HOP ON BLUEBIKES TO GET YOU WHERE YOU NEED TO GO

By: Imani McLaurin, Intern at the Community Development Department

luebikes is Metro Boston's publiclyowned bike share system, located in the municipalities of Arlington, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Newton, Revere, Somerville, and Watertown. As a public transportation system, Bluebikes is owned by the municipalities in which the stations live – it is your system! In 2021, Bluebikes will have more than 400 bike share stations, with 70+ in Cambridge. We have already seen recordbreaking days and are excited to see how many people will ride this season!

MEMBERSHIPS

We offer annual memberships for just \$99 and monthly memberships for \$20, which both include unlimited rides for as long as 45 minutes; longer rides bring about extra charges. Membership is a good idea if you plan to use Bluebikes regularly. In the event that you do not use Bluebikes enough to become a member, you can purchase a single ride or a 24-hour pass in the kiosk or on the app.

Bluebikes offers various kinds of discounted memberships to get you riding when you want to:

- Income-Eligible Bluebikes
 Memberships: Discounted Bluebikes
 memberships are available to income-eligible
 individuals aged 16+ who participate in
 qualifying public assistance programs OR
 who meet income guidelines (up to 400%
 of the federal poverty line). Learn more at
 cambridgema.gov/bluebikes
- **Corporate Membership:** Employers and Institutions enrolled in Bluebikes Corporate Program cover part or all of the cost of a Bluebikes membership for their employees or students. Find out more at **bluebikes.com**
- Cambridge Youth Discount passes: The City of Cambridge offers \$25 annual Bluebikes memberships to all high school students ages 16+ who live in Cambridge! Email transportation@cambridgema.gov for more information.
- **Essential Workers Program:** Free 90-day passes for employees at groceries, pharmacies, retailers, and restaurants. Learn more here: cambridgema.gov/bluebikes

FREE PASSES TO VACCINATION APPOINTMENTS

Metro-Boston riders can take a complementary lift to their vaccine arrangements, thanks to the support of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, the title sponsor of Bluebikes. For more information, please visit: www. bluebikes.com/blog/covid19

CAMBRIDGE'S FIRST UNICORN BIKE!

In 2020, the City of Cambridge partnered with the Cambridge Public Schools to host a contest for high school students to design their own Unicorn bike. Like many of the Bluebikes unicorns that celebrate specific neighborhoods, this bike was intended to give students a creative outlet to express their civic pride.

Cambridge, like the names of schools, and a few other little fun things just for people to look at."

Teacher Michele Watson Maxwell of the Rindge School of Technical Arts brought the project to her students as part of their Creative Design program. "The RSTA offers Live Work & Contests to all scholars who are enrolled in the Creative Design Program...this Bluebikes project fit perfectly within the realm of our "live work" contests that students typically compete in."

After the designs were completed, the bike was planned to be revealed in April, but the COVID pandemic prevented the unveiling of this fabulous Unicorn bike...until now! The Cambridge Unicorn has been deployed and now live in the Bluebikes fleet. Keep your eye out for this spectacular bike!



Artist Statement from Alba Cruz-Pimentel

"My teacher thought it would be a good idea for us to compete in the Bluebikes contest. I feel like Cambridge is very diverse, so I put a lot of color. I added some other things that reminded me of

HEALTHY AGING AND CYCLING IN CAMBRIDGE



he Healthy Aging and Cycling program was designed to address barriers to cycling for older adults, which were identified through a survey of older adults in Cambridge. The three barriers identified included: fear of motor vehicle traffic, concerns about physical ability to ride a bicycle, and not owning a bicycle. This program intends to address these barriers by providing spin and strength classes, a refresher on the urban cycling basics, and training on renting Bluebikes, our publicly-owned bike share, for individuals who do not own a bike.

In 2020, the Community Development Department (CDD), in partnership with the Council on Aging, launched a new initiative to provide support to overcome these barriers. The goal of the program is to make bicycling more accessible to older adults – for transportation as well as recreation. While many bicycling programs intended for older adults offer one-off workshops and clinics, the Healthy Aging and Cycling program is intended to provide consistent and sustained support around bicycling, acknowledging that it may take time and consistency to work up to riding a bicycle again.

