

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

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, August 7, 2019, Town Hall 408, 7 PM

**Members present:** John Bowman, Elena Huisman, Mark Lowenstein, Jacob Meunier, Cynthia Snow, Len Wholey, Brian Sutherland (police liaison)

**Members absent:** Kristin Schreiber

**Others present:** Dan Martin (Transportation Department Engineer), Jules Milner-Brage, Jan Preheim, Mike Touloumtzis

**Minutes:** Corrected July 2019 meeting minutes were approved as circulated.

### **Updates:**

- **Transportation Board** in July approved using \$118,000 of TNC funds for Bridleway Study; another \$82,000 will be needed according to the Toole Design estimate; this will be submitted for next fiscal year's budget. The Fuller Street contraflow lane (Gibbs to town line) was approved.
- **Police Report:** Sgt Sutherland reported on six bike accidents in July--no injuries. One involved a pedestrian; a cyclist was cited for running a red light at Harvard and Babcock.
- **Livable Streets:** Ambar Johnson, the new head of the Emerald Network, will meet with the BAC in October.
- **Sustainability Transportation Working Team:** The group has met twice and has focused on transportation-related warrant articles, one of which is being proposed via the sustainability office. Mr. Milner-Brage expressed some concern about the proposed warrant article; for example, it will be hard to encourage and measure the increase in alternative modes of travel given the lack of adequate, safe networks for bicycles (and scooters). Mr. Bowman has been attending the group; Mr. Meunier said he will not be able to attend; Ms. Huisman will try to attend upcoming meetings when Mr. Bowman is away.

**BAC Reappointments:** Terms are expiring for Bowman, Meunier and Lowenstein. Mr. Bowman said that he had met with the others and planned to recommend reappointment for all three to the Transportation Board unless there is any objection. Anyone with concerns can contact Ms. Snow confidentially. Each gave a brief presentation of activities/focus of their BAC work for the future. Mr. Meunier—Bridleway and improving safety for all street users in Coolidge Corner; Mr. Lowenstein—improved maintenance of existing bike infrastructure which is in very poor condition (e.g., Washington St.); Mr. Bowman, as chair, would continue work he is doing—preparing agendas, chairing meetings, representing the BAC at the Transportation Board and staff and other venues, further enhancing Green Routes plan and other committee projects.

### **Concept Designs for Potential FY2021 CIP budget requests**

- **Green Street contraflow lane** design was refined by Mr. Martin based on suggestions from the last meeting, including additional signage, delineator posts in the last block of Green St. before Harvard, and a marked crossing to allow a left turn from Green St. to Harvard. The next step will be a public hearing and finally a Transportation Board vote on the design.
- **Parking-Protected lane, Beacon outbound, St. Mary's to Carlton:** Mr. Martin also made changes including adding delineator posts. One further suggestion was to move the proposed Blue Bike concrete pad from the curb to the parking lane to provide additional safety for the bike lane (similar to one at Beacon and Mass Ave in Boston).
- **Washington-Beacon Intersection:** An extended discussion of ways to improve clarity and safety for all road users resulted in the following suggestions for exploration:
  - Extend the Washington St. bike lanes through the intersection. There appears to be room for bike lanes plus one through and one left turn lane in each direction.
  - Bike boxes for two-stage left turns

- Remove right turn lane as Washington approaches Beacon St. from the south to allow bike lane to extend to (and then through) the intersection.
- A parking-protected bike lane on Beacon St. outbound for a block beyond Washington would be highly desirable.

**Green Routes Revision:** This will be an on-going project for the next few months; Ms. Snow urged all BAC members and friends to review the current plan on the web site [www.brooklinebikes.org](http://www.brooklinebikes.org) and send her suggestions for changes and additions. Mr. Bowman noted that the plan has been considered the complete request for bicycle infrastructure, and many of the existing and proposed changes do not provide adequate safety based on published guidelines for bicycle safety as well as mandates for protected bike infrastructure in Cambridge. He used Massachusetts data to determine traffic volumes on Brookline streets and proposed a map of streets with volumes over 9,000 vehicles per day that should have protected bike lanes. He distributed a proposed addition to the GR Plan, which will be circulated—along with other changes—before the next BAC meeting.

**Bicycle Friendly Community Status:** Brookline's bronze status will expire next year, but after a discussion of the pros and cons of reapplying, the committee decided to wait another year or two before reapplying for review.

**Annual Brookline Bike Counts:** The counts will be conducted during the week of September 16<sup>th</sup> (with the following week as back up in the event of bad weather).

**Bicycle Education Project:** Next month

**Follow-Up:** Mr. Milner-Brage suggests another Bridleway event in early October; both an event similar to the May event and one targeted to commuting cyclists were discussed. This one would be in the area between Tappan St. and Strathmore Road.

**Adjournment:** 9:00 PM