



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE JULY 2022 MEETING Minutes

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne

Community Representatives

Tom Lamar, Chair
Lena Webb, Vice Chair
Ted Lester, Secretary
Gregory Ely

Ted Feldman
Alex Frieden
Mark Vollinger
Ian Woloschin

Ex Officio

Ben Ewen-Campen, City Council
Viola Augustin, OSPCD Mobility
Adam Polinski, OSPCD Mobility
Eric Weisman, DPW

Thursday, July 14th, 2022, 6:30-8:00PM

GoToMeeting link for computers, tablets, and smartphones: <https://meet.goto.com/802271325>

GoToMeeting dial-in number: +1 (872) 240-3311, Access Code: 802-271-325

Procedural, General Business & Updates (15 minutes)

- Roll call and meeting logistics
- Acting Secretary: Lena
- Approval of June meeting minutes
- Upcoming outreach events

Focus: Draft Bicycle Network Vision Map (1 hour)

- Presentation of draft Bicycle Network Vision map - Mobility
 - Please see slides
- Clarifying questions
 - Clarify definition of Protected Bike Lanes
 - Do "Protected Bike Lanes" identified on this map specifically refer to bike lanes with vertical elements separating them from cars?
 - Ian: what does "vertical elements" mean? Viola: something more sturdy than flexposts**
 - Arah: can we flesh out the definition of "protected bike lane" in the design guide? Viola: goal is to be a living document with new elements introduced every year.**
 - To what extent does this include brief sections of bus lanes or unprotected bike lanes? When we see PBLs proposed on streets like Holland/College/Washington that are also getting bus priority treatments, what should we assume will actually be built?
 - Does this plan differentiate quick-build PBLs vs full reconstruction?
 - Clarify definition of Neighborways
 - Will they all allow biking in both directions?
 - Unclear**
 - **-Ted F: people can't identify neighborways, how do we make them known? Viola: Wayfinding, we heard it loud and clear.**
 - What is the difference between Neighborways and Shared Streets?
 - See slides.**
 - What safeguards would ensure that Neighborways/Shared Streets stay under their design volumes / speeds?
 - Chicanes, speed bumps/humps.**
 - Tom: Do Neighborways meet all ages and abilities standard?**

-Ian: problem crossing Highland Ave and

- Clarify directionality of one-direction-only PBLs
 - Can we get additional info about which direction the PBL would be in?
 - For one-direction-only PBLs on one-way streets, would the PBLs be one-way in the same direction as cars, or contraflow?
-Arah: concerned about bikers contraflowing in PBLs and them thinking it can be done everywhere
-Ian: on streets that are one way for cars if there's one protected bike lane, it could be the opposite flow from general traffic
- Clarify schedule & implementation
 - What would be the timeframe for building this out?
-Viola: need to get the Network Plan solidified first, then schedules can be estimated. Neighborways might be quick to build, but have to be thoughtful about whether or not they are actually reducing traffic volume
 - How would the city prioritize within this plan?
 - To what extent will this be implemented via quick-build vs full construction? For PBLs and for traffic calming elements
- Clarify reasoning behind streets omitted from the plan
 - Why are certain arterials not part of the network? E.g. Summer, Dane, (parts of) Mystic
 - Why are some 2020-era "Shared Streets" not proposed as Neighborways in this network?
 - What role, if any, will unprotected bike lanes, advisory bike lanes, etc. have in the plan?
- SBAC feedback on draft map
 - Tom: concerned about over reliance on neighborways and wants those to be defined**
 - Ian: Davis square gap. Needs that connection.**
 - Lena: West Broadway (Rt 16 to Powderhouse Circle) needs two way protection and/or a bus priority lane**
 - Ted F: Connect Alewife linear path to the community path to the grand union blvd (what's it called?)**
- **West Somerville: we need at least one west/east two-way protected bike lane (and or bus lanes!)-- either Powderhouse**

City Update (15 minutes)

- Next steps for current projects
- **New items: Broadway bus extension from McGrath to Cross St**
- **Vertical separation pilot– pre-cast curbs!**
- **Please see the slide deck for the project charts**