As a publicly-owned transportation system, Bluebikes may present an attractive and affordable transportation option (an annual membership is only \$99, with income-eligible pricing also available), especially for individuals who do not have convenient bicycle storage. Due to their weight, however, Bluebikes are sometimes not an accessible option for older adults trying to return to bicycling. An added benefit of the exercise and fitness training is that it may help to equip older adults with the strength and balance needed to comfortably manage riding bike share bicycles.

HEALTHY AGING BICYCLE PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

- a. Virtual Webinar Series about urban cycling basics
- b. Healthy Aging Cycling Coffee+Tea Hour, a monthly virtual meet-up for older adults
- c. Power Pedal 8-week indoor spin and strengthening class
- d. Outdoor on-bike refresher course covering bike fit, basic cycling skills, bicycle maintenance, and rules of the road.
- e. Group ride series on protected infrastructure on Cambridge streets, such as Western Avenue and Memorial Drive.

VIRTUAL WEBINAR SERIES

CDD launched its Healthy Aging and Cycling in Cambridge program with a virtual webinar series covering bicycling considerations specific to older adults. Over the course of the 5 1-hour weekly webinars, participants learned about: cycling basics for older adults, bicycle fit, modifications for bicycles for ease of use, adaptive bicycles, the City initiatives to improve street design and safety for users of all ages and abilities. The success of the program prompted the organization of Healthy Aging and Cycling Coffee+Tea Hour: a monthly virtual meet up hosted by CDD. The meet up is intended to provide continued support around bicycling for older adults and to serve as a networking forum for older adults interested in bicycling, where participants share experiences, plan rides, and provide tips.

POWER PEDAL - A VIRTUAL FITNESS CLASS

In bicycling, "Power Pedal" is when you position

the pedal to provide the strongest possible first pedal stroke to launch off from a standing position. With the help of a Cambridge in Motion Mini-Grant, this class meets twice per week and works towards improving mobility movements and performance, helping older adults to build the foundational strength, balance, and flexibility needed to return to bicycling. When the class is able to meet in person, it will include a spin workout to improve on-bicycle strength with minimal risk of falling.

SOON TO COME

Once we are able to resume in-person programming, older adults will participate in on-bicycle skill clinics. The Outdoor On-Bike Refresher Course specifically focuses on maneuvering, balancing, response time, and other bicycle handling skills in an off-street environment. The Group Ride Series will begin with group rides on off-street bicycle facilities and work up to on-street riding, navigating intersections, route planning, and practicing riding to common destinations for errands.

Through this program, the City of Cambridge aims to foster a community of older adult bicyclists, provide information around bicycling as an older adult, and help older adults gain the physical preparedness and confidence to return to biking as an older adult. We hope this helps to build a comprehensive framework and support system to continue to expand Cambridge's vibrant bicycling culture for all ages and abilities.

To find out more about this program and other bicycle workshops in Cambridge visit www.cambridgema.gov/bikeworkshops



"I have been very interested in meeting cyclists in my age group. I took the survey when the Senior Center was still open and hoped something would come from that...I always leave the [virtual meet ups] very energized. I have learned so much about routes; I've met other riders including one in my neighborhood. I've gotten more confidence to ride on the roads. It was a huge breakthrough for me to find out how to get to Minuteman without riding to Arlington on Mass Ave!!" – Carol

"So far the classes have exceeded my expectations. The quality of the instructors is more than I expected. I thought it might be too easy, but the instructors challenge us and provide information about how the muscles we work are used in biking. This is very motivating. I've done all the classes so far. I look forward to them. I also went walk/jogging yesterday for the first time in quite a while because I feel more connected to physical exercise now." - Anonymous student

"Thanks so much to you and The City of Cambridge for offering the get-ready-for-bicycling workouts. I absolutely love Cindy Sullivan and her sessions. She provides excellent exercises and helps us understand how they relate to bicycling. She also encourages us to adapt the moves to our own needs. Likewise, she is responsive to participants' input...I am selective with workout zooms and instructors, and she is terrific in my book. I feel great after each session and motivated to continue." - Wendy S.



students with the skills needed to independently get around town as they grow older.

