

Pedestrian Committee 10/27/2022

Attendees: Cara Seiderman (CDD), Walter Goldberg (CDD), Brian McClane (DPW), Debby Galef, Eliza Paden, Jenine Turner-Trauring, Robin Bonner, Sandy Goldberg, Brooke Williams, Sean Pierce

September minutes were approved.

Updates

City Projects

- Inman Square is still in progress but the overall plan is taking shape. Much of the curb/paving work will be completed soon, but overall full completion not till spring 2023. Cambridge Street will be going back to 2-way traffic for all modes, to help reduce bus delays and crashes at Hampshire/Prospect. There will be separated bike lanes, with a mix of fully separated and flexposts.

TP&T

- City staff are providing the voices for some accessible (audible) pedestrian signals. Recent Boston Globe coverage.

DPW

- Brattle Street repaving is behind schedule due to utility issues. Will be completed in springtime.
- Gore Street plan includes shared-use path that is intended to make connections to Grand Junction path.
- Many private development projects in Binney/Third street areas that will involve temporary street and sidewalk closures over next few years. "A tangled town of orange cones."
- Many smaller street repaving projects coming up. Asphalt paving season is coming to a close.
- Cambridge Street, Broadway, Harvard Street have seen recent sidewalk repairs, mostly replacing damaged concrete. This program will end for the season around Nov. 15.
- Upcoming: Harvard Street/The Port; River Street; Belmont Street; Huron Ave (western end).
- Supply chain issues (e.g., shortage of granite curb) have delayed some projects.
- Preparing for winter season. We will discuss snow at next meeting.

Development Projects

- Lechmere Canal Park rehab is part of larger private development project. (The park is publicly owned but upkeep is handled by private developer, paid for by abutters.) Public meeting last month. Plans for repairs, improved ped-scale lighting, added seating, addressing drainage. Plan is to improve/stabilize the existing stone dust path – but still may not be fully accessible or suitable for year-round use, a concern that has been discussed with other committees, and for which the bike committee wrote a letter. Path in this area could connect to future Museum of Science path across river.

- *Action item approved by unanimous consent:* Sandy will write short additional letter for planning board on behalf of ped committee, agreeing with bike committee letter and further noting (1) addition of organic stabilizer does not substantially improve stone dust's performance (e.g. for snowplowing) as experienced on past projects here and elsewhere and (2) further supporting that designer Carol Johnson acknowledged that stone dust was just a low-cost option.

Committee Work Plan - Wayfinding

- Brainstorming / Discussion
 - No current plan citywide but strong interest
 - Small signs can help people feel welcome, especially important for newer areas such as the Foundry
 - There may be a need for a different approach in the smartphone era, yet there is also still demand for physical maps, such as at Bluebike stations
 - A starting point could be signs at all MBTA subway exits, plus confusing locations such as Danehy Park, Fresh Pond
 - Nantucket has small but helpful bike wayfinding to deal with confusing one-way street patterns
 - Neighborhood info panels could show 5- and 10-minute walk radii. People are often not aware of actual walking distances.
- Next meetings:
 - Next Ped Cmte meeting 11/17, includes snow presentation
 - Joint meeting 11/30 on the Port street design project
 - December meeting is TBD based on bike committee plans, but tentative plan is 12/14 as joint meeting with bike committee, as short 'social' meeting