

Melrose Ped/Bike Meeting

November 1, 2017

Attendees: Javier Gutierrez, Dan Krechmer, Ellen Katz, Ryan Bagwell, Rob Callahan, Gabrielle Watson, Carol Naczas, Cindy Chabot, Tom Blazej, Elena Proakis-Ellis (city engineer)

Complete Streets

Elena gives update on the Complete Streets program.

Complete Streets grant funding application is in, expecting a decision by end of 2017. The first year's activities would take place during the 2018 construction season.

- Improvements focused on middle school and high school, mostly Melrose St and Crystal St
- North-South Bike network (more on that below)
- Howard St from Nelson to Green (included some conceptual design by consulting firm BETA that helps with various complaints including minimizing crossing distances and better crossing at Nelson Rd)

Infrastructure update

- Continuing with multi-year utility program.
- Albion St got its binder course of pavement and getting sidewalk improvements now (helps with kids walking to middle+high school)
- Spear and Hancock Streets: construction in place that creates asphalt berm as a curb and reserves the room for sidewalks (where none were in the past), with sidewalks to be installed in spring 2018. Granite curb and cement sidewalks impractical on this stretch due to topography, trees and rocks.
- Upham repainted, narrowing lanes to 11'.

Ellen asks about Washington St project funded with Winn casino mitigation funds (would provide funding for bike accommodations on Washington/Pleasant St). Answer is that an application is ready to go, but can't be submitted until casino construction is farther along and an impact can be shown.

Expected 2018 work: Altamont, Warwick, Dexter Rd, N. High St., S. High St. -- some of these include sidewalk additions, some do not.

Some discussion ensues about the recently added signs that actively show current speed (anecdotally, they make a big difference, at least so far). Additional discussion about Main St near Malden (still has high speeds).

Committee Budget Topics

Gabrielle met with Mike Lindstrom to discuss small dollar funding possibilities. He suggests that they could open a "donation account" for us so that we have somewhere to put any money we raise. Separately, while there is no commitment to a fixed annual budget, we could potentially come at certain times of year with funding requests for specified items.

An item we have discussed in the recent past was a set of bike racks that we could use in the future for secure bike parking at the Victorian Fair (as opposed to paying for bike parking).

Immediate action is to put together a proposal with description.

Gabrielle to start list of other items we have had on our wish list.

North South Bike Network

North South bike network: Goal is to have \$25k from Complete Streets funding for implementation, which would involve identification of a preferred route, with signage and pavement markings. Even if we don't get Complete Streets funding, it is worth investing time preparing feedback and plans on this topic, because we want the ideas to be ready for implementation whenever funding becomes available and it could fit into other budgets.

The scope of this project would be Wyoming Street north to the Wakefield line. The portion of the route south of Wyoming is not included, because we anticipate being able to define and label that section as part of a different project as Main Street gets attention in the not-too-distant future.

Ellen to create Doodle poll to schedule subcommittee meeting to discuss N-S bike network.

Bike Network Analysis

Bike Network Analysis (<http://peopleforbikes.org/placesforbikes/bicycle-network-analysis/>): Gabrielle briefs the group on a tool from People/Places for Bikes, along with what's required to get the analysis run (update OpenStreetMap, City fills out snapshot, PBC gets >50 citizen survey responses). The idea is that we can make some quantitative comparisons with other communities and then have a baseline for identifying progress over the course of future years. Also because it requires community feedback, it could be used as an outreach tool.

We will go ahead and pursue this.

- Javier to work with Gabrielle on the messaging to get people to fill out surveys
- Elena's office to fill out the initial city portion.
- Steve will look at what we need to do in order to make the appropriate Open Street Map changes.

MAPCs regional bikesharing RFP

MAPC is inviting bikesharing vendors to submit proposals in response to an RFP due out November 14. This seeks bikesharing options at no cost to the cities for a defined group of municipalities in MAPC's domain. Currently, 16 communities in the metro area (mostly north and west of Boston) have signed on. Melrose has not, but is considering doing so, and has been asked for input to the RFP.

While providing the disclaimer that he works for a bikesharing company (Zagster) that is considering the possibility of submitting a proposal, Steve describes the current slate of vendors that would likely be involved (of0, LimeBike), their product offerings, and the experience in Malden, where bikes have arrived for a 2-month trial through the end of 2017.

Gabrielle to send a list to Erin on suggestions for MAPCs regional bikesharing RFP.

Banks Place

Basic paving is being done, putting down a binder course, but MBTA is committing to get design feedback from the formal working group (now chaired by David Loutzenheiser) before final paving in spring.

Pedestrian Guidance Document

Katie Moore supplied feedback commentary on the MassDOT Pedestrian Plan Municipal Resource Guide:

http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Portals/17/docs/pedplan/PedPlan_MunicipalResourcesGuide.pdf

Elena forwarded these comments to Pete Sutton at MassDOT for consideration.

End.