

WalkBike Springfield January 14, 2021 Meeting Notes

I. Complete Streets Prioritization Plan Next Steps

Vladimir Cacaes with DPW Engineering is currently reviewing all of the 200 plus projects listed in the final report prepared by Becky Basch of PVPC (Attached). He is developing cost estimates and sketches and then grouping the projects by (1) scope/type and (2) location. His list of 40 to 50 projects will have varying costs so that later DPW can make submittals for the \$400,000 MassDOT Complete Streets Program at the end of 2021 and 2022. For spring 2021, DPW will be resubmitting the proposal that was not funded last fall with projects from the prior Prioritization Plan.

Andy Krar (DPW Engineering) has committed to sharing with WBS the draft list of 2021 Repaving Projects so that we may comment on these projects offer for implementing Complete Streets treatments. The list should be available at the end of January/early February.

II. Updates

Safe Routes to School: Patrick Higgins reported that the **Rebecca Johnson Elementary School** received a recent MassDot SR2S Infrastructure grant. An initial project scoping meeting was held with a lot of enthusiasm for making the walking entrance to the school (especially from the eventual McKnight Trail) more welcoming.

The "X" Project: The consultant Fuss & O'Neill is revising the design to change the bicycle lane to an eight-foot wide shared use paths, which will save at least 47 trees. This has required getting agreement from MassDOT. We will follow-up with Andy to see about modifying the design to go around [the Trinity Church tree](#), and to try to find out when the revised plans will be brought back to the community.

McKnight Trail: Buckeye Gas is currently cooperating with DPW and undertaking an assessment of the depths of their pipe. The [sale of Pan Am-owned rail sections to CSX](#) was brought up. Need to ensure that the trail can still go forward despite who is the land-owner.

Andy Krar said that he is also apply for the Mass Trails grant to proceed with design of a shared used path on the eastern section of the Highland rail line. The concern was raised that we don't want the opponents in this section to prevent the progress of the McKnight section.

413 Wheel Park: The Parks Department is in the process of issuing a Request for Qualifications for a consultant to undertake the site assessment and design of the Park. They have indicated a willingness for WBS to be involved with the consultant selection. We should see if Theory or Fat Trax might be involved. It was reported that Fat Trax is investigating developing an indoor park.

Library Crossing: The Armoury Quadrangle Citizens Association is hosting a virtual community meeting on January 21, 2021 to discuss ideas and issues involved with improving pedestrian safety from the parking lot to across State Street to the Main Library. Councilor Lederman will be participating. Notice ATTACHED)

III. Review of 2020 Priorities – Successes? No Action?

The initial “brainstorm” list from December 2019:

Speed Limit signage

- 30 mph versus 25 mph on Alden Street by Springfield College – Not done
- Need for 25 mph on Dickinson from East Longmeadow to “X”--- Need to track down the “Speed Study” and clarify that the 25 mph needs to start at Tiffany St.
- Consistent 25mph on Worthington Street through McKnight neighborhood
- 25mph on St. James Boulevard by Marshall Roy Park

Betsy suggested a 2021 effort to get hundreds of the default 25 mph signs placed throughout Springfield. Hector indicated that it is about \$300 per sign if installed with a new pole – less if just a sign on an existing pole.

Hector will get WBS a map with all of the existing speed limit signs, so we can better analyze where new signs should be added and existing ones eliminated or changed. Unclear who needs to approve the installations and changed. New signs are a budgetary matter.

Bike lane & parking allowed

Going forward, we need to be more attentive to installing bike lanes where parking is allowed going forward. Hector will see if existing handicap signs can be removed – applicants needs to reapply every 2 years. Deb will check with Commissioner Claprod if the police are going to enforce. Need to add signage saying “No Parking in Bike Lane”.

- West side of Chestnut Street bicycle lane is signed to allow parking
 - Parking allowed on Oak St. (Front to Parker) on bicycle lane
 - Bike Lane and Parking markings need to be replaced between Bridge & Worthington
- Installation of Chicopee “thickly settled” 25mph unless otherwise posted signs – Hector indicated that new single signs (like the Chicopee signs – picture attached) are coming. Deb to clarify
 - Confusing 3-way stop signs at Lincoln and Magazine Streets – Andy acknowledges that is confusing, no change yet

IV. Other

- A [pedestrian was killed](#) on January 4, 2021 on Locust Street near the intersection with Mill/Belmont/Main. Deb is continuing to track down who removes memorials and if there are restrictions to placing “ghost bikes” and other items.

- Betsy Johnson reported that she is the new president of WalkBoston and the Annual Meeting will be virtual and most likely on March 24.

- **[WalkBoston Union Station Area Walkability Assessment](#)**

Report memo:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EK8eM43zx4av8DS8myVe5_6TNWBT0dXAWEdGPP0o6k/edit?usp=sharing

Report Powerpoint:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1K831joe5Sbrz1Z8RvpVOwDjM4XpKtrZKFdU5knJNW8Y/edit?usp=sharing>

- Sign up for the [ALL Springfield](#) NextDoor notification site
- **[Riverwalk Sign Press](#)**
- **MassInc on Complete Streets** As a result of an [article about Complete Streets](#) published in MassInc's Commonwealth publication, she was the guest of MassInc's Gateways podcast discussing the importance of Complete Streets in Springfield. ([not yet uploaded on the web.](#))
- **Wayfinder Advocates: [Climate Change & Health Equity Survey](#)** – please take this survey if you have not already done so.
- Add Connecticut Riverwalk and Bikeway Connectivity to the next agenda. Work is underway on the [Chicopee Path](#)

NEXT MEETING (VIRTUAL)

Thursday, February 11, 2021 @ 6 PM