

## **Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)**

Meeting Minutes for November 2, 2009

Submitted by John Dempsey

The meeting took place in the Devotion School library at 7:00 P.M.

Present: Cynthia Snow, Tommy Vitolo, Don McNamara, John Dempsey

Transportation Board Representative: Peter Furth

Police Department Representative: Kevin Sullivan

Public: Rebecca Albrecht, Paul Larrabee, Catharine Verhulst, Neil Gordon, Jonathan Simmons

Handouts: Agenda, Minutes from 10/5/09, 2008 and 2009 Motor Vehicle/Bicycle Crashes

### **The minutes from the October 5, 2009, meeting were approved.**

#### **Welcome new participants**

- There were no new participants

#### **Bicycle Accidents – Officer Sullivan**

- Officer Sullivan presented a map showing 2008 and 2009 bicycle accident clusters as well as a detailed list of the accident dates and sites.
- He reported that bike thefts were up 100% this year.
- Of 77 reported motor vehicle/bicycle accidents, at least 7 were identified as “doorings.”
- Question raised: It stands to reason that on streets with more bikes there will be more accidents. Are there lots of bikes on certain streets with relatively fewer accidents on those streets and vice versa?

#### **Report of October 25 Transportation Board Meeting – All**

- There was a lot of discussion about the traffic changes in Coolidge Corner
  - Bike matters were not taken up until after 11 P.M.
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- The following actions were approved by the Transportation Board:
    - 1) The crossing from Essex Street to Mountfort Street
      - Bicyclists will mount the island and ride across the island.
      - While we had asked for a ramp to allow bikes headed to the BU Bridge to mount the inside loop sidewalk on Mountfort it was determined that the inside loop of Mountfort would likely be reduced to a single travel lane, making it possible for there to be a bike lane instead. Therefore, there will be no ramp to the inner loop sidewalk.
      - There will be a cut in the median.
      - The work will be done soon.
    - 2) Longwood Avenue
      - Marked bicycle lane in the eastbound direction.
      - Marked bicycle priority lane in the westbound direction.
      - There will be a study to see if the section Harvard Street to Sewall Street is wide enough for a bike lane.
    - 3) Muddy River Path’s Route 9 Crossing
      - The Department of Planning and Community Development will meet with the City of Boston to discuss a federal earmark of \$600,000 for a path crossing on the Curley Overpass/Riverway Bridge.
      - The work would involve both communities as well as MassDOT (owns the bridge) and DCR (owns the approach ramps and the roadways).
    - 4) Crossing from Parkway Road to the Muddy River Path
      - The Transportation staff agreed to look into it and possibly plan it as a capital project for the coming year.
    - 5) Re-Striping of bike lanes in worn sections
      - Harvard Street south of Beacon will be re-striped.

#### 6) Capital Improvements Plan

- Transportation staff has requested that \$20,000 - \$25,000 be put in the CIP for bicycle improvements for the coming year (for Carlton Street/Cottage Farm). Assuming that it will be accepted, current Transportation staff would then request a similar amount to be included in the CIP in future years.

#### Mandatory Bike Registration – Vitolo

- Ms. Snow and Ms. Vitolo attended the subcommittee of the Advisory Committee.
- Though the police recommend a “No” vote, there may be some sentiment at Town Meeting.
- Mr. Vitolo suggested that a member of the Bicycle Advisory Committee volunteer to take on the project of getting cyclists to voluntarily register their bikes at town events and/or at the Public Safety Building.

#### Report on Green Expo on October 18, 2009 – Vitolo

- Mr. Vitolo, Ms. Snow, and Mr. McNamara staffed the BAC table
- They sold Landry’s bicycle lights and Urban AdvenTours “Bike Brookline” t-shirts at cost.

#### Bike Count - Snow

- Ms Snow will compile the bike count data.

#### Ciclovía - All

- No one volunteered to take on the project.

#### Bike Parade – Dempsey

- Mr. Dempsey notified the police of the date of Sunday, May 23, 2010, and the permits are moving through the Transportation Department and the Commissioner.
- Perhaps the goal this year will be to have 1000+ riders.
- The BHS Bicycle Club may try to coordinate a race to complement the event.

#### Report on parking lane widths – Furth

- Brookline parking lanes have varying width: Boylston Street (6’), Beacon Street (7’, 8’, and 9’)
- Northeastern engineering students sampled more than 100 cars in each category as to how close to the curb they were parked.
- They pointed out that widths varied: Boylston Street (6’), Beacon Street (7’), Beacon Street (8’).
- They found that cars parked closer to the curb wherever the parking lanes were narrower.
- There is some ambiguity in state law: 1’ from the curb and park within stall lines.

#### Other Business

- There was discussion about the Runkle School project’s eligibility for state environmental grants.
- A certain percentage of people regularly using non-motorized transportation to and from the school helps it to qualify.
- Helen Charlupski is the School Committee representative.
  
- Mr. Furth reported that he was working with a group of NU students to identify a network of off-road paths and connections to greenways within the Route 128 circumference.
  
- Mr. Furth reported that he was working with a group of NU students to help break the stalemate over a bicycle path going right through the NU campus that would connect the Muddy River path with the Southwest Corridor and Melnea Cass bike paths.
  
- Mr. Furth reported that he has been appointed to the Technical Advisory Committee of MassBike.

#### Next Meeting

- We will meet on Monday, December 7, 2009, at 7 P.M. at Devotion School.

#### Adjournment:

- We adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

**Assignments:**

- Ms. Snow will compile the bike count data.