

Joint Transportation Committee Meeting
December 12, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Note: CDD = Community Development Department; TP&T = Traffic, Parking, and Transportation Department; DPW = Department of Public Works

Attendees: Cara Seiderman (CDD), Michael Mantello (CDD), Stephen Meuse (TP&T), Jerry Friedman (DPW), Melissa Miguel (DPW), Mark Boswell, Sandy Goldberg, Carola Voelker, Bill McAvinney, Amy Flax, Jenine Turner-Trauring, Makayla Comas, Robin Bonner

Guests: Bernhard Nickel, Lukas Ballo

November minutes approved.

DPW Updates

- Ongoing construction
 - Inman Sq. – Project complete except for minor punch-list items
 - Port Infrastructure Project – Harvard St bike lane was temporarily paved for the winter, temporary measure until street is fully reconstructed (2025 +/-)
 - River Street – Utility work will continue throughout the fall and winter; work in and around Carl Barron Plaza and the MBTA bus stops to begin next week
 - Willard Street – Continuing drain installation this fall and early winter
 - Binney Street Park – Continued work on landscaping, installation of pervious multi-use path (which is a section of Grand Junction Path), estimated construction completion is late spring/early summer 2024
 - Belmont St. – Construction is essentially complete, line striping and misc. punch list items to be completed over next few weeks
 - Harvard Sq. Plaza – Work remains on hold pending coordination with the MBTA
 - Chapter 90, Contract 24
 - Huron Avenue – Striping the separated bike lane this week (Glacken Field to Aberdeen); Aberdeen to Fresh Pond Parkway will be completed next year, due to water main construction and other items
 - Cushing Plaza – Reconstruction continues; this week Newport is installing sand-based structural soil and resetting the granite for the memorial
 - Chestnut Street – Water main install continues
- Upcoming projects
 - Port Infrastructure Project – Design and community engagement ongoing; developing concept for Harvard Street (Prospect to Portland) to include possible contra-flow bike lane for westbound travel, will present to Bicycle Committee in future

- MassAve4 Improvements (Partial Reconstruction Project)
 - Feedback from site walks and open house are being processed
 - Team having one-on-one meetings with businesses in the Linnaean-Waterhouse segment who have requested; have held 3 meetings so far
- Chapter 90, Contract 25 – Contract will be bid early spring 2024, construction to start late spring/early summer 2024
- Chapter 90, Contract 26 – Design and community process will begin later this year, construction start late 2024/early 2025
- Questions about Carl Barron Plaza
 - During construction it will be more of a pass-through space, but more seating in the long term
 - Project should wrap up before Central MBTA station project, DPW coordinating with MBTA
- Question about Harvard Street reconstruction
 - Water main replacement almost done, accelerated timeline
 - Port Infrastructure Improvements Project: full facelift for streets in The Port will be 2025-27 (after lots of utility work)

TP&T Updates

- Safety Improvement Project on Cambridge Street
 - Open houses and first virtual community meeting took place
 - Feedback form coming soon
- Main Street Safety Improvement Project
 - Design options survey closes 12/17
- Belmont Street
 - Some separation for bike lanes (flex posts coming)
- Third Street at Broadway
 - Redone with small new separated bike lane segment
 - Question about future potential BRT on Third St – design will be future proof
- Mount Auburn St at Aberdeen Ave
 - Pouring foundation for new signal

Roundtable Discussion

- Excitement about new Cambridge Street safety improvement project
- Desire for more walks by Pedestrian Committee
 - Possible winter walk?
- Discussion of news article highlighting increase in crashes involving peds at night
 - Idea to add spotlight to rapid flash beacons at crosswalks (not standard)
 - Idea to hold night walks
- Idea for bike buses

- Bike Committee and Tenzin (Active Transportation Coordinator) could work on this
- Finding a route is difficult for some schools, challenges of keeping large group of children on bikes together on major streets with traffic signals
- Ideas for Red Line shutdowns next year
 - Bluebikes valets
 - Follow Boston's example: walking maps, etc.
 - Pedestrian signage at Red Line stations

Public Comment

There were no members of the public who gave comments.