

Joint Bike/Ped Committee Meeting
7/14/21
Notes

Attendance

Bicycle Committee Members: Randy Stern, Amy Flax, Gloria Huangpu, Julian Astbury
Pedestrian Committee Members: Magda McCormick, Pam McLemore, Robin Bonner, Debby Galef, Ian Henneberger, Theresa Tobin, Wade Smith
Staff: Greg Hanafin (CDD), Jim Wilcox (DPW), Stephen Meuse (TP&T), Bill Deignan (CDD)
Guests: Ian Hatch (Boston Properties), Kiel Johnson (Go By Bike), Elijah Evans (Bike Not Bombs), Luke Mitchell (VHB)
Public: Gavin Lund, Rebecca Hall, Sue E

MXD Substation Bike Valet Proposal - Ian Hatch, Boston Properties

- Residential tower, 2 commercial towers, plaza over electric substation
- Huge underground substation
- Scarcity of ground floor space for retail and bike parking - competing for same space, zoning required bike parking would occupy 100% of retail space [*NB: this is assuming it would have to be in this space as opposed to other places on the site*]
- Auto parking constrained as well - want to encourage biking/multimodal access
- Zoning requires bike parking - hopefully bike valet can meet that need
- Kiel Johnson - Go By Bike, Portland Oregon, runs a bike valet, 450 bikes/day, largest in North America
 - Bike valet helps build a culture that biking is important
 - Will consult on launch with Bikes Not Bombs
- Elijah Evans, Executive Director, Bikes Not Bombs (BNB)
 - BNB is a great community program that reclaims bikes, trains youth
 - Could employ bike apprentices as bike valet staff
- Build 600-bike storage facility, largest in North America
- Service from 6AM to 10PM, 7 days/week (95% of bike traffic in Kendall Sq within those hours)
- Small number of regular Long Term (LT) and Short Term (ST) spaces, 20 LT and 36 ST
- Valet - badges for campus staff to identify people and bike, email to user when bike dropped off or retrieved
- 75% of users in Portland are women
- Potential for bike repair store in retail area. No commitment?
- Q&A
 - Cost for bike parking? Bike valet free, open to tenants, maybe not public, could be fees for visitors. Not intended for long term storage. Boston Properties would fund the service.
 - Open to public? Maybe not, depends on tenant demand
 - Retrieval time at rush hour? In Portland, parking does not build up much of a line. Just a minute or two to wait. Same for retrieval if you text in advance.

- Has ridership increased because of this service in Portland? A - This is the single most successful thing in increasing ridership at this location - went up from 150 to 450 people using it per day. Quality of attendants promotes biking culture.
- What would impact be on bike lane traffic with this increase in bike riders during rush hours? A - does not know, those planners are not here today, will get back to us
- Zoning requires 688 LT and 101 short term spaces. Couldn't even fit that in ground floor retail. Valet parking is more dense. Will provide 600 valet spaces
- Will this influence other projects in America? Could be an inspiration *if* successful.
- Only providing 620 LT (600 valet + 20 regular) and 36 ST spaces, less than zoning requires. Why would the City approve this? A - It solves other problems for the City, e.g. substation location within the community, jobs for BNB, etc. Trying to make the most of the limited space.
- Could add bike parking on second floor to meet zoning requirement? A - Want to use that for commercial space which is driving the project.
- No public questions
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Dept. of Public Works (DPW) Updates - Jim Wilcox, DPW

- Franklin St curbs and sidewalks, paving this year
- Gore St water main work, base layer of pavement this year
- Inman Sq utilities work continues, add base paving
- Harvard Sq kiosk, building demo in progress
- Sidewalks on Mass Ave at Ellery St and Trowbridge St
- Cycle track at Waterworks
- Broadway and Galileo Galilei Way - drainage line work, surface changes, cycle track on Galileo Galilei Way in progress, try to open by Labor Day

Traffic, Parking & Transportation (TP&T) Updates - Stephen Meuse, TP&T

- Mid Mass Ave delayed, can't get flex posts from supplier, likely in August
- Adding flex posts on Main near Longfellow Bridge to prevent parking in bike lane
- Q - Improvements at end of Brattle St lane near Mt Auburn? A - Not sure of schedule.
- Q - Bike Lane from DeWolfe to Putnam is very wide, people drive and park, any way to change? A - Have not seen issues there, can take a look.

Grand Junction Path Update - Bill Deignan, Community Development Dept (CDD)

- Design work in progress, Next public meeting December 2021, aiming to commence construction Summer 2022.
- MIT may build section near their campus. City would do near river and from Binney to Gore
- Working on circulation plan for truck access to MIT buildings facing the path
- Mass Ave crossing
 - Signalized crossing needed

- Very complex - want to add sidewalk level bike lanes in Mass Ave near there, and trees to preserve
- MIT has curb cuts adjacent to path, plus needs truck access to path towards Pacific St
- Estimated completion date? A - 24-36 months after construction starts, possibly 2024-2025
- Bluebikes station at Cambridge St? Yes, but after all this is built.
- Could Mass Ave be built in advance of Grand Junction? A - Don't know. Needs full depth reconstruction. Planning for more bus lanes here, this could impact design.
- To connect from path to Gore St west, it needs a better design? A - Don't recall, but this has been discussed.

MIT Volpe Redevelopment Project

- Broad Canal and Kendall Way will be shared streets
- 5th St grade separated bike lanes on both sides
- Potter St two-way grade separated lane
- Q - Looks much better for cycling than first presentation to bike committee a few months ago. Better shared streets and separated lanes. Perhaps good enough for bike committee to endorse?
- Q - Where is the community center and arts center? A – Community center in northeast corner at by Potter St and Third St. Entertainment venue in northwest corner at the end of Broad Canal Way.
- Q - Broad Canal Way looks like a nice shared space
- Q - Could Greg find previous comments sent by the bike and ped committees to the planning board, then we could update the comments with “this was done, this was not addressed” for the planning board by Friday? A - Greg will send to Randy to forward to Mark and Amy for bike committee to potentially send in updated comments.

Public comment

- None

Other Announcements

- Ped committee - 7/22 will be walk of Cambridge Crossing area. Bike committee welcome to join.
- August - possible ride or walk, Cara to reach out.