

City of Cambridge Bike Committee – Meeting Notes - 6/12/24

Approval of prior minutes - approved

Discussion of tragic bicyclist fatality last Friday at Mt Auburn St and De Wolfe St

- Sadness expressed by all commenters.
- Very confusing intersection for a visitor.
- We've all seen many cars turn right on red at that intersection.
- Position of bike light could be improved.
- Quick build does not rebuild intersections. A full build could have created a more protected intersection.
- Consistency of intersection treatments across the city would be helpful.
- Changing signals to create 100% separation would result in all modes waiting longer. This tends to result in non-compliance. People don't like to wait.
- TP&T will be studying what can be done.
- Maybe better warning of "yield to cyclists" would help encourage drivers to do the right thing.
- Trucks double parking in this section of Mt Auburn causes lots of confusion with buses, etc. passing illegally parked vehicles.
- Intersection design guidelines - we do follow all the guidelines, but there is lots of variability in different cases.
- Cambridge St is complex like Mt Auburn and needs separated bike lanes without delay.
- Could improve by better street design, but also awareness - what can we do for very young kids who need protection, and people complain if they bike on sidewalks.
- Q- Can we engage better with logistics companies who operate in Cambridge to encourage vehicle side guards?
 - A- Both city vehicles and city contractors must have side guards.
 - A- Harvard does it voluntarily. City can't require it.
- Flashing yellow for right turns as standard would be an improvement.

Red Line Closure planning

- 7/13-7/28.
- Want to encourage bike trips.
- Offer good commuting routes.
- Perhaps daily commuter rides - bike committee members could lead rides from Alewife area to Kendall area.
- Bike bus for adults.
- Please keep an eye out for weekly email updates where we will share route maps, start locations, times, and seek volunteers to sign up to lead some morning commute rides.

Project updates

- TP&T
 - Mt Auburn / Aberdeen - lane markings done this week. Some bus markings still to come.
 - SBL on Main St between Albany and Portland will open in next few weeks.
 - Obrien Hwy markings coming soon.
- DPW
 - River St on going.
 - SBL on Huron near Fresh Pond not really done yet - still construction between Aberdeen and FPP, the western portion is in better shape.

- Mass Ave Partial Reconstruction: Rindge to Linnaean working group meeting has led to delay in public meeting - lots of comments to process.
- CDD - no real changes from last month.

Council Order #70

- A few restaurants near Hancock St on Mass Ave were concerned that repaving work on Mass Ave would remove their outdoor dining. The city will reschedule that section to later in the fall.
- Also have a more flexible design to mark the bike lane at the curb, so that when outdoor dining is removed in the winter the lane will be near the curb, and in the summer bike lane will move outside the dining with jersey barrier protection.
- Q- Could you move dining next to the restaurants and have the sidewalk extend out in the street on a wooden boardwalk?
 - A- This raises some pretty big accessibility concerns.

MBTA Draw One Bridge replacement

- The draw bridge that carries trains to North Station is supposed to have ped/cyclist traffic as part of Big Dig mitigation.
- DCR and others to get involved - \$32M is available for design.
- Also, South Bank Path on Boston side that could connect under Zakim Bridge to north end is gaining some traction.
 - This is the presentation from DCR. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/south-bank-park-project-meeting-presentation-6112024/download>
- We could send a letter in support to DCR and MBTA in the fall.
- Decided - bike committee will write a letter in support of bike/ped facilities on the draw bridge and in South Bank Path.

Yearly work plan

- Charlie will edit further and get it online. He will also reach out to individual members to encourage signups.
- Richard commented that some of the tasks are best handled by subcommittees, and encourage members to think about signing up for more than one item.
- Charlie asked if any of the members of the public had any comments -- none did.

Next two meetings – Committee rides

- July and August Committee bike rides were discussed, including meeting places and how best to share ride route.
- Charlie introduced Wynn Gross, the Committee's new intern.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15