CambridgeGIS – under storm water, you can see the entire storm and sewer systems to see where your local catch-basins are...
- Dead-end streets policy? Hard to get to because they require particular-sized equipment, smaller, and so they have less clearance...

- 7 sidewalk clearing vehicles – they would love to have more of them, but they’re pricey, and have high maintenance cost

Infrastructure Projects

- **Porter Square (Presentation by Dana Benjamin from TP&T)**
 - Dangerous and confusing, and long delays, users hate to wait...
 - Lots of crashes, 2 deaths in 2016, 1 ped, 1 cyclist...
 - Island might stay
 - Slimming down cycle length from existing 120 seconds to somewhere between 90 and 105...
 - Bus-slip lane, taking away a few parking spots near the commuter rail stop on northbound side of Mass Ave...
 - Confusion with the flashing crosswalk...Rapid flash at Mass Ave & Davenport...
 - Yielding studies up and down Mass Ave, this was one of the worst crossings
- **Inman Square** – Tuesday, January 30 is the next public meeting
 - There is a high level of community support for the moving forward with the reconstruction but a vocal minority did not like redesign of Vellucci plaza, because of the loss of a few trees, so staff and consultants reviewing one of the early configurations again...
 - [Update: City does not take the tree removals lightly and have looked extensively at other design concepts; however, they do not meet the primary goal of creating a safe intersection for all users, so cannot be pursued. The City is committed to a comprehensive tree planting plan (expanded soil volume, watering), which will likely exceed the current tree canopy in the project area within 10 years]
- **Allston I-90 Project** – Debby went to a meeting at Morse School, and people were very upset, saying MassDOT is not being responsible in delaying West Station until 2040
 - How much can Harvard Contribute?
 - Ari Ofsevit (former bike committee member) had a proposal for at grade version that was better for pedestrians...
 - Stopping right turn lane from Soldiers Field Road, remove ramp, for wider pedestrian path along the river...
 - Debby to write a letter about the train station on behalf of the Committee, and thank them for the pedestrian improvements...

Pedestrian Committee Work

- **December meeting**
 - Nice chatting with transit/bike committee members
 - Mt. Auburn corridor study was a big topic...February meeting, the transit planner will come discuss with us...
 - Doing bus lane demonstration end of May / beginning of June...
 - In conjunction with DCR updates to the Fresh Pond / Mt. Auburn intersection
- **Summer walk** – Western Ave. – Putnam – River Street loop
 - Alternative routes from Porter to Harvard Sq – Non-Mass Ave...

- Welcome to Cambridge walk – City hall, City Hall Annex, Public Library, Board of Ed building...Tailor it to what would be open on Saturday...
 - Walk date? June 16, June 9
 - Turkey Trot walk?
- Family walk...Start at the library and go to Lamplighter, Barismo on the way?