

WalkBike Springfield Virtual Meeting October 8, 2020

I. Complete Streets Prioritization Plan

Becky Basch of PVPC described the itemizing of the projects that have been listed on the Wiki map and from various audits, and applying the prioritization criteria that we discussed at our September WBS meeting. Vlad at DPW engineering is doing cost estimating.

Bea Dewberry of Way Finders described the Springfield Climate Justice Coalition project, with funding from the Kresge Foundation, has been working to select one or two top priority recommendations from the 100 plus of the Springfield Climate Action and Resiliency Plan (CARP) completed in 2017. The impact on health and racial justice are key. One of the four top recommendations is Complete Streets implementation in previously red-lined sections of Springfield. This emphasis is reflected in one of the criteria Becky is using.

Bea also described that two of priorities of the Way Finder's Community Advocates is advocating for the City to undertake a comprehensive audit of streetlights (quantity for LED conversion, outages, missing, etc.). Another initiative the Advocates are undertaking is to get the City actually complete a ADA Compliance Plan, which is required by the State. Email ethibault@wayfinders.org to receive the notices of this first Thursday of the month 5:30 – 7 PM meeting.

Betsy Johnson reported on the online course, Complete Streets 301 Workshop: Safety Countermeasures offered by the UMass Transportation Center that she recently took. The course highlights the steps such as enhanced crosswalks, hawk beacons, and road diets that cities should implement to improve pedestrian safety. Here are the links to the course documents:

https://kittelasonassociates-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/ctobin_kittelason_com/EuNMLddW4-9Mm5aNP0DpC4oBRHzD1GRdwl-vhhs2Z1zPQ?e=ac5X2f

Also: [FHWA STEP resources](#)

II. Bike Lane & Parking Conflicts: Page Blvd. & Other – How do we resolve?

City Councilor Mike Fenton described a recent serious accident on Page Boulevard at El Paso St. because cars parked by the businesses on Page Blvd. were in the bike lane and trying to avoid the lane, but then restricting the visibility from El Paso St. He is trying to determine how the bike lane came to be installed and remove parking spaces, which he said the latter needed approval by the City Council. WBS explained how bike lanes have been being installed as part of Complete Street projects without considering the impact on parking, and that we have been trying to get DPW to address this problem with no success. Hector Velez has a map that maintains where parking is allowed and not. Mike will speak to DPW director Chris Cignoli, recognizing that Chris is not a fan of bike lanes, rather than being willing to develop compromises for both cyclist accommodation and parking.

We also raised the issue that DPW has been “implementing” Complete Streets when funded by MassDOT Complete Street funding, but not routinely doing so with other street repavings.

III. Safe Routes to School activities

Virtual fall summit on October 28, 2020. Register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMofumhqzwpHdftBSkzETU6eoXzX5n> 11 s

IV. Other Updates

-- **Farewell to Alex Weck:** We were able to give our thanks to Alex for all his work with RAD, working with the youth cyclists, and MassBike. Even from Minneapolis, he will still be helping with RAD and will stay in touch (RADSpringfield@gmail.com). Thank you. Thank you.

-- **Riverwalk Interpretive Signs:** 12 informational signs related to the bridges, levee, fish, etc. are now installed along the length of the Riverwalk – thanks to funding from Community Preservation funding.

-- **McKnight Trail:** no update, although a meeting was held with MassDOT, Springfield DPW, the Governor's Trial Committee, with Buckeye Gas to resolve the ownership of the abandoned railline.

-- **WalkBoston Metro Center Walkability Assessment** -along with MassINC, are currently involving about 20 Springfield residents to assess the walking conditions in the Union Station Area. MassINC is looking at this as a pilot to then do similarly in other Gateway cities toward developing recommendations for funding upgrades to encourage transit oriented development.

-- **413 Wheel Park** - 2020 Community Preservation Funds approved by the City Council on Monday, October 5. This will fund site assessment and design of a bike/skate park in Springfield. We need to be prepared to lobby against a first such park being built at Greenleaf Park.

-- **East-West Passenger Rail Study Update** – By Zoom, Oct. 22. 6 – 7:30 PM. Instructions on how to join and participate on October 22 will be posted on the study website under 'Upcoming Events' ahead of the meeting: www.mass.gov/east-west-passenger-rail-study

-- **WBS Logos** – no update

NEXT MEETING (VIRTUAL)

Thursday, Nov. 12 @ 6 PM