

WalkBike Springfield October 14, 2021 Meeting Notes

I. Safe Routes to School

- A. Planning continues for the project at the Rebecca Johnson Elementary School. Funding for construction will be available in 2025. Currently the plans don't include connecting with the McKnight Trail.
- B. DPW is planning to apply in the current round (deadline December 1, 2021) of the [Infrastructure grant](#) that can be for as much as \$2 million. Current plans are to seek improvements focused on the [Washington Elementary school](#) in the Forest Park area, but encompasses improvements that are within the allowable 2-mile radius of the school – (at least 7 other elementary & middle schools).

II. McKnight & Highland Railtrail

- A. Forum hosted by the McKnight Neighborhood Association by zoom on **November 10**. Design is well underway for the McKnight Trail., using FY2022 MassTrails funds. Construction funding stated for 2023. Issues related to agreement with Buckeye Pipeline still outstanding
- B. Highland Railtrail (East Longmeadow border through Springfield College) has received a FY2023 MassTrails grant (starts July 2022) for initial design work.
- C. East Longmeadow has just secured an additional right-of-way to bring the existing shared-used path closer to Springfield.

III. State Street Crossing

- A. City Council Maintenance & Development Committee meeting on **October 19** at 1 PM to follow-up on February 2021 meeting at State St.
- B. Springfield engineering and especially the State Street situation are featured throughout the new book by Charles Marohn of [Strong Towns](#), [Confessions of a Recovering Engineer](#). Betsy attended Marohn's book tour presentation on Sept. 9 and has given a copy of the book to Mayor Sarno – another copy has been given to DPW Director Chris Cignoli. [Attached are 2 excerpts from the book, including the detailed response to Cignoli's reasons why changes are no possible on State Street.]

IV. DPW Project Updates

- A. The new striping on the repaved section of Chestnut St. and on Fort Pleasant are great improvements. A road diet was implemented on Fort Pleasant. On Chestnut, a bike lane and buffer were striped, but the rest was left as a travel lane – we would prefer there would be only a 10.5/11 foot travel lane and the rest be bicycle lane. Also preferred would have been the bike lane buffer on Ft. Pleasant be next to the parked cars rather than to the vehicle. But, overall progress towards actual Complete Streets.
- B. Plainfield to Birnie Ave. tunnel in the North End is complete.
- C. Look forward to reviewing the 2022 repaving list in early 2022.
- D. [Other projects](#): Cottage St. & Berkshire Ave. intersection

V. American Rescue Plan funds Suggestions

- Creation and support for the Complete Streets Council per the Policy

- Increased budget for paint – to enhance crosswalks and maintain bicycle lanes
- Street light audit

[Letter attached at end of notes.]

VI. WalkBoston's Beat the Baystate

All encouraged to join the "Springfield" team (\$20 registration and willing to log miles walked during the month of November.) The event is to promote walking, as well as support WalkBoston who has conducted over a dozen walk audits in Springfield and continues to provide technical support to Springfield Mass in Motion, Way Finders' Advocates, and to WalkBike Springfield. [Sign-up TODAY!](#)

VII. World Day of Remembrance – Sunday, November 21

There will be an event at the Boston State House to commemorate all roadway (vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian fatalities during 2020.) MassBike would like to work with us to plan an event in Springfield.

VIII. Other

A. Jim has the MEPA submittal for the reconstruction of Memorial Avenue (Route 147) from Colony Road to the Memorial Ave Rotary. He will work to make parts of the file able to be emailed for others to review.

B. WalkBoston will be conducting a walk audit in West Springfield in conjunction with West Springfield Mass in Motion and PVPC, probably in early November

C. Check out the progress of the Chicopee River Walk – need to get the connection to the Springfield River Walk.

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 11 – will see about meeting a Granny's Baking Table