



April 2025 Meeting Minutes

Somerville Pedestrian & Transit Advisory Committee (PTAC)

Mayor Jake Wilson

Thursday, April 16, 2026, 6:30-8:00PM

Meeting Information

Members

* = present

1. Ted Alexander
2. Ginny Alverson
3. Meredith Brown*
4. Rachel Chiquione*
5. Laura Evans*
6. Christopher Ferry*
7. Susan Foley*
8. Christopher Friend*
9. Preston Gutelius*
10. Satoko Hirai*
11. Sebastian Lopes-Filho
12. Brenda Marvin (Secretary)
13. Steven Mulder*
14. Barbara Myers*
15. Bianca Norkunas
16. Vitor Pamplona (Vice Chair)*
17. Zach Rosenberg
18. Andrew Rosenfeld*
19. Alessandra Seiter (Chair)*
20. Mackenzie Webb*
21. Ben Ewen-Campen (Ex Officio, Ward 3 City Councilor)
22. Katherine White (Ex Officio, OSPCD Mobility)
23. Justin Schreiber (Ex Officio, OSPCD Mobility)*

Guests

1. Greg Hanafin, *Transportation Planner, Mobility Division, City of Somerville*
2. Zachary Yaro, *Davis Square Neighborhood Council (DSNC)*

3. Logan Brill, *Somerville resident*
4. Karen Malloy, *Somerville Alliance for Safe Streets*

Acting Secretary

Preston Gutelius

Call to Order

6:35

Agenda

Procedural Business (10 Minutes)

- Member roll call
- Vote on March draft minutes; (who motioned?) Vitor seconding motion
- Announcements
 - 5 new committee members
 - Susan Foley, Tele sq, after attending a few wanted to participate and contribute
 - Rachel Chiquione, Spring Hill, 4ys, transportation consultant by training (work focused elsewhere)
 - Andrew Rosenfeld, near union sq, looking to give back and contribute to the community
 - Christopher Friend, Willow X Highland, on the board of TransiMatters, Looking to participate locally.
 - Sebastian Lopes-Filho, not able to attend this Month

Public Comment (5 Minutes)

DSNC hosting an event at Dragon Pizza next wednesday 6-8PM, and also looking to work with PTAC for advice on use of planters on elm for traffic calming.

Subcommittee Updates (10 Minutes)

- Community Events
 - Met last monday, convo on walk audit plans for Maguon- Broadway Reconstruction Project, May 19th 6pm, planned route, communicated with Mobility team.
- Design Review
 - Did not meet
- Special Projects
 - On Hold

Discussion on Bus Network Redesign Advocacy Strategy (15 min)

- The MBTA's [Bus Network Redesign](#) is ongoing. PTAC spent much of 2025 [advocating on changes to bus routes 90 and 88, changes to bus route 85](#) began this month, and changes to additional bus routes in Somerville are expected soon. Additionally, there is an open question of how a future McGrath Blvd will serve Somerville's bus network.
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- At this meeting, PTAC members will discuss how to approach advocacy around the Bus Network Redesign over the next year. We will begin to identify focus areas and strategies for organizing ourselves.
 - Alessandra providing summary on redesign project and goals
 - New piece - MBTA planning to release new plans that require board approval level service changes, by the end of May, including several routes near and in Somerville. As part of this there will be opportunities for use to participate.
 - All members asked to provide:
 - Priority level
 - Personal interest
 - Ideas of way to tackle
 - Vitor,
 - Easy to be reactive to plans, harder to provide constructive new routes or approaches to the city.
 - Focusing on the needs of the resident interests and making sure they are getting the attention needed compared to the state level priorities
 - A subcommittee could be a good approach
 - Mackense
 - Would love to be on subcommittee, ride the 85 for work
 - Could write a letter
 - Barbara
 - Tabling to get local feedback from bus users
 - Could be also part of community events.
 - May want to add another tabling opportunity for feedback and drive enthusiasm
 - Satoko
 - Ride the 85 regularly
 - It has not been functioning as planned
 - Chris,
 - Lower priority, more interesting to focus on the city, generally supportive of the plan and that there is a risk of being caught
 - Bus priority
 - Stop consolidation
 - Susan
 - Is there a similar committee in Medford that could focus on this
 - (justin, not sure if there is a group but there has been some attention on the matter
 - Steve
 - Generally agree, but really depends on the changes
 - Standing agenda item and also subcommittee if necessary
 - Christopher
 - Interested to see how the new plan changes.
 - Issues with service to the twin city plaza area
 - Less bus riding lately, lean towards subcommittee,
 - Meredith
 - Generally agree that it should be a priority and also personally interested,
 - Organize in case this is relevant for us and providing feedback on how the plans of the 85 have been implemented.

- Could be adhoc subcommittee, or in special projects.
- Laura
 - Important for us
 - A lot of the initial network redesign was focused on push back on change, and we need to focus on possible benefits that can occur with change
- Alessandra
 - Hearing that there is general feedback that it should be something we pay attention to , but not overfocus if good changes
 - Organize a meeting of some size, based on interest, to dig into the changes once released and then decide as a group how to approach
- Members interested in the meeting
 - Susan
 - Andrew
 - Satoko
 - Babara
 - Mackense
 - Meredith
 - Laura
 - Christopher

City Update: Shore Drive Greenway, Broadway / Wallace / Simpson Quick-Build, Snow Clearing Update, & Upcoming Street Projects (50 Minutes)

