

Cambridge Bicycle Committee Meeting November 9, 2022 Minutes

Panelists – Cara Seiderman (CDD), Walter Goldberg (CDD), Andreas Wolfe (TP&T), Brennan Biemann, Thomas Randall, Eitan Normand, Conor Henrie, Randy Stern, Alison Harris, Scott Kilcoyne, Guido Cuperus, Carola Voelker, Mark Boswell, Amy Flax

Attendees – Briseis Guthrie, Emma Johnson, Charlene Abebe, Esther Harris, Brittany Seekins

Notetaker: Randy for first hour, Brennan for second hour

Agenda/Notes -

Approval of minutes from prior meeting - Approved by acclamation

TP&T Updates - Andreas Wolfe

- Hampshire St - Inman Square to Broadway
 - 2023 project
 - Open House held last Monday
 - Tuesday 11/15 zoom meeting with community
 - Winter, another virtual meeting, share draft concept
 - Spring, another virtual meeting and open house, share revised concept
 - installation late summer/fall 2023
 - <https://www.cambridgema.gov/StreetsAndTransportation/ProjectsAndPrograms/HampshireStreetSafetyImprovementProject>
 - All should sign up for project updates/ mailing list on the project web site
 - Will be a lot of outreach to neighbors/abutters
 - Q&A
 - Many stakeholders don't live on or near Hampshire – e.g., travelers from North Cambridge or Somerville
 - A-Frame signs facing the road
 - Recommend doing intercepts of people using the road to let them know about process and get feedback from cyclists (before and after)
 - Maybe extend green wave of light timings - 3 are now timed for 12 mph, biking speed, Prospect/Columbia/Windsor - maybe extend to Cardinal Madeiros
 - Add leading bicycle intervals for all signals
 - Nice to use precast concrete curbs for separated bike lanes, not just flex posts - A - in some cases width of street may be an issue. If too narrow, can't be maintained.
 - Intersection with Broadway - look closely, it's confusing and there are conflicts - will be adding separation that is not there now
 - Is there a way to reach drivers (the ones who usually object to bike lane projects...)?
 - Can the city provide more garage parking e.g., city could rent spots in existing garages? A - Most garages have restrictions to use only for the building by zoning requirements, spots may not be available for other uses, but parking regulations are being looked at holistically by the city in thinking about greater flexibility for how the spaces might be more efficiently used.

- Brattle St
 - Being implemented now. Using cones this fall until the concrete barriers arrive in January (probably)
- Main Street from Sydney to Portland also 2023 project
- Aberdeen Ave - Huron to Mt Auburn also 2023 project, including new signal at Mt Auburn
- Q - Huron from Glacken to FPP status - A - not sure, it's a DPW project not TP&T, likely construction next year
- Cambridge Street near Inman Square, when returned to 2-way - also a DPW project
 - Oakland to Prospect
 - Separated bike lane eastbound
 - Buffered Bike lane westbound; curb spots for loading and possible outdoor dining space
 - Feeds into what will be the whole redesigned Cambridge Street project in a few years
 - Inman Square still missing a lot of necessary cycling markings
- Old Lechmere Station area
 - First Street from Cambridge to O'Brien Highway will have raised separated bike lanes
 - Small triangle will get Bluebikes station restored
 - Not sure about rest, but will be available on line soon as part of development plans
- Garden Street
 - Looks great and is very nice for cycling now
 - Still more being finished

DPW Updates

- Boston Properties MXD development at Bway and Galileo Way in progress - utility work through early 2023
 - Bway is proposed to be one-way for a while for 8 months - problematic for users – people driving, cycling, using transit. Will be looked at in greater detail by traffic
- Ongoing construction-
 - Gore Street
 - North First Street
 - Inman Sq.
 - Port infrastructure project
 - River Street
 - Willard street
 - Binney street park
- Status of Grand Junction?
 - Furthering design
 - No time frame yet for when construction will begin but in near future
- Upcoming projects-
 - Harvard Square
 - Reconstruction of plaza
 - Construction starts 2022
 - Port infrastructure project
 - Mass Ave4 improvements
 - Belmont street

- Chapter 90, Contract 24 (working on award of contracts) and 25 (design and community engagement)
- Questions for Jim/DPW-
 - Clarifying question about kiosk project– what work is planned for the street itself?

Development Projects

- Cambridgeside project
 - Lechmere Canal project - some modifications
 - Developer has widened some of the ramps and added one additional ramp
 - Developer is proposed another surface treatment - still not ideal
 - Still a work in process - still no schedule for review by planning board
 - Pedestrian Committee echoed bike committee concerns

Bluebikes (see Bluebikes Powerpoint 11/9/2022):

Reviewed:

- Bluebikes system background facts
- Bluebikes expansion/growth in the last decade
- Current Bluebikes distribution
- Statistics about Bluebikes ridership
- Goals for Bluebikes system
- How the Bluebikes system is managed

Question: Will we be able to buy new bikes given a contractual shift?

Answer: yes

- How Bluebikes system paid for
- Priorities for new stations
- Stations with the lowest average rideability
- Factors impacting rideability/expansion
- Actions to improve rideability
- E-bikes: considerations

November 30: Joint Transportation Committee Meeting (on agenda: Port project)

December 14: December bike committee meeting

- Joint meeting with pedestrian and transit committees (NB: will be Pedestrian and Bicycle Committees only)