

City of Somerville

Review of Multiple-Member
Bodies



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Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

Bicycle Advisory Committee – Enabling Legislation

- Enabling Legislation: [Ordinance](#)
- Establishment: February 2001
- Membership Requirements: No fewer than 13 members
 - No fewer than 7 community representatives who either live or work in Somerville and take an active interest in bicycling issues in Somerville
- Current Membership: 9 community representatives, 4 Ex Officio members

Bicycle Advisory Committee – Enabling Legislation

- Duties:

- Seek to include accommodations for bicycling in road resurfacing and other construction projects;
- Seek to increase the availability and safety of recreational bikeways in the city;
- Evaluate and seek to improve existing bicycle parking and create new facilities where appropriate;
- Provide education to both bicyclists and motorists to promote safety; and
- Develop a long range master plan designating priority routes for bicycling;
- Publish reports and other documents;
- Render to the mayor and the city council a report of its activities and recommendations, not less than once a year.

Bicycle Advisory Committee – Meetings

- [Bicycle Advisory Committee | Agendas, Minutes, & More | City of Somerville](#)
 - Meet monthly
 - Post meeting materials routinely
- [Somerville Bicycle Committee – About](#)
 - Typically meet on the first Thursday of the month
 - Meeting format is hybrid

Pedestrian & Transit Advisory Committee (PTAC)

PTAC – Establishment

- Establishment: 2020
 - Established as part of the [2020 Vision Zero Action Plan](#)
- Membership Requirement: No fewer than 14 community representatives, 2 Ex Officio members
 - Community representatives must live in Somerville and take an active interest in pedestrian and transit issues in Somerville
 - Ex Officio members include one representative from the City Council and at least one representative from the Mobility Division
- Current Membership: 19 community representatives, 3 Ex Officio members
- Governing Documents: [PTAC Bylaws](#)
- Mission Statement: The Committee advocates for the residents of Somerville and City Staff in order to improve the safety, effectiveness, sustainability, and equitability of the pedestrian and public transit experience.

PTAC – Establishmet

- Principles: Bylaws Article I, Section II
 1. Expanding access to, and the accessibility of, walking and public transportation in Somerville, such as by advocating for safe pedestrian routes to essential services and plowed streets after snowfall.
 2. Increasing safe use of all modes of transportation in Somerville, particularly for the benefit of pedestrians and transit users, such as by advocating for traffic calming measures and safe crossings.
 3. Promoting walking and taking public transit as regular modes of transportation in Somerville, such as through public education and engagement.
 4. Making walking and riding transit in Somerville a more pleasant experience for all, such as by advocating for sidewalk paving and increased bus frequency.

PTAC – Establishment

- Principles: Bylaws Article I, Section II
 5. Evaluating and improving the performance of pedestrian and public transportation systems in and around Somerville, including by working with the City’s Mobility Division and monitoring MBTA service quality
 6. Advocating for the incorporation of an equity lens in all decisions made about pedestrian and public transit systems in Somerville, including through fair and equitable transit fares.
 7. Increasing the sustainability of pedestrian and public transportation systems in Somerville, such as by advocating for green infrastructure and sufficient funding streams.
 8. Creating connectedness between isolated neighborhoods, such as by advocating for expansion of pedestrian and transit infrastructure throughout Environmental Justice Communities and Communities of Concern.

PTAC – Establishment

- Essential Elements of Committee Work: Bylaws Article II, Section I
 - The work of the Committee shall include the following essential elements of a walkable and transit-friendly committee, which can be used to create an organizational structure for subcommittee work, if deemed appropriate by the Committee:
 - Equity and Accessibility
 - Engineering and Evaluation
 - Education and Engagement
 - Policy and Enforcement

PTAC – Meetings

- [PTAC | Agendas, Minutes, & More | City of Somerville](#)
 - Typically meet monthly
 - Post meeting materials routinely
- [Somerville Pedestrian & Transit Advisory Committee \(PTAC\) | City of Somerville](#)
 - Typically meet on the third Thursday of the month
 - Meeting format is hybrid
- [PTAC 2026 Public Meeting Schedule](#)

Additional Notes

- Both bodies serve mobility functions and involve residents in improving the City's transportation systems
 - BAC specializes in bicycle transportation
 - PTAC specializes in walking and public transportation
- The [2023 Bicycle Network Plan](#) notes that,
“While SBAC, PTAC, and SCPD typically meet separately to discuss their specific modes of transportation and access issues, it has proven beneficial to all – City staff, committee members, and interested residents – to hear each other’s concerns and feedback by periodically meeting jointly.” (Chapter 2, p. 16)

Questions