



Melrose Pedestrian Bicycle Committee Agenda
April 3, 2019 – 7:00PM-8:30PM
Melrose City Hall Mayor's Conference Room

Present: Ellen Katz, Dan Krechmer, Tom Blazej, Jon Matters, Liz Foulser, Doug Harriott, Alex Harriott, Jonah Chiarenza, Jeremy Garczynski, Ben Bradley, Kara Showers, Gabrielle Watson, Ryan Williams, Katie Moore
Notes: Gabrielle

Guests:
Kara Showers, Mass in Motion

Jonah Chiarenza, Chair

- 1. Introductions (3 min)**
- 2. Review/Approval of March Meeting Minutes (2 min)**

Approved, but agreed that the notes should be reviewed by a second person to clean them up.

- 3. Updates from Mass in Motion (Kara) (10 min)**

Doing community food assessment in Melrose on outlets for healthy food in Melrose. On Healthy Melrose Community. Works 6 hours a week in Melrose. Here to support the committee to move our work forward.

- 4. Infrastructure Update (Jonah) (10 min)**

- a. Complete Streets Projects
 - i. Howard/Green construction schedule
 - ii. NS route meetings and construction schedule
 1. Communications
 2. Maps / route and markings info for residents at events
- b. Lower Main St and off/Main St

Update: delay in getting materials and design in place for Howard and Green. Decided to delay application for the Hoover sidewalk improvements until October, to coincide with when doing water mains and utility improvements. Will allow them to align the construction schedule.

Question as to whether we loose out on possibly half of the potential \$400,000, or is there a risk there won't be any money left.

ACTION: Jonah will ask Elena.

The NS consultations went well. Plans are going ahead as planned, except for the intersections around Lynn Fells and Main, which are being studied by DCR for intersection improvements. Are doing traffic counts. Timeframe of this is not clear. They will stripe bike lanes where they can now. South of Lynn Fells, they will remove parking that was never approved, to allow for wider path, and left turn lane in both directions.

Improvements of bike lane and center turn lane and potential removal of parking in front of Walgreens. If that goes through, we could have bike lanes along that area. Aldermen are supportive. They are working with Whole Foods to have some flexibility to accommodate drop off/pick-up using the far end of their parking area.

There was more discussion at the public meeting about the "low-stress" route, which the PBC had originally called the "business" route. Local residents took issue with the route going along multiple streets that are not truly low stress. There are a few modifications that Jonah is recommending to avoid some of the more stressful links on Franklin, and other routes, avoiding.

PBC drafted a letter to the editor, explaining the benefits and our support for the North-South bike network, which hopefully will be published in the coming weeks.

Jonah has talked to the Malden City Engineer and Malden Councilor Ryan O-Malley, to find out what they're planning on doing there. There is some support for putting in bike routes there. Ellen reached out to Malden Councilor Steve Winslow, and was told that Malden plans to put in bike lanes along Main Street up to Winter Street, just south of the Oak Grove station.

There will be some route markings that will hopefully be in place in time for the Cinco de Mayo ride.

The lower Main Street route south of Wyoming will be done in the next few years when we repave it. Jonah has reached out to Malden to find out what they're planning for Main Street. Eventually, we will want to do some reconnaissanceto look at parking use, at different times of day. Ellen expressed interest in supporting this effort.

ACTION: If anyone is interested in helping shape the southern Main Street treatments, let Jonah know.

There will be sharows on Washington. There is no room for a bike lane, but it does delineate a route.

5. Hoover School Complete Streets Project (Dan) (5 min)

- a. Schedule
- b. Plan for drop-off/pick up observations

c. East side bike route planning

Dan hasn't heard anything from Elena. It may be because the City's application for the next Complete Street grants is being delayed until the fall. The project will involve sidewalk and access improvements. The City wants to do data collection before making design decisions on that.

There is a Safe Routes to School survey going out to Hoover parents about drop off and pick up and access questions.

During the NS a number of people mentioned creating an east side bike route. Could be low-cost mostly striping and directional signage, for \$10-15 thousand. Because this isn't on the Complete Streets priority list, we would need to find additional funding for this. Future East Side Bike Route planning.

6. Bike to the Sea – Cinco de Mayo Ride (Dan, Jonah) (15 min)

- a. Coordination on bike corral
- b. PBC info/signage/mural
- c. Coordination with Bike to the Sea (Jay)
- d. Police bike escort / fundraising (Tom?)
- e. Fundraising for future install @ Mexico Lindo and Starbucks

The ride from Melrose to the Northern Strand is planned for 10:00 on May 5th. The city and the restaurant are in agreement about it being there, thanks to Jonah's outreach. Dan will put out a route for the ride.

Jonah wonders whether we could tour part of the NS route, as part of the ride.

Pete Sutton from MassDot will be there, to talk about the trails and Bike to Sea. The group could split up, with some doing more hilly portions by Swains Pond. There will be a bike corral. The City will put up barriers.

