

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for August 11, 2014

Submitted by Don McNamara

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

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

Absent: Chris Dippel, Mark Trahon

Public: Henry Winkelman, Anne Lusk, Pat Maher, Marj Radin, Phil Bowman, Rebecca Albrecht, Craig Bolon

Handouts: agenda, photographs of Robinson Playground

Introductions

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

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

Possible proposals for FY2016 CIP

- Mr. Decker suggested that Grove Street and Newton Street from Putterham Circle to Larz Anderson Park would be a good location for 2016 improvements.
- Mr. Vitolo suggested we should keep bike racks in all future CIP proposals.
- Mr. Vitolo noted there was interest on the Town Meeting Members mailing list in trialing a bike corral.
- Mr. Dempsey suggested we plan on spending money on painting bike boxes in the town and it would be a good way to get bicyclists and motorists familiar with their use.
- Mr. McNamara suggested a fog line on the newly paved Dean Road, since it did not appear to have room for a bike lane.
- Mr. Vitolo suggested pricing the Newton Street improvements in two sections. One from Newton Street to Larz Anderson Park and the other from Newton Street to Putterham Circle.
- Mr. Vitolo proposed and the committee agreed to ask the Transportation Department to price the following projects for the FY2016 CIP so that we can make a final decision at our September 8th meeting on which projects to submit:
 - Bicycle infrastructure improvements Clyde/Newton/Goddard to Larz Anderson Park.
 - Bike Box painting on Aspinwall at Harvard Street and St. Paul at Beacon Street in connection with bike lanes to be installed
 - Bicycle rack purchase and installation around town, but with a focus on Coolidge Corner
- We should also ask which roads will be re-paved or improved in FY2016.
- Ms. Lusk suggested the committee should be proposing more separated cycle tracks in town and that one cycle track in town would be a good example for future infrastructure.

Proposal for permanent Bike Training Area for Children

- Ms. Lusk, inspired by Utrecht, The Netherlands, suggested the town of Brookline install a permanent bicycle training course for children. She identified the paved area of Robinson Playground as a good location for the training area.
- Ms. Lusk stated that the budget is unknown, but others noted it should not be that expensive because this would not be the same paint used for street lines.
- Ms. Lusk and Mr. Vitolo stressed that getting the neighbors and parents involved in the process was key to the success of this project. Ms. Lusk suggested that if we organize the meetings, the leaders will self-select and run the process.

Cyclist concerns about law enforcement

- Ms. Snow discussed two recent issues brought to the attention of the committee regarding police interaction with bicyclists.
- The committee discussed asking the Transportation Board to send a letter to the police department to ask about police training regarding cyclists and to bring these matters of concern to the attention of the Police Department.

Email sign-up on Brookline Bikes website

- Mr. Dempsey proposed we allow people to sign up to our mailing list on our website. It is currently a very manual process. The committee agreed this was an excellent idea.
- Mr. McNamara will add the functionality to the website.
- Mr. Bowman noted there was a broken link to the town's old calendar on the website and also that he had found some out of date information regarding meeting locations.
- Mr. Craig Bolon noted that the meeting minutes for the Bicycle Advisory Committee and Transportation Board have been missing since the town updated the town website.

Green Routes Plan

- Mr. Sandman stopped by before the meeting began to suggest that a contraflow lane on Monmouth Street be added to the Green Routes Plan.
- Mr. Decker agreed Monmouth Street would be a very useful bicycle route alternative to Beacon Street.
- Ms. Albrecht suggested that Crowninshield Road would be a good location for a contraflow bike lane.

Follow up

- Ms. Snow gave an update on the Gateway East project; she, Mr. Vitolo and Mr. Winkleman attended the last Transportation Board meeting and reinforced the memo already sent. Mr. Kirrane then indicated that the project is temporarily on hold for the Town to respond to Mass DOT concerns and that there will be opportunity for future public comment and Transportation Board review.
- Also at the Transportation Board meeting, Mr. Schmidt made a presentation on the proposed improvements to Commonwealth Avenue west of the BU Bridge, and the Transportation Board agreed to prepare a letter to Boston expressing support for better bicycle accommodations than those in the current plan.
- Ms. Snow informed the committee that the League of American Bicyclists application would be completed for the 2015 deadline.

Other Business

- Ms. Snow discussed the upcoming Parking Day on September 19.
- Ms. Snow reminded the committee that bicycle counts were in September.
- Mr. Decker announced that his employer, Sandulli Grace, was recognized as Boston's Most Bike-Friendly Business.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be Monday, September 8th.