



## SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 2024 MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne

### Community Representatives

**Tom Lamar**, Chair  
**Lena Webb**, Vice Chair  
**Ted Feldman**, Secretary  
**Adrienne Agarwal**  
**Kathryne Benesh**  
Gregory Ely  
**Alex Frieden**

Sari Kayyali  
**Katharine Lange**  
**Paul Morgan**  
**Amanda Rychel**  
Maria Salim  
Mark Vollinger  
**Ian Woloschin**

### Ex Officio

Willie Burnley, Jr., City Council  
Viola Augustin, OSPCD Mobility  
**Greg Hanafin**, OSPCD Mobility  
Eric Weisman, DPW

Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> 2024, 6:30-8:00PM

***Note: Meeting will be hybrid***

In-person meeting location: Central Library Auditorium, 79 Highland Ave

Zoom link for computers, tablets, and smartphones:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89955464420?pwd=x1gKvaMfOjNAdDkclv7bRrQreMKDK.1>

Dial-in number: +1 646 558 8656, or find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89955464420>

Webinar ID: 899 5546 4420

Passcode: 982249

### **Procedural, General Business & Updates (25 minutes)**

- Roll call and meeting logistics
  - Roll call at 6:35pm
  - Members present bolded above
  - Guests
    - Lilly Worth
    - Stephen Mackey
    - Arah
    - Zachary Yaro
- Acting Secretary - Ian Woloschin
- Approval of meeting minutes
  - August minutes tabled for approval for next month due to procedural questions
- Upcoming outreach events
  - Halloween Ride - Paul Morgan
    - Starting in Assembly Square
    - Groups interested in handing out candy or tabling should contact Paul
    - <http://www.familybikeride.org/halloween>
  - City Events
    - Launch of Elm/Beacon Connector
      - Does the committee want to organize a ride/event around the kickoff?
      - Biking the extent of the project and stopping to talk about existing conditions or future hopes
    - Annual Bicyclist/Pedestrian Counts

- Coordinated by Lilly
- General call has gone out for first time participants (with special training), full call for all participants going out next week
- Count period is 9/24 - 10/4 (Tu/W/Th over two weeks), morning & evening shifts for each location
- 7:30am - 8:30am & 5pm-6pm
- 42 Locations, some have been split into two sides to account for volume
- Scooters are a new category to capture
- E-bikes (Class I/II) counted as regular bicycles
- Tom - How does splitting scooters out compare to last year?
  - They should have been counted as "Other" last year
- Tom - Volunteer group (Boston Cyclists Union) may have interest in helping with data visualization, has the City worked with them?
  - <https://bostoncyclistsunion.org/how-does-boston-know-when-and-where-people-are-biking>
  - Greg - Not as part of this project, do work closely with SomerStat (City Data Warehouse) for data & visualization, all prior year data is available online
- Ted - Are we doing demographics?
  - No, it was too hard and too many assumptions to collect valid data

**Focus: Establishing subcommittees (30-40 minutes)**

- Discuss how the previous subcommittees were set up
  - With new members joining the SBAC is interested in re-establishing sub-committees to focus on specific areas of interest as was done in the past
  - "The 5 E's"
    - Engineering
    - Evaluation
    - Encouragement
    - Education
    - Enforcement
    - Equity (was sort of split across all sub committees)
  - Procedurally sub-committees may meet without triggering Open Meeting Law as long as they remain below Committee quorum (currently 6 members)
    - This allows impromptu meetings to heavily focus on one area and bring recommendations back to the full committee for votes or other actions
  - Engineering & Evaluation is the only active sub-committee, currently run by Ted
    - Focus on feedback about technical/engineering plans during early stages of a project
    - Welcome all members regardless of background
    - Would bring specific actions back to the full committee for a full vote to recommend changes to a project
    - One example is helping the City prioritize the new Somerville Bicycle Network Plan to align with community needs
  - Enforcement
    - Used to try and work with SPD, had mixed success depending on SPD leadership being cyclists themselves
    - Committee members learned a lot about why SPD chose focus areas though struggled to change them in a progressive manner which led to burnout of committee members
- Brainstorm new subcommittee structure
  - Engineering & Eval
    - Reviewing Plans
    - Advising/suggestion new solutions
    - Alex - Is this still focused on data gathering like parking inventories in new project areas?
      - Yes!