2ND GRADE

In second grade, students spend 4 Physical Education classes learning sidewalk, parking lot, crosswalk, and intersection safety, as well as skills to walk safely around buses and parked cars.

In the final class, Massachusetts Safe Routes to School introduces bicycle safety, which includes handing out free helmets while teaching proper helmet fit. As part of the City of Cambridge virtual adaptation of the program during the COVID-19 pandemic, CDD worked with Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition (MassBike) to create a series of pedestrian education videos as a resource for teachers and parents/caregivers.

6TH GRADE

Frequently young people first learn how to ride a bicycle in parks and on sidewalks! In order to navigate streets safely, the City, in partnership with the Cambridge Public Schools, created the on-bicycle version of the Safe Routes to School program . The on-bicycle SRTS program teaches 6th grade students effective riding techniques, bike safety, rules of the road, and basic bicycle repair and maintenance, using our fleet of 30 orange bicycles. The 6th grade program launched as a pilot in 2017 and now runs in all five Cambridge Upper Schools. The goal of the program is to equip students with the skills and knowledge they need to cultivate safe riding habits, whether riding in their neighborhoods or commuting to school. Over four to five classes, students learn how to stay visible and predictable through use of hand signals, how to shift gears, how to be conscious of the "door zone," and common repairs to keep bicycles in riding shape. The course builds to an optional on-street group ride that visits local bicycle infrastructure (like bike lanes and off-street

paths) and allows students to apply the skills they have learned with a Cambridge Police Department escort.

DUCATION

BIKE WEEK CONTEST

In 2020 and 2021, due to restrictions around in-person gatherings, Cambridge moved its 6th grade SRTS program online, working with MassBike and Cambridge Public School PE teachers Elizabeth Batcher and Tim Gill to create a series of short videos covering the curriculum. To incentivize students to take part in the training virtually, the City of Cambridge created a Bike Week contest! Students who watched all the videos and handed in the corresponding assignments over the week would be entered into a drawing for a new bicycle. In total 10 Cambridge students were awarded bicycles over the 3 Bike Week contests.

"Both weeks were so much fun! Students learned important lessons about basic bike safety and riding around the city, and students who participated were entered in a raffle to win a bike! With so many organizations closed last year due to the pandemic, bike week offered students a chance to get outdoors, learn about bike safety, and potentially win a bike!" - E. Batcher, **Amigos School Physical Education Teacher**

"I believe in public education. I invest a lot of my time and effort in the public schools of Cambridge, and respect anyone else with a good heart who invests in the betterment of their community, specifically Cambridge. To be involved in collaborative efforts with the Cambridge Community Development Department in organizing a Bike Week program to educate and ultimately give away free bicycles to the youth of Cambridge was inspiring. It made me realize that what we do directly affects people in a positive way; supporting healthy habits, education for healthy living, and a healthy respect among our community." - T. Gill, Tobin Montessori School **Physical Education Teacher**

he City of Cambridge regularly offers free bicycle workshops and in-school programs to support a vibrant bicycling culture in Cambridge. By providing education around urban cycling, bike maintenance, and skill building, as well as special topics such as bicycling with families and winter bicycling, Cambridge intends to provide resources to make bicycling more accessible.

With more people turning to bicycling as a form of socially distant transportation and recreation during the COVID-19 pandemic, bicycle education has become more important than ever. Pivoting to embrace the challenges that the pandemic has presented to in-person programming and events, Cambridge has reconfigured its bicycle education workshops to virtual platforms.

Here is a peek into the virtual world of Cambridge's bicycle education programming!

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL BIKE WEEK AND K-12 BICYCLE EDUCATION

Each year, the City of Cambridge works with all 2nd and 6th graders through Cambridge's Safe Routes to School programs. The pedestrian and bicycle trainings provided through Safe Routes to School prepare students for walking and biking to school while emphasizing transportation choices that are both sustainable and active. Repeated exposure at different ages helps to reinforce concepts around pedestrian and bicycling safety as well as bicycle maintenance and route planning, which equips





BICYCLE RODEOS

Bicycle rodeos offer a fun and engaging introduction to bicycling through games, rides and obstacle courses, which replicate real-world scenarios. Instead of in-school programming during the COVID-19 pandemic, CDD partnered with the Department of Human Service Programs Recreation Division to offer socially distanced bicycle rodeos during the fall and spring of the 2020-2021 school year. Students in grades JK-8 participated in condensed versions of the in-school on-bike SRTS program, learning bicycle helmet fit, ABC bicycle safety checks, hand signaling, and basic bicycle handling skills, with an obstacle course and short rides on offstreet parks and play spaces.

