

Cambridge Bicycle Committee

January 10, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

In-Person: Michael Mantello (CDD), Cara Seiderman (CDD), Tenzin Choephel (CDD), Eitan Normand, Scott Kilcoyne, Guido Cuperus

Virtual: Andreas Wolfe (TP&T), Stephen Meuse (TP&T), Jerry Friedman (DPW), Amy Flax, Alison Harris, Conor Henrie, Pamela Yang, John P. Ellersick, Catiana Jean-Pierre (guest), Greg Carey-Medlock (guest), Worth Smith (guest), Xander Mitchell (guest), Sophia Galimore (guest)

October Minutes approved

BIKE RIDES (Tenzin)

- Winter ride
 - In the past, “Bike to Bites” theme, sponsored by Harvard Square Business Association last year
 - Smaller ride than the spring and fall rides
- Spring ride
 - Committee decides on theme (ex. Cambridge network past-present, public art, science/education buildings, etc.)
- Pamela: what about snow in March? Rain date?
 - Cara: too logistically complicated, due to moving parts; ride canceled in event of bad weather
- Route
 - Cara: would be good to have Committee members volunteering help in planning the route; perhaps an opportunity to highlight the Hampshire Street bike lanes and Inman Square; can reach out to business associations
 - John: need one good terminus/anchor
 - Inman Square -> Hampshire St -> Cambridge St; ask East Cambridge Business Association about doing something in Inman Square
 - Tenzin: avoid hills, make kid-friendly
- Date
 - Check with police
 - Check if we have a sponsor
 - Weekend of March 9-10
- Volunteers
 - John – riding attendee
 - Guido, Eitan can do anything

- Pamela at table?
- Help with route planning: John
- Amy away day of but can help with anything in advance (e.g., brochure)
- SPRING RIDE: Saturday May 18

Red Line Shutdowns (Tenzin)

- Feb 5-14 Red Line shutdown
 - City is looking for ways to encourage people to bike instead
 - Tenzin will be tabling to share lights, etc.
 - Committee Members welcome to participate
- Larger efforts for July shutdown
 - Better weather, more people will be willing
 - Group rides into city from Alewife for example?
 - Amy: bike bus, to help less comfortable riders, also very visible
- Biking in winter workshop
 - Tenzin will host one on Jan 29th eve
- Guido: free Bluebikes during shutdown?
 - Cara: not during Feb; but will ensure bikes available at stations along route
 - Conversation with other communities about July and fall time frames; want to make it very easy to use Bluebikes

TP&T Updates (Stephen)

- See slide for updates

Cambridge Street (Andreas)

- No design to review tonight, will be shared early spring
- Limits: Inman Square project (Oak St) to Divco West GLX (Second St)
 - Incl north side buffered lane btwn Prospect & Oak
- Buses: relocate/consolidate stops, boarding islands
- Design: restrict parking to one side of the street (can alternate sides depending on uses/needs, e.g., loading zones)
 - Pedestrian crossing islands on side with parking
- Timeline
 - Currently phase 1 (intro) – existing conditions, needs, etc.
 - Phase 2 (design feedback) – late winter to spring 2024
- Street design goals
 - Protect vulnerable road users
 - Reduce crashes
- Comments
 - John: overall safety project (not just “bikes”) is great

- Guido: problem intersection Cardinal Madeiros & Warren
 - Andreas: City plans to add a traffic signal, with construction of Grand Junction corridor (likely won't go in with this quick-build project, though; maybe an all-way stop in the meantime)
- Guido: complete repaving?
 - Jerry: yes
- Eitan: boarding island materials?
 - All or most bus stops (where feasible) will be built out with concrete bus boarding islands
- Scott: can temporary boarding islands be used before permanent ones, since it will extend project into 2025
 - Temporary boarding islands are just as time-consuming and difficult to construct, also don't hold up so not an effective option
 - Andreas: pavement markings can only go in once construction wraps up
- Scott: signal questions
 - Transit priority? Without dedicated bus lanes these don't have value
 - Green wave? Probably not feasible on Cambridge St, would need more substantial infrastructure upgrades to all signal controllers (will see signal needs once we have design)
- Feedback form and comment map on project website
- Ped Comm meeting will be a walk of Cambridge St (prob March or April meeting)

DPW Updates (Jerry)

- See slides
- Eitan: bike infrastructure on Willard St? good connection from river to Brattle
 - Not room for lane, but shared lane markings and traffic calming (raised entries on either side and raised intersection midway)
- Eitan: Wendell St?

Announcements

- Joint Committee mtg 2/28 (NZTP)
- Positive feedback about hybrid format
- Snacks?