

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE: February 16, 2023 – 7:30pm

BPAC members present: Bob Wolf, Ginger Reiner, Megan Kate Nelson, John Mendelson, Doug Carson

Others: Chris Murphy, Ken Bassett, Jane Herlacher

Minutes submitted by: Doug Carson

Meeting Agenda

Master Plan Update:

The Capital Committee passed forward \$36k of our request for concept designs; vote will now go to town meeting next month. The rest of our request (\$44k) has been approved by ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021). So if the initial \$36k is approved at town meeting, all \$80k of the design phase \$ is approved. BPAC next steps will be to move ahead implementing design phase. Prep for town meeting to include specifics on how we intend to spend design \$. This positive development will allow us to go for other available grants in the future. Cap Com will be reviewing all capital expenditures proposals at March 9th meeting. Bob will be making the BPAC case at that meeting. This will help secure the vote at town meeting.

The committee discussed adding a section to master plan that makes it more of a living document (i.e. These are the next things in the long term plan). Bigger ideas, such as traffic calming in various sections of town. Speed pilot in a thickly settled part of town. Bob volunteered to create a draft for the next meeting.

NEW MA Statute to Protect VRUs:

With the new law in place, towns now have the right to lower speed limits to 25 mph in "thickly settled" areas. We discussed ideas for a pilot speed reduction pilot: Bedford Rd between 2 and 2A. Bob researched some interactive speed signs that tell you your current speed, which seem to be more effective. We would need to consult the police and the neighborhood to float this idea. Jane H. suggests we also address issues at Morningside Ln (constant u-turns by drivers who don't know how to use the jughandle at Rt 2 in order to go south on Bedford Rd).

New 4-foot rule for cyclists: we need a town-wide info blast to make sure everyone is aware of this part of the new law. The committee discussed various forms of signage (permanent small signs vs. the big electronic police signs.)

Complete Streets

Magnolia Path Phase 2: south side of Codman Rd from police station to Codman Farm. Replaces existing path which is not ADA compliant and includes removing some trees. It also adds a crosswalk to the farm. The funds have been granted for this, which needs to be spent by 12/31/23. The project is going out to bid soon. Jane spoke out about this with an alternative plan; she feels the roadside path should only be on the north side of Codman Rd.

RTC

Moccasin Rd and Weston Rd intersection: eliminate the island with the dead tree and reorient the intersection. Locals are against it given the added acceleration noise.
5-Way Intersection: considering some possible roadway redesign. Ken Bassett suggests this will take a major effort and a bigger discussion in next RTC meeting, scheduled for March 2, 7:30am, to consider 117 crosswalk petition

Incident Reports

Detective Ian Spencer was not present at the meeting, so we do not have specific recent stats. Megan and John reported a flipped car incident on 117 (east bound car) in early February. This location has been a consistent trouble spot. There is something about the road design and car speed there that creates a dangerous situation. The committee suggested a deeper dive by public safety to figure out and fix what's going on there. Hoping to get Ian to attend our next meeting.

Walk Bike Roll To School update

John updated the group on this event. John discussed with Ian Spencer on how to better engage the local community as well as METCO. Trying to figure out where to drop bus riders for them to participate (i.e. Old Town Hall). Police are on board with this. Will need more volunteers at Old Town Hall to manage how this is going to work. Consulting the Safe Routes to School folks for this as well.

E-Bikes

To start the conversation, Ginger showed a video of someone on an electronic motorcycle riding fast and inappropriately in town (i.e. on/off sidewalk, cutting on to the left side of the road, etc). Bob discussed draft legislation. What education is needed to make sure the public understands the difference between the different types of e-bikes (i.e. class I/II/III) vs electronic motorcycles and dirt bikes. Chris is concerned about adding regulations to particular types of vehicles and wants to focus on policing bad behavior on any type. For education, Bob discussed reviving the idea

of having Wheelworks come out to Lincoln to do an e-bike demo (possibly to overlap with Walk/Bike/Roll to school). This was supposed to happen when Covid hit. John will contact Jason at Wheelworks.

MassDOT Project Updates

Rt 126 Bridge public forum attended by Bob: Lots of comments by neighbors regarding trees cut and local impact. Bob was surprised that designed progress is back to 25% complete; thought they were at 75%. Northbound side loses shoulder and needs to take the lane or get on the roadside path. Lots of issues with this as it doesn't seem practically workable. Ken pointed out that the width has been dictated by the desire to save the foundation and not widen overall bridge width, which would be far more costly.

Advisory Shoulder: Organizing Feedback

Need to compile feedback for final report to Federal Highway Admin. Bob wonders if the lack of signage has caused some of the mixed reviews on the pilot from locals. The one year pilot ends in early April. Ken thinks the RTC would like to look at the results as well.

Other Business

Bob announced he is stepping down as co-chair of the committee, but will stay on. John says Wheelworks is on board for an e-bike demo (he contacted them during the meeting). John brought up the danger of the slip lane at the shopping center in front of Bank of America. The evergreen shrub blocks the view of anyone on the roadside path until it's too late. Need to figure out how to get it trimmed down to stone wall level. Ginger feels that entrance is too dangerous in general and perhaps should be eliminated. Chris brought up a couple issues by Virginia Rd. New (temp) stop sign at intersection of Old Bedford Rd and Hanscom Dr is not visible enough. The chain across the MM path that leads to Virginia Rd needs a better solution.

Action Items:

The committee approved Minutes from Jan 19 meeting.

Schedule next meeting: March 19, 7:30-9PM (discussed idea of going to hybrid in-person/virtual meetings in the future, possibly April)

Meeting concluded @ 9:25PM