For more information: www.cambridgema. gov/saferoutes.

We are looking for parent leaders to start a walking or biking school bus to encourage more students to walk and/or bike to school. If interested, email aphilson@cambridgema.gov.

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY BIKE WORKSHOPS

Cambridge has expanded its repertoire of Bicycle Education workshops by inviting guest experts to give workshops on a diverse array of topis. To offer a deeper dive into bicycling in Cambridge, our virtual workshops have aimed to present different aspects of bicycling such as cycling infrastructure and Bluebikes bike share, Bike Life, and bicycle camping. Did you know that by participating in one of Cambridge's Bicycle Workshops you qualify for one free helmet per year? See below for a list of bike

workshops hosted on our YouTube page! Learn more at youtube.com/CDDat344

- Everything You Need to Know about Renting Bluebikes!
- Bluebikes: Bike Adjustments and Features
- MassBike FAQs on Buying a Bike and Cycling Basics
- Ask Me Anything with MassBike
- Urban Cycling Basics
- What is all this new bicycle infrastructure?
- Bicycle Mechanics in Depth: Chain
- Bicycle Mechanics in Depth: Brakes
- Bicycle Mechanics in Depth: Air
- Bicycle Camping and Long Distance Riding
- Winter Biking Basics
- Boston Bike Culture Spotlight

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH A SAMPLE OF THE SIXTH-GRADE CURRICULUM:

- 1. At a pedestrian walk signal, people on bikes:
 - A. May cross with pedestrians
 - B. Must either walk their bicycles through the crosswalk or wait for a green light
 - C. May bike through crosswalk, but must yield to pedestrians
- 2. Match the hand signal with its corresponding meaning:



_Right turn ____Stop ____Left turn

- 3. What is the main reason it is better to use your left arm when signaling?
 - A. Most people are right-handed and so it is important to standardize for consistency.
 - B. It is safer to stop with your rear (right) brake, so you should keep your right hand on the handlebars.
 - C. Since traffic generally travels to the left of cyclists, the left arm is more visible to people in the travel lane.
- 4. For a helmet to properly protect your head, it must sit:
 - a. On your hair line
 - b. Two fingers above your eyebrows
 - c. As long as it is buckled it will protect your head
- 5. True / False: If there is a bicycle lane, people on bicycles must ride in the bicycle lane.

Bonus: Explain your reasoning from above.

Answers: 1. B. Must either walk their bicycles through the crosswalk or wait for a green light. 2. B Right Turn; C Stop; A Left Turn. 3. C. Since traffic generally travels to the left of cyclists, the left arm is more visible to people in the travel lane. 4. B. Two fingers above your eyebrows. 5. False

NEW AND INTERESTING TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN CAMBRIDGE



By: Department of Public Works

HURON AVE/GLACKEN FIELD CONNECTIVITY PROJECT:

The City is committed to providing safe connections for people walking, biking and taking the bus along Huron Avenue to access Fresh Pond Reservation, Glacken Field, and the neighborhood.

City staff has been working with the Water Board and the Fresh Pond Advisory Board to develop concept plans to provide:

- A pedestrian path along the reservation between Fresh Pond Parkway and Glacken Field
- 3 new pedestrian crossings connecting the neighborhood with Fresh Pond Reservation
- Improved bus stops that are fully ADA compliant
- A two-way separated bicycle facility between Fresh Pond Parkway and Glacken Field, consistent with the Cambridge Bicycle Plan and the City's Cycling Safety Ordinance.

