

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for July 5, 2017, Town Hall Room 408 at 7:00 PM.

Submitted by Kristin Schreiber

Members Present: John Bowman, Jacob Meunier, Cynthia Snow, Kristin Schreiber, Tommy Vitolo, Jonathan Kapust (*ex officio*, Transportation Board), Brian Sutherland (police liaison)

Members Absent: Bryan Decker and Mark Lowenstein

Public: Paul Johnson, Seth Rubin, Jules Milner-Brage, Irving Kurki

1. **June 2017 Minutes** were approved as circulated.

2. Pearl Street Proposals

Three options provided by the Transportation Board for the rebuilding of Pearl Street were discussed, including cycle track, bike lane, and parallel parking options. The committee recommends a fourth option that combines elements of the bike lane and cycle track options: Specifically, remove parking from the outer circumference of Pearl (as in cycle track option), but have a one-way curbside cycle track to facilitate easy entrance and egress for bicyclists. It is suggested that the lane be raised above street level. In addition, removing parking from the outer circumference would allow a bike lane on inner circumference (toward Brookline Ave). Other suggestions include no double yellow line and total of 20 foot width for bidirectional car travel lanes in order to decrease speed. One argument in support of bike lanes in both directions is that it would then be continuous with such amenities on Walnut St on other side of Route 9.

3. Suggested Hubway locations

The spreadsheet of possible Hubway locations was revised after the last meeting and circulated for comments. Jacob Meunier was selected to be a representative from the BAC on the Hubway committee with Bryan Decker as a possible second. Ms. Snow will communicate suggestions and committee recommendations to Joe Viola of the Planning Department.

4. Bicycle Lane Violation Count Pilot Study

Data collected (over 1500 observations made by multiple cyclists over several months) and analyzed by John Bowman was presented and discussed. A PowerPoint of results and recommendations may be presented to Transportation Board.

Conclusions from data analysis:

- Bike lanes on Harvard and Beacon are frequently blocked in key, high travel points
- These blockages occur at many times of day (not just rush hour)
- Unprotected bike lanes that can easily be blocked by double parked vehicles are inadequate in the commercial areas identified as they are frequently blocked, forcing cyclists into the vehicle travel lane

Potential Solutions discussed:

- Tightly spaced, fixed stanchions to protect key lane segments (these require minimum of 2 feet buffer to install)
- Raised lanes in certain areas
- More loading zones in key areas to provide alternatives to blocking bike lanes
- Increased enforcement- ticketing offending vehicles may have greater impact than simply waving people on

John Bowman—with input from committee members on draft—will revise the presentation for discussion at next BAC meeting and public presentation at later date

5. Follow-up/Open Items

- **Hammond St Community Workshop:** Approximately 30 people attended the workshop; Nidhi Gulati has maps from break-out groups with suggestions; she is compiling them, and we will discuss in August.
- **Babcock Street:** No construction this year; Board of Selectmen is expected to return issue to Transportation Board for further consideration.
- **Beacon Street Bike Lane** (outbound Marion to Westbourne Terrace) is currently being evaluated by Transportation Department, including counts twice/month of bike and car use; more reports on this to follow before being reconsidered by Transportation Board.
- **Bike corral** in Coolidge corner has been reinstalled.
- **Gateway East:** The BAC letter was considered at last Transportation Board meeting and—with some additions from Public Transit Advisory Committee—is being sent to DOT and to town consultants.
- **Greenough Street:** Construction in progress
- **Newton St (Horace James Circle to Newton Town Line):** Lanes painted, but too few bike stencils along this length, possibly making it unclear that it is a bike lane
- **Police Crash Report:** June had 4 crashes involving bicycles; none required hospitalization
- **Police Safety Grant** from state office of public safety, allows hiring of officers on overtime basis for increased enforcement of anything that endangers cyclists and pedestrians. Will likely involve high risk areas (Coolidge Corner, Washington Square, Brookline Village)
- **Education:** In September, would be good to help with bike safety education, collaborate with schools for riders new to the area

6. Discussion of ideas for Green Routes Plan (2018 Revision)

A list of potential changes/additions to plan was distributed before the meeting and discussed briefly; members will review existing plan and proposed changes, and will continue discussions at future meetings.

The importance of Beacon Street and a comprehensive plan for continuous bike amenities along its length through Brookline was discussed. Will include this goal in GR Plan and continue to look for ways to improve this corridor.

7. Next meeting: Monday, August 7

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; SECOND MONDAY, September 11 (to be confirmed); October 2; November 6; December 4