

**WALKBIKE SPRINGFIELD
JUNE 13, 2019 MEETING NOTES
Make-It Springfield, 168 Worthington St.**

I. Introductions

Patrick Higgins explained that he is Peter Kuusisto's replacement as our area's MassDOT Safe Routes to School Outreach Coordinator.

II. MassBike Springfield Bike Summit – June 27, 9:30 – 3:00 PM

The Summit is being hosted by MassBike along with Mass in Motion. We discussed that there is still little information about the actual program. Alex reported what he knew: Kyle Wiswall will do a session on compassionate advocacy; Vivien Ortiz will describe successes in engaging new riders in Mattapan; Bea Dewberry will talk about creating complete streets advocates. Betsy will contact Galen Mook about WalkBike having an opportunity to describe our successes and get more information on helping with outreach.

III. Mayoral & Council Questionnaire: Next Steps

The list of qualified candidates for Mayor and City Council should be available next week. Most recently heard that there would be a preliminary election (Sept. 10) for Mayor and some of the Ward Councilors. Otherwise the election is Sept. 10.

We will do final wording of the questions and get to candidates by July 1, asking for responses by Aug. 1. Will use SurveyMonkey or Google Survey to get the responses electronically, if possible.

IV. Roadway Projects, Street Repavings & Complete Streets

Update from Hector Velez at DPW.

- Six Corners round-about construction starting in August
- Central Street finalizing land acquisitions, with construction start targeted for fall 2019/spring 2020
- X funding not available until 2024. Still waiting for hearing on 24% design
- Only arterial among 2019 repavings is Bicentennial Highway. Protected bicycle lane still being designed
- No word yet from MassDOT on Complete Streets Implementation request (but DPW director Cignoli optimistic about approval and Springfield was the only Pioneer Valley Planning Commission community to apply)

V. Speeding Issues & Yard Signs

Using funds from the MassBike PV grant, 30 bright red yard signs have been created to encourage motorists to go the legal 25 mph speed. There will be initial outreach to Forest Park area residents to get them installed along "speedy" road, such as Traffton St. The plan is to move the signs to another area about every three weeks.

On a related note, it was reported about a recent viewing of an excellent AmericaWalks webinar on speeding <https://americawalks.org/safe-speeds-safe-communities-partners-in-speed-management-june-12-2019-webinar/> as well as a MassDOT Safe Routes to School webinar on tactical urbanism for schools <https://vimeo.com/335924778>

We agreed that Springfield should develop a Speed Management Plan as part of its Age-Friendly Springfield initiative.

VI. Ordinances –

Todd reported on the meeting that he and Betsy had with Councilors Allen, Lederman, and Whitfield on June 11 to get the “house-cleaning” ordinances regarding bicycles on sidewalks, use of pedal-assist bicycles, and skateboards on the streets legal and in line with State legislation back before the Council. The Council should be taking up these ordinances on Monday, June 17.

At the State level, there is proposed legislation related to differentiating e-bikes and motorized bicycles that is being considered.

<https://www.massbike.org/e-bike-demo-day-at-the-ma-state-house>

Also, MA DCR is holding a hearing on June 27 at Holyoke Heritage Park at 6:30 PM regarding the use of e-bikes, including pedal-assist bicycles on their trails

<https://www.mass.gov/event/public-hearing-on-proposed-amendment-of-302-cmr-1100-and-302-cmr1200-2019-06-27t183000-0400>

VII. Non-motorized wheel Park – The “413 Wheel Park”

The Park’s Department is committed to moving the project forward. They are getting a proposal for a schematic design for a Park for the site by the Boys & Girls Club on Carew Street, which then would be used for cost estimating and fund-raising (from both City funds and outside grants). The designer, Anja Duffy, has experience with wheel parks.

The next meeting of the 413 Wheel Park Committee is Wednesday, June 19 at 6 PM at Club Aquarius at 1217 State Street <https://www.facebook.com/events/314138076196736/>

VIII. OTHER

Riverwalk Reopened

It was reported that a fence was still blocking the sidewalk. Will report to Parks Department.

Highland Railtrail updates (McKnight & East Forest Park)

There was a report about presentations by the two applicants for the doing the schematic design for the eastern section of the trail. There is still vocal opposition that is intimidating East Forest Park Neighborhood Council leaders. Will keep the forward progress low-key.

Regarding the McKnight section, BETA engineering is awaiting the signing of the contract with the City. (The City has been very, very slow to implement the Community Preservation Fund contracts.) Once they have the contract, the “25% design” project should take about 3 months.

Walk & Roll Event Debrief

Still need to discuss with PVPC.

NEXT Meeting: July 8 at PVPC