

Cambridge Bicycle Committee, Feb 8 2017

DRAFT

Minutes recorded by AO: Ari Ofsevit

[initials; * = in attendance]

JA: John Adams

SB: Steve Bercu

AMB: Ann Marie Biernacki

AF: Amy Flax

JG: John Goodman *

CJ: Caroline Jaffe*

SK: Stacy King (Harvard) *

MVK: Mechthild von Knobelsdorff *

JL: Jen Lawrence (CDD staff)

SM: Sean McDonnell

MN: Matt Nelson (CPD) *

AO: Ari Ofsevit *

MP: Mike Proscia *

JR: Joseph Raser

RR: Ruthann Rudel *

JS: Justin Schreiber (CDD staff, SRTS)

MS: Melissa Shakro (MIT) *

CS: Cara Seiderman (CDD staff) *

RS: Randy Stern *

PS: Peter Stokes *

KW: Kathy Watkins (DPW)

AW: Andrea Williams

JW: Jim Wilcox (DPW) *

I. Agenda review, Approval of Minutes, Introductions

Introduction of Stacey King, representing Harvard for the Bike and Ped Committees

Correction to minutes from RR 9: guest lives on Broadway and Lee, specifically asked “does bike traffic on Broadway between Ellery and Prospect justify bike lanes there?”

Minutes approved JG MP.

II. Binney/Galileo

Jason from CRA presenting Binney/Galileo plans. Scope is Third St to Main St. Alexandria has redeveloped from Land to Third.

New development: Akamai HQ tower across from current building, additional plans from Boston Properties, Volpe and other developers.

Two alternatives drafted. Meetings: EZRide primary transit provider, Boston Properties, MITIMCo, East Cambridge Planning ... information on CambridgeRedevelopment.org on front page.

6th Street connector will have a separate bicycle facility from the walkway with a porous pavement path. Ames separated bikeway will be installed Spring/Summer 2018, MIT will install the section to the river but not yet scheduled.

Grand Junction path will continue along park south of railroad tracks. Binney and Grand Junction will likely serve different user groups: Grand Junction for longer distance, Binney for more local.

Proposal for floating bus stops (in NACTO and MassDOT guides), passengers get on and off on small island, bikes go behind. Other option is a shared bus stop with the bus stop in the bike lane. Main issue is street trees on Galileo just east of Broadway.

Protected intersections at major intersections, such as Broadway/Galileo. Video at protectedintersection.com.

Alternatives:

- Retain Median with crabapple trees. DPW doesn't like median trees and won't replace them. Eliminates turns in to neighborhood, provides refuge in to neighborhood. But we'd only get separated bike lanes, not floating bus stops, curbside dropoff, additional greenspace; requires 16' for fire department (lane plus shoulder), waste of 6' of asphalt. Challenges for maintaining median.
- Island alternative. Still enforces illegal turns, allows room for vegetation and trees on the outside, additional uses beyond separated bike lane (floating bus stops, parking for park, loading zones, etc), reduces roadway width and eliminates need for island, complies with fire department requirements. But existing trees are removed. (Preferred, but there is one vocal voice in the neighborhood in favor of median.)

Raised crossings at driveways and streets, similar to Western Ave.

On Little Binney, put a separated facility on the south side, and set precedent for the north side during future development.

Protected intersection at Galileo/Broadway. Location of a shared bus stop rather than floating due to location of trees. Would like to have GJ path, sidewalk and separate bike lane south of Grand Junction west of Broadway.

Most of the separated bike lane is separated by grass and trees; areas that aren't is what doesn't work on Vassar Street. Perhaps a bike/ped grade separation? MVK How wide is the bike path vs the sidewalk to keep pedestrians from using a wider facility? Do people prefer bricks to walk on (No, people seem to prefer asphalt)? How do we separate?

Broadway: eliminated Residence Inn driveway with parking outside separated bike lane, Hubway, pickup/dropoff. Eliminate taxi lane. Modify Ames/Broadway to implement crossings between the projected bike lanes at Ames. Look at intersection of Ames/Broadway, which is half in scope and how moves are protected, especially going across the top of the T.

III. Development Projects

Projects coming up soon will be out for review within the next month once full plans are presented to planning board in order to have fewer meetings.

IV. Other Projects

Inman: lots of interest at the various meetings and open houses. Online presentation.

Committee meetings Feb 13: Monday at MIT, Building 4m room 149. RS: How are we quantifying improvements for different users?

Demonstration PB bike lanes: Cambridge Street and Mass Ave Bow-Putnam will move ahead in the spring, others will continue to be worked on. Committee will have designs as developed. For Cambridge Street: parking study, public process, bus stop designs. Can't change pavement until warmer weather.

JW: Huron will be started with final paving in the middle of March and should be finished by October. Variety of other drainage and utility issues, including major drain pipe behind McDonalds in Central. Willard (between Brattle and Mt Auburn by skating/tennis club) work, idea to make it one-way, potential for bike lane, paired with Sparks.

Mount Auburn: committee comments, latest proposal online. Anything on a city street needs more city process since it is within the control of the City. DCR controls parkways and Mem Drive. City controls MA and Brattle. May discuss on Monday after Inman Square with other committees. Money is for study, but not construction, for both DCR and for City.

V. Legislation

Senate bill related to bike safety. (See <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/190/SD1545>) There is a citizen committee for Vision Zero, AF will be a representative from this committee. CS: ad hoc subcommittee for legislation? Potential for regulations around e-bikes. PS is in charge of ad hoc subcommittee. Several legislators represent Cambridge, and City can comment as well, so good for city officials to hear as well. Individual action helps, too.

VI. Committee Work

Legislative ad hoc committee: SM, AW, PS, RR.

May ride: RS has passed off the ride to a number of committee members. JA, MP, RS, CJ. Theme is Women's History/Heritage. Possible title: "Remember the Ladies" (Abigail Adams quote) as a women's ride of Cambridge. Work with Cambridge Women's Commission, Historical Commission. There is an existing route. For stops, have a good place to stop, not always necessarily at a site itself (which are often bad places to stop). Ride: May 20. Dave Soares has moved on, so we need to make sure we get the parking meters reserved and determine who will assist from TP&T. Also a key person at DPW has retired who helps with the park permits.

VII. Announcements

RR: Committee can help to look the network for identifying which streets should be prioritized, in the context of the City Council requests. CS: We also need to have time to implement all the requests – designs, public meetings, bike committee review, etc. There are many projects in the works.