

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

Meeting Minutes for December 1, 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, and Thomas Vitolo; absent: Sgt. Mark Trahon

Public: John Bowman, Phil Bowman, Irv Kurki, Justin Lukoff, Mitch Heineman

Handouts: agenda, notices of December 3 Gateway East meeting and December 4 Town-Wide Parking and Transportation Demand Management Policy meeting

## **Introductions**

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

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

### **FY2016 CIP Projects**

- Larz Anderson Park access: members of committee thought the Transportation Department's plan was good and had two concerns: one, that cars parking in the re-aligned spaces may overlap the bicycle lane, and two, that the raised cross walk may create an uneven surface in the lane. The latter could be corrected by extending the raised portion completely across the lane and Ms. Snow will confirm that this is the design.
- Bicycle boxes at the intersection of Beacon and St. Paul: the committee thought the plan was good and raised two concerns: one that the BAC will need to undertake an educational effort to explain the use of the boxes for left turns, and two, that the box at the southeast corner was not placed close enough to the intersection to be effective, i.e., beyond the crosswalk. Ms. Snow will check on the latter.

### **2015 Green Routes Plan Update**

The committee in general agreed with the revisions proposed for the next Plan with the following comments:

- South Brookline accommodations: the committee suggested changing the wording to emphasize that bike lanes that are implemented should be considered as precursors to cycle tracks where possible and that a first step should be a study by the Transportation Department of what improvements are possible.
- Pearl Street accommodations: the committee accepted the language in the Plan revisions which reflected that of the draft memo by Mr. Dippel.
- Monmouth Street contraflow lane: while in favor of the lane, the committee noted there may not be enough space and requested Ms. Snow confirm this.
- Traffic signals: Ms. Snow recommended that a list of the signals that needed to either cycle or have bicycle-friendly sensors be added (she noted there are six she knows of) and the committee agreed.
- Improved lighting: Mr. Dippel suggested that a sentence or two be added to encourage the town's improvement of the lighting as part of the transition to LED as noted by Mr. Vitolo.
- Cycle tracks: John Bowman suggested, and had sent edits to Ms. Snow, that the Plan reflect an intent to transition to cycle tracks where possible and the committee agreed in general.

## **Follow Up**

- Parade: Mr. Dempsey noted that he had secured the sponsorship of Brookline Bank and Chobee Hoy Real Estate.
- Bicycle League application: Ms. Snow reported that she will receive input from the Transportation Department and will complete a draft soon.
- Beacon Street outbound project: Ms. Snow noted that the Department is now analyzing the data from its study.
- Gateway East meeting on December 3: Ms. Snow noted she will present the committee's input and let Josh Safer know in advance.
- Email sign up on website: is functioning.
- Police bicycling safety class: Mr. Dempsey and Ms. Snow attended and noted low attendance but good presentations by the representatives of the Police Department. They also learned that the Brookline police and other nearby police departments have a group to coordinate bicycle matters and that the Department is increasing enforcement of no parking in bicycle lanes. The committee offered to help improve attendance at the next class, suggested that spring is a good time, and thought a meeting of representatives of all the Town departments involved in bicycle matters is a good idea.
- Beacon Street bike lane extension inbound to Webster and sharrows where there are no bike lanes: will be installed next April. Mr. McNamara suggested a two-stage left turn at this intersection rather than a bike box.

#### **Other Business**

- Town Hall bike parking: Mr. Vitolo recommended the committee request another rack, preferably under the canopy at the entrance.

#### **Next Meeting**

- The next meeting will be Monday, January 5.