

April 2, 2026 Somerville Bicycle Advisory Committee

Present: Katharine Lange, Tom Lamar, Paul Morgan, Lena Webb, Adrienne Agarwal, Alex Frieden, Amanda Rychel, Rishika Dhawan, Greg Hanafin, Kat Benesh

Acting Secretary: Katharine Lange

No public members

Agenda

Motion to approve March meeting minutes?

- One comment from Paul: there was no vote taken on SomerPromise, please strike that text from the minutes.
- No other comments on minutes.
- Alex motioned to approve the minutes with that amendment, seconded by Tom
- Motion passes.

Acting Secretary list: Paul emailed out new list of rotating acting secretary schedule. Please check to see your month.

Outreach

SomerPromise book release event:

- SBAC members met with SomerPromise.
- Upcoming event: May 28 at Capuano. Target age: children 0-5 and parents.
- Starting w author Ellen Mayers, Yellow, Red, Green-go. Storywalk.
- Brainstorming activities after storytime: traffic circle? Safety lesson for parents about how to carry children on bikes. Demonstrations of safe ways to carry kids on bikes?
- Need volunteers:
 - Show off cargo bikes
 - Talk about cargo bikes with parents
 - Help supervising children
 - Committee will put out call for volunteers as event approaches

2026 rides: Paul emailed out list of rides for 2026.

- Next up: Carnaval ride (Broadway/Assembly loop) in conjunction w SAC's Carnaval

Potential other events:

- Bike Month KickOff, May
- ArtBeat, July
 - Adrienne will look into tabling opportunities
- Carnaval, June
 - Decided SBAC will table along Mobility
- Gilman Art Street Festival, September
- Union Square Farmer's Market, June-October
- Monster Mash, October

Outreach subcommittee hasn't met recently

Letter to the Mayor

SBAC letter to the Mayor was finalized & sent last meeting.

Councilor Emily Hart responded positively.

No response from Mayor's team.

- SBAC will wait a bit for a response until pinging again
- SBAC Mobility liaison offered to check in for confirmation of receipt

Document Storage

SBAC currently uses Box.com to store files, initiated before the rise of Google Drive

Paul proposes that we migrate to Google Drive.

- No objections
- SBAC officers will migrate files to SBAC Google Drive.

Snow

Some SBAC members have observed insufficient snow plowing of bike lanes this winter.

- Concerned about lack of enforcement of keeping Beacon Street lanes open.
- Alex volunteered to draft letter Commissioner Weismann, SBAC's DPW liaison, with input from Amanda
- Mobility Liaisons suggest that that letter be submitted through them, Greg & Rishika.

SBAC members appreciate the intricacies and challenges of managing snow in an urban environment.

SBAC members are curious to know more about the snow plowing priority map and how that translates to which routes are most popular by cyclists.

2026 Construction Look Ahead

SBAC considering recommending detours around construction sites - will delay conversation to next month.

City Updates

Recruitment: city still finalizing their process for recruitment across all committees/boards/etc.

Recruitment for SBAC currently paused, but hoping to move forward soon. May have new members by July, but unclear.

Upcoming City Events:

Spanish Mobility Workshop 4/23 5-6:30pm

Youth Mobility Workshops Ages 12-18 at the Somerville Public Library. Central Library 4/28, 5/5, 3-5pm

Carnaval June 7, 1-4pm. Mobility has applied to table.

Union Square Farmers Market, Saturdays May 9-October 31. Mobility has applied to table.

Quick Build Projects

Design:

- Elm-Beacon Connector
 - Final design expected April 2026
 - Installation planned between summer-fall 2026
- Somerville Avenue
 - Phase 1 community engagement report published
 - Concept designs expected summer 2026
- Community Path Safety Improvements
 - Community Engagement Report published
 - Design Strategy to be shared in early 2026

Construction:

- Tufts Street
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- West Broadway
 - Streetscape reconstruction anticipated to begin spring 2026

Complete Streets Projects:

Design

- Western Pearl Street Reconstruction Project
 - Notice of award issued to contractor
 - Construction expected to start in 2026 and completed by fall 2027
- Broadway Magoun Reconstruction Project
 - Pre-concept design community engagement report
 - Initial design and community engagement anticipated may 2026

Major Infra Projects - collaborating with the state

McGrath

- Conceptual design materials all available online
- 75% design anticipated in 2026

Mystic/Maffa bridges

- Substantial completion expected summer 2026

Route 38/28 intersection project

- Work to start soon on Mystic Ave/Fellsway shared use paths

Mystic River bike/ped bridge

- Slides and recording of 10/25 meeting available online

Webster Ave bridge

- Construction planned to start 2027

Other projects

Kat: what's the status of Highland Ave project? Last info available online is from 2021.

- City: No updates to share. Mobility is not actively working on design.

Lena: Bow Street pavement is rough, and there is a lot of traffic with not a lot of marking for the bike lane. What is the city's plan to repave & improve?

City: We have heard from constituents about this. The intersection of Bow & Walnut is slated for improvements later this year, but Bow St between Walnut & Summer is not on the priority list. SBAC members disappointed to hear this.

One member of the public has joined:

Motion to adjourn by Amanda, seconded by Kat

Motion approved

Meeting adjourned.