

## **Cambridge Bicycle Committee Meeting**

### **Draft minutes - 2/8/23**

**Committee Members Present:** Mark A. Boswell, Carola Voelker, Randy Stern, Pamela Yang, Conor Henrie, Jim Wilcox (DPW), Amy Flax, Stephen Meuse (TP&T), Alison Harris, Scott Kilcoyne, Guido Cuperus, Brennan Biemann, Diane Gray (Harvard), Eitan Normand, Cara Seiderman (CDD)

**Guest Speakers:** Tenzin Choephel (CDD), Andreas Wolfe (TP&T)

**Public Attendees:** Nahid Chowdhury, Jane Tangen

- Introductions
- Minutes of last meeting accepted
- Winter Ride - March 11 (Tenzin Choephel), 10:00-12:00 AM
  - Ride route - start/end Brattle Square,
    - Mini bow tie? (Garden, Brattle, Cambridge St to Inman, Inman ST to Mass Ave, Mass Ave back to Brattle Sq?
    - Or last years route?
    - Tenzin will send a proposal
    - Mark, Guido, Alison, Randy, can be there
  - Test ride route - Scott
  - Promotion - flyer, reuse from last year
  - Food from city
  - Lead/sweep
  - Count
- May 20, spring ride
  - Tenzin will set up a separate meeting to plan
- Wayfinding
  - Work last year did not conclude
  - Conor
    - Get from POIs to POIs
    - For residents and visitors
    - To let people know how to get places, and also to let people know which is the most comfortable route
    - Reminds public that people are bicycling; also might encourage someone to try
    - Elsewhere - San Francisco has great signage
    - Follow bike network
    - Physical better than virtual
  - What existing wayfinding exists? Is there an inventory? What are the gaps?
    - BU Bridge to Inman (existing)
    - Fresh Pond to Harvard (existing)
    - Some commercial developers have added signs - MIT has some signs, Boston properties has added signs in Kendall Sq, also Cambridge Crossing

- Rationalize to minimize clutter - unique signs, color coded, branding – e.g., take route 2 to East Cambridge. Are there standards for signs that everyone must use?
  - Needs updating as new infrastructure is built
  - Connectivity to DCR paths
  - Rides for kids and seniors using only protected infrastructure
  - Maybe focus on 2, 3 or 4 routes that cross Cambridge, rather than be exhaustive
  - Physical better than virtual, people will use those serendipitously. But it is a challenge to keep up with road changes
  - Coordinate with abutting municipalities
  - Would be very cool if Google or Apple bike directions used our wayfinding. But they may not use it even if we give it to them...
  - Do signs need to go on their own posts? What posts could we reuse? (Not allowed on stop signs). Street sign posts could be reused.
  - CDD is working on a needs assessment for wayfinding and expects to create more standardized guidelines and priorities
- TP&T - Andreas & Stephen
    - Brattle Street Phase II
      - Historical commission has approved phase 2 plan
      - Sparks St to Riedesel Ave
        - Parking both sides, 2-way bike lane on north side
        - Flashing crossing beacon at Sparks
        - Future roundabout here is not currently in DPW 5 year plan for streets and sidewalks, but still under consideration for distant future
      - Riedesel to FPP
        - Parking only on south side, 2 way bike lane on north
        - New brick ped crossing island at Appleton St- curb height
        - New brick ped crossing island at Newell St- curb height
      - Where will there be bicycle signal separation (such as at Mt Auburn and Putnam)? separate car turning and bike signals?
      - 2 crossing islands at Fayerweather - curb height
      - Crossing Island at Lakeview
      - A little narrow at FPP - bike lanes 4 ft in each direction (vs 5 ft in each direction mostly for the rest of the way)
      - FPP to Mt Auburn
        - Parking on south, 2 way bike lane on north
        - New left turn lane going east at FPP
        - Crossing island at Fresh Pond Lane (bike lane to 4 ft each way), and just before Mt Auburn
        - Bike lane continues to Aberdeen Ave on right side of street
        - Signal at Aberdeen to get in and out - going East on Mt Auburn
          - Either take lane
          - Or mountable curb on south side - cyclists could cross with crosswalk

- Heading east on Mt Auburn, could jug handle be added for left turns onto Brattle or Aberdeen, with green paint paralleling crosswalk? (A - No space for a jughandle, green paint is a possibility, but usually used when bike/car conflicts arise, which would not happen here is cyclist cross in crosswalk)
    - Can't eliminate slip lane and bend end of Brattle street because need to continue access to driveways on very end of Brattle Street
  - At Fayerweather, Brattle east will have bike signal but concurrent with yellow left turn signal for cars heading east
  - At FPP - left turns from Brattle heading east will be separated from bikes on Brattle - exclusive phases for each (still conflict with right turning cars on Brattle headed west)
  - Can't have bikes crossing during the exclusive pedestrian phase. Can't have bike green light perpendicular to pedestrian crossing
- DPW Update (Jim Wilcox)
  - Boston properties/MXD work at Broadway - tons of utility work, narrowing both bike and cars lanes, thru June
  - Inman Square - final paving this spring
  - Gore St, North first St - not much advanced over winter
  - Harvard Sq Plaza - still in utility phase
  - Port infrastructure still in water main phase
  - River St - started lane closures for work, 30 months of work...
  - Willard St at Mem Drive - drainage project, lane closures, narrowing of Paul Dudley White path
  - Binney St work thru 2024, will be good when done...
  - Mass Ave 4 - design work continues, MBTA permitting in Harvard Square, advisory committee appointed soon
- Other projects
  - Urban design guidelines development continuing; will be another opportunity for public input
  - Linear path project will be reviewed with the Committee on February 15; key input is needed on addressing the path intersection near Russell Field at Alewife headhouse
  - Lechmere Canal Park - nothing definitive, will come back to planning board
    - Developers now proposed reddish asphalt path - DPW, City, Conservation Commission, many neighbors, accessibility folks think this is a good solution, a few neighbors still want stone dust...
    -

Next Meetings:

February 15: Joint Transportation Committees

March 8: Bicycle Committee