

**Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)
Site Visits, August 27, 2012**

Present: Cynthia Snow, Chris Dippel, Tommy Vitolo, Mitch Heineman, John Dempsey

Absent: Don McNamara

Also Attending: Andrew Fischer

The committee bicycled to the following sites to examine conditions and discuss possible solutions for improving safety for cyclists and other road users. These sites and proposals will be discussed at the next regular Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting on September 10.

Outbound side of Beacon Street between Harvard St. and Washington Street: This section of road is considered dangerous by many cyclists; it is relatively narrow and is a section where traffic picks up speed after leaving Coolidge Corner. There is no bike lane.

- Mr. Fischer described a solution proposed when Beacon Street was renovated by the state involving a bike path along the T tracks from Marion to Westbourne Terrace; upon examination, this possibility no longer seems feasible.
- Remove parking along part of this stretch of road to create a bike lane, although removing parking is never a welcome solution.
- Make the sidewalk a shared bike/pedestrian path; several objections were raised to this possibility.
- Turn the road from two lanes to one from Marion Street to Washington Square to allow a bike path either to the right or the left of parked cars.

Outbound side of Beacon Street between Washington Street and Cleveland Circle: The bike lane markings have been obliterated by repaving; when repainted, it was agreed that the lane meet the new standard of five-foot width.

Inbound side of Beacon Street between Cleveland Circle and Washington Square: There is currently no bicycle accommodation. Options discussed included sharrows and the possibility of a morning rush hour parking ban, when both cycle and vehicle traffic is quite heavy. A reconfiguration of the two lanes to make the right travel lane wider and the left travel lane narrower was also suggested.

Inbound side of Beacon Street between Winchester Street and Webster Street: The bike lane currently ends at the Winchester Street intersection. It seems possible to extend it past Park Street to Webster Street.

Inbound side of Beacon Street between Webster Street and St. Mary's Street: There are no bicycle accommodations along this long stretch of Beacon, and it is too narrow to allow a bike lane. Possible solutions include sharrows and/or a parking ban during morning rush hour.

We discussed briefly but did not visit, Beacon Street outbound between Pleasant and Harvard (parking ban or sharrows) and Longwood Avenue between Harvard Street and Sewall Avenue.