

WalkBike Springfield January 12, 2023 Meeting Notes

I. Goals for the Year

- Actually implement the [Complete Streets policy](#), including improving pedestrian and bicycle accommodation with every street repaving and restriping. Also get the Policy's recommended [Complete Streets Council](#) established. Get Mayor involved.
- McKnight Trail construction and plans for the link to Springfield College (Highland Trail).

II. Streets needing repaving and Opportunities for Complete Streets/Road Diets

We discussed the need to recommend to DPW streets needing repaving and where restriping could reduce vehicle lane width and improve bicycle accommodation and where new/improved crosswalks are needed. Email walkbikespringfield@gmail.com with suggestions.

The City does hope the funding will come through for improving the sidewalk (making a shared use path) along **East Columbus** from Riverfront Park to the South End bridge, as well as for **Dwight St.** from Carew to Liberty.

III. Plans for implementing the WalkBike Springfield Roosevelt Ave America Walks grant

WalkBike Springfield was awarded a \$2,100 grant to advance ideas and plans from improving pedestrian and cyclist accommodation along Roosevelt Ave. from Island Pond Ave. to East St. (3.3 miles). This corridor has numerous colleges and schools, major employers, and public facilities along it – most of to which only vehicles can get. Deb Huber will take the lead in meeting with the entities listed on the **attached**, but seeks contacts and others to go with her (email walkbikespringfield@gmail.com). In addition to the outreach, we will distribute an online survey, hold conduct walk audits, and then hold a community meeting to amass ideas for pedestrian and cyclists to get to the various sites. We are already talking with DPW about how various funding opportunities might be combined to fund the suggestions.

Cathy Paquin will help with contacting Performance foodservice and involving the Bay Area Neighborhood Council. Deb will contact Tracy Coleman regarding Central HS. PVPC can help with a survey and maps.

IV. Project Updates

- Tori introduced herself as the new regional [Safe Routes to School](#) representative. She is currently meeting with every principal to discuss SR2S involvement. We discussed the need for follow-up regarding whether all second graders are receiving the pedestrian safety class as approved by the Springfield School Committee. The project by the **Rebecca Johnson School** is proceeding. Springfield DPW will be submitting for a project by the **Bowles School** and has received funds for speed detection equipment for installation by the **Duggan School**.
- Construction of two MassDOT-funded projects will begin in 2023: **St James Ave./St. James Blvd/Carew St. intersection** and the **St. James/Tapley/291 entrance intersection** round-about.

- Construction design will proceed for **West Street** improvements including a shared-use path to get to the Plainfield/Birnie tunnel and a pedestrian crossing to Pride. (Concern was raised about the impact from the Starbucks being built next to Pride.)
- Construction of a pedestrian refuge island with reducing to one vehicle lane in each direction and signalization is proceeding across **State St.** from the parking lot to the Central Library. The scope of the project should have expanded the reduction of the vehicle lanes for more of State St.
- The **“X” project** now needs to have an expanded Environmental Justice assessment done. DPW is working to not have this delay construction beyond 2024 when there is the allocated funds in the area Transportation Implementation Plan (TIP). Bill reported that the most recent plans were presented to the Forest Park Civic Association. The plans now eliminate the Belmont Ave. round-about. Jim and Deb will go to DPW to review the plans in more detail. Betsy still has concerns that the designated pedestrian crossings of Sumner are still too few and too far apart (creating another State St. situation.)
- Because of perceived neighbor opposition, the **McKnight Trail** may proceed without including the Dingle spur. DPW is working on resolving issues with Buckeye Gas regarding the **Highland (East Forest Park) trail**. Liz is working with the Old Hill Neighborhood Council to submit a Community Preservation Act proposal to do a feasibility plan for linking the McKnight section with the East Forest Park section.

Other

- Ralph Slate with the Forest Park Civic Association is composing a letter to the Mayor about the rash of crashes at the curve on **Longhill St. I91 exit 2** toward Sumner Ave. to explore if the recent roadway repaving and lighting changes (other?) are the reason for the crashes. WBS will follow-up.

**NEXT WALKBIKE SPRINGFIELD MEETING WILL BE THE THIRD THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 16, 2023 AT 6 PM.**

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88960334380?pwd=MVlyT3AySzJ2MEJ2dzVFUVFRNnVrQT09>

Meeting ID: 889 6033 4380 Passcode: 765450