



Appointed by Joseph A

Curtatone, Mayor

Date: Thursday, December 16, 2021

Time: 6:30-8:00pm

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

Community Representatives:

- *Ted Alexander
- *Ginny Alverson – Vice Chair
- *Caroline Bodager
- *Meredith Brown
- *Thomas Coen
- *Laura Evans
- *Christopher Ferry
- *Mary Napolitano
- *Audrey Orenstein – Secretary
- *Vitor Pamplona
- *Zach Rosenberg – Chair
- *Alessandra Seiter

- *Julia Toof
- *Emily Vides
- Carole Voulgaris
- *Kirsten Walters

Ex-Officio:

- *Alexandra Kleyman, *Mobility Division, OSPCD*
- *Justin Schreiber, *Mobility Division, OSPCD*
- *Kate White, *OSPCD Mobility, Community Outreach*

*=present

Guests:

- JT Scott - *Ward 2 Councilor*
- Tom Lamar - *Chair of Bicycle Advisory Committee*

Acting Secretary: Caroline Bodager

Call to order: 6:34 PM

Agenda for tonight:

1. Committee Intro first
2. Subcommittee updates
3. Crash on mystic ave, what response we want to have
4. City update

1. Committee Intro

- a. Review of meeting guidelines
 - We are going to do vote by voice. We can also do roll-call votes if things are unclear.
 - we don't record each member's vote, just the totals and whether a motion passes

b. November Meeting minutes

- any comments? No comments
 - Audrey motions to approve, Laura seconds
 - unanimous approval
- minutes are approved

c. Review of the PTAC Meeting statement - overview of PTAC, review of bylaws

main points:

- promoting walking and taking public transportation
- improving the quality and effectiveness of the pedestrian and transit experience
- promoting policies and programs supportive of walking and public transportation

Principles are also in our bylaws.

Any questions or comments as we go through these? None.

2. Subcommittee Updates

- Engineering and evaluation - Paola Massoli and Julia Toof
- Policy and Enforcement - Ted Alexander
- Education and Outreach - Audrey Orenstein

They have to be less than a quorum, meet once monthly outside of standard meeting time.

E/E

- Review engineering plans for upcoming projects
- Provide written comment and specific feedback for the city - usually directly to the mobility commission - works closely with mobility division

P/E

- Conduct research and present on policy issues
- Recent focus on winter sidewalk snow clearing
- Drafting memos . letters for committee opinions on policy issues

E/O

- Manage social media and website
- Organize events, neighborhood walks, other outreach
- They did the powder house square walk
- No non-chair members, excited to see PTAC interest
- Hope to Broadcast city's messages out, and to gather feedback for the city through these meetings

Goals:

- What would you like to see us achieve?
- What impact should we have?
- How do we measure our work?

Start thinking about these now -

Goals survey?

Action item: Zach asked Audrey to make a Goals Survey -- they will work on it together.

This will tie into the annual report that we release every year.

Annual Report and Officer Elections

- We put out an annual report to detail our work
- Aim to get this done in the 1st quarter
- We also elect officers
- - Chair Vice Chair and Secretary
- elections took place this past May

Any questions or comments or ideas?

Ginny proposed moving the meeting back from 6:30-7:00

Discussion

Zach asked if there is anyone that presents an issue for

None

Zach: We will plan on having meetings at 7:00pm going forward.

Committee Updates:

E/E

Didn't meet this month

Didn't have a project they needed to review

January up next

P/E

They met

Talked about snow clearing

Discussed Intersections -- having that happen at a broader scale instead of individual calls

- lack of visibility with cars parking too close

Google doc to share questions about 311 system

- how does it work

could be an open meeting law violation

Action item: Ted is instead going to send an email to the whole committee to send questions to Ted directly.

This winter there is going to be a pilot snow clearing project for Broadway and School street - full length.

Ad-Hoc system of monitoring. Take pictures after snow fall, etc. It would be helpful to get those and descriptions of how those systems are working throughout the winter.

