



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE July 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives (X=attended):

X Tom Lamar, Chair

Mark Vollinger

X Katie Pierce, Vice Chair

X Lena Webb

X Ted Lester, Secretary

X Ian Woloschin

X Ken Carlson

X Michael Weber

Gregory Ely

X Ted Feldman

Ex Officio:

X Alex Frieden

Katjana Ballantyne, City Council

X Kevin McGrath

X Adam Polinski, OSPCD Mobility

X Alan Moore

Deputy Chief Steve Carrabino, Police Department

Thursday, July 9th, 2020, 6:30-8:00PM

GoToMeeting link for computers, tablets, and smartphones:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/999188045>

GoToMeeting dial-in number: +1 (571) 317-3122, Access Code: 999-188-045

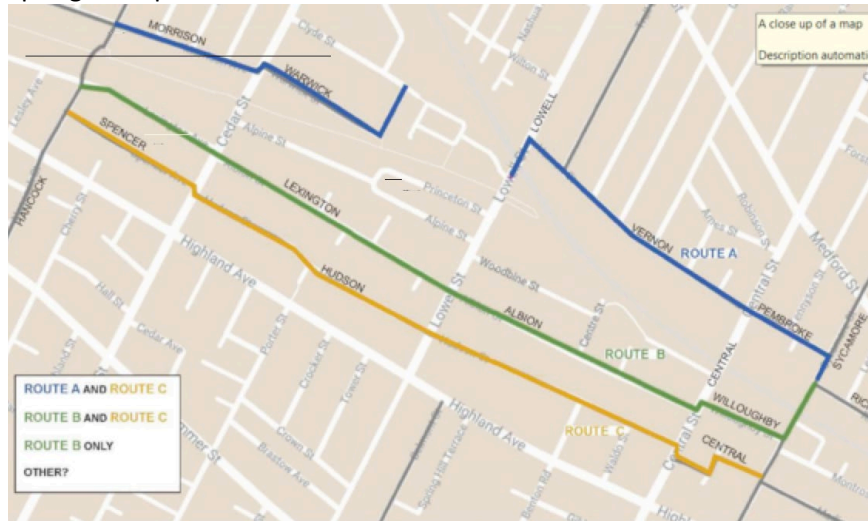
Meeting started on time at 6:30pm with quick introductions.

Procedural, General Business & Updates (20 Minutes)

- Guest introductions and meeting logistics
Viola Augustin, Brad Rawson, George Schneeloch, Alex Epstein, Emily Balkam, Ellyn Thompson, Nate Kaufman
- Acting Secretary: Ted L (Mark V moved to December)
- VOTE: Approve June Minutes.
Lena moved, Michael seconded. Approved unanimously

- Shared streets update (Viola)
 - Phase 1 and 2 deployed
 - People moved entry signs in Phase 1, used flex posts in Phase 2
 - Managing streets is labor intensive
 - Deploying gateway/access treatments to all locations in next 2-3 weeks
 - Fill in mid-block treatments afterwards
 - Nate: what about destroyed flex posts? Viola: Will only remove/move if determine not in a good location. Otherwise will repair/replace
 - Katie: Concern about route finding apps still routing through streets, especially with Uber/Lyft and delivery? Viola: Tried with Waze, but can only indicate open/closed. Causing problems with delivery drivers not being able to find addresses. Alex: Using municipal portal? [A: Yes] Can connect to Volpe staff. Brad: Justin is point person, but not getting great response.

- Lena: Abutters Only sawhorses signs put up near Dilboy Stadium. Found to be effective. Streets that go to Alewife Brooks are used as cut throughs especially North Street. Viola: resource/staff/material issue if all shared street feeder routes are marked Abutters Only.
- Spring Hill Options:



- - Kevin: Route B has 2 playgrounds
 - Votes on chat:
 - Ian: B
 - Ellyn: A and C
 - Emily: B
 - Alex E: B, especially with 2-way biking on Lexington, connection from Cedar to Hancock
 - Katie: C and B, doesn't like A
 - Michael: B
 - Kevin: B and C
 - Ian: Careful with two-way bikes on Albion.
 - Kevin: His team has discussed speeding on cut-through shared streets. Came up with 10 mph speed limit signs as recommendation.
 - Adam: More parking utilization on Albion and fewer curb cuts make it seem narrow
 - Summary: People like B and C. Not much support for A.
 - Engineering team to review next week and email final recommendation to Viola
- Over 5500 visits to website. 130 comments
 - Lots of positive feedback. Some indicated cars not slow enough. Concerns over materials.
 - Some people don't understand – need better communications
 - Depicting them on mapping apps
- Still need some volunteers for some time slots.
- See slides for details on volunteer program reported observations. ~40% reports that more bikes and peds using streets.