- Mobility staff will present several updates including:
 - The [Shore Drive Greenway](#) project.
 - [Broadway at Wallace Street and Simpson Avenue Safety Improvements](#).
 - Updates on snow clearing following a snow-heavy winter.
 - Upcoming street projects.
- Justin
 - Welcoming and thanking new members, mentioning that Sebastien is our first youth member
 - Providing overview 2026 Construction look ahead
 - Broadway at Wallace Street and simpson
 - Shore Drive Greenway
 - Annual Streets projects
 - Elm Beacon Connector
- Greg Hanafin
 - Wallace and Simpson update, speaking as project manager
 - It is a small scale quick build on Broadway
 - Focused on the two intersections/crossing
 - For which there has been feedback on speeding and feeling unsafe crossing, with vehicles taking fast turns and yielding, poor site lights.
 - Vehicles are using the bus stop at leonard st to pass on the left
 - Showing Crash history in the 2020-2024
 - 4 crashes involving people on bikes or walking
 - Representative vehicle speeds (85th%) ov 27.5 to 31mph depending on the direction
 - City would like to see this at 25MPH or lower to match speed limit
 - On volumes

- Roughly 10k though the area a day,
 - 1500 turning on simpson and 1000 turning on wallace
- Yielding rate is only ~70%,
- Showed diagram of bus stop use for dangerous passing near the intersection, occurs often due to the high volumes of lefts, Poor visibility conditions
 - There have been multiple reports of near misses
- Looking at Broadway Leonard St bus stop, only about 2 riders a day
- Showing stop spacing
 - Currently around 650ft, which is close for stop spacing
 - If consolidating it would move toward the upper limit, but could be realigned later
- Opportunities
 - Better visibility between road users
 - And better separation between cars and people on bikes
 - Reduce vehicle speeds
 - Prevent dangerous passing behaviour
- Showing examples of other quick builds that have been done for other intersections
- Showing plans for this project
 - Restricting parking for crosswalk sightlines
 - Centerline hardening for turning control
 - Extending remaining bus stop length to meet MBTA targets
- Opening for questions
 - Alessandra, interested to see the simple and elegant solution of removing the bus stop,
 - Can you provide guidance on the “70%” yield rate? What is the typical
 - Greg, ideal would be 100%, not enough data to give a general target or average for the city, post install measurements planned
 - Christoher, happy to see this change
 - Why are the crossings on three sides in a C shape
 - Greg, this is the current status with no new crossings being added and this project cannot include the reconstruction to add new non- accessible crosswalks (without ramps) When the road gets rebuilt it will be investigated, the focus here is short term improvements
 - Laura, looking forward to improvements, sometimes crossing here and not seeing cars yielding
 - Concerned to see a bus stop removal to fix a driver behavior problem, sacrificing transit vs pedestrian safety
 - Curious about the high level of turn traffic and if there should be other changes elsewhere that would affect this area
 - Greg,
 - Mostly seems to be people looking for alternative routes to avoid davis sq or into via another route
 - Would like to see reduced traffic on residential streets, less use as cut throughs.
 - On the bus stop elimination, hear the concern about needing to choose between transit and pedestrians. Given the low usage it seems justified
 - Susan, Motivation for joining was almost being hit in this area last October.
 - The lighting in the area is poor, pedestrians are in the dark.

- We need to make sure that there is good accessibility with the remaining bus stops.
 - Commenting that it is a high traffic area for people walking
 - Greg,
 - We have heard about the lighting, but unfortunately it is out of scope for this project but is being noted for future reconstruction.
 - Zachary,
 - Excited to see this type of addressing high concern areas ahead of major redesign projects, thank you to the Mobility team.
 - Preston- west broadway interaction
 - Greg- hopefully it will have some downstream impact but not directly planned to change flow, carrying lower speeds hopefully from one section to another
- Justin, on Shore Drive Greenway
 - Construction to begin in May
 - This has been a long term calming priority area,
 - Project will extend curb to increase the size of the multiuse path
- Chris, on attending the Mystic river wayfinding walk,
 - Good to see the idea of an interconnected network along the river
- Justin, on annual streets projects
 - Tufts St, underway
 - West Broadway, waiting on Eversource to finish work,
 - Intersection improvements, Walnut at Bow adding long desired ped cross, Washington at Merriam St
- Justin, on West Pearl Street
 - The project has gone out to bid, 26-27 project, hopefully kicking off construction later this year
- Justin, on Elm-Beacon Connector
 - Bidding to be by July, hoping to see project begin as early as July and be finished by the end of the year
 - Alessandra, mentioning May 2nd Mossland Ave block party to introduce the neighborhood
 - Zachary, Can the impact to the Kennedy School be minimized?
 - Justin, we will try to work with them
- Justin, FY26 stow season report, highlights
 - 68in of snow, the most since 2015
 - Route map for bike lanes shared
 - Some routes had clearing operations temporarily abandoned in favor of later removal to better address priority areas and reduce conflicts from multiple vehicles.
 - Enhanced enforcement areas on School Street and broadway
 - Ticketing and then having DPW clear
 - Summary of how different levels of snowfall are handled
- Chris, Do we know the ticket numbers for other general areas
 - Justin, should be available
- Susan, mentioning about the previous guest concerns of wheelchair user ability to get around after storms, especially at block ends / corner curb-cuts
- Alessandra, Maybe we could have someone from constituent services meet with us to provide data on ticketing and complaints, or share any information
- Logan, Commenting on how some people give up shoveling though corners where plows have dumped a large amount of snow. Are there more detailed routes

- Justin, the contractors typically need to handle the storms on a case by case basis dynamically.

Final Items

Action Items from Meeting

1. Alessandra, will send out an update/reminder on Broadway-Magoun Reconstruction community walk next month.

Meeting Ended

8:02