

Cambridge Pedestrian Committee

DRAFT Minutes

10.26.17

Present: Fatima Akter, Andrea Duchesneau, Jodie Cohen-Tanugi, Debby Galef, Emily Holzman, Magda McCormick, Helina Mekonnen, Sean Pierce, Johanna Pittman, Helen Rose, Joseph Rose, Olivia Turner
Staff: Cara Seiderman, Greg Hanafin, Dana Benjamin, Brian McLane
Guests: Ellen Murphy, Max Cohen, Ayrlea Porter

Agenda:

* Agenda Review/Minutes

Previous minutes Approved.

* Pedestrian Access During Construction (Brian) Brian brought a presentation to the committee that is given to all contractors at the beginning of every year. Not all projects are covered by this presentation, some are by the Inspectional Services Dpt. City has jurisdiction and can (and has) shut down non-conforming locations.

Contractor must submit a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) that accounts for pedestrians, cyclists, and motor vehicles. Contractor should include a police detail, they may not be able to fill it, so the location should function without the detail.

TMP must take into account the nature of the work. Deep excavations require different things than a minor utility repair.

Contractor should put themselves in the shoes of a less-than-able pedestrian and imagine if they could use the detour safely. For example, those in wheelchairs, strollers, visually impaired people. Plywood is not preferred for ramps (if they use plywood, they must add a non-slip surface).

It is preferred that pedestrians stay on the same side of the street.

When a contractor is placing steel overhead, there must be a covered walkway.

TMPs must also account for bikes. Maintain access to bike lanes when possible, or post shoe the road signs when not. Metal/steel plates are not preferred and are slippery when wet. Contractor should use pink paint where there are raised castings or raised crosswalks.

Brian says that any issues with sites should be reported through See Click Fix;

<http://www.cambridgema.gov/CommonwealthConnect>

Cambridge is the hardest city in Massachusetts to work for, due to the constraints and requirements placed on contractors. Many contractors, however, like working for the City and bid often. There are other contractors who have done such egregious things, that they are banned from working for the City.

* Infrastructure Project Updates (Brian)

Huron/Concord: essentially done. Moving into final portions of that project. Hubway station went up at Huron & Vassal Lane.

October 31 is the last day for final pavement. IF the weather is warm, that date could get extended a week or two. 95% of sidewalk work ends at Thanksgiving. March 15 typically is the beginning of construction season, depending on the weather (snow).

Use See Click Fix (Commonwealth Connect) to report poorly shoveled sidewalks. City will typically allow a 24-hour grace period to clear sidewalks.

* Pedestrian Committee Work

Improvement of the Year/Project of the Year

Debby: Scott/Irving/Kirkland. New traffic signalling at Wendall/Kirkland/Mass.

Joe: Grand Junction between Broadway & Main. HAWK on Binney Street.

Greg: Cambridge Common with new paths & trees

Helen & Greg: Brattle Street (narrower, easier to cross, slower car speeds)

Olivia: paths along the river (DCR)

Sean: Fern Street

Helen: Western Ave

Magda: pedestrian access (striping) at Fresh Pond Mall

Jodie: crosswalk near Vassal Lane on Fresh Pond Parkway. Timings have been changed so the waits have been decreased. Huron & Vassal intersection works really well. Envision Cambridge Table.

Central Square repaving: concrete with brick edging.

We could have themes.

We could pick five "top" ideas. "What makes a great walking environment?" Safety. Art. Complete Streets. Then give examples.

Johanna will start drafting an article. Sean, Helen, and Debby will help. Greg will find photos.

* Development Project Reviews

There is an updated project plan for Cambridge Crossing (f/k/a Northpoint); it can be reviewed at a future meeting.

* Announcements & next meetings

Future meetings: November (Dana will present on signals and Justin S. on Safe Routes to School), December (December 13, joint with bike and transit committee. Brian offered to make a presentation on snow). Cara will confirm with DPW about the 5 year streets/sidewalks plan. Perhaps in January we will set up work projects. Another idea: safety (Matt Nelson, CPD), including Central Square.

Orientation for new members: November 6 at 6pm at the Lombardi Building in the basement conference room.