Team Update: Education / Encouragement (10 minutes)

- Upcoming Events/Volunteers
 - Tom: Clarendon Hill redevelopment at board of appeals – will share date/time

- Bike committee generally supports since involves redoing rotary on Alewife Brook
- Elyn: Ride for Black Lives. Sat. July 25.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/282148216368263>
- Emily: New tab on website for self-guided rides
 - Please post ones that start/end in Somerville. Include pictures and write a short blurb
 - One for Shared Streets Phase 1, could use for Phase 2. Few others are there.
 - Love to have more content
- Volunteer needed for Social Media
 - Could be a student. Internship-like opportunity.
 - Create encouraging posts. Someone interested in advertising.
 - Lena: Need explicit guidelines for what can/can't post. If posting on behalf of SBAC you represent the committee, not same as what you'd post as individual.
 - Kevin: Need general themes/principles to shape our external communications
 - Ken: Warning, there are trolls who respond. Can also do crowdsourcing if can't get a single volunteer.
 - Reach out to Michael if you are interested in helping to come up with guidelines
 - Arah continuing to work on newsletter. Thanks for sharing
- Bike Friendly Business awards: Aeronaut: Gold, Forge: Bronze
 - Next deadline in fall. Redbones? Common Grounds?
 - Need to find a way to celebrate/advertise them

Focus 1: Somerville FY21 Budget (15 minutes)

- Summary of transportation-related elements of city budget – Brad
 - Cut night is tonight, so timing is not ideal
 - Thanks for attention to budget. This year is irregular.
 - Stars not aligned to have special SBAC meeting prior to cut night
 - Originally expected 15% cut, but didn't have to go straight to austerity including layoffs.
 - Must temper expectations from last year, e.g. dept of Transportation
 - But still trying to grow team.
 - Will try again next year.
- Level budget for technical line item – covers studies, engineer reviews, flex posts
- Bike Network plan – money not spent last year. Trying to in-source. Not included in next year
- More projects for community engagement and design: Pearl, western Washington, Holland/College/Davis
 - Holland/College start fall 2021, finished paving/painting 2022
 - Pricing ~60k is based on multiple quotes. For large redesign of ½ mile corridor. Just covers design
 - Community based design for Washington – not sufficient for painting contractors. Will help reduce costs. Thanks for efforts
 - In-sourcing often leads to better outcomes
- Long game: must protect staff and expertise to keep doing good work
- Bus network plan – 2 plans:
 - 1) MBTA Better Bus Project and their pilots. Working regularly. Includes some network redesign

- 2) City Mobility Plan – depending on funding/resources, includes buses
- Never got any formal proposals for bike network plan. Only informal discussions.

Focus 2: Powder House Circle (20 minutes)

- Powder House Circle striping schedule and currently proposed designs – Adam
 - Funding secure, contracting not
 - MBTA moving bus stops may be difficult – parking removal since driveways
 - Recommend 2021 implementation due to covid and other priorities. Like Broadway, will be full time job during implementation. Instead do more smaller projects.
 - 90 day mobilization
- Ian: Can we do a simple version this fall? Make single lane?
 - Maybe, Adam will explore with designers
- Ted L: Any projects that can leverage the low traffic volumes this fall due to Covid?
 - Adam: the circle is probably the biggest
 - Tom: Also consider any other projects
- Ted F: Major East/West connector for busses. Equity issue.
- SBAC Engineering feedback on design – Ted F
 - Thanks for using our feedback. Extremely happy with concept.
 - Need to address width of cycle lanes
 - Few transitions where turns could be closer to 90 degrees
 - Nate: Exit lanes are wide in some places
 - Adam will take feedback to consultants. Would like written feedback. Ted F to resend.

City Update (25 min) – Adam

- Project status summary
- Request that the City apply for MassDOT Shared Streets grant – submitted, will hear soon
 - Washington St PBL/Bus Lane by GLX underpass
 - Get 2 more applications
- Bow St at Summer St implementation
 - Thanks for committee concepts and comments
 - Paint applied June 23, aligned with shared curbs pilot
 - New flex posts ordered to help tighten up turn. Few weeks
 - Shared streets using all existing stock of temporary and permanent materials
- Beacon St
 - Speed humps installed. Best given challenging circumstances
 - Ian: Bumps do nothing for cars turning off of Beacon St. Adam: Mike Trembly recommended centerline hardening as potential solution.
 - Ken: Observed collision near Properzi way. Difficult sight lines when coming out of Properzi. Ian: Due to be repaved – speed bump at end?
 - Beacon St Flexposts
 - City sees importance. Issue of prioritization of where to place bike lanes this year.
 - Can't commit to timeline
 - Tom: important to committee since premier bike corridor. Can city provide list of flexpost projects so committee can weigh in on priority? Adam: Yes
- Request for update on contraflow on White St and Sycamore St
 - Sycamore St – Contraflow painted.

