

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

Meeting Minutes for September 8, 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, Chris Dippel, Don McNamara, Thomas Vitolo

Absent: John Dempsey, Mark Trahon

Public: Dan Martin, Nick Schmidt, Mitch Heineman, Anne Lusk, Phil Bowman

Handouts: agenda

### **Introductions**

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

- When a quorum was attained, the committee reviewed and voted to approve the minutes from the August 2014 meeting.

#### **Concerns about Law Enforcement**

- Ms. Snow reported that she spoke with Sgt. Trahon who said that either he or Officer Fallon of the Traffic Division will attend future BAC meeting to facilitate communication of concerns about enforcement. Ms. Snow also followed up with him about the response of the police officer to the cyclist involved in an accident at Corey and Beacon and he agreed that the response was not correct and that the matter was with a supervisor in the department.
- Sgt. Trahon also said that 17 members of the department (15 officers, 1 sergeant, 1 captain) had taken a state course on bicycle patrolling. The committee noted that this training was not necessarily specific to enforcement of laws related to cycling and recommended requesting that such training be implemented on a regular basis, possibly as part of the regular two weeks of annual training all officers receive as noted by Mr. Decker.
- Ms. Snow also noted that Officer Pat Elwood is developing a bicycling safety class to be offered to residents.
- Mr. McNamara and Mr. Vitolo raised the question of access to statistics on issued tickets as an index of enforcement.

#### **FY2016 CIP Projects**

- Mr. Martin presented proposed accommodations on Goddard and Newton Streets intended to improve access to Larz Anderson Park. The committee and other attendees provided input on these and requested consideration of the following changes:
  - Installation of a bollard-protected cycle track on the south side of Newton between Clyde and Goddard, the bollards to be removable to accommodate snow plowing.
  - Adoption of back-in parking and a bike lane or installation of a cycle track between a row of parked cars (backed-in or parallel) and the park border where there is currently head-in parking on Goddard.
  - Narrowing of the car lanes and centering of the median lines on Newton to maximize the bicycle lane/cycle track space.
  - Reduction of the width of the Newton/Goddard intersection and straightening of the crosswalk to benefit pedestrians.
- Mr. Martin also presented accommodations proposed for St. Paul St (primarily bike lanes) and the committee commented and endorsed them.
- Mr. Martin also reviewed the committee's suggestion of painting a bike box at St. Paul and Beacon Sts. And the committee requested this project be removed from consideration due to its

cost and its utility (cyclists typically continue on St. Paul and do not turn at this intersection). However the committee did request consideration of installation of some type of accommodation, such as a bike box at the outbound Beacon/St. Paul corner to facilitate a two-stage left turn for those cyclists who do wish to make a left turn from St. Paul onto Beacon outbound.

- Mr. Martin showed a drawing of the type of rack that could be installed as a pilot project and the committee thought it acceptable but requested more aesthetically-pleasing designs be selected if/when additional racks were installed. The committee also requested use of FY2016 CIP funds for installation of bike parking hoops (inverted U design) and/or meter circles.
- A question not answered from the August meeting was which roads will be re-paved or improved in FY2016.

### **Follow Up**

- Email sign-up on the BAC site: Mr. McNamara reported this function was ready to be added and will be shortly.
- Gateway East project: Mr. Dippel reported on attending the One Brookline Place Design Advisory Committee (DAT) meeting on August 26 and noted that the DAT members said that its responsibility was making recommendations on the project's internal design (e.g., lighting, pedestrian access, façade, set-back, plaza amenities). The DAT members also noted that the DAT will be soliciting input from Town departments on the connection of the project to the town and transportation matters. After comments by attendees and discussion, the committee decided to develop a specific plan for bicycle accommodation along the Washington Street side of the project, preferably a cycle track, to the Transportation Board with a request that the Board submit it to the DAT.
- Approved projects: Mr. Martin noted that the Cypress/School St. project, that included the painting of bike lanes, had just been put out for bidding as had the approved bicycle accommodations for parts of Beacon St. (sharrows in several locations and a short extension of the bike lane inbound to Centre Street, and a bike box at Centre Street.
- Ms. Snow informed the committee that the League of American Bicyclists application will be completed for the 2015 deadline.

### **Other Business**

- Ms. Snow reminded the committee on the September bicycle count project.
- Ms. Snow noted that she and Mr. Decker were up for re-appointment and that a new chair was to be selected soon.
- Mr. Vitolo noted that the 2015 meeting dates need to be announced.

### **Next Meeting**

- The next meeting will be Monday, October 6th.