

## **WALKBIKE SPRINGFIELD**

### **January 3, 2019 MEETING NOTES**

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress St.

6:00 - 7:30 PM

#### **I. ISSUES & UPDATES**

**A. City Laws** regarding bicycles, skateboards, and scooter & Rules of the Road update  
The Traffic Commission Meeting will be meeting at 9 AM on Jan. 4 to discuss the comments submitted by WalkSpringfield about the proposed changes to the Rules of Road. Todd described that the sections about bicycles is all new; there is no mention of Complete Streets policy and its underlying philosophy; commented on the need to match with state laws: can't treat bicycles as second class; scooters, riding bicycles on sidewalk, etc. not included.

We discussed the confusion concerning the relationship between the Rules of the Road and other ordinances (such as the Complete Street policy, the 25 mph default speed limit), as well as the proposed ordinance related to pedal assist, electric bicycles and scooters that we've been working on. {This was also discussed at the following day's Traffic Commission.} Jesse and Tim will go ahead and introduce the new ordinance related to pedal assist, electric bicycles, scooters, etc. at the January 14 City Council meeting.

#### **B. Roadway projects & input for Complete Street Opportunities**

WalkBike representatives met with City Engineer Matt Sokop and Hector Velez on December 19 to discuss how WBS might have more input regarding implementing Complete Streets (e.g., bicycle lanes, sharrow placement, road diets) as part of the annual street repaving projects. They offered to meet again (tentatively Jan. 17) when the 2019 street paving list is expected to be determined.

We also discussed the need for additional design and oversight training on the part of the DPW staff and consultants related to the implementation of bicycle lanes and sharrow placement. We will explore Baystate workshop options, as well as determine if there should be Springfield-specific workshops. A subcommittee of Alex, Todd, Jim, Deborah, Betsy, and Dave (others invited) will continue to pursue this effort.

**C. Safe Routes to School.** Peter Kuusisto explained that the MassDOT Safe Routes to School Infrastructure grant, with applications due January 11, is to be submitted school by school. Springfield schools are working on submissions.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Walk to School will be on the morning of February 6. Peter believes the Rebecca Johnson and Deberry schools will be participating. Dave will follow-up with Pottinger & Bowles. Peter will let us know if there are schools looking for volunteer help.

Councilor Tim Allen mentioned that issues related to crosswalks at schools and other safety issues are being raised around the City. The Council will have a hearing about this issue sometime in the next couple of months.

#### **D. Connecting Lower Valley Bicycle/Walking Trails**

It was reported that relationships with neighboring communities have resulted from meetings during the summer/fall. Also that she is arranging walks of the South and North bridges with state legislators. We will let all know when these are scheduled, so others

might join her.

**E. Highland Railtrail: McKnight Trail & East Forest Park** – We have heard nothing yet from the consultant Beta Engineering. On Feb. 12 – 6 PM, the UMass design students will make their last presentations at the McKnight Neighborhood Council meeting. Liz is hoping Beta Engineering may attend as well—although it was pointed out that their contract may not include funding beyond a separate community meeting.

Ryan Haley announced that East Forest Park has the funds for a feasibility study. Councilor Allen will help facilitate with the Parks Dept to make sure this study moves forward.

**F. Railroad crossings update** – need to thank MassDOT District 2 regarding the Clinton Street crossing since now there is signage and lights installed. State Street involves AMTRAK and is more problematic. Instead, Senator Lessor is pursuing funding for the construction of the park entry through the underpass.

**G. Non-motorized Wheel Park-** Alex is arranging trips with youth to go see other parks, such as in Philadelphia, North Adams, Enfield, Burlington VT. The preference may be for a pump track should (gravel and jumps). Need to still determine if the City really wants the park to be on private land. Need to determine what are the ideal and OK sizes – is it an acre?

## **II. GOALS FOR 2019**

- Develop a platform for Mayoral election
- Education materials
  - Lego videos –  
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=siixA3Fjc1I>
  - Safe Routes to School – bookmarks, postcards
  - Make a video with Springfield teens
  - Comic book - Bikey-face – Boston based
- Compile a list of 10 good rides in Springfield –Jim and Deborah working on this
- Complete a formal bicycle map for Springfield. Follow-up with Jake at PVPC and ValleyBikes
- Promote 25 mph default speed limit and overall “Vision Zero” type of campaign

## **NEXT MEETINGS:**

February 7 @ PVPC

March 14 - agreed to change to the second Thursday,