

## **BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 7 PM via Zoom

Meeting called to order. Present were:

**Bicycle Advisory Committee:** Gina Bellato, Mitch Heineman (Chair), Emily Jacobsen, Neal Lerner, Mark Lowenstein, Lynnae Terrill

**Public:** John Bowman, David Kroop, Jan Preheim, Cynthia Snow, Loren Stollow, David Trevvett

1. Introductions. Mitch presented graphs of 2020 BLUEbikes data sent to Chris Dempsey and tweeted by Chris. Record number of trips originating from Brookline for the year
2. Other business
  - January minutes approved unanimously
  - Open projects. Todd requested that we weigh in on whether we still want to prioritize Longwood and Brookline Ave.

### **Longwood**

- Emily: 2020 plans for Longwood were infeasible.
- Mark: there were other projects we would prioritize; this would be a difficult fight.
- Neal: there was a lot of opposition but it is worth attempting important change.
- Lynnae: it is difficult but worthwhile to balance space needs of different road users; husband was in a crash there.
- John: Transportation Division has been reluctant to implement Safety Zones but Longwood might be appropriate.
- David T: recommends we address pick-up/drop-off zones.

### **Brookline Ave**

- Mark: wayfinding and other accommodations might be better than the proposed plans
- Neal: existing infrastructure should be tied together
- Emily: reducing travel lanes may now be more feasible. Brookline Ave has a missing connection between the Emerald Necklace and Brookline Village that should be remediated
- Cynthia: DCR path is not lit; during dark hours many cyclists choose the road

### 3. Member update

- Emily attended Feb. Transportation Board meeting. Coolidge Corner Theatre pedestrian plaza being expanded with unanimous Board approval. Language was added saying that T-Board would look favorably on removal of more parking to further improve plaza. Board submitting warrant article to petition state legislature to allow Town to remove posted speed limits that differ from the 25 mph default speed limit.
- Emily attended and reported on Pedestrian Advisory Committee discussions concerning hedges, snow removal, and daylighting (removing parking blocking sight lines for crosswalks). Residents should inform David T. of locations where daylighting has not been implemented

4. Memorandum to Transportation Board concerning construction sites. BAC voted unanimously to approve memo previously approved by PedAC with any minor edits for submittal to the T Board.
5. Memorandum to Transportation Board concerning 2021 extended sidewalks.
  - Memo prepared by Neal and Emily by 3/10; to be voted at BAC meeting on 3/17.
  - Survey developed by Emily sent to BAC mailing list on March 2.
  - Mitch: Todd pursued “shared spaces” and “extended parks” in 2020 without success
  - Mark: program was good for experimentation.
  - Emily: T-Board wanted to limit it to COVID relief
  - David T: PedAC recommends prioritizing space for dining
  - David K.: other area communities have kept the temporary infrastructure
  - David T.: Economic Development has plans underway
6. Website and social media. Lynnae’s investigations indicate that the current website content generally belongs on the town website. Town departments have Twitter feeds, e.g. [@BlineTransport](#) (Transportation Division) and [@blinesaferoutes](#) (task force). Several people doubt our content can be posted in a timely manner on Town website. Current posted Green Routes plan is from 2018. Discussion tabled until a future meeting without resolution.
7. 2021 Green Routes Plan. Mark reviewed the draft executive summary and presented the bike lane and condition pavement markings map. BAC agrees with colors except that Harvard should be red from Aspinwall north to Town line and other minor edits. Agreement to vote on approval at BAC meeting to be held 3/17
8. Candidate locations for recommending pilot shared space streets and additional streets for bicycle contraflow. Mitch discussed end-marked contraflow concepts and asked for suggestions on shared spaces for next meeting. No action at this time

## Meeting Adjourned

### Action Items

- Emily compiling results from Extended Sidewalks survey
- Neal/Emily to draft Extended Sidewalks memo by 3/10
- Mark/Neal to continue work on Green Routes Plan revision
- Mitch will report on Longwood/Brookline Ave discussion to Todd
- All asked to think about locations for shared space or contraflow

### 3/17 agenda

- Extended sidewalks memo submittal to T Board
- Green Routes executive summary submittal to T Board

### April agenda

- Carlton Street bike crossing plans from Transportation Division

- Continue website/social media discussion
- Consider development of shared space and contraflow memos
- Vote on 2021 Green Routes plan



