

Brookline Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, March 4, 2020, Town Hall 408, 7 PM

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

Members absent: Jacob Meunier, Ali Tali (Transportation Board liaison)

Others present: David Trevvett (PAC chair), Jan Preheim, Jules Milner-Brage, Emily Jacobsen, David Kroop, Todd Kirrane, Dan Martin

Minutes: The February 2020 meeting minutes were approved as circulated.

BAC changes: Mr. Bowman was recognized for his service to the BAC as friend, member and chair. Ms. Huisman took over as chair.

Updates:

- **Transportation Board:** Mr. Kirrane reported that the Green St. contraflow project was approved with the addition of a second loading zone for certain hours and with no bollards in the buffer between Harvard and John Streets. Mr. Trevvett noted that with curb-side bike lanes, consideration needs to be given to access for people with mobility limitations or other disabilities. (A useful reference is <https://walksf.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/getting-to-the-curb-report-final-walk-sf-2019.pdf>)
- **Police Report:** Sgt Sutherland distributed crash reports for January (2 bicycle crashes, one resulting in a citation for a vehicle in the bike lane) and February (3 with no injuries or citations)
- **Safe Routes to School:** The bike, walk and roll to school day is set for May 6th. A central list of concerns from individual schools is kept, including transportation issues. There is interest in having construction planning for schools and other major projects include multimodal considerations and having this formalized in the kinds of criteria given to architects and planners.
- **Sustainability Transportation Working Team:** Ms. Preheim will attend meeting on March 5.

Open Items: The list was reviewed early to take advantage of Mr. Kirrane's presence.

- **Washington St.:** The only plan for addressing poor and dangerous conditions before the planned major renovation is patching. Mr. Lowenstein will send Mr. Kirrane photographs and locations of sites most in need of repair.
- **Carlton Street Footbridge:** Bids were higher than expected; some re-engineering is underway to reduce costs.
- **Davis Avenue:** Approved plans for a contraflow lane on Davis Avenue (Greenough to Cypress) will be reconsidered by the Transportation Board on March 16th. Residents have raised objections to the changes in parking.

Repaving Projects: Mr. Kirrane presented plans for three repaving projects. Ms. Huisman will convey the BAC preferences in writing to Mr. Kirrane.

- **Chestnut Street** (near Kendall to Walnut Street). Safe Routes to Lincoln School group has identified this as a major access to the school. After reviewing and discussing three plans, the BAC preferred either the buffered contraflow lane or the contraflow lane plus a bike lane on the other side. Mr. Martin agreed to explore the feasibility of a two-way bike lane on the west side of the street.
- **Heath Street** (Tully to close to Hammond St.): The BAC decided that a contraflow lane is not a priority at this time, considering the loss of substantial parking and the limited value of the lane for bicyclists.
- **Pleasant Street:** This project is not being presented to the Transportation Board at this time, so there is time for more consideration. The plan presented shows the addition of crosswalks and

ADA-compliant ramps as well as sharrows in both directions, with a short bike lane and box at Commonwealth Avenue.

Driscoll School: There are concerns about the amount of play space that will be available for children during the construction of the new school. One possibility is to close off the section of Westbourne Terrace adjacent to the school for a few hours a day during the week to allow the space to be used for outdoor recreation. Mr. Wholey is working on the project and received suggestions that he contact additional stakeholders in the school as well as the residents he has already talked to. Another suggestion was for a pilot event such as a bike rodeo on the closed street on a Saturday. Use of the street for the annual Driscoll spring fair is another possibility.

2020 BAC Priorities: The results of the survey of BAC members and friends based on last month's brainstorming session were presented and discussed briefly. Among the top priorities:

- The BAC will ask the Transportation Board to see whether there is an opportunity for participation in the search process for the new DPW Commissioner and Director of the Transportation Division.
- Arranging a pilot for limiting parking on the inbound side of lower Beacon St. during the morning commute. One possibility that is being considered is a dedicated bus lane during C-line construction; this might be a shared bus and bike lane during the C-line closure.

Ms. Huisman will circulate the slides showing the results of the survey, along with the spreadsheet with all survey results. Ideas can be emailed to her individually for further discussion at a future meeting.

Announcements: Three important public meetings for bicycle issues:

- Monday, March 9, 7 PM, Town Hall Room 308—Capital subcommittee will review the DPW operating and capital projects budgets (including transportation with bicycle proposals including parking protected lane on Beacon outbound between St. Mary's and Carlton; Green Street contraflow lane; and funding for the Beacon Bridleway study)
- Monday, March 16, Transportation Board—Reconsideration of Davis Street contraflow (Greenough to Cypress)
- Monday, March 23, Transportation Board—presentation of *Green Routes Plan 2020* by Mr. Bowman
- An announcement of the open slot (replacing Mr. Bowman this summer) will be posted with a reference to the desirability of experience or familiarity with micromobility; this would not be a pre-requisite for membership, however.

Adjournment: 9:20 PM