

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

Meeting Minutes for December 4, 2017, Town Hall Room 103, 7:00 PM

Submitted by Kristin Schreiber

**Members Present:** John Bowman, Bryan Decker, Mark Lowenstein Jacob Meunier, Kristin Schreiber, Cynthia Snow

**Members Absent:** Tommy Vitolo, Jonathan Kapust (Transportation Board liaison), Brian Sutherland (police liaison)

**Public:** John Harris, Mitch Heineman, David Kroop, Jackson Lynch (NU student), Jules Milner-Brage, Elissa Yanover

**Minutes** of the November 2017 meeting were approved as circulated.

### **Green Routes Plan for 2018**

Presentation of updated version by Cynthia Snow

- Notable additions include paragraphs on electric bikes, auto counters for bikes
- Map updated; intersections included, some that have been improved and some that need work
- Appendices have been added to provide more detailed information about certain topics:
  - A=Green Routes Map (updated)
  - B=Bicycle friendly community bronze level report card with recommendations for improvements
  - C=Table of major projects
  - D= Details of proposed bike infrastructure improvements (e.g., Harvard and Washington Streets)
  - E=Mass DOT-WalkBoston-Brookline report on improving safety for bikes and pedestrians in Coolidge Corner
  - F= LivableStreets workshop report and recommendations for Hammond St

Discussion:

- Contraflow lane for one-way stretch of Pleasant St as it approaches Beacon, to make a safe left turn for cyclists from Beacon to Pleasant; lane would be on west side of intersection triangle (east side of the street)--will be discussed for inclusion in next year's GR revision
- Update the Babcock St entry to Harvard to reflect the latest recommendations– Ms. Snow will update

BAC members approved the revisions, with the Babcock St change; the Green Routes Plan revision will be presented to the Transportation Board in February

### **Capital Improvement Plan budget process**

- Need to make proposal early (possibly by March) for design and decision by Transportation staff and Board
- Possible projects include Harvard St and Washington St.
- Committee members review appendices D and E in green routes plan before next BAC meeting and discuss at that time

### **Beacon Street Bridle Path mid-project design report**

Presentation by Jackson Lynch of Northeastern University

- Proposed two-way cycle track in the center along length of Beacon St
- Location would vary depending on wide side where angle parking exists, with some adjustment to current parameters of road (+/- space taken from road and parking)
- There could be different designs at different parts of Beacon, depending on current traffic flow and parking needs
- Multiple plans for cross-over intersections discussed; these are particularly challenging (Washington Square and Coolidge Corner)
- Currently working on a wholistic plan
- Needs the pdf/ engineering draft from Brookline for length of Beacon St

Input from BAC to address in future iterations:

- Look at access and egress to/from the path along its length
- Define and address proximity to the Green Line and potential or perceived danger
- Analyze potential conflicts of bikes with pedestrians and traffic, especially at intersections
- Consider production of a video to show what experience would be like for bikes, pedestrians, and cars once path is in place

### **Carlton Street Footbridge**

Design for bridge rehabilitation is well advanced and seeks to respect historic design; 100% design expected by January; bidding in 2018 and construction in 2019. Ramps at both ends as currently proposed are substandard for bikes (less than 6 feet wide with 180 degree turns). BAC recommendations:

- Propose bike channels on the stairways instead of changing the ramps
- Change language on signage from “dismount and walk” to bike channel stencil showing how to use
- Place signs near the stairs with channel, not the ramp, to encourage people to use the bike channel (Bikes may also use ramps if desired.)
- Recommend bike-knowledgeable input for the design and installation of channels to assure usability
- Mr. Bowman will draft language to submit to transportation engineer and circulate it for comment

### **Announcement of upcoming joint meeting with Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

Wednesday, Dec 13, 7:00 in Town Hall 103; agenda includes LivableStreets presentation as well as discussion of ways to separate bike and pedestrian traffic to reduce conflict

### **Safe Routes to School**

Abby Swaine is organizing this effort to improve safe non-vehicular access to schools in Brookline; BAC representative to this committee: Kristin Schreiber with Bryan Decker as alternate

### **Updates from BAC members**

Hubway Committee (Jacob Meunier):

- Street Hubway docks removed for winter (Harvard St, Washington Square, Station Street)
- 2 new Hubway docks open for the winter--in front of Star Market on Beacon and in front of Town Hall.
- 5 additional stations in spring; Hubway Committee will discuss locations
- Better signage could direct people to stations to facilitate Hubway use

### **Follow-up/Open items**

- Babcock Street- Transportation Board is slated to vote in January, Monday after MLK Day; Bike lane violation report at same meeting
- Beacon Street Bike Lane – Possible vote at December meeting of Transportation Board
- I90-Beacon Yards- December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting at Brookline Town Hall
- Essex/Dummer intersection plan will be voted soon for FY 2019 construction

**2018 meeting dates:** (First Monday unless otherwise noted): Jan 8 (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday), Feb 5, Mar 5, Apr 2, May 7, Jun 4, Jul 9 (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday), Aug 6, Sep 4 (Tuesday), Oct 1, Nov 7 (Wednesday), Dec 3