# Brookline Bicycle Advisory Committee


---

MARCH 3, 2021




# Agenda

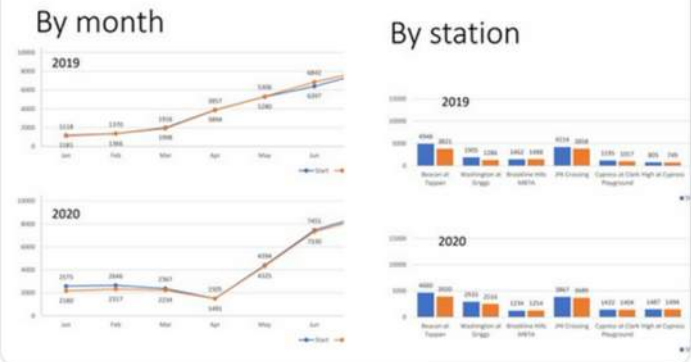
1. 7:00 Introductions
2. 7:10 Other business
  - a. Approve [minutes](#)
  - b. Open projects
  - c. New business
3. 7:25 Member update
  - a. Crash Report (Sgt. Sutherland)
  - b. Transportation Board (Emily)
  - c. Pedestrian Advisory Committee (Emily)
  - d. Building a Better Brookline transportation visioning meeting (Mitch)
  - e. Brookline Bridle Path Feasibility Study stakeholder meeting (Mitch)
4. 7:40 Discussion and approval of memorandum to Transportation Board concerning construction sites
5. 7:50 Discussion and approval of memorandum to Transportation Board concerning 2021 extended sidewalks
6. 8:05 Website and social media
7. 8:15 Discussion and approval of 2021 Green Routes Plan
8. 8:35 Discuss candidate locations for recommending pilot shared space streets and additional streets for bicycle contraflow

 **Tommy Vitolo** @TommyVitolo

Providing a variety of transportation options accessible by different demographics helps to provide transportation resiliency. With many folks in 2020 staying off the @MBTA, (and many staying home altogether), @RideBluebikes was a valuable option for some.

 **Chris Dempsey** @cdempc

.@RideBluebikes trips in #Brookline -- 2019 v. 2020. Thx to @MitchHeineman for the charts! Glad to see ridership holding steady despite the pandemic. #mapoli



12:36 PM · Mar 1, 2021

6 See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

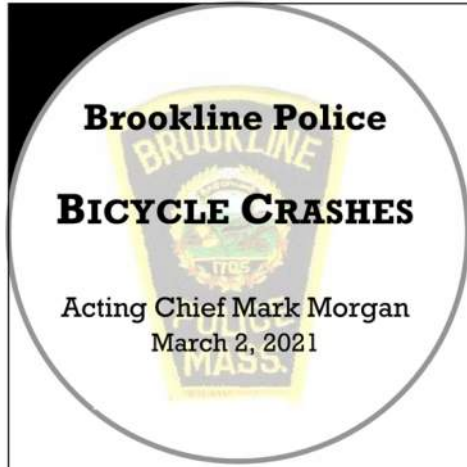
[More BLUEbikes slides](#)

# 2b. Open projects

changes in red

- ⌘ Davis Ave: T-board discussion Summer 2021 assuming Gateway East not whole agenda. DPW may do one-day pilot in spring. Lowest priority among high school-area projects. High School projects are delayed one year and will be done in 2022 construction season.
- ⌘ Tappan Street (High School project funded) & Greenough St (Complete Streets grant funded) expected to be constructed in 2022
- ⌘ Gateway East: Roadway construction substantially complete. Punch list, lighting, landscaping, etc. restart Spring 2021
- ⌘ Carlton Street Footbridge: MassDOT awarded contract. Construction expected Spring 2021. Concept design for connection at Carlton Street for pedestrians and cyclists for BAC reviewed at April meeting.
- ⌘ Applied for Winter Shared Streets grant to fund making some Blue Bike stations permanent, year-round stations with parking lane curb extensions
- ⌘ Capital Improvement Plan
  - ⌘ Columbia Road & Hamilton Road – out to bid, complete as-is except some additional crosswalks
  - ⌘ Hammond Street: concept design approved by Board. CIP funding placed in future years
  - ⌘ Beacon Street westbound - Town line to Carlton: Substantially complete, punch list being worked on
  - ⌘ Green Street: substantially complete, punch list (e.g. signage) being worked on.
  - ⌘ Beacon Bridleway Study: Toole held first feasibility visioning meeting. Expect draft feasibility study in May
  - ⌘ Harvard Street: no update
  - ⌘ Brookline Avenue: developing concepts that may be included in FY2023 CIP budget. Sent to MBTA, MASCO, PedAC. SMAC, etc. for input. Next step is public meeting in the spring. Is this still BAC priority for FY2023?
  - ⌘ Longwood Avenue: developing concepts that may be included in FY2024 CIP budget Is this still BAC priority for FY2024?
  - ⌘ Newton Street – Clyde to Town line: substantially complete, punch list being worked on
  - ⌘ Goddard Avenue – Newton to Avon: substantially complete, punch list being worked on