Action item: Ted will send an email tonight to ask for volunteers to take photos/notes on those streets after it snows

Action item: Zach and Audrey will talk to city folks for google docs and whether we can use them...

Quick break for intros

3. Mystic Ave Crash,

About it

Any response we want to have

- a run down: Emily Vides volunteers
- night, raining, Shore drive and Mystic Ave, pedestrian was struck in crosswalk, broke their leg.
- Person drove away after striking person in the crosswalk
- Day after, many residents called MASS DOT - asking where are the improvements to 38 and 28 that we were promised over the summer
- They said they only have 2 cruisers and can't increase enforcement on Mystic
- MASS Dot said that part of mystic wasn't part of the original project
- Then a meeting was called between SASS and MASS DOT and elected officials
- Mass DOT needs to deliver the promises they made last summer after fatal crash on McGrath highway, supposed to put in raised crosswalks at Kensington connector - was supposed to be November but it hasn't started yet (various reasons - construction issues), need to finish work at shore drive, and no curb cuts when you go to Mystic Ave to go to stop and shop (they said that work would be completed next year)
- We have asked them to communicate better with us so we don't think they've forgotten about it
- The things that have finished since that meeting -
 - two speed readers installed the next day
 - not sure what the impact is or who sees that data
- advocates asked mass dot whether the changes had been put in before the crash, would the crash have happened and they said no it wouldn't have happened.

Can Aly speak to the work on Shore Drive and Mystic Ave? Posed Emily

Ali - we are working with an on call consultant on that. We have to get a permit through MASS DOT for what we are planning. We have a slide on it tonight. Basically we will be submitting the 100 percent design in beginning of Jan 2022. Construction is planned for 2022.

Emily: Scope of the project that the public agreed to doesn't include the area of shore drive where people are picking up speed - so it needs to expand to include that.

Zach - what do we think about advocating for a long term plan for a road diet for mystic ave?

In chat: Julia Toof to Everyone

MassDOT road diet in Reading: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-the-route-28-resurfacing-and-road-diet-pilot-project-in-reading>

Ali - consider the bus and maintaining space so that the bus isn't stuck in traffic back up

Ali - The bus lane that was there right now was through mass dot shared street thing - they were hesitant to take any space away when we were initially talking. So it was implemented as a pilot. We

have collected before and after data - we are in the process of analyzing that. We will talk to mass dot about making it permanent. We didn't plan for enforcement like we did for central Broadway. 'from Main St in Medford to Wheeland Street - it's on Mystic.

Discussion of a 24 hour bus lane.

Action item: Zach - wants Policy and Enforcement to write letter to MASS DOT for enforcement of business or possible long term project for mystic that could include a road diet etc
Ted - thinks E/E might be a better committee for this.

In chat: Emily Vides to Everyone

We can support active bills for automated camera enforcement (H.2476 and S.1545).

TED: PTAC has already sent letters of support to state delegation

- sent letters of support to state reps
- to support automated camera enforcement bills that Emily posted in the chat

Julia asked - do you want them separate or combined in letter?

Ted - has already included bus lane enforcement.

ACTION ITEM - we should put them [the letters] on our website

Ted - we could do more? This should be a separate Mystic Ave letter - to discuss short term and long term issues.

Julia thinks her committee can do that. Use Road Diet details that the website already has posted:

In chat: Julia Toof to Everyone

the state is making the case for road diets: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/what-are-road-diets>

Julia Toof to Everyone

Proven Results in Massachusetts
Summer Street Road Diet Pilot in Hingham
Speeds decreased as much as 5 mph
Little to no travel time increase
Little to no traffic diversion
Route 135 in Wellesley
55% fewer crashes
69% fewer severe injury occurrences
Nonantum Road in Boston, Newton, and Watertown

23% fewer crashes
32% fewer severe injury occurrences

Julia Toof to Everyone

Other points made by state on road diet advantages: Traffic Calming
Fewer lanes can reduce speeds by eliminating passing
Lowers speeds and fatal and injury crash rates
Safer Accommodations for Vulnerable Users
Reduced pedestrian and bicycle crash risk
Increased space between travel lanes and sidewalks
Fewer travel lanes for pedestrians to cross
Can reallocate space for dedicated bicycle facilities, wider sidewalks, or other desirable amenities
Simplified Operations
Separate left-turns at signalized intersections allow for more consistent traffic flow
Low-cost Redesign
Can be incorporated into the repaving schedule

Audrey question:

Few days ago acting secretary rotation sent out

Any questions?

