

Melrose Ped/Bike Committee

Meeting Notes

Wed Feb 7th, 2018

7:00-8:30PM

City Hall Cassidy Conference Room, 2nd Floor

Attendees: Gabrielle Watson, Ryan Bagwell, Jay Cobau, Ellen Cobau, Dan Krechmer, Tom Blazej, Cindy Chabot, Ryan Williams, Carol Naczas, Elena Proakis Ellis, Jonah Chiarenza

Notes: Gabrielle Watson

Action Items:

1. Committee members to review the document and provide written feedback by Wed February 14th
2. The N-S Subcommittee to meet with Elena by Friday 2/14/18 to discuss next steps
3. Ryan and Jonah to take pictures at the next snowfall opportunity, and invite others to join, via a message to the PBC list
4. Elena will provide additional information about City approaches to addressing snow blockage of sidewalks to the committee, when she receives it from PWD Director John Scenna
5. Cindy will look at the new City site and discuss with Steve Leibman regarding PCB website redesign and report back to committee on whether they propose keeping the PBC site separate or on the City site
6. Anyone interested in joining the new MEC transportation subcommittee should let Gabrielle know
7. PBC to discuss collaboration with Bike to the Sea on the 2018 Victorian Fair booth and a ride to the Northern Strand led by PBC members
8. The PBC invites anyone interested in improving biking and walking in Melrose to put your name in for any of the positions. Let Gabrielle know what PBC role you're interested in playing in 2018.

Updates & Committee Business

- North-South Bike Network Subcommittee (Tom Blazej, Dan Krechmer, Cindy Chabot, Carol Naczas & Ellen Katz)

Elena reported that we still have no final decision on the Complete Streets funding for the N-S bike network. The subcommittee has advanced its work and shared a detailed draft document with three route options: low stress, business, and commuter – as well as ideas for signaling recreational trail access and wayfinding signage. The committee expressed its appreciation for the subcommittee's work. The draft document offers a possible template for the future city-wide bike network. Request: all committee members review the document and provide written feedback by Wed February 14th. The Subcommittee will meet with Elena by Friday 2/14/18 to discuss next steps.

- Snowy neckdown Report-back on reconnaissance & next steps (Ryan Williams & Jonah Chiarenza)

Ryan showed images taken earlier in the day, taking advantage of the snowfall, illustrating some intersections with wide portions of the roadway that are not actively used by vehicles and providing opportunities to expand pedestrian safety zones without affecting traffic patterns. Elena reported that near-term roadway and intersection projects include Main Street south of Wyoming to Sylvan and the intersection of Sylvan and

Lebanon. Ryan and Jonah to take pictures at the next snowfall opportunity, and invite others to join, via a message to the PBC list.

- Winter plowing & concerns about snow blocking pedestrian access at street corners – update on progress & proposed actions. (Elena)

Elena reported that drivers are asked not to pile snow up at street corners, but when snowfall is heavy, it is difficult for them to avoid it. It then becomes a focus of the clean-up crews after the storm over the following days. Elena will provide additional information about City approaches to addressing snow blockage of sidewalks to the committee, when she receives it from PWD Director John Scenna.

- City of Melrose Web site revision – move ours or keep stand-alone?

Brief discussion of the new Melrose City website, which currently features the Complete Streets program on the landing page. The PBC hosts its page at a cost of \$15/year. Cindy will look at the new City site and discuss with Steve Leibman regarding PCB website redesign and report back to committee on whether they propose keeping the PBC site separate or on the City site.

- Updates MEC new Transportation subcommittee – initial action ideas (Gabrielle)

Gabrielle reported that the Melrose Energy Commission has created a new transportation subcommittee to propose actions to address the 39% of Melrose-generated greenhouse gases that come from transportation. The newly formed subcommittee met and generated ideas for expanding EV use and reducing short trips in Melrose. Anyone interested in joining the MEC transportation subcommittee should let Gabrielle know.

Bay Area bike amenity innovations: Triumphs, trials and tribulations. Presentation by Jonah Chiarenza

Jonah presented concepts and images from his work as a transportation planner on the West Coast that provide inspiration for creating “neighborways” to borrow a term used by a Somerville organization by that name. Ideas range from “quick and effective” using paint, signs, signal timing and new signals, to “hardware and hardscape” using physical changes to intersections, curbs and roadway design. Jonah shares a VIDEO from Portland’s experience with bike boulevards and neighborhood greenways that shows some of the key ideas.

<http://www.streetfilms.org/portlands-bike-boulevards-become-neighborhood-greenways/>

Members agreed that some ideas could be applicable to Melrose, and that piloting ideas through smaller projects and temporary pilots can test their applicability and build resident and City leadership support for them. [See PPT, attached]

Northern Strand. Updates & 2018 rides & clean-ups by Jay Cobau & discussion on Victorian Fair collaboration in 2018.

Jay Cobau from Bike to the Sea shared that the state has just allocated \$1.5 million for design work and a projected \$10 million has been earmarked for construction estimated to begin in 2020 to complete paving of the Northern Strand multi-use path that extends from Everett to Lynn, just south of Melrose. Part of the trail is already paved and another segment has been completed with gravel. Lebanon and Main Street in Melrose provide connection routes to the trail. Construction of a link over the Mystic River providing a link to the MBTA is in early planning stages, with Winn Resort funding.

Bike to the Sea has four planned rides (April 7, May 19, June 3, October 21), an Earth Day clean-up (Lynn on April 21) and hopes to team with the Melrose PBC again in 2018 to have a booth at the Victorian Fair. Bike to the Sea encourages the PBC to host a ride to the Northern Strand. Dan, Tom and Steve have expressed interest in helping to lead such a ride. PBC to discuss collaboration with Bike to the Sea on the 2018 Victorian Fair booth and a ride to the Northern Strand led by PBC members.

Ped-Bike Committee Elections, March 2018

The Ped Bike Committee aims to help the City of Melrose improve conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists and promote walking and bicycling as means of transportation. Committee elections happen annually in March. All positions are open. Elected officer positions include Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Communications. “Appointed officer” positions are flexible, defined by current initiatives, and have recently included roles like infrastructure liaison, “grants wrangler”, social media, event leads, Safe Routes to Schools lead, Liaison with specific schools. We attract creative and dedicated members and welcome people to share their talents and enthusiasm to help make Melrose a great place to walk and bike, whether it be as an elected officer, appointed officer or on subcommittees. The PBC invites anyone interested in improving biking and walking in Melrose to put your name in for any of the positions. Let Gabrielle know what PBC role you’re interested in playing in 2018.

Next Month: Wed March 7th, 7 – 8:30

- 2018 Priorities & Planning
- Officer elections
- Parking management in downtown area. Proposal & discussion for a position paper on development and management of parking areas in downtown, to be consistent with aim of promoting walking & biking. (Jonah Chiarenza)
- Updates:
 - Ped-Bike Committee budget (Gabrielle)
 - MassBike light distribution (Dan)
 - Bike Network Analysis (Gabrielle)
 - PeopleforBikes Grant Application (Gabrielle)
 - Complete Streets(Dan)
 - Grant opportunities
- Committee vision/mission (Ryan)