

Bike Committee Notes - 4/24/24

Approval of last meeting notes - a few typos need correction. Randy will send a new version to be approved at the May 8 meeting.

May Bike ride (Tenzin)

- Neighborhoods of the Cambridge African American Heritage Trail
- Speakers at St Augustines (Cambridgeport) (Randy to find someone) and Harriet Jacobs house (Story St) (Richard to find someone or some information)

Proposed CSO amendment (Cara)

- The CSO (Cycling Safety Ordinance) overview
 - Goal - eliminate transportation related deaths and serious injuries while increasing healthy, equitable mobility for all - by creating a safe bike network.
 - Requires the city to add separated bike lanes on the major streets in Cambridge (eg. Mass Ave, Cambridge St, Broadway, Hampshire St, Main St, Brattle St, Garden St, and others) on a schedule over a period of 5-7 years, starting in 2020.
 - CSO passed in 2019 for network streets being reconstructed by DPW, and amended to add a timeline and allow quick build in 2020.
 - City may use constructed bike lanes or quick build bike lanes, but CSO streets must have physical separation.
 - Mass Ave has a special section in the ordinance, because of several complex regions.
 - Special 4 must be implemented by April 2026, including Broadway, Cambridge St, Hampshire St, and Garden St. (city can, if needed, request a 1 year extension).
 - Q- Streets in purple?
 - A- Are potential network streets - not explicitly called out in the CSO. These may be implemented to meet the fill mileage requirement of the CSO.
 - Q- Streets in yellow, e.g. Wendell St.?
 - A- Not intended for greater separation.
- Proposed Amendment
 - Would delay implementing Cambridge St, Broadway, and Main St for 15 months beyond May 1, 2026 (what the CSO calls for) - making the new bike lanes schedule dependent on city to implement new parking regulations that would potentially allow the city to lease private parking for use by the public near those streets or allow businesses to reuse their parking spaces.
 - Q- Does this modify the CSO?
 - A- It would ask the CM for language that would become a change to the CSO to delay existing legal deadlines.
 - Q- Has the city staff requested more time to implement the CSO goals, or is this just politics?
 - A- No, the city believes it can meet the goals of the CSO.
 - Q- Who will find the "existing off-street parking" that is supposed to alleviate parking concerns?

- A- Currently need a special permit to allow a business, for example, to rent out its employees parking in the evenings. Regulations could be changed to allow this. Other research could be done as well.
- Q- Could the city buy land near these streets and create public parking?
 - A- Have not heard that proposed
- Q- Where in zoning ordinance are these restrictions?
 - A- This is a lengthier answer. Committee can have a primer on zoning at a future meeting.
- Q- Comment: at least one city councillor has also stated that city staff have not requested a delay.
- Q- Zoning changes do not guarantee that parking will actually become available, correct?
 - A- It depends on how the Zoning change is worked out.
- Q- Can the committee act and write a letter?
 - A- Individuals can send comments to the City Council on their own behalf. If the committee would like to make comments, those would go to the City Manager.
- Q- Comment: a letter to the CM has been drafted by a few members.
- Q- Can we ask the CM to make it clear at the 4/29 Council meeting that the city is not requesting a delay?
 - A- Lets review the proposed letter.
- Richard and Mark have drafted a letter. The text was reviewed and discussed.
- Q- Can we add a closing statement that makes it clear that any delay will cause serious injuries and/or deaths to very likely occur, based on the city's own safety data.
 - A- A general statement yes, but hard to quantify that.
- The committee decides to send the letter as discussed, emphasizing the safety impacts of delaying implementation.

Project Updates

- Markings on Mt Auburn and Aberdeen will be done this week.
- River Street/Carl Baron process well under construction.

Joint committee meeting May 15 will review the next part of the Mass Ave Partial Build project.

Bike Month kick off - Sunday April 28 1-5 @ Aeronaut

- Camille is tabling 1-3, Randy 4-5
- Ayanna Presley will be there, as will Will Brownsberger, several city councilors, Galen Mook from MassBike and others!
- Come to applaud Cara who will receive a Lifetime Achievement Award!