

**Cambridge Bicycle Committee –NOTES**  
**February 11, 2009**

**Present:** Stephanie Anderberg, Viola Augustin, John Burckardt, Joan Friebely, Ken Field (chairing), Catharine Hornby, Aaron Ladd, Tom Meek, Steve Miller, Sgt Kathy Murphy, George Perkins, Chris Porter, C.R. Rogers, Cara Seiderman (city of Cambridge), Adam Serafin (MIT), Karen Sommerlad (Harvard), Gerry Swislow, Scott Walker, James Wilcox.

**I. Minutes, Agenda Review, Introductions**

1. No changes to January minutes
2. Introductions: Karen Sommerlad, of Harvard Planning Office – liaison to Harvard
3. Update on DCR from last meeting (Ken)

**II. Projects and Planning**

**C. Police Report / Bicycle Crashes (out of order)**

Sgt. Murphy reported on the crashes that have occurred this month.

**A. Go Green Month and CBSM: Planning for Bike Rides, Events, Bike Buddy System, etc (Stephanie)**

1. Broader context: planning to reduce single-passenger car trips
2. Organize around Go Green week (May 9-16) and surrounding efforts / events
3. Volunteer event May 15 – National Bike to Work Day
  - a. Plan to hand out small gift (75 cents to \$1 each)
    - i. Suggestions from committee members: bike lights (but batteries may not last long), bike patch kits (with message such as “use a light at night”), water bottles (too bulky), maps (too expensive), bungy cord (too snappy), ankle band (sounded positive)
    - ii. Send additional suggestions to [sanderberg@cambridgema.gov](mailto:sanderberg@cambridgema.gov)
  - b. Three planned locations
    - i. Kendall Square – Galileo x Broadway
    - ii. Central Square by the Post Office
    - iii. Harvard Square – JFK x Memorial Drive
    - iv. Alewife?; included last year, but maybe not this year
    - v. Another idea: Porter Square: done at one point
  - c. Events throughout the metro area (commuter breakfasts, etc)
  - d. Linking into / encouraging more towns to have bike events
4. Social marketing of mode shifting
  - a. Modeled on programs in Europe, Australia, Portland, OR
  - b. Phone survey – at beginning to establish baseline for what transportation modes people use
  - c. Education phase – series of events, free info – encourage people to try out different modes through bike tours, walking tours, shuttles, etc
    - i. Geographic focus – Cambridgeport
    - ii. Generate lists of facilities accessible along bus routes
    - iii. Gather up available maps and supplement them
  - d. Follow up phone survey to gauge impact

- e. Volunteers for events
  - i. Bike fashion show “À la mode” – Joan (lead), Viola, Scott
  - ii. Shopping by bike, combined with gather people to discuss biking – Scott (lead), George, Catharine
  - iii. Ride in the rain (weather permitting) – Scott
  - iv. Ride at night – Catharine (lead), Scott
  - v. Public education for motorists – leaflets on bikes – Steve
  - vi. Family day for very small kids with helmet fitting – Greenport / Steve
  - vii. Bike film – maybe link to independent or outdoor film festival – Tom
  - viii. Wayfinding map and ride to Minuteman – Chris
  - ix. Sunday ride (Mem Drive?), geared to seniors – CR
- 5. May 16 Ride (Gerry)
  - a. Possible themes: art, history, architecture, African-American Cambridge
  - b. Volunteers
    - i. Jenni previously offered to do brochure
    - ii. Joan, Tom, and Steve offered to help with a literary theme

## **B. Mman wayfinding – how to use and publicize (Chris)**

1. One last sign to go up
2. Once the weather warms, plan is to do publicity (April / May)

## **III. Reports, Updates, and Announcements**

### **A. Project Reviews: 650 Main Street (Main x Portland)**

1. Committee reviewed and made comments
2. MIT Investment – speculative building (office or research).
  - a. Bike parking satisfactorily resolved
  - b. Number of car parking spaces contested – contentious issue
  - c. Mitigation – should encourage T use, biking, walking –
    - i. Suggested fix intersection to aid ped crossing and build small connection portion of Grand Junction: walkway to building
3. Talking points for Planning Board 2/17, 7:30pm [note: rescheduled to 3/3]
  - a. Mitigation is about making it easier *not* to drive
  - b. Walkway is necessary component of Grand Junction, even if small – and of specific benefit to the project

