

WalkBike Springfield Virtual Meeting November 12, 2020

NOTES

I. II. Complete Streets Prioritization Plan

Becky Basch of PVPC who is conducting the project of developing a prioritized list of pedestrian and bicycle-friendly projects for possible funding through MassDOT's Complete Streets program presented an update. Per the request of Springfield DPW, she is working to group the over 200 suggested projects by neighborhood, type of project, and into 35 comprehensive site-specific projects. Vladimir, an DPW engineer is doing cost-estimating for the projects. Soon Becky will share a narrative. Review and comment on the [grouped projects chart](#) (file also attached.) [*Becky asks: **People should enter their comments in the far right column (they may have to scroll to the right).** Also, note projects that should be removed, or may already have been completed.*]

Members of the WBS group mentioned that the project list should include a bicycle lane on Page Boulevard, adding a buffer to the existing bicycle lane on Bradley Blvd, adding a bike box at the Roosevelt/Alden intersection, bicycle lanes on Carew St. serving 3 schools, and upgrades to the sidewalk/sidepath on West Columbus to the South End bridge.

We discussed how the overall list of projects needs to be sorted by which are best funded by Complete Streets, which by Safe Routes to School funding, which through the City's annual repaving/sidewalk repair, which through MassDOT high crash funding, and also other sources.

II. Bike Lane & Parking Conflicts

It was reported that Councilor Mike Fenton said that DPW is not considering resolving the current bicycle lane and parking issues. We discussed the need to contact Robert Shewchuk and Mel Kwatowski of the Traffic Commission to get clarification as to where on-street parking is allowed (and not) and bring this bike lane and parking issue to their attention. (email attached.)

III. Other Updates

-- **McKnight Trail:** (none at the meeting, but an update is at end of notes.)

-- **Wayfinder Advocates ADA Compliance & Street Lighting Campaigns:** Bea Dewberry described that the chair of the Mayor's Disability Commission attended the Nov. 5 Community Advocates meeting. He did not express much interest in the City pursuing undertaking an ADA transition plan (which is required and funding is available.) However, DPW head city engineer, Andy Krar did develop such a plan in Longmeadow and is open to pursuing. More research is being done and hope WBS will be part of the advocacy effort.

The other advocacy initiative of the Advocates is to get better maintenance of street lights. In 2018, there was initial success with getting Eversource to fix nearly 600 lights, but now there are as many lights out again. Folks are to report directly to [Eversource](#), but need two form of identification. Back in January 2020, WBS joined Way Finders and others in requesting a

meeting with the Mayor that about to happen when COVID hit. A planning session is being held on Nov. 18 to discuss next steps and revive this advocacy effort. (letter attached.)

-- **WalkBoston Union Station Area Walkability Assessment:** Members of WBS participated in a walk audit program that included two virtual sessions and a self-directed assessment walk of the Union Station area. The project is being done with MassINC in Gateway cities to later advocate for funding to promote transit-oriented development in the Gateway cities. More about the project is at:

<https://sites.google.com/walkboston.org/walkboston.springfield/session-2?authuser=0>

-- **413 Wheel Park:** Community Preservation Funds approved. Requested information from the Parks Department on the status of the contract and the timeframe for issuing a Request for Qualifications for a consultant. We will advocate to have input on the RFQ.

-- **Safe Routes to School Fall summit report:** A virtual 5-hour program of presentations took place on October 28, SR2S offers numerous resources at their [website](#)

-- **Speeding & Library Crossing:** The Armoury Quadrangle Civic Association is looking to revive the effort to get pedestrian safety improvements across State Street to the central library. We discussed a similar situation across West Street from the apartments (and bus stop) to the Pride Station. There was pedestrian crash there this past week

<https://www.masslive.com/news/2020/11/springfield-police-asking-for-help-to-identify-driver-of-car-which-struck-seriously-injured-pedestrian.html>

Marcus Williams has said that he will hold a committee hearing about speeding within the next month.

-- **MassDOT Moving Together Conference – Nov. 17-19 – Virtual & FREE**

<https://www.mass.gov/news/massdot-virtually-hosting-annual-moving-together-conference-november-17-19>

Register at: <https://www.umasstransportationcenter.org/assnfe/ev.asp?ID=4451>

NEXT MEETING (VIRTUAL): Thursday, January 14, 2020 @ 6 PM

McKnight Trail Update (11/13/2020)

The Rail Trail project is still moving along. DPW met with the Buckeye pipeline team onsite to discuss site plans, necessary changes, etc. The designers are still putting together the work for their next milestone on the project which is the 25% design to present to the state. It's an April date for submission. Andy also applied and received \$300k from Mass Trails to help fund the 2nd phase of the project.(this takes some financial pressure off the city and hopefully allows to cover other items that may come up). This is the report that I got from Walter.

I will push for a 25% design presentation to the McKnight Council before it is presented to the DOT. Sorry that I missed the meeting last night. Liz