

**WALKBIKE SPRINGFIELD**  
**March 14, 2019 MEETING NOTES**  
**Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress St.**

**I. 2019 Priorities**

**A. Mayoral Election Platform**

Candidates certified by June 11; Preliminary election Sept. 10; Final election Nov. 5

***Possible questions (to be discussed further and refined at the April meeting)***

- There were 13 fatal crashes in Springfield in 2018, an increasing number in each of last few years. Speeding is a common complaint throughout all Springfield neighborhoods. What steps will you take to improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists?
- Do you support the adoption of Vision Zero and funding its implementation? Vision Zero is an approach that aims to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2030.
- Will you support Springfield being designated as an age-friendly community, including addressing age-friendly walking? How?
- Will you increase the budget for roadway painting, including bicycle lanes and zebra crosswalks?
- Do you support redesigning space on the street in order to improve safety for people biking by creating protected bike lanes?
- How will you make sure Eversource fixes non-working street lights more promptly?
- Will you appoint someone to the Traffic Commission who is recommended from WalkBike Springfield who will represent pedestrian and bicycling interests?
- How are you supporting Springfield's Complete Streets Plan's implementation, including naming the recommended Complete Streets Council?
- What are you doing to create a dedicated safe space for youth bicycling and skateboarding?
- Will you convene a meeting of representatives from the adjacent communities along the Connecticut River to develop a plan to complete the Connecticut Riverwalk?

**B. Education**

The School Committee passed on Feb. 14, 2019: Safe Routes to School Physical Education Curriculum for Grade Two:

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/07/28/Students%20Walking%202nd%20grade%20Curriculum.pdf>

We will follow up with MassBike about what is involved with getting adoption of the bicycle education curriculum. We will reach out to SPS Assistant Superintendent Lydia Martinez about scheduling a meeting to discuss how to work more closely with the School Department.

We are also working on bicycling education materials.

**C. Ride Routes & Maps**

WalkBike participants met and are working with Peter Kuusisto to develop a map of Springfield rides for MassRides. Jeff McCollough is currently working on an updated bicycle facilities inventory at PVPC. He also offered to have PVPC GIS work with the group to develop an updated 5-year grid map.

**D. Safety ["Vision Zero"] Campaign**

- Another pedestrian death
- 25 mph default speed limit signs up. Need press. Chicopee has also adopted. Need to determine what posted roads we should request to have a lowering of the speed limit.

- Schedule meeting with new Acting Police Commissioner – Cheryl Claprod and others? Councilor Tim Allen is working to schedule. This could become the core Vision Zero Task Force.

MassBike has released a training video for trucks related to improving bicycle and pedestrian safety. Could this be shown to DPW truck drivers? Other suggestions for use of the Truck/Bicycle/Pedestrian safety video <https://vimeo.com/30714718>

## II. UPDATES

### A. Roadway Projects, Street Repavings & Complete Streets

**Berkshire/Cottage/Harvey Streets Community Meeting: March 20, 6:30 PM**, Kennedy Middle School [https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2019/03/05/springfield\\_032019.pdf](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2019/03/05/springfield_032019.pdf)

This project is needed because of the PVRTA main bus maintenance facility is moving to Cottage Street at the end of this month. Upgrades are also being planned for the intersection of Cottage/Robbins/Industry (public hearing at a later date.) State funding for the projects is slated for 2021 or possibly in 2020.

We are still awaiting being able to review the 2019 street repaving list.

#### **St. James/Tapley St. Bridge/intersection**

Because MassBike has a representative on MassDOT's board that reviews requests for exemptions to accommodating bicycles and pedestrians in street improvement projects, Todd learned about MassDOT's request to not include adequate crosswalks in the project to rebuild the Tapley St. bridge over I291. The McKnight Neighborhood Council approved a letter to MassDOT opposing the exemption and stating the need for sidewalk. A similar letter for WalkBike Springfield will be drafted .

**Other Springfield "Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)" items:** the redevelopment of the "X" is proposed for funding in 2024. Public meeting still not scheduled. Concern about the need for widening Sumner and the long distances between accommodations for pedestrian crossings.

**Complete Streets Implementation Application** – due May 1. This is to apply again for up to \$400,000 from MassDOT to implement elements of the Complete Streets Plan. We are working with Hector on the narrative. We suggested that multiple bicycle racks are not needed at bus stops and would hoped that we might include some additional bike lanes connections instead. Some projects such as Fort Pleasant are not being included because there will be other utility work being done on the street over the next year,

**Complete Streets Demo Day** (May 11 (raindate May 18) Location: on Walnut St. (Pine to Union) Volunteers Needed . Email Becky from PVPC [bbasch@pvpc.org](mailto:bbasch@pvpc.org) to help with the planning and/or help on the 11<sup>th</sup>. A map of the event is attached. We agreed that a catchier event name is needed and suggested *Walk and Roll Festival*.

### B. City Laws regarding bicycles, skateboards, and scooters

It was reported that the City Council did the initial (of 3) passing of an ordinance that allows for the riding of a bicycle on sidewalks that are outside of downtown. A second ordinance that clarifies where electric bicycles, scooters, and skateboards can be used still needs clarifying and is back to Committee.

**C. Way Finders Resident Advocates activities** – Nat invited all to the monthly Community Advocates meeting that are the ***first Thursday of the month at the Brookings Elementary School at 5:30 PM (includes dinner)***. He will be leading the April 4 meeting. These meetings focus on the Built Environment and Public Safety, including Complete Streets Implementation, pedestrian safety, Safe Routes to School, and crime reporting, and generally include a public official guest speaker. The Health Advocates are also writing the Mayor about the need for increasing the budget of street marking painting. See the attached flyer about the Community Advocates Leadership Training.

**D. Highland Railtrail: McKnight Trail & East Forest Park**

McKnight Neighborhood Council: **April 9 – 6 PM** Rebecca Johnson Elementary School - UMass students' presentations (It was mentioned that one of the proposals presents a design that could be modified as a bicycle "pump" park.)

**E. Non-motorized wheel Park**

Skate-board type park or Pump bicycle park - as Mike Tully has left the Parks Department, need to reconfirm the City's commitment and who is the point person.

**III. OTHER**

- A. MassBike Events, including Bike Week: May 11 -19 & Advocacy Bootcamp
- B. WalkBoston Events – March 18 – Springfield receiving Golden Shoe Award
- C. D. Spring walks and rides? – Did not discuss.

**NEXT MEETINGS (second Thursdays) April 11, 2019 @ PVPC, 60 Congress St  
May 9, 2019  
June 13, 2019**