- Lena - Much of the work the committee used to focus on is now done in-house by an expanded Mobility Department
- Encouragement
  - Rides
  - Bike-Bus
  - School/Kid-Focus
    - Do we have any information on previous work here?
    - Who from the City can we talk to about this?
    - City has a Safe Routes to School staff group
      - Talk to Mobility, they can connect with SPS & other OSPCD Teams
  - Bike Repair
  - Advocacy
  - The old Education & Encouragement Sub Committee was pretty robust
    - Covered lots of education components
    - Filmed a “How to use a bike box” video with Somerville Community TV
    - Tried setting up the 5th grade learn to bike before COVID
    - Educational fliers about how to use new bicycle infrastructure (for cyclists, motorists & pedestrians)
  - Coffee talks?
    - Meet up at a coffeeshop near bicycle infrastructure
    - Run like office hours to get more community engagement
- Media/Outreach
  - Police
  - Political
    - Interacting with elected officials, cannot interact with candidates during an election (outside of incumbents’ official roles)
    - Letters in support of grants to State/Federal agencies
    - Letters in support to projects in other cities
  - Newsletter
  - Social Media
  - Walkthroughs of projects (before or after)
  - Parking removal buy-in from Ward City Councilor
  - Outreach has been very lacking since COVID and we would love to see more!
  - Much of outreach is a lot of work and requires a team effort, not one or two members!
  - Could work with Traffic & Parking to put bicycle fliers in parking permit mailers
  - Is there any possibility of City Staff (Mobility) working on bicycle-specific newsletters?
    - Does the City feel that there are gaps in their newsletters that need SBAC to write our own?
      - Committee work is not captured in City newsletters today
    - Should SBAC write a segment for a City newsletter?
    - Committee should focus a newsletter on outreach & encouragement, not on City projects
  - PTAC has a newsletter that has some overlap but also covers committee-specific business
- All of the sub committees should be interacting with each other, there is significant overlap!
- How do we move this conversation forward?
  - Need sub-committee chairs
  - **ACTION: For the Committee**
    - Executive committee will collect feedback from members and share before the October meeting
    - Members interested in leading a sub-committee should make their interest known to the executive committee
  - Committee will vote on sub-committees in October
- Public comment

**City Updates (15 minutes)**

- City Update
  - Elm/Beacon Connector
    - First Community Meeting on 9/25
    - Street pop up October 3rd
  - Western Pearl
    - First community meeting 10/9
    - Street popup 10/15
  - General Tabling
    - Gilman Sq Arts Festival 9/14
    - Monster Mash 10/20 (PTAC is tabling)
  - Powder House / Alewife Brook
    - Punchlist work is underway
  - Spring Hill Sewer
    - Sidewalk/bike facility work continues on Central St
    - Final paving for upper Spring St being scheduled
    - Is the City still expecting Highland Streetscape for 2026?
      - Yes as far as we know at this time
      - No planned timeline for Highland Ave redesign
  - McGrath Resurfacing
    - Final striping in progress
    - Delineator installation scheduled for Fall 2024
  - Mystic/Maffa Bridge
    - Structural work continues
  - McGrath Blvd
    - Advanced towards 25% milestone
  - Davis Sq
    - Limited mill/pave and restriping work in late 2024
  - Western Washington St
    - Sidewalk / crosswalk / bike facility construction continues
    - Project scheduled for completion late 2024
    - Can the City get better construction traffic details during the morning school rush?
  - Tufts St
    - Reviewing feedback from summer community engagement
  - West Broadway
    - Fall 2024 plan update & public feedback period
    - Late 2024/Early 2025 final plans
  - Glen St/Otis St Neighborways
    - Added in August
    - Paint & symbols underway
  - Walnut St Two Way Bike Facility
    - Green bike crossings to Gilman St added
  - Tufts St Mural
    - Completed
  - Community Path Supplemental Lighting
    - 100% construction documentation completed
    - Bidding/construction planned for 2025
- Public Comment
- Meeting adjourned 8:05pm