

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for August 1, 2016, Town Hall Room 408 at 7:00 PM.

Submitted by Nathaniel Fink

Members present: Tommy Vitolo, John Dempsey, Cynthia Snow, Bryan Decker, Nathaniel Fink

Members absent: Don McNamara, Kristin Schreiber, Sgt. Brian Sutherland

Public: John Bowman. Mitch Heineman, John Harris arrived for the latter portion of the meeting.

Organization/Meeting Dates: John Dempsey and Don McNamara, whose terms are expiring, will not seek reappointment. Nathaniel Fink is moving to JP in September. The committee will post vacancies in the Tab and through its networks. Retiring members should send emails to Todd Kirrane to state their intention to resign.

November 2016 date is changed to WEDNESDAY, November 2. Dates for 2017 will be (First Monday of the month unless noted): WEDNESDAY, January 4; February 6; March 6; April 3; WEDNESDAY, May 3; June 5; WEDNESDAY, July 5; August 7; WEDNESDAY, September 6; October 2; November 6; December 4

Possibilities for FY2018 CIP: Some possible projects to be explored include the following:

- Essex Street cycle track (Commonwealth Avenue to Dummer St)--design to be funded by Boston University; Mr. Kirrane has been asked for a construction estimate.
- Two-stage left turn boxes on Beacon St at Harvard St, Washington St, and Carlton St. similar to the ones at St. Paul.
- Bike box on Harvard St SB across the two left lanes with indicators in the box to encourage cyclists turning left at Longwood to stay in the left lane and those going straight to stay in the center lane. (Right lane is for right turn only for vehicles and bicycles.)

Green Routes Additions/Project Updates:

- **Hammond Street:** Ms. Snow met on site with Nidhi Gulati from Livable Streets, who recommended not seeking a separated multi-use path and conducting a trial with cones and then having a workshop for community input on safety, use and design for cyclists and pedestrians. The workshop would be preceded by a training for BAC members and a few others who would facilitate groups at the workshop. It was agreed that these events should take place at a later date after the committee has added new members.
- **River Road Study Committee:** Mr. Kirrane responded to our request to assure a cycle track along Route 9 outside the proposed hotel and said that was definitely in the plans.
- **Carlton Street:** As a long-term vision, Mr. Fink suggested exploring restricting southbound vehicle access between Beacon Street and Monmouth St, which would provide space for dedicated south and northbound bike lanes. Carlton Street southbound is lightly traveled by vehicles but well used by bicyclists.
- **Continued improvements to existing facilities:** The need for continued improvements in existing facilities include filling in breaks in the bike lanes on Harvard Street and changing configurations of existing bike lanes (e.g., on Beacon Street) to buffer cyclists from opening car doors and from moving traffic.
- **Beacon Street outbound:** Mr. Kirrane is still awaiting approval from Mass DOT but expects to hear soon. The committee expressed concern over the delay.

Traffic Demand Management Draft Policy: Ms. Snow met with Ms. Brewton, Mr. Caro and Ms. Swaine to refine the points for possible TDM projects as part of development approvals. Contributions to a fund for TDM projects might also be considered. The policy will acknowledge that points will be awarded only for projects appropriate to a given site.

Bikeability Map: Ms. Snow showed the committee the bikeability map for Brookline that has been prepared based on donated access to software developed by Dino Teddyputra . It shows existing facility types (bike lanes, sharrows, contraflow, paths, etc.). The committee discussed the utility of such a map for both route-planning by the public and transportation design. Mr. Heineman volunteered to put expanded information from the planning maps he has provided onto a Google Map base.

Advocacy Group for Brookline: Mr. Harris, attending from the public, reported on efforts to form a Brookline group affiliated with the Boston Cyclists Union to advocate for bicycle facilities, organize group rides, and support the work of the BAC. Mr. Vitolo reminded the committee that members of the BAC can attend public meetings of the group but not in numbers greater than three at a time so as not to violate open meeting laws.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 7th.