

Melrose Ped/Bike Committee

Meeting Notes Jan 4, 2016

Guests: Elena Proakis Elis, Engineering; Richard Fries, MassBike

Present: Ryan Williams, Tom Blazej, Dan Krechmer, Katie Moore, Ryan Bagwell, Richard Fries, Elena Proakis Ellis.

Regrets: Liz Foulser, Cindy, Tom, Steve, Andy Paul, Marc Remolino.

Upcoming dates:

Action Items:

Notes:

1. Bikeability assessment - Preview from Richard Fries

Richard gives us a "C" right now.

Impressed by Lynn Fells bikeway buffered bike lane. Bike racks in the center.

Great at Oak Grove with bike cages, but progressively worse, such as Highlands station, which is not welcoming.

But it's in pockets. You run into Saugus, and the resources end.

Trends: milenial trends, Northern strand, Ruthefordave. Is Melrose a bedroom community or are we close to Boston.

Have a unique component of all the DCR properties. Two golf courses, so close to Boston.

Looks like did a good job, but when it gets tough, don't tackle it. E.g. the high school. And can't figure out why don't

have bike lanes on Main St. south of down town.

Strava heat maps show bike volume on Main St.

Want to look at both recreational and commuter biking.

Looking at the future: DCR & Lynn Fells Parkway, what's coming from Boston and neighboring communities.

Northern Strand. (Use will grow 15% per year). Wakefield/Lynnfield rail trail is coming.

Thinks sharrows in the Business district is fine, but should have a bike lane leading up to it.

Complete streets will pay for the basics like bike boxes,

The signalization is confusing coming up from Oak Grove.

Bike Culture:

Be cautious be curious, but try things out. Trying things out like:

Parklets. Taking one or two parking spaces and creating mini parks. Was very resisted initially, but now merchants love it.

How do you foster bike culture:

Bike Shop? No

Bike club? North Shore Cyclists

Bike advisory group: Yes

Events: Summer Stroll, Victorian Fair, Monthly bike tune-ups at Farmer's Market. Events can be a major catalyst for building bike culture.

What's the tenor of the business community.

Have a Chamber of Commerce? Have you talked to them?

Are members engaged with Town comities that have specific power.

Loading zones policies (interested in curb design):

(Mostly loading is in the rear of buildings)

Can you live car-free?

Zipcar?

Sharrows on Main Street.

Maybe alternative routes. Wants to look at MAPC's Land Line routes.

Look at clusters around train stations.

Funding:

Look into FTA funding. They fund initiatives ½ mile around train stations. Eric Papetti, MassBike Board Chair, works for FTA.

MBTA improvements to Orange Line. Will increase capacity of cars. Is it possible to engage the T to get bike improvements for the back side of Oak Grove to connect it to Main Street? Big ROI on doing improvements to and around Oak Grove. Bike pump stations, etc. (Will reach out to John MacCormack, at MBTA)

Safe Routes to School? Yes, but not active. Schools will be a big focus of Complete Streets.

Melrose is out in front of neighbors, and should keep doing things to stay in front.

Pilot experiments:

Flex Posts? Can pull out seasonally and for storms. LFP, Main Street.

Planters to block off some streets.

2. Update from Traffic committee meeting on 25 mph ordinance

25 MPH is now the standard. There may be some exceptions made on some major streets. Will be discussed at the March meeting. The current posting that is different from 25 MPH will stay.

It's not entirely clear what the Board of Aldermen have voted (was it to accept the authority to change the default speed, or was it to actually change it).

3. Complete Streets

On verge of signing contract with Beta. Finishing assessment of every street roadway condition, (will determine which streets getting on the paving list). Will also help prioritize CS projects. Got approval for the full \$50k.

Next will start gathering paving marking info, traffic signal info, community inputs, etc. Then will analyze the data. There will be back and forth with the city on how to analyze the data. Will have a Working Group meeting. Then will generate the prioritization plan. There will be a set of public presentations of the proposed prioritization plan, prior to submitting it to Mass DOT.

Next deadline for submitting prioritization plans to the state is in April/May. Hoping to get in time for that.

4. Infrastructure update

Bike Network update & road treatment pilot ideas (Set up working group)

Next meeting:

Brainstorm ideas for activities to involve community members in 2017 Priorities - brainstorm

Proposal on process for generating public statements by committee (TBC)

Social media boot camp (TBC)