The plan provides the critical pedestrian and bicycle connections while minimizing impacts on the natural resources of Fresh Pond Reservation. www.cambridgema.gov/glackenfield

WATERTOWN/CAMBRIDGE GREENWAY:

The Watertown-Cambridge Greenway, a multiuse pathway along the former Boston & Maine Railroad Line in Watertown and Cambridge, is currently under construction. Once complete, this Greenway will extend from the Arlington St./Nichols Avenue/Crawford St. intersection in Watertown to the entrance of the Cambridge Water Department on Fresh Pond, for a total of 1.25 miles. Construction on the project began in 2018 and includes drainage improvements, accessibility upgrades and tree plantings. The path is scheduled to open Summer 2021. www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/Projects/

NEW STREETS & SIDEWALKS 5-YEAR PLAN!

he City of Cambridge is committed to improving the roadways, sidewalks and utilities for community members. Below is an interactive map that will help you identify construction projects across the city. By clicking on highlighted streets, you will be able to identify the project name, contact information and a link that goes directly to the project webpage. Before any city construction project begins, Public Works will notify residents and businesses within the immediate area about the work that will take place, what to expect during construction and where to access updates. We invite you to explore the map below as you are now only one click away from viewing projects in and around your neighborhood.

You can learn more about the City Construction Map here: www. cambridgema.gov/theworks/constructionmap







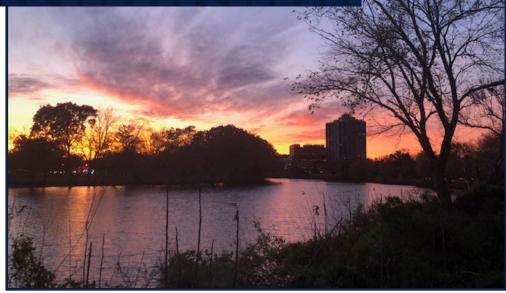
By: Cambridge Pedestrian Committee

uring the pandemic, many found joy in walking to get outdoors, exercise, and socialize. Here is a selection of favorite Cambridge walks from members of the Cambridge Pedestrian Committee for you to check out next!

PEACEFUL MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY, PAM MCLEMORE

Mount Auburn Cemetery is a walker's dream. Established in 1831 as a "rural cemetery" and experimental garden, Mount Auburn Cemetery has since been designated a National Historic Landmark and become one of the country's most significant designed landscapes. The arts of horticulture, architecture and sculpture combine with the beauty of nature to create a place of comfort and inspiration.

Miles of paths and roads allow for easy distancing, and all are closed to bikes, runners, and pets so you can serenely lose yourself in the beautiful surroundings. There are plenty of options for flat ground or you can walk up to the central Washington Tower if you are looking for a bit of a climb. Regular visitors will appreciate how the colors and sounds change with the seasons. It is also a birdwatcher's delight, and recently seen birds are often noted on a board near the entranceway. Not to mention the



magnificent cemetery artwork and monuments with notables and unknowns. My personal favorite is the Henry Coffin Nevins monument sculpted by Augustus Saint-Gaudens.

ECLECTIC ELLERY STREET, ERICA SEIDEL

I get a kick out of walking on Ellery Street. As you go from Mass Ave to Cambridge Street, you pass by such a wonderful cross-section of what Cambridge has to offer – superb oysters and cocktails at Waypoint, the college-town feel of Domino's, the unique alternative adult boutique Hubba-Hubba, many stately homes, and finally

the stunning Cambridge Public Library fronted by family-, dog-, and hammock-friendly Joan Lorentz Park.

CHARLES RIVER SUNSETS, MAGDA MCCORMICK

A great way to escape our pandemic lives is with a stroll along the Charles River at sunset. Plan to be riverside 30 minutes before sunset to watch the rotation of the earth defy the virus in stunning fashion. The John Weeks footbridge near Harvard Square is a popular and lovely spot to admire the drama of nightfall.



DOOR2DOOR BY SCM CONTINUES TO GIVE THE COMMUNITY A LIFT

By: SCM, scmtransportation.org

CM vans and staff have been supporting seniors and individuals with disabilities with transportation to medical appointments, food shopping, to attend meal programs at the Council on Aging, and to Adult Day Health programs for over thirty-five years, when the agency was founded by the cities of Somerville, Cambridge and Medford (SCM). Like so many other for profit and nonprofit organizations, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented the agency with numerous challenges. We want to be sure folks know that we are still on the road.