# 3a. Crash report



## BIKE CRASH REPORT FEBRUARY 2021

There was 1 bicycle crash reported during the month of February 2021. Below is a highlight of the incidents.

From Sergeant Sutherland: Operator of MV found at fault and cited for 90/14 (opening door into oncoming traffic).

Case Number	Date	Time	Location	Type of Crash	Fault (If Determined)
2021-0704	2/17/2021	2247	448 Harvard St	MV/Bike	MV/Opening Door

# 3b. T Board

⌘ T-Board asking the BAC and PedAC for comments on extended sidewalks.




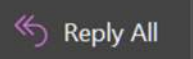


⌘ Coolidge Corner Theatre pedestrian plaza










⌘ -T-Board approved submitting a Warrant article to petition the state legislature to allow Brookline to remove posted speed limits that are different from the default 25 mph




# 3d. Building a Better Brookline

Notes from Affordable Housing Discussion

 Mary Rose Fissinger <mrosefiss@gmail.com>   Reply  Reply All  Forward 

To  Leonard Wholey;  Lee Biernbaum;  David Kroop;  Abigail Swaine;  Ben Hellerstein;  mitchheineman@gmail.com;  Scott Englander;  Casey Uy;  Joan Lancourt Fri 2/26/2021 8:16 AM

 You forwarded this message on 2/28/2021 1:24 PM.

Hi all,

Thank you again for your participation in Tuesday's affordable housing discussion. It was great to hear the perspectives of this group, and notes from the evening will be used by Building a Better Brookline as we compile what we've learned from our focus groups to inform the process surrounding the Housing Production Plan revision, as well as its content.

I've attached my notes from the evening. Feel free to reach out if you feel that anything you said is missing or misconstrued in the notes, or if you just want to add something we didn't have time to get to.

Additionally, please let me know if you'd like to get more involved with housing affordability work in Brookline, or if you'd like to learn more about housing in general and in Brookline specifically. I'd be happy to connect you to resources.

Thanks again for being so generous with your time!

Best,  
Mary Rose

# 3e. Beacon Street Bridle Path Feasibility Study and Concept Plan



2 OLIVER STREET  
SUITE 305  
BOSTON, MA 02109

617.419.9910  
TOOLEDESIGN.COM

## BROOKLINE BEACON STREET BRIDLE PATH

*Stakeholder Meeting*

*February 24, 2021 6pm-7:30pm*

### AGENDA

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the forthcoming Brookline Beacon Street Bridle Path Feasibility Study and Concept Plan with project stakeholders. Stakeholders will be asked to discuss the goals, aspirations, and overall vision of Beacon Street, and to provide information on the existing conditions along the corridor including constraints and opportunities.

10 min	<b>Introductions</b>
10 min	<b>History of Beacon Avenue and the Bridle Path</b>
10 min	<b>Beacon Street Bridle Path Feasibility Study and Concept Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project Schedule and Overview</li><li>• Purpose of today's meeting</li></ul>
45 min	<b>Breakout Groups</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vision of Beacon Street</li><li>• Existing Conditions</li></ul>

# 4. Construction Sites memo

**To:** Chris Dempsey, Chair, Brookline Transportation Board  
Todd Kirrane, Transportation Administrator

**From:** David Trevvett, Chair, Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
Mitch Heineman, Chair, Bicycle Advisory Committee

**Re:** Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety Hazards at Construction Sites

This memo cites safety concerns at Brookline construction sites, provides specific recent examples of practices creating the dangers, provides our best understanding of Town guidelines governing such sites, and suggests specific mitigations and Town actions that could dramatically improve public safety at such sites.

