

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 7 PM via Zoom

Meeting called to order. Present were:

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

Town Staff: Todd Kirrane, Dan Martin

Public: Andrew Fischer, Perry Grossman, David Kroop, Jules Milner-Brage, Jan Preheim, Loren Stollow, David Trevvett, John VanScoyoc

1. Introductions
2. Other business
 - a. March 17 minutes approved unanimously
 - b. **Open projects.** Information received from Todd Kirrane on 4/7 presented below (updates in yellow):
 - 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 beginning.
 - Applied for Winter Shared Streets grant to fund making some Blue Bike stations permanent, year-round stations with parking lane curb extensions. Notified that we received the \$199k yesterday.
 - Capital Improvement Plan
 - Columbia Road & Hamilton Road – construction to begin early May 2021
 - Hammond Street: concept design approved by Board. CIP funding remains in future years by Town Administrator
 - 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
 - Complete Streets Funding – Green @ Harvard improvements includes green 'bike walk' adjacent to crosswalk to connect contraflow lane to Harvard Street southbound. Contract being released in May for 2021/2022 construction
 - St Paul Street (Beacon St to Comm Ave): Commissioner is looking for funding to advance the roadway reconstruction of this area to improve bike lane and travel lane pavement condition. Will require full signal and ramp replacement St. Paul @ Freeman St.

- c. Upcoming meetings. Mitch will be absent for scheduled June and July meeting dates. Mark will chair June meeting. No July meeting is planned since several members will be away.
- d. Longwood Avenue. BAC previously requested two-way protected bicycle lanes. Pilot removal of parking, which would be necessary for two protected lanes, received many complaints. Mark recalled that our discussion of Longwood in March concluded that we still feel that Longwood is a priority but that a more comprehensive plan is needed to allow considerations of other streets, priority lanes, and parking removal. Mark and Emily volunteered to develop written recommendations from BAC to Town staff for review at our next meeting.

3. Member update

- a. Crash report – none
- b. Emily discussed the March Transportation Board meeting. She suggested that we identify a mechanism whereby BAC could comment on Board agenda items as there are often items of interest to BAC, such as handicapped parking or the River Road closure discussed at the March meeting. Todd indicated that he can flag more of those items for BAC should we wish to see them, and that we can hold special meetings ahead of T Board meetings. He noted that the Board normally approves handicapped parking requests without modification.
- c. Mark reached out to Erin Gallentine to discuss existing bicycle infrastructure maintenance. He color-coded the lanes in terms of maintenance level. Erin surveyed the lanes on bicycle and acknowledged that maintenance is an issue. The Town will do street cleaning and some patching of potholes and sewer dips, but with no specific timeline. Mark asked if there is an interim solution, e.g., could DPW asphalt a bike lane down Washington Street? Erin responded no, since any project larger than \$50,000 is subject to public bid. Washington St. won't be due for a redo for five or six years. Lynnae asked what the best method is for reporting issues. Mark indicated that BrookONline is appropriate for small repairs, but Erin doesn't mind hearing from us directly for larger issues.

- 4. Carlton Street Footbridge crossing. Todd and Dan presented staff recommendations for a crossing from the restored Carlton Street Footbridge to the north side of Carlton and Colchester streets. The footbridge has been closed for 40 years. The renovation has been designed and gone through a long public process. MassDOT has asked that the Town improve access for pedestrians and cyclists in recognition of its important place in the bicycle and pedestrian network. There is a history of vehicle crashes in this location related to speed. The proposed staff plan is presented in the attached graphic showing a raised crosswalk with a faux-brick appearance. The traffic count does not warrant a traffic signal, but RRFBs (Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon) may be an option.

Emily: Would a stop sign be an option? Todd indicated that a stop sign would not be warranted. MUTCD does not recommend them to slow traffic.

Emily: this area essentially becomes an intersection for cyclists because they can continue straight through the intersection and suggests adding stop signs.

Mark: are there "Watch for cyclists" signs?

Alicia: Are flashing beacons on the raised crosswalks planned? Todd indicates that flashing signals have not functioned well in the past due to maintenance issues. If BAC wishes, it could be re-explored.

Mark proposed that we prepare a memo regarding wayfinding signage. Todd indicated that the Emerald Necklace has prescribed signage.

Loren: why is the crosswalk at the turn instead of on the straight portions of the street? Dan indicated that it is due to sight lines – one cannot see oncoming cars from the straight areas. Todd indicated this is a good "human nature" design because people will naturally want to cross here.

Emily, Gina and Neal volunteered to draft a comment letter for review at the May meeting.

5. Discussion of contraflow on Westbourne Terrace/Bartlett Crescent and other locations. Mitch summarized from prior discussions that Todd is reluctant to implement end-marked contraflow without documented guidance allowing it.
 - a. Andy Fischer discussed that there was a traffic study on Westbourne Terrace for the Driscoll School project. Westbourne is used as a cut-through and there have been several accidents in Washington Square involving cyclists. By making Westbourne contraflow, bicycle users could avoid Washington Square and use the new crosswalk from Westbourne to the Beacon Street T stop. Jules pointed out that Westbourne will be enlarged with added parking. Construction ground-breaking starts next year. Emily will abstain from discussion on this project because her company is involved. Jules indicated that the Town would have to be lobbied to reopen the design process. Mitch will work with Andy on a memo regarding BAC's position on contraflow there.
 - b. Emily suggested Stearns Road and Station Street as additional contraflow candidates (sketches below)

Meeting Adjourned

Action Items

- Neal, Gina, and Emily to draft Carlton Street recommendations memo for review at May meeting
- Mark and Emily to draft memo on BAC position on priorities for Longwood Avenue
- Mitch to draft memo on contraflow with input from Andy Fischer on Westbourne and Bartlett

May agenda

- Carlton Street bike crossing memorandum
- Longwood Avenue memorandum
- Contraflow memorandum
- 2021 Green Routes plan



