

Pedestrian Committee

Meeting on May 22, 2025

Draft Meeting Minutes

Attendance

- Members in attendance: Robin Bonner (Vice Chair), Debby Galef, Jenine Turner-Trauring, Logan Read, Sean Peirce, Maryann Quinn, Janet Stein, Kevin Leckey, Thomas Marsh
- Members not in attendance: Jeannine Powers, Xander Mitchell, Michael McGowan, Bernhard Nickel, Alexandra Hallowell
- City staff: Nick Schmidt (DOT), Quinn Murphy (DOT), Moe Hammad (DOT), Melissa Miguel (DPW)
- Visitors: Catiana JP, Nahid Chowdhury, Heather Hoffman

Announcements

- Sandy Goldberg, John Leo, and Jesus Armenta resigned from the Pedestrian Committee. They were thanked for their service.
- February 27, 2025, draft meeting minutes approved
- March 27, 2025, draft meeting minutes approved

Project Updates

- From Nick Schmidt on behalf of the **Department of Transportation (DOT), Transportation Planning Division:**
 - [Linear Park](#) redesign – construction to begin in July 2025
 - [Grand Junction Connector](#) project launched last night
- From Moe Hammad on behalf of the **Department of Transportation (DOT), Street Management Division:**
 - Updates on 6 projects: Broadway, Aberdeen Avenue, Cambridge Street, Main Street, Waverly, and Vassar Street
 - There will be an Open House for Cambridge Street, date TBD. The City is also installing flexposts and signs prohibiting riding bikes on sidewalks.
- From Melissa Miguel on behalf of the **Department of Public Works (DPW):**
 - [River Street](#): ongoing construction
 - [Harvard Square Plaza](#): 10 years in the works
 - Kiosk ribbon cutting on May 30
 - Various Chapter 90 projects including on [Huron Avenue](#), [Park Avenue Chestnut Street](#), [Elm Street](#), [Webster Avenue](#), and [Dodge Street](#)
 - June 4 from 4-6 PM Open House on Chetwynd Road becoming a Shared Street

Pedestrian Committee Work Planning

- Three committees established, members can be involved in one or more:

- “Study the City” – Identify and inventory sidewalk/walking issues in the city. Could include more crosswalks where we think they’re needed – situations beyond what can easily be reported via SeeClickFix
- Open Streets – other cities have them, why can’t we? Start by inventorying “Camberville” events that close streets to motor vehicles
- Net Zero Transportation Plan – Review proposed actions identified by the Net Zero Advisory Committee and choose one, or some, to work on – Janet's daughter is member and Stephanie Groll is City’s Net Zero Transportation Plan project manager
- Two of the three identified subcommittees have only one member. We need more volunteers for these subcommittees, but they cannot exceed six people. If we don’t get more volunteers, subcommittees may be combined.
- Safety Study of the City:
 - Maryann Quinn is concerned with hard-to-see curbs and wants the City to paint or otherwise make them visible.
 - Sean Peirce suggested that this subcommittee can compile a list and meet with the City. Most efficient would be to align with DPW 5-year plan. Identify what project is large scale vs. small scale.
 - Maybe the first step is to bring these to Melissa. She is willing to meet and discuss the location and possible manage these under Miscellaneous Sidewalk Requests. Send request to Nick to send to Melissa.
 - DPW has an interactive map of planned projects. Try and separate projects into short, medium, and long term. Take notes to record process for future Committee members to be able to look back on.
- Support Net Zero Transportation Plan:
 - [Click here for the list of draft actions from the plan](#)
 - Cambridge has a Net Zero emissions plan by 2025. Janet reviewed these recommendations and goals. There is a Community Engagement section to build awareness of sustainable mobility and to address equity
 - Stephanie Groll, Net Zero Transportation Plan project manager, suggested neighbor-to-neighbor walks, not City-run (these could look like the community bike rides the Bicycle Committee sponsors)
 - All mode etiquette and education:
 - This is needed, especially with the increase in new modes of transportation such as scooters, e-bikes, bikes pulling trailers, etc.
 - Are there ways to have more transparency about decision making?
 - Volunteers are needed for this committee as Janet is currently the only one.
 - Nick will send an email and if no one signs up Janet can join the Safety Study Subcommittee
- Camberville Open Streets
 - This subcommittee is on hold because it lacks a clear mission, leader, or volunteers
- Full participation by all Pedestrian Committee members is encouraged; all members should join a subcommittee or contribute to a work product.
- Next steps are up to the existing subcommittees and they can reach out to Nick and Quinn for support if needed

- Rethink meeting frequency, length, detail, etc. Nick is looking for input on this.

2024 Sidewalk Riding Data

- Cambridge tracks bicycling riding at 16 intersections every two years. These counts include people who bike on the sidewalk.
- While overall numbers have increased, the rate of sidewalk riding (i.e. those not in the street or bike lane) decreased from 14% in 2003 to 5% in 2024.
- The overall number of bicyclists increased from 5,287 in 2003 to 23,431 in 2024
- The only spot where riding on the sidewalk has increased is Memorial Drive and Western Ave. Bridge. Committee members discussed that this location is uniquely stressful (e.g. multi-lane roads, regional traffic, and a lack of connecting bikeway on the Boston side).
- Logan Read suggested counting how many are on Bluebikes on the sidewalk in the survey and cycling in general. Nick agreed and will add this in the next round of bicycle counts in 2026.

Public Comment

- None