- Alex: Can it extend to Highland? Adam: Unclear if safe treatment due to the steep hill. Not time sensitive, follow up after Engineering team
 - White St – in talks with Cambridge. Victimized by higher priority projects. Update later this year
- Lower Medford – Meeting with Cambridge staff next week. Reviewing committee’s design.
 - Nate: We’d like to see what Cambridge proposes
- Holland/College – Next public meeting/update in August (likely the 11th). With City counselors
 - Presenting design from consultants
- Finalizing Bike/Ped count data – next week with all details
- Spring Hill Sewer – no final design after outreach. Late Aug/Sept before next community engagement
- Ball Square – Protected bike lanes across bridge after repaving. Worked with MBTA to get this since not in original plan. GLX unlikely to redesign the intersection.
 - Getting consultant to work through community process. 9 month process.

Brad: Thanks everyone for their support. Great bike talk. Thanks for volunteering even on this vacation week.

End 8:20pm

Ken Carlson to Everyone

George and Arah gave an awesome bike talk last night! I'll share the slides later

6:42 PM

Tom Lamar to Everyone

No problem, usually the order of the agenda is pretty arbitrary

6:44 PM

Ellyn to Everyone

I think that sounds great

6:45 PM

Tom Lamar to Everyone

Focusing on gateways seems reasonable to me

6:46 PM

Alex Epstein to Everyone

could you please full-screen the slides?

6:47 PM

Alex Epstein to Everyone

thanks!

6:52 PM

Alex Epstein to Everyone

It sounds like Somerville is a Waze partner city but isn't being heard the same way as Oakland. If there are any details you can share (such as a reply), I can pass it on to Dan Flynn--or as I mentioned, please don't hesitate to give Dan a call or email to strategize on engaging Waze.

6:55 PM

Ian Woloschin to Everyone

Albion & Lexington have a few parks that are quite popular. It'd be great to slow traffic down on those streets.

Ellyn to Everyone 6:55 PM
I like option a. route a and c

Emily Balkam to Everyone 6:55 PM
Another vote for Albion and Lexington due to the playground!

Alex Epstein to Everyone 6:56 PM
yes, Albion is quite speedy and has a busy playground. Would love to have two-way biking on Lexington to be able to bike west from Cedar to Hancock on it

Katie to Everyone 6:56 PM
I vote C and B. Don't love A

Michael Weber to Everyone 6:56 PM
Agreed, Albion and/or Lexington!

Ellyn to Everyone 6:56 PM
unaware of the playground, I just personally use Hudson to willoughby as a cut-through personally

Emily Balkam to Everyone 6:57 PM
Albion park has a large splash pad that is very popular in the summer, parent groups highlight it as one as the best in the area

Kevin Mcgrath to Everyone 6:57 PM
Hudson is a bit quieter too, so if anything I'd vote B and C :D

Alan Moore to Everyone 6:58 PM
what will be the route east of Sycamore?

Tom Lamar to Everyone 6:58 PM
My experience so far has been that biking contraflow on shared streets is a lot less comfortable than with-flow , so I would want to not rely on contraflow too much

Katie to Everyone 6:59 PM
Fair comment, Ian. I would agree with that concern

Alan Moore to Everyone 6:59 PM
agreed, that contra-flo only when necessary

Alex Epstein to Everyone 6:59 PM
I'd vote two-way on Lexington at least. All of the Spencer-Hudson corridor would be great.

Kevin Mcgrath to Everyone 7:00 PM

Lexington is a bit wider

7:00 PM

Nate Kaufman to Everyone

Agreed with speed limit signs and "yield to peds and bikes" signs. Is there any plan by the city to add those types of signs?

7:00 PM

Tom Lamar to Everyone

Personally I like having the option of contraflowing on any individual street, but prefer being able to bike with-flow

7:01 PM

Alex Epstein to Everyone

Also why not implement all three routes, given how uncomfortable street biking and street walking on Highland is...

7:01 PM

Alan Moore to Everyone

Yes, don't like A

7:02 PM

Ellyn to Everyone

seconding Alex's

7:03 PM

Kevin Mcgrath to Everyone

Google maps clocks Lexington at ~35ft (near Hancock) tapering to 25ft closer to Cedar, Albion and ~25ft

7:03 PM

Ellyn to Everyone

I would like to see A (blue), and support lexington, Albion. understanding Hudson is already a neighborway.

7:04 PM

Alan Moore to Everyone

Does "concerned" mean "negative"?

