



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE October 2024 MEETING MINUTES

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
Lillian Worth, OSPCD

Guests:

John Camy
Arah Schuur

Attendance: Bold indicates present

*Will be removed from the committee as they have moved outside the city

Thursday, October 3rd 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/85646356869?pwd=zEr6zpNyVLTBoQOI9xNjwgpFE1E6HZ.1>

Dial-in number: +1 646 558 8656, or find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85646356869>

Webinar ID: 856 4635 6869

Passcode: 982249

Procedural, General Business & Updates (25 minutes)

- Roll call and meeting logistics
- Acting Secretary - Ted Feldman
- Approval of meeting minutes
 - Meeting minutes for Aug and Sept 2024 approved unanimously by members, 2 Ex-officios abstained.
- Organization into subcommittees
 - Tom to send survey to express interest
- Upcoming outreach events
 - Monster Mash, October 20th, 2 - 6pm (PTAC will be tabling). SBAC can also table. Kate B. and Amanda expressed interest in assisting with tabling. They will connect with Viola and Alexandra Seiter (PTAC) to coordinate.
 - CoS Elm-Beacon Connector meeting today, Lillian reports that it was well attended.
 - CoS Western Pearl Reconstruction Project Community Meeting - 10/9

Focus: Outreach ideas around upcoming projects (30 minutes)

- Ideas for outreach around Elm-Beacon Connector project and Western Pearl St Reconstruction
 1. Tom discusses the possibility of facilitating community/committee outreach
 - Ian, Alex and Ted support idea of a walk, to which people can arrive by bike.

Action: Ted to reach out to Alexandra regarding coordinating dates for Western Pearl and Elm-Beacon

Dates: Western Pearl PTAC walk on 10/21 (6 pm)

Question of how long, Viola notes that this depends on attendance

Ted suggests going to pop up/looking at plans/then attending walk and can provide feedback at Public comment

Focus: Feedback on recently constructed projects (20 minutes)

- Feedback regarding recent/ongoing construction: floating bus stop near 599 Somerville Ave, Washington St near Bumpus Bridge, and Powder House at Alewife Brook Parkway
- 1. Bumpus Bridge
 - a. Viola suggests walk to understand potential to modify the sidewalk on the school side which is currently several feet lower than the bike/road
 - b. Ted notes no great alternative route and asks how ped/bike conflicts were handled on Beacon
 - c. Viola notes that conflict striping and signage were installed though committee members note it is a much different intersection.
 - d. Will review area and suggest recommendations
- 2. 599 Somerville Ave - floating bus stop
 - a. Arah presented the predominant problem was the railing which constrains the bike lane
 - b. Kate B., who has worked with the MBTA on floating bus stop design explained that several elements are constrained by design guidance including, railing height and dimensions of the floating bus stop
 - c. Several committee members note the difficulty with limited sight and entrance angle.
 - d. Committee compared this railing to the one on Union Square and noted that the one on Union is offset from the street more than the one at 599 Somerville Ave
 - e. It was noted that the railing is difficult to see at night and a good Samaritan had placed reflective tape on it
 - f. Ian will follow up with 311 request more durable reflective tape
 - g. Committee members are encouraged to review and make further recommendations
- 3. Powder House @ Alewife Brook
 - a. Ian raises a motion that bidirectional bike signals be installed at the intersection. If that proves to be too cost prohibitive, we recommend that the pedestrian signals be placed on recall permanently and "bikes use ped signals" signs be installed.
 - b. Passed unanimously by members, 2 ex-officios abstained.
- Public comment

City Updates (15 minutes)

- City Update - In the interest of time, the City update was not presented, but left to the e-mailed handout which will be uploaded.
- Public Comment