

Ped-Bike Advisory Committee Meeting

5/4/16

Present: Cindy Chabot, Tom Buske, Carol Naczas, Elena Proakis Ellis, Liz Foulser, Ellen Katz, Gabrielle

Notes: Cindy & Gabrielle

Top lines:

1. Ped-Bike Policy & Planning Subcommittee sending comments to Elena on Draft Complete Streets Policy May 16th, meeting to discuss on 18th
2. May 25, 7pm Complete Streets public meeting. Aldermanic Chambers
3. June 12 Bike to the Sea - Ellen is looking for people to help with the ride to Malden from Melrose. Article in paper week before? Invite Aldermen? Mayor Dolan?
 1. June 25 Urban Farms Tour. Cindy is creating a bike map for the tour.
 2. Next meeting June 1, 7pm, Mayor's Conf. Rm.

Complete Streets – Elena

Long Term is to get grant funding from the state up to \$400, 000 per year per community. Are trying to get the policy in place to apply for 2016, in addition to 2017.

Three things, need the policy in place.

May 25, 7pm, Aldermanic Chamber, presentation of the Complete Streets, inviting Alderman and other departments. Doing a press release and putting it on the Mayor's Blog. Once the mayor signs, it will go into the State.

Scott Dickson in Elena's office researched other towns' Complete Streets policies and looked at ranking criteria for Mass. You have to reach 80 points, and you get extra points if you signed into the Community Compact and prioritized Complete Streets (which we did) and get 8 points. If you do not have 80 points when you submit, you cannot submit again. However, the scoring criteria are pretty straightforward.

Planning Dept., Mike Lindstrom, Kara, John Scenna, Scott Dickson, reviewed a 1st draft that Scott put together. A second draft then another meeting, and this current version came out of the meeting after the 2nd draft.

Policy calls for a Working group. Includes a rep from Ped-Bike Committee. Sets goals and becomes performance evaluators, and change the policy as needed going forward.

Multi modal, direct statements are what is looked for by the approvers in the policy wording.

Next, **Prioritization Plan**. You can get a \$50,000 grant to help you write it. You have an option of applying for this before the policy is in place.

Elena doesn't want just a list of projects. Have a data driven exercise, holistic approach. Developing a Network map using a GIS exercise, inventory. Overlay that with locations of what people want. 3 MBTA stations, schools and Oak Grove are Elena's focus. Will include sidewalks, pavement markings, bike infrastructure. Is aware the committee is prioritizing N-S and E-W corridors. Elena hopes the majority of the \$50,000 can go into this baseline mapping.

Ways to engage:

- Brainstorm what should be on the base data → send suggestions
- Data gathering & inventory opportunities. Hope to have a mobile app with a form to fill out.

Third step, **apply for funding**.

Safe Routes to School (Liz)

Safe Routes to School program offers a lot of services and funding!!, but the City/School Dept have not fully embraced the program. Committee requests that the City promote the program to the School Dept. Program services: Bring in Mass Bike to teach kids in the schools. Will bring in an engineer and see what impediments there are to biking and walking. We are currently not taking advantage of that. Complete Streets projects look favorable on places where other funding is sought (Elena). Liz: Walking program in 2nd grade, bike program for higher grades. Now that the athletic director is leaving and the position is not being filled it will fall on the City to champion these programs in the schools.

There are some metric of data that is targeted to be gathered. This data can also be put in GIS. (Could this be clarified? Not sure what this is about.)

Ellen asked how the policy would be implemented and how routine maintenance would be done.

Elena: City's review and comments on private development plans would incorporate Complete Streets principles. On maintenance, where it makes sense, it will be done using Complete Streets.

Ellen asked what format should the PedBike committee provide feedback. Elena said whatever format works for the group.

Ellen liked the fact the policy right up front talks about a network. Also, specifics with the mapping. Also, that things might be phased in over time. Also the working group, the composition and its role. We have some suggestions about what would strengthen it. At the vision, personalizing it to Melrose, what residents value about Melrose, walkable, great downtown, and the City is committed to making it livable to all ages. Some parts, there seemed to be hedging where maybe there may be needed flexibility, but it weakened the policy. ...to the extent practicable; ...reasonable judgment; the City will formalize a policy (when this is the policy). Elena said we still need a statement like 'to the extent practicable'. Repeated references to a road network which gives the

impression of just cars, but replace with transportation. Andy Paul suggested adding more standards and guidance references. In the working group, add MAPC, state. Elena said she would put in a caveat 'as appropriate' just because she's not sure we could get them. On metrics, 'number of intersections improved' 'number of pedestrian amenities'. Street trees, which slow down traffic. Signaling and restriping as additions to the toolbox. Ellen wants to get something to Elena by May 16 then have a call after that. Elena said that should give her enough time.

Infrastructure projects

Update from Elena: We installed 8 new bike racks and 3 more that operations manager said needs to be installed. Cedar Park, Gooch, Main by Hunts, Crystal St. tennis courts, Milano Center.

Elena to send locations of bike racks electronically.

Andy Paul and Terry Kinsler will be point people for the infrastructure subcommittee. Andy has ideas about circulation around the downtown area. We can take a tour with Andy outside of the committee meeting about ideas.

If you Google back alleys, you will find cities around the country where they've revitalized back alleys. (For example, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/02/urban-alleys_n_5212994.html)

Events

Healthy Melrose

Carol and Tom will be there all day. Talk to attendees about Complete Streets. Tom will contact Jim Meuse about a map. Some stuff coming from JRA bike store in Medford for give away. There is a kids' mountain bike skill clinic organized by NEMBA (New England Mountain Bike Association), which can come in and do trail building. JRA will be participating in NEMBA opening events at the Fells, so can't come to Healthy Melrose, but could join future Melrose events with more notice.

June 25 Urban Farms Tour

Bike route is 8 mil, 50 min. Get a lot of PR about the Urban Farm Tour

June 12 Bike to the Sea

Ellen is looking for 2 (ideally) people to help with the ride to Malden from Melrose. Cindy can do that. Leave 8am sharp. 8:30 registration in Malden (check their website) there's a short ride (14mile) and a long ride (20 mile). Need to put something in the paper about the trip. Invite the aldermen.

Liz went to the meeting in Saugus about the Lynn end of the Bike to the Sea. Suggests inviting Mayor Dolan to tour the path by bike. The Malden portion of the community path attracts many generations of users; also has a community garden.

May 20 Bike to Work Boston

Oct 5 Bike Walk to School(also 1st Wed in May – the international one)

Bike/Walk to school, we need to have a point person in each school. We can order free items which would be given out to everyone who walks. Liz will ask Kara.

Carol suggested to have basic bike skill rides.

Bike Day at the farmers market each month – on Basecamp

Victorian Fair –

Will be 3rd year.

Put an article in the paper about biking to the fair.

Ask JRA to be a partial sponsor?

Liz will ask MassBike if can confirm bike #s the week of the fair, since so weather dependent.

Ask Kara for \$

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