

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

DATE: April 27, 2023 – 7:30pm, over Zoom

Present: From BPAC, Ginger Reiner, John Mendelson, Megan Nelson, Kim Bodnar; others Ken Bassett, Jane Herlacher, Chris Murphy

- Ginger and Bob indicated that notes would be taken using Fathom and its AI summary function in Zoom, augmenting it with elements from memory and the transcript. If this trial works, it will save time and keep everyone engaged in the meeting.
- Ginger reported on the April 4th meeting between representatives of RTC and BPAC, as well as Paula Vaughn and Tim Higgins. The outcome of the meeting was the formation of the “Transportation Coalition”, to meet quarterly, include RTC and BPAC chairs with all members invited, and chaired by Margaret Olson. They discussed the differences in RTC and BPAC charges and the need for clarity on how Select Board rep's time will be divided between the committees including the time of committee members. Ken Bassett suggested there might be a need to bring in outside resources for certain projects and Ginger proposed BPAC prioritizing infrastructure projects for the Transportation Coalition.
- Ginger, Bob, Jane, Ken Bassett, and Chris discussed the prioritization of infrastructure projects in Lincoln, with Bob suggesting that the nine listed projects should remain in their priority order. Also there are other projects that need a little push today (e.g., Fitchburg RWT; Rt 2 crossing), but won't require additional work this year, and may not require serious planning effort for years, and won't come to fruition for decades, so might not need prioritization against the 9 with conceptual design funding. Ken expressed concern about key people's bandwidth for taking on projects simultaneously and suggested the need for scoping sessions to define priorities and allocate a timetable based on committee and staff availability.
- The group discussed various potential projects, including a circulation study for the Village Center and a bikeable connection from Mill Street to Bedford Road (including synergies between the power line from the solar array and the building of a trail).
- The group discussed the 128/95 corridor study draft that is open for comment. Ginger noted that the study ignored two cyclist fatalities in Lincoln. Bob suggested creating a safer North-South route to the West of Route 128. Chris offered to read and edit a short letter that Ginger will put together, and they discussed the importance of separated passage for cyclists.
- Bob gave an update on his attending the meeting with Representative Peisch and his conversation with her chief of staff, Corey Testa, about issues BPAC was having difficulty on where to start. The issues include the possibility of a “rail

with trail” along the Fitchburg line between the Bruce Freeman RT in West Concord and the Mass Central RT in Weston, the misalignment of the 117 roadside path where it crosses the RR track, signage for the new four-foot rule (can Lincoln add a pedestrian symbol), and the grade-separated crossing of Rt 2. Testa suggested sending an email to Reps Peisch and Gentile, which Bob did in consultation with Ginger. They received responses from Representative Peisch's staff and Representative Gentile, himself, who showed interest in the rail with trail idea. BPAC was encouraged by the reps' staffs to figure out how the issues are split between the two staffs.

- Bob, Ken Bassett, Ginger, and Chris discussed
 - Three possible locations of a Rt 2 grade separated crossing
 - The need for a “Friends of ...” group to support a rail with trail
- The Farrar Rd advisory shoulder pilot ended its year in early April. A report needs to be submitted to FHWA. John Vancor, Chris Bibbo have asked if BPAC thinks a survey is a good idea, and if so if BPAC will create the survey given some draft questions from John Vancor. Elements of a survey were discussed including demographics of the surveyed, the number of times they experienced the AS, did they regard it as safe, did they know what they were supposed to do. Care must be taken on how the data is presented. The group discussed potential edits to the survey but struggled to determine the most effective questions to ask. Chris, Ginger, and Bob will work on the structure of the survey taking into account the concerns expressed.
- The group discussed various ongoing work, including the “9 project” work with John Vancor, issues around the lane into the Lincoln Mall near the bank, and a speed reduction pilot on Bedford Road.
- The group discussed preparing for the Walk/Bike/Roll to School event with crossing volunteers and bus drop-off points and an e-bike demo on May 3rd. They also talked about the demand for bike racks at the school.
- Ginger and Bob reported on a cyclist hit by a motorist near the intersection of Bedford Road, the most dangerous intersection for cyclists in Lincoln, and the need for traffic calming measures.
- Ginger announced Megan was leaving BPAC as she was moving from town. Megan expressed her sadness but also excitement to keep in touch with BPAC's future endeavors. The group also praised Megan's contributions to the committee.
- The group discussed committee appointments with no immediate resolution.
- The committee agreed to regular meetings on the third Thursday of each month with the exception of when it falls during February or April vacation weeks. In that case, meetings would be on the fourth Thursday. For the time being, meetings will be held on Zoom.
- Ginger moved, Bob seconded, and the BPAC members in attendance unanimously approved minutes from 3/16/23 meeting.