

CAMBRIDGE PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE MEETING 3.22.18

DRAFT MINUTES

Attendance

Andrea Duchesneau, Debby Galef, Steven Gniadzowski, Emily Holzman, Magda McCormick, Sean Pierce, Johanna Pittman, Helen Rose, Sam Stern, Olivia Turner, Cara Seiderman (CDD), Greg Hanafin (CDD), Dana Benjamin (TP&T)

I. Agenda, Minutes

- Debby solicited changes to agenda
- Committee approved January and February minutes

II. Project Updates

- Cara gave update on projects:

* Melissa requested the updated map of the 5 year plan be shared with the committee. Cara distributed hard copies, and the map will also be circulated with the pedestrian report.

*** Cambridge Street**

* Bike Committee draft position statement circulated on Cambridge street redesign concerning the separated bike lanes Note that the speed decrease on Cambridge Street happened irrespective of the city-wide speed limit change, which occurred before any data collection.

* Another parking study will be done.

* Counts will be done of pedestrian, cycle, and automobiles later this spring when the weather improves.

* There has been pushback from some people in the community about this project.

* Bike committee felt it was important to make a formal statement and would like the pedestrian committee's support

* Stakeholder committee existed, composed of businesses, advocacy groups, residents, library, high school, and committee members.

* Most of the concerns have been around parking removal. Other complaints include concerns about seeing around corners.

* Vehicular lanes were narrowed, which likely contributes to decrease in traffic speed

* Dana suggested that the Bike Committee's proposal related to the curb bump outs could contribute towards bicyclists not stopping at crosswalks, and would likely increase drainage problems. Comment: There is likely a good design to meet all goals, should construction be done in the future.

* The purpose of the Cambridge Street pilot project was to bring about more rapid changes in bicycle facilities, without waiting for streets to be fully reconstructed.

* The general consensus is that we support the bike committee's statement while quibbling with some of the details. We could well benefit from writing our own statement that agrees with certain parts of the bike committee's statement while considering our own concerns.

* Debby solicited volunteers to write a statement from the pedestrian committee perspective. Andrea and Steven volunteered. The idea would be to have this statement ready for a future (to be scheduled) stakeholder meeting and/or public forum. Statement will be drafted and discussed at the next meeting, ready for approval by the committee.

* **Inman Square**

* Three plans for the new plaza were shared with the stakeholders, including street furniture, trees, etc, and types of plantings were discussed. There may be one more iteration of the design. There will have to be discussion at the City Council AND at the state legislature because open space is being removed/replaced (even though, overall, open space will be increased). State legislature typically looks to the local delegation.

* The vast majority of people (including neighborhood association, business association) have been very supportive of the new plans. There is still a very vocal minority who is against any sort of change (due to tree removal).

* If there is an additional public meeting, we may need to speak up in support of change. The full details of the proposed design are on the DPW website All crosswalks have protected crossings, with the possible exception of one small side street.

* **River Street project**

Not starting process until fall 2018. Major reconstruction opportunity.

* **South Mass Ave, Sidney – Memorial Drive**

* Between Sidney Street & Memorial Drive. Will involve looking at separated bike facilities, transit priority (signal improvements), queue jump lanes, potentially short stretches of transit only lanes. Just starting the process, will begin in April. Stakeholder group, bigger public meetings/open houses. Will be discussed at a future committee meeting (possibly a tri-committee meeting). Business representatives (small & large businesses), MIT, central square business association, residents.

* There is more flexibility due to the width of the road. Fewer residents in the area (mainly MIT dorms).

* Want to make sure we've learned from other projects.

* Desire for pedestrian crossing between Albany & Lansdowne.

III. Committee Work/Discussion

Vision Zero

* 20 mph in the squares. How can we nominate other areas in the city for the reduced speed limits.

Sean is representative on Vision Zero committee.

Is there data collection going on to see if these speed reductions are actually changing speeds? A before study has been done, waiting for an after study.

What about reducing speeds on the DCR roads? Speeds on the DCR roads are still very high. We have no authority over state roads.

Brattle Street has fast speeds.

Upcoming Signal Work

* Full traffic signal coming at Broadway & Ellery (this construction season)

* The HAWK signal at Binney & Sixth will become a full signal. (Further down the road)

* Debby asked about Oxford & Wendell. Not warranted for a signal or a four-way stop.

Pedestrian Committee June Walk

- Amy Kaiser did go back & talk to colleague at LIST visual art center. They have a representative who would be happy to lead a tour. Still need pedestrian committee members to step up and make something out of the walk.

- Magda suggested talking about the summer walk as much as possible as the whole committee. Greg will assist with publicity.

Once we have the walk (route) planned out, it's just a matter of doing the map & the brochure. We need to nail down soon what we want the walk to be. Johanna will connect with Amy (from MIT).

Suggestion: merging the connecting with the community and summer walk subcommittees together, at least for now.

We've had some level of snacks in the past. Last year, we had snacks from Whole Foods (they donated money). Other years, private developers have offered things. The city can offer water bottles & granola bars.

Some discussion about what time the walk would start. That would drive the snack/drink question.

Tentatively 10am-noon.

Greg will set up meeting, and it will be included in a future pedestrian report.

- Safe Routes to School: Justin Schrieber is going to set up a meeting with pedestrian & bike committee members who want to collaborate.

Problem Intersection Work

- Sean gave an introduction on the "problem intersection" list, including the history. Copies of the list were distributed. Perhaps whittle this down to top 5 or 10 list.

Liza did a map on Google Maps; we need to get access to that so we can edit it.

This list is not for "SeeClickFix"-type issues, but longer-term issues.

Should we prioritize the "low hanging fruit"?

Coordinate efforts with five year plan

Flag rows "yellow" that need attention

Several members (include Helen & Debby) volunteered to visit intersections Helen will update map once

Liza gives access Make extra notation for intersections that have disability issue; work with disability commission to prioritize those intersections

IV. Other/Announcements

- Joe Rose, committee member, has resigned from the committee due to outside commitments.

- Pedestrian Bridge at Alewife

It's back! (Conceptually)

Needs funding (possibly federal)

Adding a commuter rail stop there would decrease some of the engineering costs

- Crash at Pedestrian & Trowbridge. Driver came down Trowbridge, went through the intersection, and crashed into a bench in front of the library. Nobody was hurt. If it was summer, people could have been hurt.

- Crash at Putnam Ave, driver of Toyota Prius went around slowing vehicle and hit pedestrian (hit & run). Police put out video trying to find driver.