

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

Meeting Minutes for December 7, 2015, Town Hall Room 408 at 7:00 PM.

Submitted by Kristin Schreiber

Present: Cynthia Snow, Bryan Decker, Tommy Vitolo, Don McNamara, John Dempsey, Kristin Schreiber, and Sgt. Brian Sutherland

Absent: Nathaniel Fink

Public: Galen Mook, Laura Lovette, David Marc Goldstein, John Bowman, Dennis Koehn, Jim Curley, David Kroop, John Harris, Andy Moulton

**Minutes:** The October and November meeting minutes were approved as circulated.

### **I-90 Beacon Yards Project**

Galen Mook, a member of the I-90 Beacon Yards task force provided some history, schematics of current proposals and discussed future steps:

- Encouraged Brookline to get involved
- Planning has been going on for 18 months
- A 45 person task force meets monthly
- More details at public meeting December 8th in Allston, 6:30pm at the Jackson Mann Community Center, convened by MassDOT
- A Harvard, BU, state funded project
- Redesign of I-90 turnpike angle, because some parts are crumbling (viaduct going over grand junction rail line); will get rid of dangerous S curve, remove toll booths in favor of open road tolling
- Will make use of the train layup yard
- Property to be transferred to state, goal to make it a more urban design (not just a highway improvement)
- Creation of a new MBTA commuter "West Station"
- Current plan is for buses to enter and leave the station from north only
- Boston University doesn't want traffic coming through their property (from south), but is not opposed to planned 21 foot wide ped/bike path
- The proposed north-south ped/bikeway might also have potential to connect Brookline transit to this new station
- Some theoretical north-south routes out of Brookline (for transit as well as bikes and peds) could include:
  - St Paul St to Comm Ave to Buick St
  - Babcock St
  - Pleasant St is not seen as such a good option
- Other suggestions: There should be a connection through this area from Brookline to path on east side of the Charles River
- Suggested Galen contact Abby Swaine of the Brookline Public Transit Advisory Committee

### **Beacon St Project outbound from Marion St to Washington Square**

Reviewed new drawings of project, based on BAC input and traffic study by Department of Transportation

*Discussion points:*

- Compared plans with and without removing parking at the merge beyond Marion St and concluded that it would be better for bicyclists and motorists as well (not trying to both merge and get around bikes at the same time)
- Pedestrian walk light at Lancaster Terrace will be shorter (crossing narrower) and timed with Marion St light
- Appreciated modified cross section according to BAC recommendation for travel lane, left offset and bike lane buffered on both sides
- Proposed plan best since it is not possible to put bike lane on sidewalk, take away parking, or take out trees

*Plan*→Public hearing first week in January (January 7<sup>th</sup> in a bigger room) to gather further input; another BAC meeting to incorporate revisions as necessary; then proceed to Transportation Board and other Town reviews for FY 2017 CIP

**Climate Week (March 28-April 3)**

Spring schedule is better for BAC participation than previous winter schedules.

Proposed activities:

- Panel and audience discussion organized in cooperation with Complete Streets Committee (Scott Englander) for Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2-4 at Hunneman Hall; panelists might also include somebody from Livable Streets to give the bicycle focused portion, emphasizing how Brookline fits into the proposed Emerald Network; someone to speak on transit and someone on pedestrian issues
- For the outside event on Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM: a get your bike out of the basement event, possibly with a booth from Landry's offering lube and pump and advice on other necessary repairs to prepare bikes for the riding season. In conjunction, we could have a bike safety table to distribute booklets from the League of American Bicyclists and with BAC members and friends to answer questions
- 8AM early morning fun ride highlighting the accommodations that we have made in Brookline for biking; Bryan and John to work on a route and plan.

**“Comfort” Map**

Resolved a few outstanding details on map, which will be sent to Economic Development. Next step is to form list of things that could be done as accommodations for bicycling; Kristin will work on this, starting with PTAC list. Other suggestions included endowing a bicycle staff position, funding a Hubway station, showers, signs, guaranteed ride home, various bike parking options

**Bicycle friendly community application**

The next deadline is February, but even if we don't meet that, we will move forward and complete the application to submit well in advance of the next deadline. In the meantime, Cynthia will alert the Board of Selectmen that we are working on the project and will be seeking their approval in the near future. She will also meet with other Town department heads to let them know about the project.

## **Green Routes Bicycle Network Plan Revisions**

Draft changes were circulated and approved, along with two further additions: a side path along Goddard beyond Larz Anderson Park and a recommendation that bike lanes be extended to the west through Brookline beyond those currently planned for Gateway East

In response to a public question, it was noted that this document is aspirational and not legally binding, but that it does form the basis for ongoing plans and discussions.

The tracked changes on the draft will be incorporated into a final revision for review at the BAC January meeting and then submitted to the Transportation Board for their consideration.

## **Enforcement**

A member of the public described his wife's experience of being stopped for crossing on a bike at a walk light while not endangering pedestrians. Sgt Sutherland noted that this is technically illegal and also noted that only 28 bike violations (warnings in every case) were issued in the last month in Brookline, compared to over 1000 motor vehicle violations. The discussion was abbreviated for lack of time, but a fuller discussion of enforcement issues will be scheduled for a later meeting.

## **Bike Parade (Sunday, May 22, 2016)**

- John will contact Todd to assure Transportation Board approval.
- Some money is available for expenses; Brookline Bank will likely be a sponsor again
- Don and John will work on the web site announcement and description
- Landry's and other bicycle shops also likely will be involved
- John Harris is working to have many different types of alternate bicycles and vehicles at the finish for people to see and try

## **Follow-Up**

- MIT student plan for Route 9 from Washington/High St intersection to Cypress had public presentation and input (Oct and Dec 2); they will be submitting plan to town later this month
- Carlton St foot bridge public meeting; John presented BAC's support for accommodating ramps and safety modifications for the Carlton-Colchester intersection
- Hubway meeting; Bryan reported that the new company taking over Hubway is working on new plans for financing the system.
- Babcock St staff-appointed committee is at the beginning of the process; Nathaniel is our representative. A local resident asserted that there is plenty of parking in lots and side streets so that it might be possible to eliminate parking on Babcock in favor of protected bike lanes.

## **New Issue**

Need for Cypress and Washington area bicycle parking

**Next Meeting:** Monday, January 4, 2016

**2016 meeting dates**, all meetings in Room 408, Town Hall (First Monday of the month except as noted): January 4, February 1, March 7, April 4, WEDNESDAY, May 4, June 6, WEDNESDAY, July 6, August 1, WEDNESDAY, September 7, October 3, November 7, December 5