

Pedestrian Committee March 2011

Agenda:

Meeting Overview & Logistics (15 min)

- New Committee Member Introductions
- Agenda Review
- Minutes
- Open Meeting Law Paperwork

Police Report & Discussion (30 minutes)

Updates, Projects, Announcements (20 minutes)

- Construction Updates
- Street and Bridge Projects: updates & upcoming meetings
- Coming Meetings: CitySmart, GoGreen month, Fresh Pond Day, MayFair, Riverfest - ideas about how we can use these opportunities to promote more walking

Subcommittees and work plan (30 minutes)

Break

Subcommittees meet, report back

In attendance: Amanda Trombley, Debby Galef, Rosalie Anders, Cara Seiderman, Thayer Donham, Helen Rose, Sara Freedman, Bill Dwyer, Pete Kane, Thomson Kao, Varun Mehta, Elizabeth Bierer, Sean Pierce, MJ Jensen, Sgt. Kathy Murphy, Jeanne Cronin

One change to February minutes, Cara will amend.

Cara says there are open meeting laws, and it basically says that everything related to the pedestrian committee is public, there can't be discussions on email lists, and members can't take bribes. The city staff must hand members a copy of the open meeting law, and all members must sign a notice they received it. City staff will bring copies to the April meeting. Any questions, contact Rosalie or Cara.

Police Report & Discussion

2010: 101 reported pedestrian vs motor vehicle accidents

2011: 24 so far. Majority in crosswalks where cars turn across a crosswalk Hot spots: Mass Ave & Pearl Street, Bishop Allen & Prospect St. No obvious variation due to time of day or weather. Patterns tend to be less about the location and more about the types of crashes. Majority are motorists not yielding on turn. Flashing lights (like at Sixth and Binney) on Concord Ave and Fayerweather Street School work well in areas where there isn't a lot going on. Multi-lane roadways at long straight stretches with good sight lines and good visibility.

Most drivers are not from Cambridge (in 2011) There was some discussion that motorists should not see the countdown signals so drivers don't gun ahead of the light to get to a head start.

Nothing specific about drivers' age ranges. Very few young drivers because there are so few young drivers in the city.

Send intersection enforcement location suggestions to Sgt. Murphy

Enforcement: Who does it, where it takes place, how do locations get assigned, philosophy of ticket writing vs warnings (at officer's discretion). One of the performance measures for officers is a certain number of citations.

Some intersections have been improved as much as possible, the next step would seem to be enforcement.

Speed limit reduction would help; legislation has again been filed.

John Pelletier, intern for CitySmart, introduced himself.

Bill Dwyer: construction season has not yet started. All updates on DPW website. Due to weather, ramp-up will likely not happen until the middle or end of April.

Outdoor seating is soon starting, DPW is looking at restaurants. Any concerns about patio seating should be sent to Bill.

Bicycles chained to parking meters can reduce even further the pedestrian walkways. Could restaurants be encouraged to get a bike rack? City website has suggestions on installing a bike rack. Community Development page: http://www2.cambridgema.gov/cdd/et/bike/forms/bike Rack_form.cfm

DPW responds quickly to sidewalk obstruction complaints during the week; response is more complicated in off hours/on weekends.

Cambridge Street/Kirkland: construction will begin soon.

Varun asked about sidewalk repairs in Kendall Square. There is a larger construction project coming. Boston Properties owns much of that area.

Street & Bridge Projects:

Longfellow Bridge meeting upcoming, city staff don't know what news the state will share. Craigie Dam & Drawbridge final marking plans out. Opportunity to put pedestrian crossing at museum of science. MassDOT needs to be told to support 10-foot travel lanes. Helen will draft a letter, Amanda will sign.

Boston continuing to evaluate the traffic patterns on the Commonwealth Ave side of the BU Bridge. City staff will continue to update the Committee as they get more information.

Upcoming Events:

CitySmart: Anders said the city got a grant to do CitySmart, to inundate a neighborhood, section of a community, with lots of information about how great it is to walk, bike, or take transit. Create positive attitude & buzz to try other modes. Start with a mailing. Residents can ask for a kit for walking, biking, transit, carpooling. Kits include information &

goodies; get delivered by bike. Neighborhood events. Pre and post surveys to determine amount of mode shifting.

Has already happened in Cambridgeport, North Cambridge. Small positive trend in Cambridgeport. No change in North Cambridge. Cambridge results not as good as in other areas. City has smaller budget. Large number of people already using other modes. East Cambridge: launches this spring, subsequent events. No events planned at present, including hooking onto existing events (farmers markets, etc).

Need new/fresh ways to promote walking. More difficult than bicycling. Individual consulting: sit down with a map and look at all of the other options. nextbus.com - many people don't know about it.

Go green month in May: how can we sell walking better? Maps with distance circles. Golden Shoes: Stephanie wants to get to a different place where there's not stuff being packed all the time. She wants all the same things in each backpack. Stephanie was going to contact the Brattle. Museum of Science, MIT Museum as other giveaways. Rain ponchos as giveaways. Thayer said she'd get in touch with MIT Museum. Harvard museums (natural history, Peabody).

Amanda gave a background on Go Green month for new members.

Other events: opportunities for people to staff tables at events. To be discussed at outreach subcommittee

Amanda explained the three subcommittees: Community Outreach, Pedestrian Vehicle Interaction Subcommittee, Streetscape

Discussion to reformulate the subcommittees and create work plans. Bike Committee subcommittees meet outside of normal meeting time. They have project-based subcommittees. Another option: entire meetings dedicated to subcommittee work

Future development project: Broad Institute expansion on Ames Street.

Planning Board pays attention to what Pedestrian Committee says.