The City is ready to do a permanent bike corral at a location

Liz Foulser asked that we seek to get the bike corrals delivered by the City, along with the barricades.

ACTION: Liz will talk with Jonah off line to coordinate about having the City also bring the bike racks.

Tom talked with Officer Fescue (??), Melrose' bike police officer. He can't make it, but he said he will talk with his boss about getting someone else there from the police department. Decided that we will not pay for a police escort, but if the police department offers it, that would be great.

Outreach ideas: Mayors' blog, Facebook Post, Get it on the web site, send to other groups.

Questions to address: What's the age range? 12 and over? 18 and over? Will we be asking people to sign a waiver?

ACTION: Dan will ask Bike to the Sea about the waiver question.

Question about whether the bike corral should be permanent, or bolted down, then removed in the Fall and reinstalled in the Spring. Somerville has bike racks.

ACTION: Jonah will look into what Somerville is doing, and how they handle winter seasons.

7. Oak Grove/Banks Place Update (Ryan) (15 min)

Recap of history: Oak Grove access from Main Street along Banks Place is owned by MBTA "up to the chain link fence." A resident broke his shoulder there a year or two ago, prompting initial focus on safety issues in the area. Ryan organized meetings and met with MBTA and elected officials, representatives, MAPC. Trying to get MBTA to do something. MBTA re-paved the road last year, but did not put in any new striping or other safety amenities. Ryan O'Malley, Malden Councilor, contacted Ryan last week, letting know about MBTA plans coming before the Malden and Melrose Conservation Commissions for review and approval. MBTA is planning on moving cars to the west side of the road, away from Spot Pond Brook. Will create a pedestrian safety improvement and also get cars away from the dirt that drains to Spot Pond Brook. It also makes it possible to potentially create off-road multi-use path on the east side, along parts Spot Pond Brook. This could potentially connect to a future path that runs south through Malden.

O'Malley succeeded in convincing the Malden ConCom to suspend their decision, and not vote. The Malden ConCom have effectively given O'Malley two weeks to get the DCR to work with the MBTA. O'Malley has submitted a grant for the path.

The aim is to get the path to connect to the existing elevated path that connects with Fairlawn street and the Windsor Locks housing area.

There is not enough room for the path on the Melrose land, half way up Banks Place. It would require too much work along the stream banks, which has mature trees on it.

The fact that the T is moving the cars away from the brook is a major change. It's unclear what promoted the move, given their prior opposition to the idea. The Ped Bike Committee supports it.

Tomorrow night, there is a Melrose ConCom meeting. Open to the public. Believe that Melrose Con Com is also going to say no to asphalt berms, and will require granite curbs.

Doug Harriott has talked with Senator Lewis about engaging with DCR.

- a. Protocols for communication (Jonah/Dan)

Gabrielle expressed appreciation for the work by Ryan, in this fast-moving opportunity. While this instance didn't permit the normal process of review, deliberation and agreement on positions the committee takes or how it engages with public officials, and rightly called for fast-moving action, she requested that the active members of the committee be kept apprised as engagement unfolds, in this kind of instance. She also requested that communications with elected officials come from committee officers. She noted that Ryan is not an elected officer and did not sign his initial message to multiple public officials or signal his affiliation with the Ped-Bike Committee. In the past, actions of individual active members of the Ped-Bike committee, while not endorsed by the Committee, have been confused by elected officials as the actions of or endorsed by the Committee. This is something we want to avoid.

8. Off-street Bike Route Update (Doug) (5 min)

Doug and his son Alex have been looking at potential off-road bike routes. They described potential routes from the Wakefield boarder along El Pond, and largely along the commuter rail, down to Oak Grove. There are a number of locations where it would be relatively straightforward to develop a trail.

Next steps are to meet with the Mayor on the 11th. Once get her blessing, will go back to meeting with Senator Lewis' staff.

9. Limebike (Dan) (5 min)

The city doesn't know when bikes will come back. Will all be e-bikes. Had asked whether there were any low-income people in the program. There are very few people in it, in Melrose. Lime Bike is not interested in doing any presentations or demonstrations with the Ped Bike Committee at any community events.

- a. Schedule for 2019 redeployment
- b. E-bike vs conventional and total number
- c. Data from 2018 on low-income option and relation to Melrose demographics
- d. Opportunities for PBC to support

10. Event planning updates (15 min)

- a. Healthy Melrose, May 11 (Dan/Gabrielle)

Request to Kara to put the Ped-Bike committee on the list to have a booth there.

[The rest of the agenda was moved to next month's meeting]

- b. Bike to the Sea Events, April 13, June 2 (Ellen Katz)
- c. Summer Stroll, July ? (Jaime Wilson)
- d. Victorian Fair (Volunteer needed)
- e. Other (group ride to tri-community bike path, etc.)

Meeting adjourned