

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

Meeting Minutes for October 7, 2013

Submitted by John Dempsey

The meeting took place in Town Hall, Room 310 at 7:00 P.M.

Present: Cynthia Snow, Bryan Decker, Chris Dippel, John Dempsey, Tommy Vitolo, Don McNamara

Also Attending:

Public: Rebecca Albrecht, Nick Schmidt, Henry Winkelman, Joseph LaCorte (NU Journalism)

Handouts: Agenda, 2013 Brookline Bike Counts Spreadsheet

## **Introductions**

### **Review of September Meeting Minutes**

- The minutes from the September 9, 2013, meeting were approved.

### **Brookline Bike Counts**

- Ms. Snow distributed copies of the 2013 bike counts – the 8<sup>th</sup> year of such counts.
- Ms. Snow and Mr. Vitolo gave an overview of the purpose and history of the Brookline Bike Counts.
- Counts are figured for the “peak hour.” Peak hour is defined as the four contiguous quarter hours with the most bicycles during a 1.5-hour period.
- “Key count” refers to, and allows for, locations that get riders that may already have been counted at another intersection.
- Observation: where infrastructure improvements have been made there seems to be an increase in the number of cyclists in those areas.

### **Report on the Transportation Board Meeting**

- Ms. Snow and Mr. Vitolo reported on the Transportation Board meeting of October 3, 2013.
- In response to a citizen/BCAN petition to prohibit bicycling on all sidewalks, the Board voted unanimously not to change the current laws in that regard.
- The Board reviewed and approved for the next capital improvements budget bicycle infrastructure improvements on Cypress Street (north of Boylston Street) and School Street.
- Mr. Vitolo suggested that the BAC carefully review bike infrastructure in the commercial districts to try, in the future, to ensure continuous bike lanes.

### **Revisions to Green Routes Bicycle Network**

- Ms. Snow reported that Mr. Heineman will be updating the Green Routes map and the Town’s GIS administrator will be updating the map on the Town’s website.
- Mr. Vitolo updated the BAC about MassDOT plans for the St. Mary’s Street bridge.
- Ms. Snow explained that Babcock Street was put back in the plan because there is talk of resurfacing the current concrete with blacktop. (Harvard Street to Fire Station has been resurfaced.)

- Mr. Decker observed while doing bike counts that the intersection of Longwood and Harvard is dangerous and should be looked at for safety improvements.
- There was a discussion about “way-finding” signs. They must be comprehensive, carefully done, complete, and complementary with the signs of neighboring communities.

#### **Applying for League of American Bicyclists Bike Friendly Community Status**

- Ms. Snow spoke about the application process and surrounding communities that have made the application (Boston – silver, Somerville – bronze, Newton – bronze).
- Purpose of the application process is to help communities think about the next steps to take in making their communities more “bicycle friendly.”
- Mr. Kirrane would be the one to submit the application, but it would take a team of people to help compile the information needed.
- The next application deadlines are February 2014 and July 2014.

#### **Follow-up: Public messages on bike safety**

- Mr. Decker contacted the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School program.
- Mr. Decker has been in touch with the principal of the Driscoll School and the Public Health Department about International Car Free School Day (October 9, 2013).
- Mr. Vitolo pointed out that receipts from citations issued for bicycle violations are supposed to be earmarked for bike safety education.

#### **Other business**

- Ms. Albrecht reported on, and shared photographs of, her three-week trip to The Netherlands in August.
- Her pictures and comments were about Dutch bicycle infrastructure, shared use of facilities, and the general bicycling culture in Holland – particularly Groningen.

#### **Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

#### **Next meeting: Monday, November 4, 2013**