

Meeting notes, September 2015, Bicycle Committee

Present: Viola Augustin, Ari Ofsevit, John Goodman, Jim Wilcox, Mike Proscia, Matt Nelson (CPD), Catharine Hornby, Randy Stern, Peter Stokes, David Soares (TP&T), Andrea Williams, Sam Lipson (CPHD), Jonathan Adams, Cara Seiderman (CDD), Katrina Crocker (CDD Intern) (notes by Ari and Mike)

Visiting: Evadne Cokeh, Alex Epstein, Mark Boswell, Sue Scheiner

I. Introductions; Previous meeting minutes approved

II. Misc.

Injury this morning: non-life-threatening injury, driver was cited.

JW: Side guards: no requirement for contracted vehicles, actively being put on DPW vehicles
Alex Epstein (Volpe/Somerville) helped write Boston side guard ordinance, attending. Plan to put this for further discussion at another meeting.

III. Bow Tie Ride (JG) Sept 28. JA sweep, Urban AdvenTours coming as well. Lots of beverages through CPD, need someone to guard food/beverages/check in, etc. Let's not make a big production out of Fresh Pond. DPW will bring tables, chairs.

IV. Park(ing) Day (VA)

Sept 19: Celebration of the bike, 1-2 bikes to decorate, stickers, comments, why they bike, etc. Flyers for bike ride at parking day. Police will have flyers as well. Bring decorated bikes to Bow Tie Ride. JW: We can use the DPW yard for Monday the 15th for prep for Park(ing) Day. Starting set-up at 7. AO: store in 238 Main? Do we want to have some kind of game thing (Peter): can you pack a bunch of groceries on your bike, etc.

V. Grand Junction Draft Report

- The final draft of the report was sent to the committee via dropbox for review
- Copies were handed out at the meeting for reference
- Background on the project was given to visitors
- The City of Cambridge will send comments
- The bike committee (Jon Adams) will put together comments from the bike committee
- Randy: pinch points can be remedied by moving utilities sooner rather than later, more width will be better, especially at the peak hour and with truck traffic
- Jon Adams: frequent construction will mean detours on the path, several alternatives were presented and this looks like the best one, many things can't move
- John Goodman: routing by / around the MIT parking lot near the BU bridge needs improvement
- Cara: the tank in the parking lot *can* move, it isn't a permanent structure. One of the proposed next steps in the original study was to enact zoning to prevent additional

encroachment into the ROW; this still needs to be done (there is an existing overlay district created for the Watertown Branch that does this).

- Peter: what is the cost of moving infrastructure? List costs for each move and prioritize the moves
- Sam: it sounds like the report implies routing the path on Vassar, and not in the ROW?
- Recommend removing the last paragraph from page 2 of the report
- Catharine: comments should also be positive about the scope and breadth of the report
- Group question: what are MIT's next steps? should they negotiate with MassDOT? who will manage the ROW once the path is constructed? concerns about spraying pesticides and snow plowing
- Viola: the report seems to discount pedestrian use because of aesthetic reasons, why not include provisions to beautify this area as well? This paragraph should be removed.
- Group: Vassar Street is part of the bike network in this area, but it is not functionally identical as a path would be

VI. Development Projects

- Please review development projects for Ames Street, Discovery Park, and the Harvard Kennedy School online

VII. Projects and Planning Updates

- DPW:
 - Western Ave is expected to be completed in Spring 2015
 - Huron Contract A is expected to be paved by this fall
 - Longfellow Road will be a new concept for a shared street
 - Flagstaff Park renovations are expected to be complete by the end of the season
 - A new cycletrack has been partially installed on Binney Street (not by DPW)
- Other Infrastructure - Mason Street
 - David Soares discusses multiple options for the repainting of markings on Mason Street. Sharrows, bike lanes, and bike boxes were discussed. The street will be measured to see if bike lanes can fit on a portion of the street.

VIII. Announcements, Other Updates, Upcoming Meetings

- Cambridge is one of the top 10 biking cities in the country! New York was #1...
- A study was recently released making the case for cycletracks from an air quality perspective (will share link)
- Tegin (Teich) Bennett, bike committee member emeritus, is a new transportation planner in the city, taking over the job held by Jeff Rosenblum.