

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for December 5, 2016, Town Hall Room 408 at 7:00 PM.

Submitted by Kristin Schreiber

Members present: John Bowman, Bryan Decker, Mark Lowenstein, Jacob Meunier, Kristin Schreiber, Cynthia Snow, Tommy Vitolo, Sgt. Brian Sutherland (police liaison)

Public: John Dempsey, Joel Feingold, John Harris, Mitch Heineman, David Kroop, Jules Milner-Brage, Myles Murphy (Brookline Deputy Superintendent for Traffic), Cathy Neal, Craig Pasek, Elissa Yanover

1. **Cyclist Fatality:** Mr. Vitolo described what he learned from discussions with Town officials, including Police Chief Daniel O’Leary about the recent late night crash that resulted in the death of a cyclist at Carlton and Colchester Streets. This was a single person crash, and it seems to have been operator error or mishap since there were no other people or vehicles involved and no potholes or other street defects that might explain the crash. Deputy Superintendent Myles Murphy attended the meeting and noted that the investigation protocol is on-going.
2. **Beacon Street Bike Lane Outbound, Marion-Westbourne Terrace:** The new buffered bike lane was installed in November for a one-year trial (as stipulated by Mass DOT). It is universally appreciated by cyclists on that stretch of road. However, several concerns were raised:
 - Parking in the bike lane, particularly in the first block between Marion and Short Sts. (Fine for blocking bike lane/double parking is \$50.)
 - Delivery vehicles blocking the travel lanes and bike lane or access to it; a loading zone in front of the businesses might help
 - Approved bollards for the beginning of the lane have not yet been installed but are on order
 - Sign notifying drivers of the need to merge to a single lane is too far from the intersection

In response to questions about police education/enforcement at this site, Deputy Superintendent Murphy said that the traffic division is monitoring it daily. He noted that police generally focus enforcement on “hot spots”--areas of documented problems. If the BAC identifies and documents specific problem locations, he is willing to consider enforcement.

Other suggestions included talking with/distributing information to merchants in this area as well as elsewhere in Coolidge Corner to educate them about bike lane/double parking rules.

3. **Community engagement:** The training session provided by Livable Streets for the BAC and others was useful; Mr. Meunier will ask that the information presented be sent to us. Later in the winter, we will plan for a community workshop.
4. **Green Routes Plan revisions:**
 - Mr. Heineman presented versions of the Green Routes map showing the types of bicycle accommodations that have been completed; after discussion of the new map, which is much appreciated, he will make some changes and additions for review at the next meeting.
 - Revisions to the text were discussed and most proposed changes approved; many of the changes reflected work approved or completed since last year or previously suggested at earlier meetings.
 - Other additions and changes will be reviewed at the January meeting after which the revisions will be presented to the Transportation Board. Suggestions include: pilot projects for new road treatments, policy changes such as fewer traffic signals and more stop-controlled intersections, better monitoring and maintenance of bike lanes during road work, elaboration of the section on signage and pavements markings.
5. **Other business/announcements:**
 - Need to follow up on including some bike-specific categories for reporting problems to Brookonline.
 - A high school teacher, Elijah Evans, is trying to get bike mechanics location established at BHS
 - MassBike is offering a program on December 17th for bicycle advocates

2017 meeting dates, all meetings in Room 408, Town Hall: (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; WEDNESDAY, November 1; December 4