

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

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 5, 2020, Town Hall 408, 7 PM

**Members present:** John Bowman, Elena Huisman, Mark Lowenstein, Cynthia Snow, Len Wholey, Ali Tali (Transportation Board liaison)

**Members absent:** Jacob Meunier, Kristin Schreiber, Brian Sutherland (police liaison)

**Others present:** Perry Grossman, Jan Preheim, Jules Milner-Brage, Emily Jacobsen, David Kroop, Gideon Coltof, Frank Caro, Jesse Hefter

**Minutes:** January 2020 meeting minutes were approved as circulated.

**Introductions:** Mr. Bowman welcomed Mr. Tali as the new BAC liaison for the Transportation Board, and everyone introduced themselves

### **Updates:**

- **Transportation Board**

- The Board approved recommendations from the BAC and staff for two-way protected cycle tracks around Cypress Field on Davis, Greenough and Tappan. Action on recommended lanes on Sumner and Tappan between Blake and Greenough was deferred. A letter from Davis St. residents has requested reconsideration of the cycle track on that street, citing lack of adequate notice for the Transportation Board's meeting and raising several specific concerns. The Board expects to consider the issue in March.

The BAC and Mr. Tali noted the importance of adequate notice—in terms of timeliness, coverage of residents, and provision of adequate descriptions of the items to be considered at the Transportation Board. Well publicized meetings to discuss major bicycle (or other transportation) changes would allow for community input and engagement before plans are sent to the Transportation Board for action.

- The Board approved a parking-protected bike lane from St. Mary's to Carlton was approved with two additions: re-striping of the mid-block crosswalk to the T stop and striping and/or signage to alert cyclists in the bike lane to the pedestrian crosswalk.
- **Safe Routes to School:** Mr. Milner-Brage noted that the SRTS group would like to see early consideration of traffic patterns and safety and facilities for pedestrians and cyclists when school building projects are initiated. Mass DOT, the Police Department, and Department of Public Works all favor this approach. It is important to get the School Department on board as well.
- **Sustainability Transportation Working Team:** The group is meeting again and is working well through existing channels. Several friends of BAC are attending the meetings.

**Pedestrian Scale Lighting:** Mr. Caro and Mr. Hefter described the Pedestrian Lighting Committee, its mission and work to date; they invited input from the cycling community. The committee was established by Town Meeting in 2019 and is preparing a report for TM by the fall of 2020. Its mission is to assess current street lighting in high pedestrian use areas and to recommend improvements for safety, utilization, and aesthetics. Active examination of existing conditions is underway, focused on high density areas such as Beacon, Harvard, Washington and Winchester Streets, and Longwood Avenue. They noted that there is currently a wide variety of streetlights in Brookline and that many of them are "highway" style lights—high above the road, shining into the road rather than illuminating sidewalks and "near-sidewalk" areas where bicyclists are likely to ride. The committee has a lighting professional as a member, who will help with costs, technicalities, and best practices elsewhere as the committee looks at

priorities, long-term goals for improvement, costs, and ways to insure that street light planning is included in planning major street renovations in a consistent way.

**Open Items:** Mr. Bowman distributed the list of open items for committee review and noted new information on two projects:

- Work on Winchester Street (Fuller to Beacon) will be bid in the next few months for work to be completed this year.
- A consultant has been hired to pursue a TIP project for a Washington St. Complete Street Design. The process will begin in Spring 2020.

**Brainstorming Priorities for 2020:** Ms. Huisman led a discussion and will gather ideas proposed to circulate in order to prioritize suggestions and to see who might take the lead on individual projects.

Among the ideas suggested:

- Interim repair of dangerous bike lanes on Washington Street, since the complete rebuilding of the street is several years in the future.
- Demonstration project on Brookline Avenue for a “floating” bus stop (routes 60 and 65)
- Safe routes to Lincoln School
- Improvements to School Street (narrow and dangerous)
- Streets around Driscoll School: analysis and plan like that done for High School
- Methods for community engagement and developing coalitions with other groups and surrounding municipalities
- Possible participation in hiring of new Commissioner of Public Works and Transportation Engineering director and liaison with new incumbents when they are hired
- Get line items into design briefs for major building/street projects so that important cycling/pedestrian/transit improvements are considered early in the planning process (Pierce School building committee is just being appointed)
- Enforcement of speed limit and parking restrictions on Harvard Street, particularly in the area of the Coolidge Corner School (Florida Ruffin Ridley School)
- Establish 20 mph limit wherever possible (as is being done in Cambridge)
- Do pilot projects to test specific proposals for bicycle improvements
- Possible event of interest to those attending NACTO annual meeting in Boston in September
- Organized family-friendly bicycle rides (Mr. Kroop noted that Bicycling Brookline is planning such events for the coming season)
- Beacon Street inbound parking restrictions for AM commute
- South Brookline short-term improvements

**BAC Chair Transition:** Mr. Bowman will be moving out of town. As noted at the last meeting, Ms. Huisman and Mr. Meunier will take over as chair and vice-chair, respectively, on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bowman will work with them through May to assure a smooth transition.

**Adjournment:** 9 PM