

Notes: 3/10/21 Bicycle Committee Meeting

Attendance

Committee: Alison Harris, Ruthann Rudel, Amy Flax, Randy Stern, Gloria Huangpu, Christine Smaglia, Qian Mei, Mark Boswell

Staff: Greg Hanafin (CDD), Cara Seiderman (CDD), Jim Wilcox (DPW), Stephen Meuse (TP&T), Cliff Cook (CDD), Bailey Werner (CDD), Scott Walker (CDD)

Public: Michael Brandon, Gavin Lund

I. Agenda Review, Zoom Protocol, Minutes

- Minutes approved

II. Transportation Data

City staff presented information on transportation-related data including demographics, trip modes, bicycle counts and crash reporting

- Cliff Cook (CDD, information manager), Scott Walker (CDD, data analyst), Bailey Werner (Planning data intern), Miles Chandler (police dept, traffic analyst)
- Bailey
 - [“Moving Forward 2020” report](#), Cambridge’s Journey to Work
 - Census transportation data (2016 data, latest available), LEHD Loads, unemployment insurance data (2018)
 - Report covers commutes only (20% of all daily travel)
 - 130,000 workforce who work in Cambridge, 61,000 Cambridge residents labor force, 27,000 overlap
 - 2000-2019 workforce- Drove alone going down 16% to 42%, public transit going up 22%, biking up by factor of 3, 200% (to 6%), Walking constant 13%
 - 36% of Cambridge workforce that lives in Cambridge, Somerville, or Boston walk or bike to work
 - Laborforce stats similar to workforce
 - Residents in Cambridge workforce walk to work a lot (45%), other trends similar
 - Kendall Sq workers live further away than Harvard Sq workers who live closer
- Scott
 - Citywide bike count data, Tues-Thurs in September, at 16 major intersections, consultants
 - Charts, graphs, downloadable data will be on web site soon
 - Counts at some intersections gone up 4X from 2003-2019
 - Inman Square and Mass Ave and Mem Drive have highest counts
 - Very small number of people running red lights
 - Weather data, time of day data, actions of bikers (left turn, right turn, etc), bike facilities over time
 - Nice mapping and graphing tools
- Miles
 - Crash data
 - Based on “crash calls for service” to police, police decide whether to make crash report if injury or \$1000 damages
 - Manual geocoding for specific crash location, not just center of intersection
 - Officer adds crash narrative, what happened
 - 25% of bike crashes include EMT transport, 50% for ped crashes
 - Doorings down by half in 2020 over 2019

- Inman Square has highest density of crashes, followed by Mass Ave from Porter to Harvard and Harvard to MIT
- Data needs normalization by # of cyclists or cars passing some intersection
- Q&A
 - Bike count data - can it be overlaid with motor vehicle traffic counts? A-Not built into current tool. Trying to consolidate data to make it easier to analyze
 - What is Cambridge percent of workforce commutes by bike - 6.3% in 2019 of 151,000 people, but its 8.7% of labor force
 - # of bike /ped crashes? Not in police open data. It's a small number that don't involve a motor vehicle.
 - Crash data to be on open data portal in 2021. Demographic data is there now. Onthemap census tool from census bureau too. Updated website with graphing tools in "pretty near future."

III. Updates

- TP&T
 - [Mid Mass Ave Safety Improvement Project](#), web page with link to share feedback, will have protected bike lanes
 - Flex posts being put back in from winter damage on Webster Ave, Mass Ave near Trowbridge St
 - TP&T hiring 2 street design project managers to speed up separated bike lane projects
 - Q&A – A committee member is concerned that the feedback form baldly states that parking will be removed without mentioning benefits - this seems likely to get negative feedback since it only mentions parking
 - Q&A – Another committee member also was concerned that the landing page doesn't sell the benefits well either, and seems to highlight costs more than benefits like climate change, trip reductions, ped safety, etc. Recommend that site is taken down ASAP until this is improved to reduce negative feedback.
 - Stephen will communicate the comments to the appropriate staff.
- DPW
 - [Inman Sq](#) work proceeding
 - DPW web page for the [Huron Ave./Glacken field project](#) is up with a presentation (project includes separated bike lanes and a new sidewalk, as well as improved pedestrian crossing and bus stops)
 - Bway and 6th St, final surface work will start in April and go through fall
 - Q&A (public, Gavin) - can Inman Sq be made a little less confusing, e.g., signage for people biking, detour for contraflow portion. A - yes, Jim will look into it.
- Grand Junction
 - Amy Flax represents bike comm on [Grand Junction Path](#) task force
 - Input being gathered on major intersections. Web site has the status. People should go to the web site, look at the plan, and provide feedback. Specifically look at plans for area near Fort Washington. Another GJP review of current design at a joint committee meeting might be helpful.

IV. Development and Building Projects - Updates

- [Alewife Quadrangle Northwest Overlay District Proposed Zoning Amendment](#)
 - Monday final vote at City Council

- Proposal is for zoning board to allow for greater height in AOD-1 zone in exchange for construction of ped/bike bridge across the tracks, plus some affordable housing
- There was an idea for another bridge at a different location, there is no funding for the other bridge, which might also include a commuter rail stop. The city plans to still pursue that in the future. But could require federal funding and take a long time.
- Q&A - could the developer be asked to build the other bridge? A -Don't think so.
- Q&A - bike/ped bridge only? There was some discussion of vehicles on bridge, but not big buses just small vehicles, e.g. maintenance vehicles.
- Q&A - Deal also seems to include reduced parking requirement? A - not sure.
- Decision: With emphasis on the need for binding commitment for a ped/bike bridge, Bike Comm should write a letter similar to ped letter, or sign on to ped letter. There was consensus in the committee for Mark to communicate the bike committee's signing onto the pedestrian committee letter.
- March 17 agenda for joint ped/bike meeting
 - Huron Ave./Glacken
 - MIT Volpe
 - Ragon Institute
 - Mid-Mass Ave - April

V. Committee Work

- 2021 - 2 virtual bike rides
 - Highlighting Black-owned businesses (Qian). So far have identified about 5 businesses interested
 - Health advances and discovery (Mark and Amy) - 4 or 5 points of interest identified. Points too clustered near Harvard and MIT, need a few more. Amy has some ideas, met with the Economic Development department. Also mostly MIT or Harvard locations. Need more breadth for better bike route! Could be some in Alewife
- Other subcommittee updates
 - Bicycling Benefits. Commuter benefits, Gloria spoke with Jen about possible flyer to get employers to put more focus this, especially as people return to work after the pandemic-related restrictions are lifted

VI. Public Comment

- Question - M. Brandon. Can zoom meeting recordings be posted along with minutes. A - These types of meetings are not recorded by the city.

VII. Other Updates and Announcements

- A lot going on, keep reading emails