



## Meeting Notes

Wed January 9, 2019, 2019 7:00-8:30 PM

### Present:

- Jonah Chiarenza, Chair
- Jeremy Garczynski
- Jaime Wilson
- Jay Cobau
- Ryan Williams
- Gabrielle Watson
- Dan Krechmer
- Doug Harriott
- Finn McSweeney
- Tom Blazej
- Katie Moore

### Guests:

- Elena Proakis-Ellis, City Engineer

Welcome

## Infrastructure

### Review of 2018 priorities and accomplishments

North-South Network: The Complete Streets program was summarized. The City developed a prioritized list of 25 projects and submitted an application to the State in 2017 to fund 3 of them. Many of the suggestions were focused on traffic calming. The application was successful and \$377,000 was approved for the 3 projects. The PB Committee supported a North South bike route including signage and wayfinding. Volunteer members developed a consultant quality plan for the intersections, as Elena reports.

Elena Proakis-Elis reported on the other two Complete Streets projects. The project on Melrose St. near the School complex is complete, but additional outreach may be necessary to encourage proper use. Work is underway on the Howard Street project. Reconfiguration of the Clifford/Elm/Howard intersection is done and the rapid flashing beacon is up at Howard, Nelson and Ruggles. Construction on the roundabout will begin in the spring. On the N-S bike route the City has identified inconsistencies between the traffic code and the signs on the street. Elena has two interns from Tufts engineering dept. who are conducting a sign inventory to compare what is in the code. The plan is to update the code to be consistent with signage. Following this, the City will hold public outreach meetings for each of the

two proposed N-S routes and has agreed to give the PB Committee a “heads up” about this so that these meetings can be publicized among members.

This coming year, the City will apply for a single Complete Streets project that will include sidewalk and other pedestrian safety measures in the Hoover School area. Applications are due May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Update: DCR is going to do a study of the Lynn Fells Parkway intersections at Melrose, Main and Green Streets. Counts are currently being taken. They will be looking at signalization options, one ways, turn restrictions.

**PB Committee involvement:** The PB Committee is interested in assisting with the development of concepts around Melrose/Main/Green along Lynn Fells, as they relate to other traffic calming and safety desires and to the design and implementation of the N-S bike route recommendations. This will be in addition/in concert with the public outreach for the N-S bike routes as referenced above.

The PB Committee is also interested in helping the City with outreach for both Melrose St and Howard/Green improvements to ensure they are reaping their full benefits, and addressing any tweaks necessary to ensure compliance (e.g. crossing locations, turning movements, etc.).

As the complete streets funding is anticipated to fund projects on an annual basis, the PB Committee will continue to provide support for applications to the program, for design work, outreach, and recommendations related to funded projects, and follow-up after project completion--in coordination with the City. In addition, the new availability of Safe Routes to School funding may provide opportunities to leverage complete streets funding and other roadway maintenance projects, and the PB Committee will coordinate with the City on potential applications for such, starting with the Hoover Area and building off of the complete streets project there, pending award over the summer. This will involve coordination with the Hoover PTO, and may allow the PB Committee to explore the development of some “neighborways” style traffic calming projects that get the local community involved in that part of the City.

**Update on meeting with Bike to the Sea:** Jaime: attended Bike to the Sea Board Meeting with Dan. The reviewed grants for maintaining and improving trails. Jay said Bike to Sea does not have the direct support of municipal staff like PBC has, but has Clay Larsen who looks for grants the State doesn't pay for. Events are the main opportunity for coordination between Bike to the Sea and PBC. There was discussion of having joint table at Healthy Melrose, and holding a ride from Melrose to the trail the day after. Bike to the Sea is trying to increase awareness of bike path in Melrose, and wants to work with PBC to develop and publicize access to trail. Bike to Sea is 501(c3) that PBC can use. The Victorian Fair presents a similar opportunity to Healthy Melrose with a joint table on Main St. with ride the day before. Last year PBC got offer from Chamber for space to do bike valet. Jay also reviewed upcoming events including: clean up opportunities at Bike to the Sea – 4/27 clean ups in Saugus/Lynn and Everett. Clean up day before Bike to the Sea ride on 6/1. Also Pete Sutton is leading a social event at Sky Zone in Everett on 2/8. Bike to Sea will have presence at the Bay State event kickoff on 4/28 in Somerville.

