

# Melrose Ped/Bike

## May 5, 2018 Meeting Notes

**Attendees:** Katie Moore, Aliza Vaida (Neighborways), Mark Chase (Neighborways, Lecturer at Tufts on Transportation Planning, Somerville Bike Committee), Ryan Williams, Ellen Katz, Jonah Chiarenza, Elena Proakis-Ellis, Tom Blazej, Denise Gaffey, Carol Naczas, Dan Krechmer, Steve Leibman, Martha Grover

## Neighborways Presentation

Mark Chase leads off presentation on neighborways.

Mark and Aliza are part of the Neighborways Design consultancy, and talk about the Neighborways concept.

It is a neighborhood street improvement program. They have done quite a bit of work in Somerville and nearby communities.

Neighborways in general are very popular on the west coast (in particular Berkeley, Vancouver, Seattle, Portland). Basic concept is a low stress corridor for walking and biking, with wayfinding, sometimes incorporating street art and traffic calming.

On side streets instead of arterial streets. Something under 1,000 cars a day is ideal (about a car a minute).

In Somerville, connected three schools with community path.

Measure speed with radar, did before and after 85th percentile speed check.

Want 85% of cars going less than 25 mph.

Shows signs displayed at entrance to Neighborways.

Basic neighborway treatment:

Painted faux bump-outs

shows example photo that is one-way for cars, 2-way for bikes.

pylons in design

proposed designation of 20mph.

Trying out:

Physically planting trees in streets in spots where there are unusable half parking spots (e.g. adjacent to driveways). Work as traffic calming devices.

Planters at corners (bollards optional if planters are there).

Artistic treatment: Painting pictures on streets.

A 3-6 month community design process. Annual repainting event.

Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

Most of the concepts and treatments described are Placemaking devices, not traffic control (though there is a design intent to do traffic calming).

National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO): Urban Street Design Guide and Bikeway Design Guide.

New from NACTO: Designing for All Ages and Ability (cycling design guide)

Mark takes questions on implementation.

Best way to introduce the concept is to have engaged residents (and they do potluck dinners, collaborative design).

Question about when two neighborways don't quite connect and are divided by a busy street. Suggestion in that case is to have separated bike lane infrastructure for a very short distance to make the connection.

On the low stress streets, can get away without professional design and accomplish a lot. On high traffic, high speed streets, more important to get professional input (and stamped design).

Rough estimates: If residents do all the work: \$1,000 / block. If Neighborway Design does it all: \$3,500 - \$5,000 / block.

Dan asks about whether anybody has done it with commercial sponsorship. Mark: No, but definitely clear opportunities to get sponsors. Current approach typically follows a kickstarter approach.

## Melrose Neighborways

Ryan W mentions some ideas for neighborway locations, including a kid-oriented Winthrop-Common-Hoover pedestrian connectivity route.

## North-South Bike Network Proposal

Jonah presents the network proposal, which includes 3 north-south routes, with a Business route, Main Street route, and a low stress route.

Jonah has made quite a few suggestions for intersection treatments, lane adjustments and others.

Next steps: Elena, Denise, John Scenna, Mayor's office will meet internally and prioritize what they want Stantec to look at. Want Stantec to review anything that will be done from a traffic engineering standpoint.

Elena notes that the intersection at Main and Lynn Fells is also part of the other project under Complete Streets funding.

## AARP Proposal Update

AARP grant would be \$15k.

Ellen asks Elena to point out anything that could be a good standalone project for applying for the AARP grant. Elena's answer is that curb ramps on Main Street by the housing authority complex and Whole Foods.

Elena comments that there's no manpower to oversee work on an additional project, although if there's a project that is already planned and this provides additional funding, that could work well.

## Update from MAPC Landline Planning Charrette

Dan Krechmer gives brief overview. Input was provided to David Loutzenheiser for connectivity in the Fells region. One notable thing we learned is that one of the items covered by Malden Complete Streets funding is likely a bike lane on Main Street in Malden coming up to the Melrose line.

## Healthy Melrose Planning

Dan, Tom Blazej coordinating both a table and bike ride that starts and ends at the fair.

Martha points out that Healthy Melrose folks are supportive, although we should try to make sure to not compete/conflict with our timing.

## Important Dates

- May 12: Healthy Melrose Fair: <http://healthymelrose.com>, with Melrose Ped/Bike + Bike to the Sea ride starting at 11am (leaving from the Healthy Melrose Fair).
- May 19: Bike to the Sea ride to the Mystic River Watershed Assoc Herring Run and Paddle <http://mysticriver.org/herring-run-paddle>
- June 3: Bike to the Sea Annual B2C Day ride <http://biketothesea.com/ridesevents>
- June 6: Next Melrose Ped/Bike Committee meeting