

WalkBike Springfield April 7, 2020 Meeting Notes
Held via Zoom courtesy of PVPC

I. Bike Week/Month Update

The annual promotion of bicycling held in May has been postponed until **September**. Once social distancing relaxes, there will be another call for activities. The Ride for the Western MA Food Bank takes place in September. A commuter challenge also hopes to be organized. Suggested to check with MassDOT ride share for employers who could participate.

Also, the **Complete Streets Demo** will be postponed so that it can still be held with the McKnight Neighborhood Block Party, which is now scheduled for **August 22,2020**.

II. Complete Streets Prioritization Update

Becky Basch is overseeing the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's work to help develop an update to Springfield's Complete Streets Prioritization Plan. She presented a document with initial vision and goals for the project. We discussed how in the previous plan the prioritization goal was to make a statement that bicycling was possible in Springfield. It emphasized installing bicycle lanes and bicycle racks. Also a goal was that projects should be throughout the entire City. Should the next plan have a similar broad goal related to walking, such as improved crosswalks to all schools and other public facilities or should it focus on specific problem areas such as the Armory/Liberty/1291 "rotary"?

We then brainstormed various other goals and projects. ***Attached are the PVPC Project Work Plan and Becky's document, which she updated with the suggestions during the meeting.***

A next step in the project is the publishing of a Wiki map to which all will be encouraged to submit complete streets project suggestions. Start thinking about projects you want included!

III. Other

McKnight Crosswalk Assessment: the McKnight Neighborhood Council is planning to do a neighborhood wide assessment of where crosswalks need to be added or upgraded. This was in part triggered by a neighbor who wants a crosswalk installed across St. James, because this is a pre-condition to getting a crossing guard to aid in walking to school. Patrick Higgins of Save Routes to School suggested that Florida has a good "what to look for checklist" at their Safe Routes to School website. http://floridasrts.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/SRTS_Toolkit_Current_2018-1.pdf

Wheel Park: Concern about the Parks Department submitting the proposal for Community Preservation funding for the Wheel Park was raised. Betsy and Alex will continue to try to be in touch with Laura Walsh and Pat Sullivan to try to assist with the proposal.

Next Meeting: Another video conference meeting will be scheduled in May, especially if we can arrange a meeting with Andy Krar of DPW Engineering. We would like to get an (1) update on the 2020-2021 paving projects; (2)the projects being submitted for the next round of Complete

Streets funding (now due in July); (3) his thoughts regarding the Complete Streets priorities and how else besides receiving MassDOT funds will Complete Streets be implemented; (4) the status of other roadway projects.