

Brookline Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, July 10, 2019, Town Hall 111, 7 PM

Members present: John Bowman, Elena Huisman, Jacob Meunier, Kristin Schreiber, Cynthia Snow, Ashley Haire (Transportation Board liaison), Brian Sutherland (police liaison)

Members absent: Mark Lowenstein, Len Wholey

Others present: Zoe Lynn (Brookline Sustainability Program Administrator), Dan Martin (Transportation Department Engineer), Daniel Martelly, Jules Milner-Brage, John Harris, Jan Preheim, David Kroop, Eric Nieminen

Minutes: May 2019 meeting minutes were approved as circulated.

Updates:

- **Transportation Board** in May discussed and approved some recommendations regarding pedestrian accommodations for Complete Streets. In June, bicycling and Complete Streets were considered, and some of those items will be on the next BAC agenda. Ms. Haire announced that she has accepted a position in Los Angeles and will be leaving in August.
- **Police Report:** Sgt Sutherland distributed and commented on the ten reported bicycle crashes in June (one of which was in Boston). He said that scooter accidents are being tracked. Bike lane violations reports were distributed with the agenda and showed numerous citations (\$50 fines) for blocking bike lanes.
- **Livable Streets:** Ambar Johnson is the new head of the Emerald Network. The Beacon Bridleway has been added as a desired future part of the network; this will increase awareness of the Beacon Street effort.
- **Safe Routes to School:** Dr. Schreiber has talked with a high school committee member about ideas for bike routes between the high school and Old Lincoln during high school construction.

Fuller Street Contraflow Proposal: Fuller Street from Gibbs to the town line will be repaved, and the committee reviewed proposed drawings for a contraflow lane with Mr. Martin. During the discussion, ideas for a trial of end-marked contraflow and for making some of the neighborhood streets 2-way for local traffic and bicycles but preventing through traffic with planters or other barriers were discussed but considered impractical to pursue at present. The committee considers it desirable to explore these options as well as a plan for all the one-way streets in the neighborhood as a network in the future.

The committee voted unanimously to endorse the contraflow lane on Fuller as presented, with the suggestion that staff consider signs at the Abbotsford end to alert vehicular traffic to expect two-way bicycle traffic and to use some green paint (perhaps green boxes with bike symbols) to highlight the bike lane.

Concept Designs for Potential FY2021 CIP budget requests

- **Green Street contraflow lane** design will be refined by staff based on suggestions from this meeting; there will then be a public hearing and finally a Transportation Board vote. Suggestions: (1) One member said that a double-yellow line along the contraflow may send a clearer message to motorists not to cross than the painted buffer. (2) Delineator posts were suggested, but the cost is about \$250 each. Posts and/or green paint would be desirable for a short distance at the Harvard Street end. (3) A green lane next to the crosswalk on Harvard Street or a wider crosswalk could facilitate safe left turns onto Harvard for cyclists.
- **Beacon outbound, St. Mary's to Carlton:** The committee would like to see this project move forward but without great expense and keeping in mind the possible future Bridleway. With the aim of keeping costs low, the committee suggested NOT building the proposed concrete pad for a Blue Bike station but finding another location for it, such as in the median east of the St. Mary's inbound T-stop, where there is currently a (mostly unused) bike parking rack. Also the addition of

delineator posts where the bike lane bends around bulbouts is essential in order to prevent motor vehicles from parking or stopping in those areas. Although there are currently no HP parking spaces at the curb, some possibilities were discussed should one be deemed necessary.

Idea for a Safe Senior Biking Circuit in Coolidge Corner: Nina Garfinkle has discussed the possibility of protected bike lanes around Coolidge Corner using Harvard, Centre, Webster and Fuller Streets that would make it more inviting for seniors in the Centre Street building to get to and around shops and other amenities in Coolidge Corner. Ms. Garfinkle has had some preliminary discussions of this idea but is not able to continue as its champion. The BAC is favorably inclined toward safer bicycling for everyone in this important area of town but also recognizes the many difficulties of advancing such an ambitious plan.

Bicycle Education Flyer: Mr. Martelly is working with the volunteer designer on final plans for the flyer. He will contact both the Chamber of Commerce and the Coolidge Corner Merchants Association again and hopes that the flyer can be ready for distribution in the fall.

Follow-Up/Open Items: Of note: completion of the permanent outbound buffered bike lane (with some delineator posts) on Beacon Street from Marion to Westbourne Terrace; delineator-post protected section of lane on Beacon inbound at Washington Street; the Dummer-Essex intersection. The rush hour changes to lower Beacon Street inbound will not be pursued.

Mr. Kirrane notes that 60% of the funding for a Beacon Bridleway study has been proposed to come from TNC funds but that the remainder might need to come from CIP funding. Mr. Milner-Brage said that there are other likely sources of funding such as Mass DOT and MAPC grant programs and said that he did not expect the Bridleway study would compete for funding with bicycle improvement projects.

New Business

- Anne Lusk asked for a BAC letter of support for a research proposal to conduct a survey in Brookline to gather residents' ideas for alternative parking to free curb-side spaces for bicycling and other transit uses. Mr. Bowman will discuss with Mr. Dempsey whether/how to proceed with a letter, and the committee authorized him to make a decision with Mr. Dempsey.
- Zoe Lynn was present and noted that the Select Board on Tuesday approved proceeding with establishing working committees in five general areas identified at the June Sustainability Summit. She invited members of the BAC to participate in the Transportation and Infrastructure group and encouraged working in collaboration with the pedestrian and public transit advisory committees.

Adjournment: 9:20 PM