Making sure it was received.

Action item: Audrey will follow up with Thomas and Kirsten afterwards with email info since they didn't get the google group email

4. City update:

Contents:

- background into the mobility division
- pedestrian signal timing discussion
- mystic shore and 28 38 project universe
- end of year project updates
- ongoing input opportunities
- this power point will be shared afterwards

provides a monthly meeting with the city / get city updates

review of transportation related departments, committees and commissions

how changes get made to our streets

- reconstruction projects, resurfacing program projects, quick build projects and other projects

discussion of tradeoffs

Pedestrian signal timing

- signaling basics
 - o exclusive ped phasing - all vehicles are stopped, all red lights. This increases people's comfort. Trade off is it is less safe overtime because folks might cross during green. Could be long waits for everyone.
 - o Concurrent ped phasing
 - Leading ped/transit/bike intervals - LPIs LTIs LBIs
 - Folks traveling straight in same direction go together
 - Conflicts with turning vehicles sometimes
 - Most efficient way to move the most people with less wait for everyone
 - People using all modes of transit are more likely to obey when they wait for a smaller amount of time
 - Somewhere lots of vehicles make turns - then it could become less efficient and less comfortable for pedestrians
 - o Leading pedestrian interval -
 - o That is where the crossings are concurrent, but peds get a headstart. Eliminates a good amount of conflicts, but not all.
 - o Delay vs comfort are the main tradeoffs and perception of safety. Those are compliance concern. We don't usually worry about vehicle delay, but when transit is involved, we care about bus backups.

What do other local cities do?

City of Cambridge

- Peds long noted to cross concurrently no matter what the ped signal indicated
- As of 1997 concurrent with LPIs is official policy except for T intersections and intersections with many turning vehicles

Boston

- Complete streets guidelines encourage concurrent phasing

MAPC Regional Planning Agency

- Recommends considering concurrent phasing (Confirm this was said in the slides)

Next: Washington/webster/Somerville ave intersection discussion

Now we want a committee to look at this intersection - Washington/webster

Next up -Ali - Mystic Shore and 28/38 project universe - again this will be shared after:

Summarizes many of the main projects going on and their timelines for design and construction

Grouped based on size and cost

And you can see 2021-2026

All projects in some stage of design

Smaller projects have been largely implemented this year with further work to come

JT Scott - mentioning - in the technical committee comes up - he would like to join that
jtforward2@gmail.com

Action item: please email JT Scott

Ongoing Input Opportunities

- See slide for links
- N co2022:
- Mobility 2021 year in review
- Pearl St community Meeting
- West Washington Street Resurfacing

Action Items from Meeting (summary from above):

1. **Action item:** Zach asked Audrey to make Goals Survey -- they will work on it together.
2. **Action item:** Ted is instead going to send an email to the whole committee to send questions to Ted directly.
3. **Action item:** Ted will send an email tonight to ask for volunteers to take photos/notes on those streets after it snows
4. **Action item:** Zach and Audrey will talk to city folks for google docs and whether we can use them
5. **Action item:** Zach - wants Policy and Enforcement to write letter to MASS DOT for enforcement of business or possible long term project for mystic that could include a road diet etc. Ted - thinks E/E might be a better committee for this.
6. **Action item** - we should put them [the letters] on our website
7. **Action item:** Audrey will follow up with Thomas and Kierstin afterwards with email info since they didn't get the google group email
8. **Action item:** please email JT Scott - if the technical committee comes up - he would like to join that - email jtforward2@gmail.com

Meeting ended: 8:12 PM

