

Cambridge Bicycle Committee Notes

January 13, 2010, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Present: Ellen Aronson, Tom Meek, George Perkins, Viola Augustin, Adam Serafin (MIT), Jim Wilcox (DPW), Kelly Dunn (DPW), Catherine Hornby, Peter Stokes, Scott Walker, Walter Willett, Steve Miller, Kathy Murphy, Guest: Alex Epstein (Somerville Bike committee), Guest: James Paterson (Bike Commuter)

I. Introductions, Agenda Review, Updates

1. members introduced themselves
2. guests introduced themselves
3. Reminder of Alexandria Project Review
4. Mention of appreciation of long-term bike committee members,

II. Construction and Public Works Update

1. Five year plan is on the web.
<http://www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/departments/engnr/fiveyearplan.aspx>
2. Reminder of Technical Review DPW Projects 1/25/10
3. Inquiry regarding suggestions that were submitted to DPW (Steve) – Not incorporated as of yet (Jim).
4. Most projects shut down for winter except:
 - a. for Brookline Street wrapping up sewer work
 - b. Common Manhole – est. completion time: Fall, 2010
5. Steve noted the curb cuts are too far away – est. Henry St. DPW will take a look (Jim)
6. **The following are the DPW notes for the Bike Committee as submitted by Jim Wilcox:**

8. Large Projects:

a Brookline Street – Henry to Pacific, paving, bike lane, sidewalk and curb cuts.

- Drainage work on-going at Erie Street
- Portions of Brookline Street are closed during work hours to all vehicular traffic during the course of the project.

b. Common Manhole 4 – Central Square Area – separate 22 common manholes

- Separation at the intersection of Putnam Ave. and Kinnaird St on-going

c. Miscellaneous Sidewalk and Ramp Contract

- Contractor will return in Spring.

d. Ellery Street Stormwater Management Contract

- Utility work is complete
- Sidewalk, paving and curb cut construction will be done Spring 2010
- Project includes curb extensions at Broadway and Trowbridge

9. Sidewalk / Roadway Contract 11

a. Brattle Street – Sparks to Fresh Pond – Paving, curb cuts, crossing islands, bike lanes.

Sidewalk between Sparks and Lowell. Work continues Spring 2010

b. Cameron Avenue – Mass. Ave. to Trolley Square – raised crosswalk at Linear Park. Starts in Spring 2010

c Cedar Street – Rice to Harvey Street – paving, sidewalk, curb cuts and raised intersection at

Dudley are complete

d. Middlesex – Rindge to Pemberton – Paving, curb cuts and raised crosswalk. Starts in Spring 2010

e Prospect Street –Sidewalk and curb cuts work on-going. Paving scheduled for Spring 2010.

10. Prentiss Street Sewer Separation

a. Prentiss Street – Mass. Ave. to the Somerville Line – sewer, drain, water, curb cuts, sidewalks and paving – Drainage work will begin within the next month.

b. Oxford Street – Garfield Street to Forest Street - sewer, drain, curb cuts and paving

11. Sidewalk / Roadway Contract 12 – Bid Opening Winter 2010, Construction Spring 2010

a. Cushing Street – Lawn to Belmont Line – paving, curb cuts, raised crosswalk at school.

b, First Street – Binney to Cambridge – paving, west sidewalk and curb cuts.

c. Hubbard – Raymond to Walden – paving, sidewalk and curb cuts.

d. Putnam – Kinnard to Western – paving, curb cuts and curb extension at school.

e. Robinson – Garden to Raymond – paving, sidewalk and curb cuts.

12. Community Development Block Grant Contract –Construction Spring 2010

a. Gardner Road –paving, sidewalk and curb cuts. Starts later this summer.

b. Notre Dame – Sergeant to Middlesex – paving, sidewalk and curb cuts.

c. Elm – Hampshire to Broadway – paving, sidewalk, curb cuts, raised crosswalk at school.

d. Market St. – Elm to Columbia - paving, sidewalk and curb cuts.

13. Upcoming Large Projects

a. Broadway – Ames to Third – paving, sidewalk, curb cuts, bike lanes and extended landscaping areas. design on-going.

b. Concord Avenue – Fresh Pond Parkway to Blanchard Road – paving, sidewalk, curb cuts, and cycle tracks. Bid Opening on February 18, 2010

c. Western Avenue – significant infrastructure project, design on-going.

d. Whittemore Avenue area sewer separation – Sewer separation, stormwater management, paving, sidewalks, curb cuts. Contract has been awarded and work will begin in February or March 2010.

Additional Comments:

1. Wendell Street fatality discussion. – Modified design of raised intersections being evaluated

III. Alexandria Project Review

1. Set for January 21, 2010

2. Name refers to the development company

IV. Bridges: Follow up

1. Anderson Bridge meeting. Attended by some committee members.

a. Emphasis placed on fixed budget (George)

b. discussion of plans and possible bike lane. discussion of striping options.

c. Is there an option for a bike lane tunnel as well as one for the BU Bridge ??

Could be a viable opportunity (Walter)(Steve)

- d. Discussion of letter of support. George is asked to write a letter. He agrees.
- e. Acknowledgement that the design team deserves credit for holding a meeting before the design is complete (Steve)
- 2. Will the Longfellow Bridge have decent bike lanes? (Walter)
 - a. Where are they in the design stage ? (George)
 - 1. The Environmental Impact Report is being submitted to the Secretary of Energy and Environment under MEPA (MA Environmental Policy Act).
 - 2. Final design is still in dispute. Various proposals put forward including bike/pedestrian lane divided by a buffer (Steve) - (see latest Liveable Streets newsletter; www.livablestreets.info)

.V. Climate Update

- 1. Overview (Tom)
- 2. Reading of proposed initiatives by delegates. Opportunity for input by January 19.(Ellen)
 - a. proposals include an emphasis on improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Sees a chance to raise awareness of bike infrastructure benefits (Ellen)
 - b. mention of popular street initiatives in San Fransicsco (Steve)
- 3.. Opportunity for the bike committee (Walter)

VI. Detailed police report postponed until next month (Kathy)

- 1. Still people riding bikes out there
- 2. Department wants to expand bike training for kids

VII. Proposal for subcommittee clusters introduced by Catharine

- 1. Discussion whether to break up into clusters
- 2.Decision to focus on connectivity and bike network as the underlying goal
 - b. Important to have an achievable goal - a network underlies – with that other goals attainable (Scott)

VIII. Discussion of Bike Network mapping (Steve and Walter)

- 1. Steve, GerrySwislow and Walter have worked on identifying and mapping major bike corridors throughout the city.: <http://cambridgebikes.org/Network/>
- 2. Maps can provide major and alternative routes for trip planning. Can be linked with wayfinding signs. (Steve)
- 3. Could this could be an overall plan for the bike committee (?)
- 4. An identifiable network is essential for upgrading the bike infrastructure (Ellen)
- 5. Framework is most important (Scott)
- 6. Needs interpretation and a core set of principles (George)
- 7. Could it be the essence of the committee (?)
- 8. Goal is to have something by May
- 9. Presentation planned for February meeting

IX. Discussion of Process (Catharine)

- 1. Group discussion was effective (George)
- 2. General agreement