

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

Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2016, Town Hall Room 310 at 7:00 PM.

Submitted by Kristin Schreiber

Present: Cynthia Snow, Bryan Decker, Tommy Vitolo, Don McNamara, John Dempsey, Kristin Schreiber, and Nathaniel Fink

Absent: Sgt. Brian Sutherland

Public: Rabbi Moshe Waldoks, Anne Lusk, John Harris, Clint Richmond, Meredith Mooney (BU)

### **1. Introductions**

2. **Minutes:** The December meeting minutes were approved as circulated.

### **3. Debriefing from public hearing on Beacon St outbound Marion to Westbourne**

#### Major points raised:

- Preferable to have bike lane to right of parked cars, i.e., a separated, curbside bike lane
- option 2 (taking out parking spaces immediately before Short St) the only way to go
- left sided lane not an option because of danger posed in crossing over to the left at the Marion St. intersection
- appropriate signage, barriers/flex posts needed, particularly at beginning and end of bike lane
- appropriate signage and markings for crosswalks needed
- cannot expand beyond this stretch of road (Marion-Westbourne) at present
- Rabbi Waldoks attended the meeting to confer regarding the potential issues Temple Beth Zion may have with proposed changes/ bike lane, although he endorsed the need for greater safety for bicyclists. He registered concerns for safety of those being dropped off (particularly elderly or mobility impaired individuals) during certain busy hours around services and school sessions. It would be important to have a loading/unloading area with signage for those peak usage hours for the Temple; he was advised to seek approval for a drop off area from the Transportation Board. He agreed with the idea of bike lane tapering around this area to provide a wider zone for passenger unloading, with a raised sidewalk in addition to signage. We will continue to work with him and his congregation throughout the process.
- discussed emergency vehicle access and snowplowing; both apparently doable under this plan but the fire department will need to review and approve the plans
- traffic calming at Short Street desirable for bikes and pedestrians by narrowing opening with flex posts to tighten turns on and off Short St.
- still needs to be a loading zone for trucks around businesses immediately before Marion
- option to eliminate bike box at Marion raised, as this does not seem to be needed; green paint better used to emphasize bike lane at intersections and driveways

#### Action taken:

Voted unanimously to recommend to the Transportation Board for curbside lane, contingent on the plan being appropriate for public safety vehicles. The following augmentations are suggested:

- alterations of bike lane around drop off areas for Temple Beth Zion and Hebrew Senior Life including tapering bike lane to allow wider passenger side exit area, crosswalks raised in the bike lane, painting on either side (as recommended in MassDOT, Chapter 5, “Curbside Activity Design,” *Separated Bike Lane Planning Design Guide*, see especially pp. 93-94)
- Flex posts between Marion and Short, solid curb-high diversion barrier after Short St at the point of traffic merging to single lane
- Flex posts at end of bike lane before Westbourne Terrace to prevent premature merging by motorists into shared lane approaching Washington St

Next steps:

- Cynthia/ Kristin will draft a recommendation to Transportation Board and submit for comment by BAC members
- Transportation board public meeting where there may be some opposition, so more supportive public or written comments will also be good (emails can be sent to Todd Kirrane [tkirrane@brooklinema.gov](mailto:tkirrane@brooklinema.gov))
- The Transportation Board decision can be appealed to the Board of Selectmen by ten tax payers for consideration at one of their meetings (which are public but may not allow for comments from the public)
- The budget for the project will be reviewed by the capital improvements subcommittee and eventually by the full advisory committee
- Town meeting has the final say

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

- BAC participation will include
- co-sponsoring with the Public Transportation Advisory Committee a panel on “Traveling on Complete Streets by Transit, Bicycle and Foot”  
Saturday, April 2, 2-4 PM, Hunneman Hall, Main Library  
Chris Dempsey is being asked to moderate  
4 panelists will give brief presentations followed by open discussion
- complete streets—Scott Englander
- transit person—being invited by PTAC
- Livable Streets representative to discuss the Emerald Network for Bicycles
- Walk Boston representative to address pedestrian issues
- A bike shop or volunteers are being sought for spring bike check-ups/advice during the events on Saturday around Town Hall (10 AM-2 PM)
- In conjunction with bike checkups, BAC information table

5. **Bicycle Comfort Map/Possible Bicycle Accommodations for Developer points**

- Kristin will send chart to get input about relative values
- Use Cambridge bicycle parking guide as reference
- For procedural reasons will choose two interested people from group and discuss and then bring up summary at next meeting

6. **Bicycle Friendly Community Application**

- Copy previously sent to committee for review

-Moved to give Cynthia permission to request Transportation Board approval to submit to League of American Bicyclists

#### **7. Final Review of Green Routes Plan Revisions**

- Moved to submit changes to Green Routes Plan to Transportation Board, with two more additions (need for more bike racks at schools and parks and reference to MassDOT recommendations on separated bike lanes)
- Discussions for next year's revisions should include careful look at improving intersection safety (with multiple specific examples and recommendations for bike friendly solutions, e.g., turn from Aspinwall onto St Paul); Kent street bike lane

#### **8. I90-Beacon Yards-Babcock St Project**

- Agreed to sign on to Abby Swain's memo from PTAC asking the Transportation Board to send a letter to Mass DOT requesting a seat for Brookline on project task force, better access from Brookline to the proposed West transit station, and to plan a public meeting in Brookline to inform public about project
- Meredith Mooney from BU spoke about BU's concerns over quality of campus life if there are more vehicles through their property
- A major issue for BAC is sensible bike access to the Charles River bicycle paths

#### **9. Bike parade (May 22, 2016)**

- Date has been approved
- Partnering with Police and Parks Departments
- Bike shops would like us to put something in our announcements about needing bike techs for the coming season

#### **10. Babcock St report**

2 design alternatives currently being discussed:

- maintain 2 way traffic with sharrows and raised crossings
- one way northbound (beyond the Fire Station), with 2 way cycle track; a possible modification discussed by BAC included a short 2-way section between Manchester and Freeman to provide better vehicle access for the neighborhood; the rest of the street (after the Fire Station) being one way

**Next Meeting:** Monday, February 1, 2016

**2016 meeting dates**, all meetings (Room 408, Town Hall, First Monday of the month except as noted): January 11 (Room 310), 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