

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

Meeting Minutes for July 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, and Thomas Vitolo (absent: Don McNamara)

Public: Anne Lusk, Albert Anastasio, Henry Winkelman, Dan Martin, Joe Viola, Mark Tedrow, Pete Stidman. Mitch Heineman

Handouts: agenda

### **Introductions**

- The committee members introduced themselves as did members of the public. Anne Lusk is at the Harvard School of Public Health and a town resident; Albert Anastasio is an intern; Henry Winkelman is a resident; Joe Viola and Dan Martin are town staff members, of the Planning and Transportation Departments, respectively; Mark Tedrow is a resident of Jamaica Plain and is a Liveable Streets Alliance member; Pete Stidman is founder of the Boston Cyclists' Union, and Mitch Heineman is a resident and former BAC member.

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

- The minutes of the June meeting were approved.

### **Gateway East Project**

- Mr. Viola gave an overview of the project history (started in 2006) and status (in 2012 the MA DOT reviewed a plan, in February 2014 the Town through its Gateway East Advisory Committee reviewed the plan, and the project is expected to be put out for bids in 2015, with a funded 2016 start). Mr. Viola said the project was to improve safety, traffic flow, and pedestrian and bicycle use. As part of the planning process, he asked the contract design firm (Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. or VHB) to study the placement of cycle tracks (CT) on both sides of the primary street, Washington, from a new intersection with Walnut to Pond Ave. He passed out a page of a road cross sections and a set of plans, noting the latter is available on the Town website. He then described the VHB conclusion, that a CT could not be added to the south side without impinging on property owned by the Brook House. A discussion ensued among the attendees for approximately one hour. During the discussion, Mr. Viola noted that he did not know if VHB was following NACTO design standards for the CT or whether VHB had asked the MA DOT for input on CT design. He also asked if bicycle accommodations other than a CT were of interest to the attendees. Dr. Lusk said an on-sidewalk cycle track was of interest. The discussion was ended by the BAC deciding to review the materials Joe had provided and the NACTO standards and to develop a recommendation for the Transportation Board.

### **Accommodations on Beacon Street (outbound Marion to Washington)**

- This project has been considered by the BAC as an FY16 CIP request, and Mr. Martin attended the meeting to report on the findings of a study conducted by his department of the effect of reducing the roadway from two to one lane to accommodate a bicycle lane.
- He said that the study was conducted for one hour during peak travel time (5-6 PM) and that for the most part traffic moved unimpeded but was occasionally backed up by pedestrians activating the stop signal for the cross walk at Lancaster Terrace.

- Mr. Martin, BAC members, and remaining public attendees then discussed ways to eliminate the backup, e.g., by adjusting the light cycle and providing a right turn lane for cars turning onto Lancaster.
- Mr. Martin said that his department wanted to conduct another study in September to have data on which to base a recommendation. Ms. Snow noted that because the BAC needed to submit projects with cost data by September for inclusion in the FY2016 CIP, this project could not be submitted.

#### **Other FY2016 CIP Projects**

- The BAC discussed other projects and agreed that a request for additional bicycle parking will be made. Other ideas were the painting of bike boxes (about \$8000 each) on St. Paul and Aspinwall. Other ideas will be discussed at the August meeting.

#### **Other Business**

- Because Ms. Snow will be out of town on August 5, the BAC agreed to move the next meeting to August 11.
- Mr. Vitolo and Mr. Stidman noted that the Town may wish to provide input on the modifications being planned by the City of Boston to Commonwealth Avenue west of the BU bridge. The BAC will consider making a recommendation to the Transportation Board.

#### **Next Meeting**

- The next meeting will be Monday, August 11, at 7 PM in Town Hall, Room 408.