

WALKBIKE SPRINGFIELD
APRIL 11, 2019 MEETING NOTES
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress St.

I. Walk and Roll Event – May 11

Becky Basch with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission reviewed the currently planned activities for the second annual Complete Streets Demo that is being called the Springfield Walk and Roll. All reviewed sample posters for posting around the neighborhood. Some of the bicycle lanes will be buffered, some just striped. QR codes will be used to get feedback regarding bicycle lanes. Resource tables in the Park on Walnut St. Alex will lead the bicycle rodeo in the Park. WalkBoston coming to do walk audits, especially linked to Springfield's Age Friendly initiative to outreach to the Mason Wright residents. Collaborating with GTC's plant sale.

Volunteers needed for set-up, starting at 7 am to paint the roadway. 9 – 11 am to set up tables; 11-3 event; 3-4 clean-up. Mattie Jenkins at the DeBerry School – key for the outreach. Need info about the W&R at the Pancake Breakfast – do with GTC? Restaurants on Walnut St. have been contacted about providing food.

II. Mayoral Questionnaire

Will give to a slightly modified version to all the City Council candidates as well. Move up the bike/skate board park question. It was felt that we don't need the last question about the extending the CT River Bike and Walk. Need to get more specifics about the crash numbers. Change "non-working" to "broken" in the street light question. Add a link to Vision Zero. Add a question about providing bicycle curriculum for students. Link to "Age Friendly Community".

Get bike information added into "Good Neighbor Handbook." https://www.springfield-ma.gov/police/fileadmin/Police_Dept_files/acrobat_files/Good_Neighbor.pdf. WBS should write. Todd will start and Jim will review.

III. UPDATES

A. Roadway Projects, Street Repavings & Complete Streets

-- St. James/Tapley intersection – letters written motivated MassDOT Sec. Pollack to weigh in on the exemption request before it would normally come to her, and she agreed with Springfield residents – the intersection design is being re-engineered. Able to know about this because of MassBike serving on the MassDOT Exemption Review Committee.

Discussion about the unaddressed crossing of State Street to the Main Library. A 25 mph speed limit has been added. It was mentioned that Chris Cignoli is reluctant to ask MassDOT for an exemption. It was suggested getting shared parking with the Cathedral. Who will bring Museum, Library, and Church together? Sheila will work on this.

-- Complete Streets Implementation Application: submitted to MassDOT
Thanks to Todd for all his work with the narrative!

-- Repaving of Mill St. Union St. Bicentennial Hwy, Stapleton Rd, residential streets: Should there be Complete Streets treatment proposed for any of these roadways? Another success for us to have received this list ahead. Definitely need to have Mill striped with a road diet. Focus on getting travel lane as narrow as possible. Is an overall plan for connecting Johnny Appleseed Park

to other parks, which we should tie to this project? Union Street is too narrow – add a fog stripe.

Bicentennial Highway – definitely could have a buffered bicycle lane. Road diets take two years. Alex asked about getting volume counts. Explore closing one whole side of the roadway.

Need to learn more about Stapleton. Jim will follow-up with road widths. Need to schedule a meeting with Hector. Betsy will arrange the meeting.

B. Highland Railtrail: McKnight Trail & East Forest Park

Report on McKnight Neighborhood Council: UMass students' presentations. Doug reported that presented plans for connecting path to Union Station going along Liberty or Taylor Streets. Representatives of Beta Engineering, who has been hired to do the actual McKnight trail section "25% design" did attend the Council meeting to hear from the students. No further information on their timetable.

It was reported that he talked with Frank Ryan of the East Forest Park Neighborhood Association and learned that a committee is being formed related to the CPA-funded feasibility study. Jim will participate.

C. Connecting Lower Connecticut River Multi-use Paths

Opening Celebration for West Springfield path on May 18 @ 10 am, 777 Riverdale St. trailhead (by Pride Station). Need to show up to help bolster getting a bicycle support organization in West Springfield.

