

Cambridge Bicycle Committee, November 12, 2014

Present: Michael Proscia, Randy Stern, Jonathan Adams, Jim Wilcox (DPW), Daniel Baronofsky, Mark Rabinsky (Harvard), Ari Ofsevit, David Soares (TP&T), Matt Nelson (Police), Catharine Hornby, John Goodman, Andrea Williams, Sam Lipson (Health), Peter Stockes, Megan Ramey, Cara Seiderman (CDD), Viola Augustin

Guests: Brian Acker Housman, Mark Boswell, Arthur Strang

notes by AO: Ari Ofsevit

CS: Cara Seiderman

DS: David Soares (TP&T)

AW: Andrea Williams

MP: Mike Proscia

JG: John Goodman

JW: Jim Wilcox

AW: Andrea Williams

PS: Peter Stokes

JA: John Adams

RS: Randy Stern

CH: Catherine Hornby

VA: Viola Augustin

I.

Minutes approved

Harvard University has been named a League of American Bicyclists gold level bike friendly university.

II.

A. Early planning for rides (JG)

Theme for next ride. Possible idea: Car Talk ride, Tom Magliozzi's Cambridge. Is a "Car Talk" ride incongruous with biking? PS: Having a broken car means you have to bike. CH: Talk to family. Would WBUR/DCH (Dewey Cheatem and Howe, the actual name of the Car Talk production company) involvement make it too big? Do it without making a big publicity thing about it. We don't necessarily want/need them to be involved.

CS: Meet with police, have a conversation about crowd management as was discussed following the last ride.

MP: Other ideas? JG: Parks and recreation: greenery, playgrounds, small parks. Tree tour with arborist?

CS: Highlight new infrastructure (Western Ave, Waverly Path, Cambridge Common) – could be done as part of any theme.

PS: Filled land tour: route along original coast

B. Other activities

CS: do we want to have more activities/projects?

Guest comment: Do we want to highlight roads we want to "take back from cars"?

Comment: We can do other rides, celebratory rides, etc.

Guest: Other Bicycle Committees in other cities? TM: Met with Somerville. JA: Might be good. CS: Over the years there has been some semi-official outreach, but doing something social would be easy.

List of committees: <http://massbike.org/resourcesnew/local-bike-committees/>. Committee members will confer offline re: a meetup/event.

PS: Invite bike committees in commute shed to bike network plan. Arlington/Lexington/Bedford/Newton
CS: Many people who contributed to the Wikimaps and the Survey do not live in Cambridge, they presumably work here or commute through. They are well represented in the bike plan feedback.

III. Projects and Planning Updates

A. DPW (JW)

DS: Markings for Garden St not down before winter, we will discuss it by spring. They may be able to put them down if there is a warm, dry stretch, but it can't be done on minutes' notice.

Western Ave, surface work as long as weather allows. Right now Putnam-Mem Drive, lane for cycletrack. May be temporary surface for cycletrack. Some work at River/Green, repaving. Utilities done, a few weeks left will spill in to next year.

Huron A, bike lane on Lakeview when the road is fully repaved in the spring.

Most construction is wrapping up for the winter.

Kendall, Broadway-Main connection in for winter for buses, connection will be rebuilt in summer.

Harvard Square / Waverly Path, mostly in for winter.

Cambridge Common, paving is in, curb and sidewalk ongoing, Mass Ave complete. Want to make sure it is safe and signals are in before it is opened.

Binney Street: most utility work complete, roadway construction and some utility ongoing and will be complete in the spring. Shared use for the winter because of sidewalk work. CS: Binney project from 3rd Street to Broadway scheduled for a later year than originally anticipated, potentially look at bigger roadway changes.

Harvard Tunnel, looking at options for putting in permanent markings for the concrete. Temporary paint for winter, looking at options for spring. MR: bollards in spring, temporary like Longfellow? DS: would have to go with DPW. CS: Would have to be out for winter. DS: Most of concrete needs to be plowed.

B. Bike Plan (update)

Consultants and city are discussing how the plan was developed, and how to present all of this information. This is the draft plan, get input on the plan, improvements. Will have another opportunity for Committee feedback before it is published. Cheat sheet for open house, short explanation about how the plan was developed. Meeting with MIT & Harvard.

C. City Infrastructure Projects

Fern Street: community meeting requested, petition to City Manager office. Counter petition as well (MR). Contact to city council members, proactive engagement with receptive councilors with urban cycling books. CS: will try to get an answer re: process. Vassal Lane Upper School students signing.

Pearl Street: 350 people took online survey, meeting next Thursday 20th. People generally think it could be more comfortable for bus/walk/bikes, generally okay for walking. Central Square library meeting.

Fulkerson Street: Cambridge-Charles, 2-way multiuse path to connect to school, the rest is repaving with some curb extensions. Allow two-way bike travel without designating it? Is this a potential pilot street? Just pavement marking and signs, but people are doing it anyway. Take a look at it.

I-90 West Station

Committee could send official comments, make sure there are high quality connections, continuation of cycletrack, connections to Grand Junction. Separated facilities for bikes to/from area. We should talk to Boston Bikes about this. Separated bicycle facility on Cambridge Street. CH: volunteer to draft comments for review and edit.

Opportunity to fix the path along the river, general comment to make sure the path is wide enough (12-14' or separate bike/ped paths)

IV. Development Projects

A. Ames Street

CS: Scheduled to go to planning board on Dec 2, will let us know when the new plans are online. Portion of road between Broadway and Main, on the east side of the road.

Two way cycletrack on east side of Ames, loading dock created in an alleyway, only one garage access point. Ground floor retail, housing above. Alley in to food court will be a shared space with cars. "Pioneer Way" with loading dock, potential for time restrictions? Only one entrance/exit, only allow people in and out at that one location. Keep street flush for the potential for urban ring BRT.

Bicycle parking space requirement: 38 short term 296 long term. Proposing a structured bicycle parking facility, multi-level accessed on ground floor via Pioneer Way and on the upper floor from the garage; spreading parking over three floors. Proponent plan does not meet zoning requirements on multiple counts. This seems to be a BZA issue.

Committee will comment on plans, reiterating importance of the standards that were created for a reason, i.e., to have bicycle parking that actually works. Note that the spacing would not have met previous zoning requirements either.

MP: will draft letter re: zoning requirements. CS: will send out plans.

V. Announcements

CH: Boards and Commissions, really nice event, grateful for us as volunteers.