7:04 PM

Tom Lamar to Everyone

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ZSeHKsVWsd2OiS89ufrTUpCEk7kcjairgwEm--M_5E/edit#gid=864265547 sign up if you can, it's pretty fun/easy

7:08 PM

Kevin Mcgrath to Everyone

sorry, Lexington at Willow until Hancock is 35ft wide, then shrinks to 25ft

7:10 PM

Katie to Everyone

<https://www.facebook.com/events/282148216368263> Ride Ellyn mentioned

7:13 PM

Arah Schuur to Everyone

Virtual Encouragement!!

7:13 PM

Alan Moore to Everyone

Thanks Emily!

7:13 PM

Ellyn to Everyone
thx Katie!

7:14 PM

Alan Moore to Everyone
I know someone I can ask about the social media need.

7:15 PM

Kevin Mcgrath to Everyone
Scooperville? Forge, Gracies, Lizzies, JP Licks, Frozen Hoagies, Honeycomb

7:17 PM

Katie to Everyone
+1 to ice cream ride

7:18 PM

Ian Woloschin to Everyone
Happy to help clarify social media guidelines.

7:18 PM

Tom Lamar to Everyone
We could also use have an approval process - get signoff from an SBAC officer

7:18 PM

Katie to Everyone
I think that's a good idea, Tom

7:19 PM

Katie to Everyone
Especially for a while when someone is getting starting up and understanding what's appropriate

7:19 PM

Kevin Mcgrath to Everyone
yeah, maybe it's a bit of a guided pilot :D

7:19 PM

Kevin Mcgrath to Everyone
Also, happy to help draft guideline

7:23 PM

Arah Schuur to Everyone
BFB virtual ride! great job Ken

7:28 PM

Alex Frieden to Everyone
Does \$60,000 only buy a design from a design firm such as Toole?

7:29 PM

Alan Moore to Everyone
Can SBC members work on the Bike Network Plan and Parking Survey with City staff now that the consultant budgets for these important studies have been eliminated?

7:34 PM

Ken Carlson to Everyone

Can I ask what's the status of the Transportation Dept? Off the table this fiscal year but back on the table next fiscal year?

7:36 PM

Alan Moore to Everyone
silence from Brad?

7:39 PM

Alan Moore to Everyone
Did the City ever receive Bike Network Plan proposals?

7:39 PM

Alan Moore to Everyone
Can we see them?

7:40 PM

Alan Moore to Everyone
Was there a formal RFP?

7:40 PM

Ian Woloschin to Everyone
0.

7:41 PM

Ian Woloschin to Everyone
Hmm...stepped away for a second...I think my cat said hi.

7:42 PM

Ellyn to Everyone
lol

7:44 PM

Tom Lamar to Everyone
awesome! now my usual westbound route is finally legal

7:45 PM

Alex Epstein to Everyone
Glad to see Sycamore lane added. It currently runs to Montrose. Can it be extended to Highland Ave?

7:46 PM

Tom Lamar to Everyone
Is that specifically Washington St underpass at GLX?

7:47 PM

Kevin Mcgrath to Everyone
Worth shouting out the Speed Humps on Beacon - I think they've made a noticeable difference on drivers creeping past the stop lines.

7:48 PM

Theodore Feldman to Everyone
Are the double lines wide enough on Sycamore to consider adding a few flexposts at the end?

7:48 PM

Alex Epstein to Everyone
FYI: "One Way" sign on Sycamore at Richdale should get an "Except Bikes"--probably already on your punch list. :-)

7:49 PM

Ian Woloschin to Everyone

Is there any way to put something to slow cars turning off of Beacon St?

7:54 PM

Alex Frieden to Everyone

Is the Union Square Streetscape being presented to the committee at some point? If it already was I must have missed it.

7:55 PM

Alex Epstein to Everyone

I'd be curious what is under consideration for the Ball Square intersection--any documents that can be shared and reviewed?

7:56 PM

Tom Lamar to Everyone

@Alex F - I believe so, but it was several years ago

7:56 PM

Alex Frieden to Everyone

Was the Spring Hill Sewer Project also getting presented? I am not sure what was decided

8:03 PM

Ian Woloschin to Everyone

Can we get a list of all flexposts projects?

8:03 PM

Ken Carlson to Everyone

where will the poor mailman park?

8:04 PM

Kevin Mcgrath to Everyone

cheers everyone, thanks for attending and engaging :D

8:05 PM

Katie to Everyone

I also have to bolt! Thanks everyone and great seeing your faces

8:13 PM

Emily Balkam to Everyone

Agree with Ian, something sooner is better than nothing until later

8:13 PM

Alex Frieden to Everyone

gotta run, thanks folks

8:15 PM

Alex Epstein to Everyone

yes, just making Powderhouse an actual one-lane roundabout would be a win