Over the past year the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PedAC) have reflected together on dangers posed to pedestrians and cyclists at construction sites in Brookline that impede the public way. There is often at best a lack of appropriate attention to the comfort and facilitation of walkers and cyclists and, at worst, wanton disregard for their safety. The dangers and difficulties at construction sites are particularly acute for persons with disabilities and present much more than an inconvenience even to able-bodied individuals who must navigate obstructed sidewalks, improvised curbs, significant detours, and increased numbers of road crossings.

# 5. Extended sidewalks

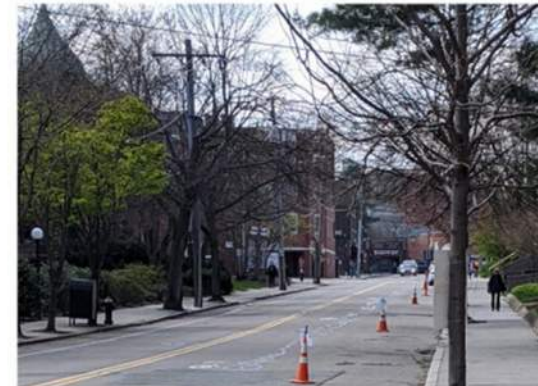
- 🚲 Identify "asks" for Transportation Board
  - 🚲 What do we want to see for extended sidewalks?
  - 🚲 Is it safer infrastructure?
  - 🚲 Focus on key travel corridors or streets near parks/greenspaces?

[tinyurl.com/BrooklineExtendedSidewalks](https://tinyurl.com/BrooklineExtendedSidewalks)

## COVID Extended Sidewalks Survey

The Brookline Bicycle Advisory Committee would like to hear from you about the extended sidewalks that were deployed in town from spring through fall 2020. The extended sidewalks repurposed travel and parking lanes for pedestrian, bicycle, and outdoor dining using traffic cones, orange bollards, and Saris Wave delineators for separation. Extended sidewalks were present along Beacon St., Brookline Ave, Harvard St., Longwood Ave and Pleasant St. No extended sidewalks have been planned yet for this spring. We would like to hear from you and your thoughts on whether they should be installed again this year and how they could be improved.

Extended sidewalk with orange cones



# 6. Website/social media

- 🚲 Cynthia has transferred control of 1,000-subscriber MailChimp list. Signup link at <http://eepurl.com/hr2hn9>
- 🚲 Need to integrate MailChimp list with list of 90 people receiving monthly meeting notifications
- 🚲 Created BrooklineBicycleAdvisoryComm@gmail.com
- 🚲 Consider shutting down BrooklineBikes.org. Additional content for [www.brooklinema.gov/141/Bicycle](http://www.brooklinema.gov/141/Bicycle) ?
- 🚲 Twitter anyone?

[Home](#) › [Government](#) › [Departments](#) › [Transportation Division of DPW](#) › Bicycle

## Bicycle

### Bicycle Advisory Committee

Discover more about the Bicycle Advisory Committee, meeting times, and projects.

### Bicycling Safety

Read more about bicycling safety for both motorists and bicyclists.

### Blue Bikes

Find out more about BlueBikes, a Greater Boston area bike share program that Brookline proudly participates in.

## Contact Us



**Todd Kirrane**

Transportation Administrator

[Email Todd Kirrane](#)

[Transportation Division of DPW](#)

[Physical Address](#)

