



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
PEDESTRIAN & TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2020

Time: 6:30-8:00pm

Location: Virtual Meeting using GoToMeeting: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/539724445>

Community Representatives:

Ted Alexander

*Ginny Alverson

Jessica Bellow

*Emma Blaxter

Georgy Cohen

*Laura Evans

*Jessica Ferguson

*Rauvin Johl

*Paola Massoli

*Audrey Orenstein

*Vitor Pamplona

*Zach Rosenberg

Julia Toof

*Emily Vides

*=present

Ex-Officio:

Katjana Ballantyne, *City Council*

*Alexandra Kleyman, *Mobility Division, OSPCD*

*Justin Schreiber, *Mobility Division, OSPCD*

Guests: Adam Polinski, Mobility Division, OSPCD

Call to order: 6:35PM

Procedural Business:

1. Introductions
2. Vote to approve the February 20, 2020 meeting minutes
 - a. Paola made the motion, Jessica F seconded
 - b. There was some discussion of member terms
 - c. Final vote: Audrey abstained and everyone else voted in favor of the motion

PTAC Officers:

1. Vice Chair
 - a. Vitor and Ginny were running for Vice Chair; Vitor wanted to remove his name from consideration
 - b. Ginny spoke about her interest in being vice chair. She has a background in journalism and communications and is willing to lead meetings when the chair is not available.
 - c. Vote
 - i. Motion – Zach made the motion; Vitor seconded; and, the motion passed unanimously
2. Secretary
 - a. Audrey ran unopposed; she read her statement of interest
 - b. Vote
 - i. Motion – Ginny made the motion; Paola seconded; and, the motion passed unanimously
3. City Update
 - a. COVID-19 Update
 - i. construction is currently on hold; GLX and other state projects are still allowed to continue; other exceptions relate to work required to preserve health and safety of the public as well as work to maintain utility services to currently occupied buildings
 - ii. A couple key Mobility projects have been impacted including Holland and College and the Citywide Parking Study
 - iii. Justin described other key information about how the city is operating during this time including parking regulations, Mobility Division working from home, and how we're working from consultants
 - iv. There was a question about why Cambridge is still conducting street sweeping and Somerville is not
 1. Justin said that the city may not want residents out moving their cars, but this is a challenging situation because it's been many months since the streets have been swept and there is a lot of debris.
 - v. Paola asked a question about SAUSI and Powder House Blvd; these are designed, so is this a good time for input?
 1. SAUSI is already designed, so it is a little late for input from PTAC
 2. Powder House Blvd was implemented, but there is a phase 2 to the project that may be considered for implementation this year. One of the options for phase 2 is to implement a parking protected bike lane.
 3. Adam discussed that it would be good for PTAC members to weigh in on the Powder House Blvd Phase 2 project when public outreach starts on this.

b. Holland and College Resurfacing

- i. Justin discussed what's included and what's not included in the project, he showed data on mode split along Holland and College, and discussed the design options being considered for this project. He presented the PowerPoint presentation that was given at the public meeting in February. That is available online here: <https://somervoice.somervillema.gov/hollandandcollege>
 1. Bike lane on one side – Justin discussed this scenario. Refer to the slides for more information.
 2. Peak hour bus/bike lane (combined with right turn only onto Dover)
 - a. Paola asked how the bus priority would be accomplished; Justin responded that all of this will be studied in this project and/or in the Davis Signals project
 - b. Emily asked whether there is data available on crashes in these types of situations when lane use changes throughout the day. Justin responded that enforcement is key; there will be a learning curve, but people get used to it
 3. All day bus/bike lane – Justin discussed this scenario. Refer to the slides for more information.
- ii. Other questions and discussion
 1. Ginny asked about whether there would be signal upgrades and audible signals, Justin responded that this will be incorporated as part of the Davis Signals project
 2. Emma asked whether the committee could talk about specific COVID-19 pedestrian and transit projects
- iii. Given that there was about 30 minutes of the meeting remaining, the committee decided to skip the City update on the Gilman Square project, talk briefly about the Powder House Circle project, the Committee's draft letter about the Route 28/38 project, and to spend some time brainstorming about the City's potential COVID response.

c. Powder House Circle

- i. Adam discussed the idea behind this project
 1. This intersection is the most dangerous intersection in the city
 2. There is no major construction project planned here in the next year or two, so the city is looking at lower cost solutions – paint, signs, and flex posts
 3. Adam described that there are trade-offs under this option – the signalization of the circle would be taken away, and some of the right turn movements would be taken away.
 4. The committee discussed this project and the fact that it is important to make safety improvements to this location

- d. Gilman Square
 - i. The committee discussed that they would come back to this project at the next meeting
- e. MassDOT Mystic Ave. Letter Review
 - i. The committee discussed writing a letter with a specific ask for safety improvements at the I-93/Route 28/Route 38 intersection
 - ii. Ali brought up the option of writing a more general letter to MassDOT and the MPO in support of the three projects in this area – the Route 28 Resurfacing Project, the I-93 intersection safety project, and the McGrath Boulevard project
 - iii. The letter is posted in Google docs, and committee members will review and comment on it.
 - iv. Ali discussed that the letter should also be reviewed by the Mobility Division
- 4. Other
 - a. Next meeting: 3rd Thursday in April
 - b. Mobility staff come with an update on COVID-19 specific planning
- 5. Public comment/Other Business
 - a. There was no public comment or other business