

Cambridge Pedestrian Committee

Draft Notes

September 26, 2019

Attendance

Committee Members: Robin Bonner, Debby Galef, Sandy Goldberg, Ian Henneberger, Elka Kuhlman, Pamela McLemore, Angie Meltsner, Helen Rose, Erica Seidel, Mats Terwiesch, Erik Tillman, Olivia Turner, Jenine Turner-Trauring, Wade Smith, Theresa Tobin, Alanna Williams

Staff: Cara Seiderman

Agenda review, minutes, introductions

Committee members introduced themselves and gave an anecdote regarding walking. The committee approved the July minutes

Committee structure & overview

At the next meeting, we'll talk about what we would like to achieve over the next year. At that time, we will also consider subcommittees, ad hoc or otherwise.

Next project review meeting (bike/ped/transit): October 7. Binney Street, Belmont Street, Inner Mount Auburn Street.

Some larger projects (e.g. River Street): representatives from each committee (bike/ped/transit) will sit on those other (project) committees.

When large development projects are proposed, developers are often required to do transportation impact studies.

Projects

* DPW Updates: Brian not present, but he sent the following updates:

Huron Ave, sidewalks being worked on from Garden to Raymond Sixth Street, new sidewalks next spring Eliot Street, sidewalk work will hopefully finish this year New sidewalk in front of the new King Open School

* TP&T Updates

* RRFBs installed at Mass & Pearl, Mass & Norfolk, Mass & Day, Western & Hews, Brattle & Brattle.

* 24-hour count stations installed at Mass & Prospect, Broadway & Third, Hampshire & Cardinal Medeiros, Binney & Third, Garden & Huron/Sherman, Mass & Garden, Cambridge & Third. Money from counters came from Encore Casino.

* 20 mph safety project: 100 signs have been sited for local access side streets, totaling 700 signs. If there ends up being traffic consistently going over that speed, roads will have to be re-engineered. A committee member asked about traffic enforcement. To be able to give a ticket, you have to be able to measure the speed for 1/4 mile. We will talk about traffic speed & safety at a future meeting.

Brief information about the fatality in Harvard Square recently. Investigation falls under the DA's purview.

* River Street - Olivia is the representative from the committee to the project. Presentations are posted on the CDD website with details after the meetings in question. Discussed specific designs from

Memorial Drive to Auburn Street. Next meeting will cover Auburn Street to Mass Ave. Two travel lanes (one bus lane, one car lane), and a bike lane to the right of the bus lane. Sidewalk will expand, and will have more trees. Discussed having just one lane of travel (problems: emergency access, fixing potholes, trash trucks). River Street much narrower than Western Ave, so cannot have the same design, no matter how much that was desired. Many people felt that crossing River & Western can be difficult. There is a survey for the public, including committee members, to give their feedback about River Street. Some talk about a cycle track, but can cause more complexity. River Street is a 25 mph street. "Flex space" might include loading zones, parking, pickup/drop-off areas. There will be another public meeting, likely in November. A future bike/ped/transit committee meeting will cover River Street.

* Grand Junction: Next working meeting October 1. Biggest struggle to make sure corridor could support two way train track in the future.

* DCR Memorial Drive Phase III: Last public meeting September 25. Next meeting sometime in October. State website with details of some conceptual ideas, including BU rotary reconstruction possibilities.

* Inner Mt Auburn from JFK to Putnam. Public meeting to be announced.

* Vision Zero - Council Meeting on October 15 about where the city is with Vision Zero.

Council hearing on sidewalk treatments

The committee briefly reviewed a presentation given to the city council on various sidewalk options.

Note: the bumpy crosswalk-edge strips are called truncated domes.

Another term: spalling concrete. Plants that mix the concrete are further & further from Cambridge.

The longer the time between mixing the concrete and pouring it, the more likely you are to see spalling concrete (ends up in poorer condition).

Who is responsible for auditory signals? Combination of commission with disabilities and traffic department. Possibility for future meeting.

Other Updates & Announcements

If committee members have ideas for future agenda topics, please send them along to Cara.

Before subcommittees are formed, members could talk about specific skills they have that could inform certain projects.

Next meeting October 24.