

WALKBIKE SPRINGFIELD
November 8, 2018 MEETING Notes

I. ISSUES, INFORMATION & UPDATES

A. Way Finder's Health Advocates Pedestrian/Bicycle Advocacy

Representatives described a number of their activities:

- Old Hill Walk audit <https://walkboston.org/2017/04/27/old-hill-neighborhood-walk-audit-springfield/>
- Got 600 street lights fixed.
- Held a "Flexing our Infrastructure Muscle" workshop – 30 attended to learn how they can advocate to fix streets. Created a reporting tool.
- Advocating for the City to implement Complete Streets more; need for crosswalks in Old Hill and signalization; and better repair after water and other construction.

Hector Velez of DPW is working on the list of crosswalk paintings for 2019. 187 mid-block crossing by schools – especially for where there are crossing guards. He will send Betsy the list to share.

B. City Laws regarding bicycles, skateboards, and scooters - Councilor Allen reported that the proposed changes are stalled in the legal department (as are other items – marijuana is delaying all). Hector indicated the some new language will be brought to the Council on November 19 from the Traffic Commission.

C. