



January 2021 PTAC Meeting: City Update

Tonight's Topics

- Updates on Holland and College
- Update on Mobility budget and 2021 projects
- Vision Zero report card
- Upcoming meeting topics

Holland & College Status Update

- We continue to review feedback we have been receiving.
 - [Project website](#)
- Ongoing engagement with Davis business/commercial property owner community via Chamber of Commerce
- At least one more community meeting expected in early spring
- Construction bid being finalized by IAM
 - Expected to be advertised for bid 2/1
 - Includes example designs for the 'expanded toolbox' such as speed tables, raised crosswalks/intersections, and refuge islands.
- Consultant preparing an expanded scope of design work
 - Preferred treatments identified for each intersection
 - [Link for review](#)

Mobility 2021 Updates

Council Order: *That the Mayor make to the City Council a supplementary budget request to immediately add staff and funding to the Mobility Department, which plans and deploys traffic calming infrastructure, and that the Mayor increase the Mobility Department staff and budget by at least 50% in the FY 2022 budget.*

Internal

- 2020 project review/retrospective
- 2021 work planning and project prioritization
- New intersection classification tool

External

- Upcoming meetings with Mayor, City Council to discuss initial 2021 priorities and get their input

VZ Report Card Preview

SOMERVILLE VISION ZERO, 2020 REPORTING

DESIGN SAFE STREET

THE OBJECTIVE:
Roadway design is one of the most important factors in reducing vehicle speeds and increasing safety. The actions in this objective area help ensure slower speeds and safer conditions for all road users, and specifically, our most vulnerable.

STRATEGY: ENHANCE DESIGN OF MAJOR INTERSECTIONS

2 out of 3 actions completed for 2020.

- Completed: Quick-build improvements implemented at five major intersections.
- Completed: Permanent improvements to at least two major intersections
- In progress: Identify and classify each major intersection and develop toolbox for improving, prioritize the list for intervention

STRATEGY: CALM TRAFFIC IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS

3 out of 4 actions completed for 2020.

- Completed: Quick-build traffic calming at two key entrances onto low volume residential streets.
- Completed: Quick-build traffic calming at two mid-block locations on residential streets.
- Completed: Permanent traffic calming at four locations on residential streets.
- In progress: Finalize thresholds for traffic calming improvements.

STRATEGY: BUILD SAFE MID-BLOCK CROSSINGS

1 out of 3 actions completed for 2020.

- Completed: Quick-build or permanent traffic calming at three mid-block crosswalks
- In progress: ID all mid-block crosswalks and develop toolbox for improving, prioritize the list for intervention.
- Not completed: Develop crosswalk spacing guidelines

STRATEGY: BUILD SAFE PEDESTRIAN ROUTES

4 out of 5 actions completed for 2020.

- Completed: Rehabilitate 2 miles of sidewalk.
- Completed: Permanent physical safety or accessibility improvements at 3 bus stops.
- Completed: Permanent physical safety or accessibility improvements at 1 location within 1/4 mi. of a rapid transit station.
- In progress: Develop and publish a sidewalk reconstruction prioritization plan.

STRATEGY: ENHANCE AND EXPAND NEIGHBORWAYS

2 out of 3 actions completed for 2020.

- Completed: Implement wayfinding signage for existing neighborways.
- Completed: Enhance 3 existing neighborways or designate new streets.
- In progress: Develop a citywide neighborways plan and toolkit for improvements.

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SOMERVILLE VISION ZERO, 2020 REPORTING

CREATE A ROBUST DATA FRAMEWORK

THE OBJECTIVE:
Achieving our Vision Zero goals requires a data-driven approach. The actions in this objective area will help the City gather, analyze, use, and share crash, speed, and other traffic data. A thorough data framework will allow us to understand our safety priorities and evaluate the effectiveness of our interventions.

STRATEGY: TRAFFIC MONITORING PROGRAM

2 out of 3 actions in progress.

- In progress: Conduct before and after data collection for all safety improvements.
- In progress: ID 10 locations for annual speed, class, and volume monitoring.
- Planned for 2021: ID 10 locations counted as part of the annual pedestrian/bike counts and collect data with engineering grade Turning Movement Counts.

STRATEGY: IMPROVE CRASH DATA

1 action in progress

- In progress: Set up a process for people to report crashes or near misses for all modes that do not involve serious injury or significant property damage to the city.

STRATEGY: VISION ZERO PORTAL

1 out of 3 actions completed for 2020.

- Completed: Publish data collected from implemented projects and annual monitoring on the Vision Zero website.
- In progress: Update the Vision Zero web page regularly and continually seek user feedback on the portal.
- Not completed: Quantify visitors to the Vision Zero website and report trends on an annual basis.

DATA IN 2020

Key Accomplishments:

- Data collection and analysis for Shared Streets and new quick-build bus lanes.
- Acquisition of new project planning and data visualization tool, Remix.

DATA IN 2021

Focus on

- Maintaining and updating Vision Zero website
- Continued data collection with a focus on obtaining more precise data at our annual bike and pedestrian count locations.

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SOMERVILLE VISION ZERO, 2020 REPORTING

OPERATE SAFE STREETS

STRATEGY: MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF EXTREME WEATHER

3 out of 3 actions in progress.

- In progress: Publish a list of city sidewalks and bicycle lanes that are prioritized for snow removal.
- In progress: Work with the PTAC and the SBAC to refine existing standard operating procedures for snow storms and extreme weather
- In progress: Annually promote and distribute the Somerville Winter Guide

KEY 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Addition of over 6 miles of 20 mph safety zones.
- Development of initial traffic signal inventory.
- Weekly coordination meetings between Mobility, Engineering, and Parking on project planning, design, and construction issues.
- Monthly coordination between the Mobility Division, Constituent Services, and Communications and Community Engagement.

