

BROOKLINE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

meeting minutes

Monday, July 9, 2018, 7 PM

BAC members present: John Bowman, Jacob Meunier, Kristin Schreiber, Cynthia Snow, Tommy Vitolo, Bryan Decker, Ashley Haire (Transportation Board liaison)

Members absent: Mark Lowenstein, Brian Sutherland (police liaison)

Public: Jules Milner-Brage, David Kroop, Mike Toffel, Barbara Gutman, Leonard Wholey, Daniel Martelly, Devon Kelley, Giglietti, (from C.A.B.: John Harris, Tom Kilday, Nancy Clark, Justin Martin, Irv Kurki, David Lowe, Dave Pantalone, Jack Spence, Christi Electris, Mary Dewart)

1. May 2018 meeting minutes-approved as circulated

2. Introductory discussion with Ashley Haire, Transportation Board Liaison, covered her ideas and those of BAC and members of the public:

- vehicle parking identified as a major issue potentially conflicting with bike accommodations
- importance of increasing visibility of bike accommodations and amenities (e.g., bike racks)
- pop-up events, i.e., something that lasts only short time to try out a bike amenity and get feedback
- implementation more successful than maintenance and infrastructure

3. Green Street bike lane proposal (introduced by Mike Toffel, TMM)

- As part of the solution to not having a northbound lane on Babcock, he suggested bike lane on Green in the direction of traffic (northbound) but on the opposite (left) side from parking, eliminating the current white line which outlines a fog line on the right
- Discussion on the merits and drawbacks of this and alternate suggestions
- A previous proposal (denied) but still included in the Green Routes plan, is for a contraflow lane
- Motion to propose a contraflow lane (southbound, toward Harvard St), delete current fog line, and install northbound sharrows, was approved unanimously. Mr. Bowman will ask Transportation staff to develop a measured plan.

4. Winchester St

- Current plans from Todd Kirrane and Dan Martin were reviewed: bike lane in southbound direction, sharrows in northbound direction (due to existing parking and bulbouts on northbound side)
- Discussion noted that this makes two southbound bike lanes on parallel streets (Centre and Winchester), but difficult to see a workable solution to change this
- The following suggestions for modifications will be sent to Mr. Kirrane for consideration:
 - 1 Halfway between northernmost crosswalk and town line would be a good location for another speed table
 - 2 Consider taking out bulbout on southbound side near the town line (north end), or cut out an entrance through it to the bike lane
 - 3 Paint a crosswalk at Wellman St

5. Bike parking and snow removal needs identification (John B, Ashley H) will be discussed at a later date

6. Climate Action/Climate Week report and discussion

- Climate Action Brookline (CAB) members present

- Proposal raised to host a bike parade during climate week/month next year
- Description from John Harris regarding goals of CAB that align with bicycle advocacy: to reduce energy utilization, promote individual commuting for other vehicles such as scooters
- Bryan Decker will be the liaison with climate action Brookline to help coordinate and align efforts going forward
- This year's group ride during Climate Week toured bike accommodations was a success
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Report from Climate week tabling (Kristin): several areas of input from the community at this tabling event:

1. Suggestions for improvements/amenities:

- Enforce of bike safety laws
- Enforce of traffic laws for motorists (e.g., no driving/parking/stopping in bike lanes)
- Improve Washington and Beacon intersection
- Improve biking accommodation on Washington St, both directions
- Bike share station at Town Hall and Brookline Village T station
- Fix potholes on streets

2. Bike routes identified by community members on map, to be taken into account in future planning:

- Many internal to North Brookline- to work or school
- Commuting to Longwood area
- Commuting to Cambridge, over BU bridge
- Routes connecting to Muddy River path
- Often mentioned streets: Harvard, Greenough, Washington, Dean road, St Paul street, Route 9, Tappan, Babcock, Beacon

3. Education:

- Many kids and parents stopped by and expressed interest in biking
- Discussion of on or off sidewalk when biking with children
- Interest in safety in urban biking course for kids
- A variety of ages/levels would require separate types of classes
- May align with safe routes to school efforts

7. Brookline Day celebration plans (Brian)

- Have been investigating potential to align this with September 23 Brookline Day
- No response from Recreation department yet regarding following planned road run with a bike ride
- Alternative proposal to have group ride from Town Hall to Brookline Day
- Proposal to honor John Dempsey at Brookline day with an announcement
- Will continue work on planning this

8. Request for curbside bike lane signs (Cynthia S., John B.)

- Reviewed locations for signage where bike lanes are next to curbs and what signs should say
- Discussion of having a uniform message "bike lane/no stopping", and in certain high priority/violation areas, add a "tow zone"
- Cynthia and John will use discretion in making any further needed recommendations to Todd Kirrane and Transportation Board

9. Parking meter stickers (John B.)

- Two new designs reviewed
- #1 favored (open with care, black and white, slightly larger)

10. Candidate locations for bike racks (Transportation Board: Ashley Haire)

- Need guidelines: 6 x 4 foot rectangle of space, able to walk around, not blocking important elements for cars or peds
- Could also increase number of circle hitches on parking meters
- Will discuss further at next meeting

11. Safe Routes to School report (Kristin Schreiber)

- This is a group that can help facilitate education, events
- Need indication of interest from schools in Brookline (at least 4-5 of them)
- Identify liaisons at each school
- Next meeting planned for September 11, hope to coordinate an awareness event with car-free walk to school and in-school education event

12. Beacon Street inbound rush hour parking restriction (Cynthia S)

- Will be on the agenda for the T board
- Cynthia has contacted businesses at St. Mary's (inbound) in person and with informational sheets

13. Bike lane/Loading zone project (first location: Harvard, Beacon to Green)

- Meeting on Wednesday afternoon, July 11 with merchants and town staff
- John and Cynthia will attend

14. Green Routes Plan update (Cynthia S., on August agenda)

- BAC members should review plan, particularly with regard to meeting Complete Streets policy and send changes/additions to Cynthia with thought to priorities, places/accommodations that are missing, rewording suggestions

15. Beacon St bridle path (Jules Milner-Brage)

- MAPC-sponsored walk planned: Thursday, August 23, 5:00, meet at St Mary's T station, walk to Cleveland circle
- Concept presented at T board meeting in June
- Potential conflict with planning for EV charging locations proposed in climate action plan is a concern; it's important to think about the geometry of these installations so as to not make the bridle path bike lane impossible in future
- John will take what Jules has already written and check with Todd Kirrane and Maria Morelli, who are coordinating this planning

2018 meeting dates: (First Monday unless otherwise noted): Aug 6, **Sep10 (second Monday)**, Oct 1, Nov 7 (Wednesday), Dec 3