**Links to Malden.** The Malden Complete Streets group is looking at bike lane links to Melrose to support links to the Northern Strand. They had been looking at at repaving and repainting Main Street in Malden. This could be a good opportunity to link up with Melrose plans to coordinate plans. Melrose has Main street improvements south of Wyoming to Oak Grove scheduled for 2019,taking advantage of funding that has become available.

**Safe Routes to School.** Judith Crocker and Kara Showers have been working to get better school data on walking and biking, focusing on **Hoover**. Are looking to get before and after data for the proposed Complete Streets project. A previous survey had very low response so are working through school secretary and looking for incentives (Amazon gift card for 50% participation). The Hoover may also be a

good place to try out a neighborway project with street paintings. Are also looking at bicycle safety training for 5<sup>th</sup> graders who will then train the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders.

The City is also looking at actual counts of what transportation kids are using to Hoover– walking, driving, biking. Interested in having Ped-Bike committee volunteers, doing it on a few different days – rainy, sunny, cold, etc. This would be a good project to help build engagement with schools

**Melrose Off-Street Path** Doug Harriott and son Alex have been thinking about links to regional trails and off-street alignments, and a north-south off-street bike route that would be 8 feet wide. They have walked the potential route several times to see what right-of-way is available, and what agencies are involved. The trail would link northern end of Melrose to Oak Grove, including various schools and rail stations. Idea is to run parallel with the commuter rail down to Franklin St. then take Brunswick to carve out a path, then behind the Roosevelt school, then go down to the Fellsway, and from there to Emerson, there are some options around L pond, some of them on Tremont. There are problems there. South of Emerson is more straightforward. There are some areas around a culvert that could provide a path all the way to Oak Grove.

Elena suggests that Doug talk with MAPC’s David Loutzenheiser. Ryan suggests starting at the Oak Grove area, and working North from there, given all the focus that has happened on Banks Place. Also should reach out to Pete Sutton, MassDOT Ped/Bike Coordinator and Board Member of Bike to the Sea.

**Pleasant and Washington Street.** Casino funds are being used by the City to look at pedestrian improvements on W. Wyoming, Pleasant and Washington Streets. Stantec has looked at, and has spent almost all their design funds but the City hasn't been briefed on the findings yet. Main from Wyoming, on Pleasant and Washington to the city line.

## Outreach

Summary: PBC will continue to partner with Bike to the Sea, run valet bike parking at Chamber events and take some credit for assisting with City projects that the Committee has assisted with. Anticipate bike repair at Farmers Market will continue.

## Policy

Have had some success with the Traffic Commission agreeing to take on some additional issues, such as recently with crosswalks.

Suggestion: think about the kinds of requests could be redirected to some other format related to traffic calming.

Discussed the idea of developing some kind of mechanism to get inputs from residents on hot spot areas where residents would like some kind of ped, bike safety improvement, or any other kind of community amenity. At the Victorian Fair, we had gathered community input a few years back, and the City created a map with the input that was provided. Jonah, Dan and Ryan will continue thinking about this.

Provide support the city to designate parking for bikes in commonly used areas like the business districts and Oak Grove, identifying “dead spaces” that are not parking spaces, and off-street areas that will not conflict with parking and pedestrian traffic.

## Other committee business

### Officer Elections:

- March 2019

### Next Meeting:

- February 6, 2019
- Chair will be Jeremy Garczynski
- Guest: Kara Showers, TBC