### **B. DCR Projects: BU Bridge, Craigie Bridge/Dam, Magazine Beach Ped. Bridge, DCR Bike/Ped Advisory Committee**

1. DCR Bike-Ped advisory committee met in early February (Steve)
  - a. Used to have heavily metro Boston focused ped-bike committee – now lapsed
  - b. New statewide advisory group with working group by area
    - i. Metro Boston group
      1. How to access DCR’s recreational mission
      2. How to make commuter roads (eg along Charles) multi-use
  - c. In the short term, input on bridge planning will go on. Cara representing city, Steve representing Livable Streets, various other groups represented
2. Update on June 27 / DCR Craigie and BU Bridge projects

- a. Big (\$2 billion) state effort to fix bridges – inc. BU, Longfellow, Craigie (Museum of Science). Complex engineering and traffic sequencing issues
  - b. State stressed for staff/time – hired consultants to come in and rebuild bridges as is. Public response created pressure to use opportunity to make design improvements.
  - c. DCR leadership now more willing to make changes positive for cyclists/pedestrians
    - i. Risk of backlash from drivers – eg upset over gridlock in BU Bridge Circle
    - ii. Letters / meetings important for keeping pressure on side of biking
3. BU Bridge – presentation at [www.mass.gov/dcr/projects/pdf/BU Craigie Follow Up.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/projects/pdf/BU%20Craigie%20Follow%20Up.pdf)
- a. Structural and environmental problems
  - b. During construction – take the lane signs
  - c. Final –
    - i. Capacity study completed for bike lane
    - ii. Undertaking serious reconsideration of BU Bridge Rotary
    - iii. Need traffic storage capacity at Comm Ave. Plan is to have one lane as start over bridge in either direction – splitting into two for second half of bridge to create storage capacity at traffic lights (so three lanes total at any given point – one in one direction, two in the other)
4. Craigie St Bridge – presentation at [www.mass.gov/dcr/projects/pdf/BU Craigie Follow Up.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/projects/pdf/BU%20Craigie%20Follow%20Up.pdf)
- a. Eventual plan – 10 foot traffic lanes, bike lanes in both directions linking to lanes to be added to O'Brien Highway
  - b. Interim proposal – for 3-5 years while bridge serves as detour for Longfellow Bridge – 11 ft traffic lanes, no bike lanes. But why? no reason cannot do final plan immediately.

#### **D. Other**

- 1. Announcements (Cara)
  - a. George Lind flyers distributed – Harvard Square event
  - b. Committee makeup
    - i. New bike committee members to be appointed in coming weeks
  - c. 100% design plans for Mass Highway Belmont-Cambridge-Somerville path
  - d. New Bike law – MassBike wrote guide: <http://www.massbike.org/bikebill/index.htm>
- 2. Desire lines/Street Network Analysis (Steve)
  - a. Facilities sub-committee identifying major travel corridors. Major routes, sometimes with lighter traffic alternatives
    - i. BU to Central to Inman
    - ii. Mass Ave
    - iii. Harvard Square to Alewife (Minuteman wayfinding path)
    - iv. Along Charles River
  - b. Have generated maps to help prioritize city facility work
  - c. Report in progress
  - d. Next steps
    - i. Please look at Google maps version and send comments
    - ii. Need further discussion on how to use
      - 1. As live system on city website?
      - 2. How to incorporate into planning?
    - iii. Need to continue to emphasize that all streets should be bikeable
    - iv. Factor routes into priorities for re-paving and facilities upgrade (Catharine)

- v. Gerry to follow up by email
- 3. New commuter tax breaks – anyone using? (Scott)
  - a. MIT setting up system (Adam)
- 4. Next meeting – add further Facebook discussion (Ken)

#### **IV. Other and Next Meeting**

- 1. Meeting dates for the year – meeting in April to be third Wednesday (April 15)

Next meeting: March 11, 5:30-7:30pm at the City Hall Annex at Broadway and Inman.