

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

Meeting Minutes for April 7, 2014

Submitted by Chris Dippel

The meeting took place in the Town Hall Room 408 at 7:00 P.M.

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

Public: John Bowman, Seth Rubin, Henry Winkelman, Nick Schmidt, Mitch Heineman

Handouts: agenda

### **Introductions**

#### **Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

- The committee reviewed and voted to approve the minutes from the March 2014 meeting.

#### **Traffic Stress Analysis**

- Mr. Schmidt reviewed a Traffic Stress Analysis protocol and two sample maps (based on no-car households) he had distributed to the committee via the Chair prior to the meeting; he had copies for attendees. The protocol takes into account several factors such as motor vehicle speed and number and road width to generate a measure of how stressful a given route may be for an average bicyclist. He repeated his offer to utilize available data to conduct this type of analysis for BAC use. The committee agreed that such an analysis would be helpful in prioritizing accommodation projects and that gathering the basic data may require on-site inspection to determine factors such as continuity of an accommodation and width of streets. Mr. Schmidt acknowledged the latter and the need to gather data on intersections. He asked what other types of data presentation would be helpful, and attendees replied the number of bike commuters and families with K-8 and 9-12 grade children. The committee agreed it needed to think more about how to use his offer.

#### **Bicycle Accident Data**

- The committee discussed the data provided by the police department; the summary was circulated by Ms. Snow before the meeting. A question was raised about how attribution of cause was established in accidents when a bicyclist hit an open car door (not all were attributed to the motorist). Ms. Snow noted the data could be combined with a traffic stress analysis to identify problem areas.

#### **Bike Parade Update**

- Mr. Dempsey reported progress on preparations for the parade scheduled for May 18, starting at 11:30 AM (police, sponsors, vendors, bike shops on board) and that about 30 volunteers were needed as route marshals and to distribute tee-shirts and bells. Ideas were offered for sources of recruits (CERT, town meeting members, teens from teen center, Boston Cyclists Union). Ms. Snow said that she would solicit volunteers through an email to the BAC list.

#### **Capital Projects Planning**

- Ms. Snow reported that at a recent meeting of the Advisory Committee, the Committee approved the bicycle-related items for implementation in FY 2015, accommodations on Cypress and School Streets.
- Ms. Snow noted that a repaving of Hammond Street was being planned and this offers a chance for the BAC to offer input on bicycling accommodations. The committee decided to send a

memo to the Transportation Board asking for a study of possible accommodations. Ms. Snow will draft one.

- The Beacon Street outbound improvement project for FY2016 was discussed and options reviewed (street-side bike lane, bicycle priority lane, use of the sidewalk, cycle-track, routing along the T tracks). Ms. Snow will draft a memo to ask the Board for a study.

#### **League of American Cyclists Application**

- Progress is being made and Ms. Snow will ask for help in drafting sections when needed.
- Submission is planned for July.

#### **Complete Streets Policy**

- Ms. Snow noted a request by the Green Caucus and BrooklineCAN that the BAC become a co-sponsor of their Complete Streets Forum being organized for June 12. The committee agreed.
- Attendees discussed the growing interest in complete streets planning, getting coordination among town functions, the need for follow-up to the forum, and the possibility of the town hiring a complete streets coordinator.

#### **Bike to School Program**

- Mr. Decker noted the program will be given at the Driscoll School on April 30 through MassBike.
- Mr. Bowman noted that materials to survey interest in to/from school transportation were available online at the Safe Routes to School website.

#### **Transportation Around Schools**

- Mr. Bowman noted the Devotion School Building Committee meeting will be Wednesday, April 9, at 8 AM and preliminary design plans were available on the town website.
- He also noted he will be out of the country starting May 20 and that someone may want to fill in for him.
- He also asked that the BAC ask the Transportation Board to endorse the inclusion of pedestrian and bicyclist accommodations in the Devotion School plan and in those to be developed for other schools. The committee agreed and Mr. Dippel offered to draft a memo.

#### **Other Business**

- Due to a conflict with Town Meeting, the committee agreed to reschedule the June meeting to June 4.

#### **Next Meeting**

- The next meeting will be Monday, May 5.