OPERATION OF SAFE STREETS IN 2021 WILL FOCUS ON:

- Coordination with additional City departments through the Vision Zero Working Group to work on VZ actions related to mitigating the impacts of extreme weather and construction-related mobility impacts.
- Continued education of City staff, drivers, and residents on safe speed limits.
- Continued expansion of 20 mph safety zones

Planned for 2021: 23.7%

In Progress: 76.3%

Completed for 2020: 0%

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SOMERVILLE VISION ZERO, 2020 REPORTING

CREATE A CULTURE OF SAFETY

STRATEGY: IMPROVE TRUCK SAFETY

1 out of 4 actions completed for 2020.

- Completed: Implement the Ordinance to Safeguard Vulnerable Road Users to reduce the risk of cyclists and pedestrians being struck by a large vehicle.
- In progress: Equip all signalized intersections to accept input from oncoming emergency vehicles.
- In progress: Administer truck safety training to all City staff who drive city trucks.
- In progress: Grow relationships with stakeholders to evaluate best practices for managing and enforcing truck policies and loading zones in Somerville. Work to develop regional solutions.

STRATEGY: CREATE CITY POLICIES AND ADVOCATE FOR STATE LEGISLATION SUPPORTIVE OF VISION ZERO

1 out of 4 actions in progress.

- In progress: Work with the advisory committees and regional partners to determine safe vendor, vehicle, and operational requirements for the incorporation of new mobility devices, such as electric scooters, into Somerville's existing transportation ecosystem.
- Planned for 2021: Quarterly Meetings of the Vision Zero Working Group will discuss crashes involving City employees.
- Planned for 2021: Create a rapid response protocol for when serious crashes or fatalities occur.
- Planned for 2021: Issue policies for all City staff who drive as part of their job responsibilities that requires adherence to speed limits and traffic laws and disallows the use of cell phones or other electronic devices while driving.

KEY 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Continued education and engagement through revisions to City communication materials and deployment of VMBs and speed feedback signs.
- Establishment of the Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee.
- Engagement with PTAC and SBAC on the planning and design of numerous key street projects.

CREATION OF A CULTURE OF SAFETY IN 2021 WILL FOCUS ON:

- Enhanced interdepartmental coordination through the Vision Zero Working Group.
- Continued outreach to students and families through the Safe Routes to School Program as students return to school.
- Continued and enhanced engagement and education of residents and City staff about Vision Zero and the critical importance of safe driving.
- Continued regional coordination on policies that support safer streets.

Planned for 2021: 25.0%

In Progress: 75.0%

Completed for 2020: 0.0%

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Mobility Safety Trends Report

[COVID-19: Mobility Strategy | SomerVoice \(somervillema.gov\)](#)

COVID-19: Mobility Strategy



Welcome! This page is your resource for how the city is responding to essential mobility and transportation needs during the pandemic.

Please take a moment to fill out our [user survey](#). Your input will help us understand how the streets worked, how people used them, and what the future holds for shared streets.

We want to hear from you!

Current Mobility initiatives to help keep residents safe during this time include:

- shared streets (see [Shared Streets and Shared Curbs interactive map](#) - we will be continually updating this)

Important Links

- [COVID-19 Business Needs Survey](#)

Important Documents

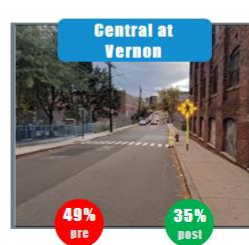
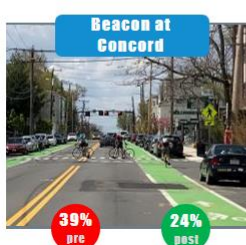
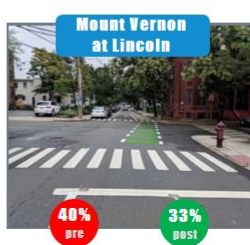
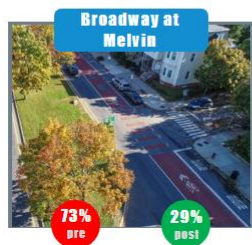
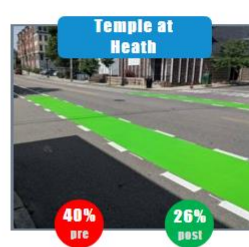
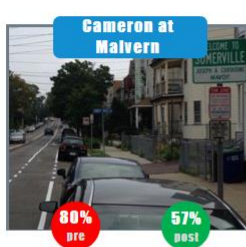
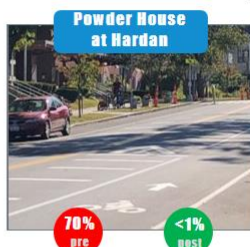
- [COVID 19 - Mobility Strategy Presentation.pdf \(6.3 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Shared Street Signs.pdf \(1.46 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [2020 Mobility and Safety Trend Data 012121.pdf \(2.14 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

Who's Listening

Our recent projects have helped reduce speeding,

advancing Somerville's Vision Zero framework for eliminating severe crashes

Source: City traffic count database



Upcoming PTAC Meeting Topics

- Davis Square Signal Improvements Project
- Sidewalk and Roadway Resurfacing program, prioritization, upcoming plans
- Mobility 2021 work planning and project prioritization
- Intersection classification system
- Bus network redesign 101
- Transit planning and ped planning 101
- ADA transition plan
- Planning and Zoning topics: Assembly Sq. Neighborhood plan, Brickbottom planning framework, new Zoning Code 101
- Parking Dept. Topics: Parking study phase 2 scope
- McGrath Highway-related topics and projects: resurfacing/road diet, development coordination, Grand Junction, Boulevard project update