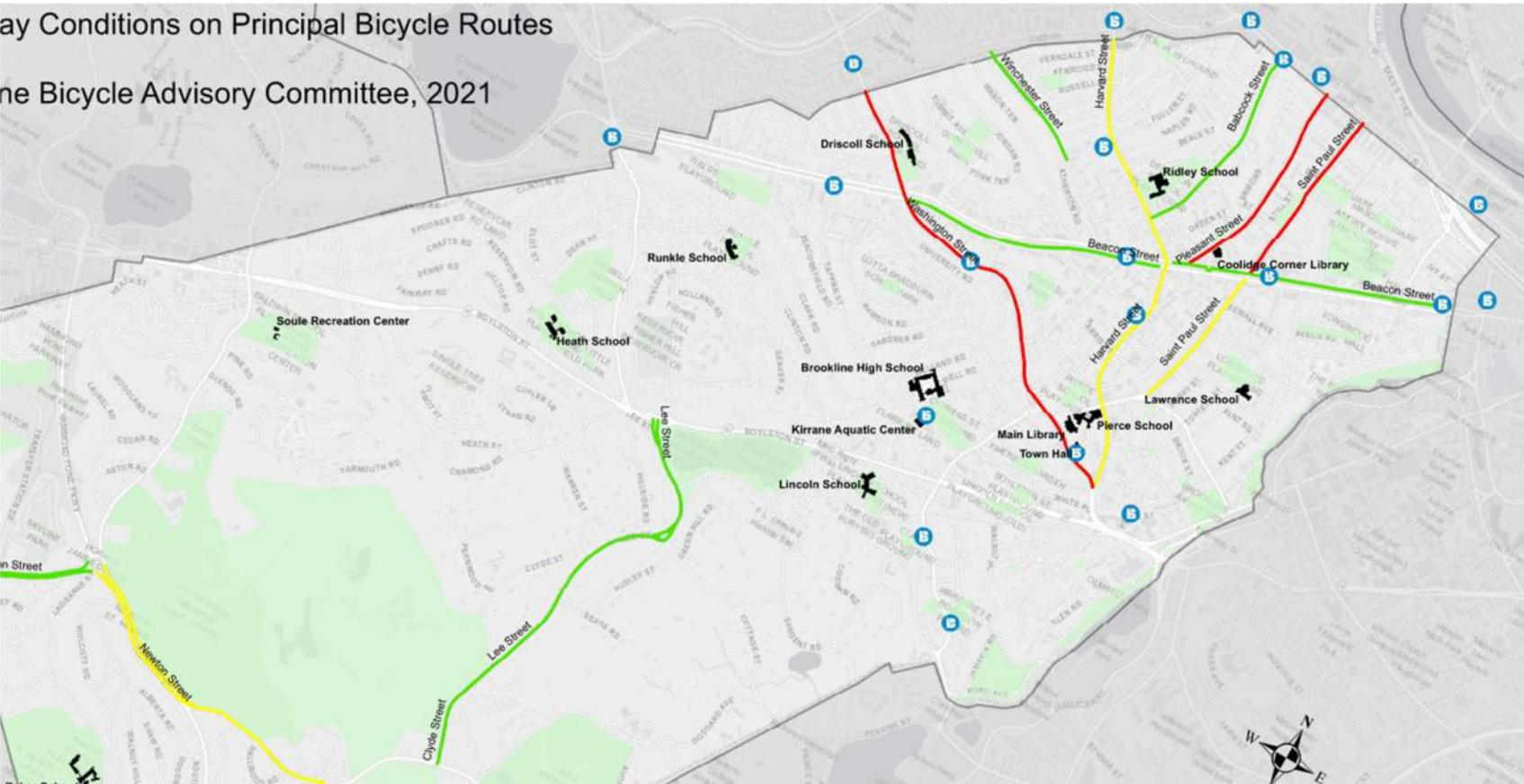
# 7. Green Routes Plan

🚲 [Executive summary](#) drafted

🚲 Maps updated

🚲 Completed network

Way Conditions on Principal Bicycle Routes  
The Bicycle Advisory Committee, 2021



## 8. a) Pilot shared space streets; b) additional streets for contraflow

- 🚲 We have not explicitly been asked to investigate these
- 🚲 Todd pursued shared space last spring but no traction
- 🚲 Shared space candidates: Pleasant Street, Brook Street, Clark Road, Beverly Road?



## 8b. Pilot shared space streets and additional streets for contraflow

- ⌘ Don't identify solution in search of problem. Ask where cyclists face navigation or safety challenges because of one-ways. After identifying 4-6 locations, ask how can we fix this? Important that story is: "This is a problem we are trying to solve" not "Somerville is doing this and we should too." T Board likely want one end-marked contraflow to start
- ⌘ Todd should review before submittal to T Board
- ⌘ *"...between Harvard, Comm Ave and Babcock would be a good place for end-marked contraflow. Blanketing the neighborhood would reduce confusion by drivers and cyclists alike and increase utilization by cyclists who would be able to move freely on any street without needing to know which streets are two-way for bikes."* Thorndike, Coolidge, Fuller (except the block already striped for contraflow), Beals, Abbottsford, and Crowninshield meet these criteria; Stedman does not.
- ⌘ Other suggestions: University Ave., Vernon St.
- ⌘ Examples helpful, e.g. *"A resident at 25 Abbottsford biking to Clear Flour Bakery has a 0.2-mile trip there directly down that street, while the on-road return trip is one-half mile via Comm Ave and Babcock"*