COVID-19 has certainly added to the daily checklist of our organization. We take driver's temperatures each morning. Vans are disinfected and wiped down numerous times per day and are given a top to bottom spray down weekly. Everyone is required to wear a mask. The driver's area is separated with a plastic screen. All drivers have received additional training on securing passengers seatbelts or wheelchairs with minimal contact. We have reduced capacity in all vans and have blocked off every other row of seats. We feel blessed that we have had no COVID cases since last March.

Do you need to get a ride? Are you unsure of how to contact us or about what our services are at this time? Call us at 617-625-1191

between 9:00 AM and 1:30 PM if you have questions or want to schedule an eligible ride. If you our looking for additional transportation services beyond what Door2Door by SCM can accommodate check www.RideMatch. org for a comprehensive city by city listing of transportation options. SCM will continue to give the community a lift and we look forward to seeing you again.

SCM has always worked its small wonders with a dedicated staff and a shoestring budget. The early months of the pandemic took a toll on ridership and left us wondering if we would pull through. We have received welcome support from local cities, Payroll Protection Plan funding, judicious balancing of staff schedules, state support, the Cummings Foundation, The Charles Farnsworth Foundation and the Cambridge Community Foundation. This support helped us bridge the gaps as ridership slowly increased. We are providing approximately 75 % of our medical transportation. Food shopping is still fairly robust. Adult Day Health Services are down but are expected to rebound as everyone gets their vaccines. Given our long term relationship with Cambridge and other cities' Councils on Aging, we look forward to the day we can safely resume all services.

SHOPPING BY BIKE



he health and psychological benefits of cycling are well known and documented and, as more bicycle infrastructure is built, cycling continues grow as a popular way of commuting to work or school. However, with the right accessories, a bike can also be a practical, utilitarian vehicle for running errands and shopping. According to the National Household Travel Survey in 2017, 35% of vehicle trips made by Americans are only a distance of 2 miles or less. Short distance shopping trips can often be made by bike, and Cambridge is especially well suited because of the city's compactness and flat terrain. But how to carry items home from the store without an expensive cargo bike?

Consider the many sturdy baskets, crates, and panniers now available to cyclists. Many bikes come with a basket attached or are compatible with having one installed. A crate can also be mounted on the front or rear for carrying cargo, or even pets. Panniers, a popular item among Cambridge cyclists, are tough, waterproof bags that come in a variety of sizes for transporting items to and from home. Most baskets or panniers will attach easily to your bike or hang on a front or rear carrying rack. Paniers, as well as some baskets, can be detached and used to carry goods while in the store, eliminating the need for a shopping bag and reducing waste.

With a little practice and preparation, shopping by bike can be quick and convenient. Parking is free and easy, emissions are zero, and you get some exercise, too. Not sure which accessories are right for you? Talk to an expert at one of Cambridge's great bicycle shops!

TWO-WAY BIKE FACILITIES

By: Mark Boswell, Chair of the Cambridge Bicycle Committee

earning to navigate the many one-way streets of Cambridge is an acquired skill for those who bike in the city. However, sometimes this means taking a circuitous route to your destination or using less comfortable streets. To make cycling safer and easier, the City looks for opportunities to install facilities that turn one-way streets into two-way routes for bikes. Two-way bike facilities are also sometimes implemented on two-way streets when they enable better connections. Similarly, contra-flow bike lanes enable people biking to travel against the flow of vehicle traffic in a dedicated lane.

Here are some recently installed two-way and contraflow bike facilities.





QUINCY STREET/ DEWOLFE STREET:

A combination of separated two-way and contraflow facilities along DeWolfe Street and Quincy Street connect Mid-Cambridge and the Harvard University area with the Charles River.

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AMES STREET:

A separated two-way facility runs the entire length of Ames Street, providing a direct route from the river to the Kittie Knox bike path and the East Cambridge neighborhood.

BANKS STREET:

A contraflow bike lane on Banks Street enables two-way bike traffic between Mt. Auburn Street and Western Ave as a more comfortable, less busy alternative to Putnam Avenue.