D. Non-motorized wheel Park: Skate-board type park or Pump bicycle park? (Betsy reconfirmed Pat Sullivan's (Parks Director) commitment - Mike Tully has left. Other staff will be assigned to the project. Meeting to be scheduled soon.) Pat Sullivan said that he is still interested in using the site adjacent to the Boys & Girls Club that Parks owns. Yolanda indicated the need to have meeting with director of Boys & Girls Club. Todd has a contact at the Boys & Girls Club. Alex mentioned the need to get the youth involved in the design and how they want to ride. Is the B&G Club site large enough? Yolanda felt that if get the one park, then could get additional parks. Deborah mentioned the idea of going for a destination park. It was mentioned that Springfield should go for Gateway City Parks Funds.

It was mentioned that there is land on Tapley Street owned by the City that might also be considered. Discussed that a paved facility could be built on this still somewhat contaminated site.

E. Youth Bicycling Behavior

There was extensive conversation about what to do regarding the large groups of youth riding in ways that are endangering themselves and threatening to vehicle drivers. Much of the youth behavior is protest – need facilities. Hector from Chicopee reported that he has seen the large groups of youth riding and concern about racist vigilantly activity, especially with the police not responding. It was indicated the Springfield police at not going to chase the youth. Alex is working with the kids. He is proposing that bicycles be confiscated and the youth made to do community service work to regain their bicycles. Meanwhile a large number of youth are coming to RAD and being difficult. Need help at 168 Worthington on Mondays.

We agreed that a meeting with Acting Police Commissioner Clapprod would be beneficial.

IV. OTHER

MassBikePV Mini Grants - due May 3

Agreement to use WalkBike Springfield existing grant funds for business cards - give design ideas to Deborah. Also, we need a Sign/Banner for use at events. Todd suggested getting funds for lawn signs to promote the 25 mph - Cincinnati used "Try 25"

It was reported that the Riverwalk elevator was not working as of April 1. Park needs sweeping.

V. Up-Coming Related Meetings

April 18 – Way Finders Community Advocates Training, Kathyne Jones Apartments Community Room, 49 Pendleton Ave. Free Lunch & Learn Series – 11 am – 1 pm – guest Speaker Natalia Munoz, owner, Verdant Multicultural Marketing “Writing with Power: How to Use Social Media & other Platforms for Advocacy.”

April 23 – Federal Highway Administration Transportation Planning Process Evaluation, PVPC 60 Congress St. 1 – 2:30 pm. Public input regarding how the metropolitan transportation planning process is conducted in the Springfield region.

April 24 – Springfield Green Team Committee meeting, Scibelli Enterprise Center, Federal St. 5:30 pm. The Springfield Green Team is a newly formed independent resident’s group that aims to promote and support green initiatives including street light LED conversion and implementation of the Springfield Climate Action Resiliency Plan (CARP)

April 30 – MassDOT Safe Routes to School Tactical Urbanism Webinar, 10-11 am. This webinar will focus on quick, short-term, and inexpensive projects along with their community benefits. <https://www.mass.gov/event/tactical-urbanism-webinar-2019-04-30t134500-0400>

April 30 – West Springfield Memorial Avenue – Complete St. Design, WS Municipal Office Bldg, 2nd flr auditorium, 7 pm. – improving the roadway connecting to Springfield

May 2 – Healthy Hill Initiative Community Advocates Meeting, Brookings Elementary School, 5:30 pm, Dinner provided.

May 8 – Design Public Hearing Cottage St-Industry Ave-Robbins Rd. Intersections Improvements, Kennedy Middle School, 1385 Berkshire Ave. , 7:00 pm

May 11 – 19 – 20th Massachusetts Bike Week

NEXT WALKBIKE SPRINGFIELD MEETINGS (second Thursdays) **May 9, 2019**
June 13, 2019
July 11, 2019