

Cambridge Pedestrian Committee Draft minutes

November 17, 2022

Members present: Robin Bonner, Debby Galef, Liza Paden, Jenny Turner-Trauring, Brooke Williams

Staff present: Walter Goldberg (CDD), Brian McLane (DPW), Cara Seiderman (CDD), TJ Shea (DPW)

October's minutes were approved by acclimation.

Upcoming 2022 meetings:

November 30 at 5:30: joint committees

December 14 at 5:30: bike and pedestrian committees

Snow presentation

TJ Shea is DPW Superintendent of Streets

Last year's snowfall was almost 55", slightly above average.

Our salt usage has been decreasing, in part due to pretreatment of roads with brine solution.

The weather outlook/forecast for this winter is near normal, based on many weather reports city receives.

Storm coordination involves many city departments.

Parking bans posted as early as possible. There are several locations for emergency, off street parking, including at Harvard and MIT. Also three snow farms for this winter.

DPW and its contractors clear 23 miles of city sidewalks and other areas, including bus stops and schools and accessible spaces next to public buildings.

Most important goal is emergency access.

Bike lanes are also cleared but they're not uniform in width. Different city departments and property owners may be responsible.

Much of the smaller equipment, used for bike lanes and sidewalks, is foreign-built and obtaining parts can be difficult.

~ 33% of complaints end up being ticketed. The majority come in through SeeClickFix.

Like everywhere else these days, there are vacancies in the department; many of the folks who plow also work on the roads (when clear).

Space savers aren't allowed. When collected they must be maintained by the city for 30 days. Crucifix was oddest space saver found so far.

Pretreatment with brine (applied like a cooking spray) is very important. It prevents snow and ice from bonding with the street and it may be applied up to a few days before a storm. Since there's often extra time, the city will treat secondary roads as well.

Activation occurs when precipitation begins.

There will be barrels throughout city should homeowners wish to pretreat as well.

DPW + Construction Updates

Construction season is ending.

Inman Sq. has progressed. Cambridge St. between the square and Prospect St. will become two ways again by next week.
Final paving to be done on Gore St.
River St. project kicking off this winter.
Belmont St. water main work will also begin this winter. Mostly utility, underground work.
Lots of work continues on Binney St.
MBTA will finish work in Kendall but the red line tunnel work will begin in January.
Outdoor dining ends November 30 - DPW will store barriers until April 1.

First St. punch through to Cambridge Crossing will be complete by the end of the summer.

Other Updates

Linear Path meeting: want to widen to 14' as much as possible, including soft buffer areas on sides.

January Ped. Comm. meeting will focus on urban design guidelines.

Mass Ave 4 committee to be formed. Interested people should apply.

Traffic Board to be resurrected. Interested people should apply.

Update on Lechmere Canal Park: new revision concerning better ramps but path surface is still an issue.

Major upcoming sewer separation project in The Port. Most streets will be redone. This will be discussed at the Nov. 30 Joint Meeting.

General discussion

Some favorite walking streets (of committee members): Harvard St. and Oxford St.; some also like the hustle and bustle of Mass. Ave.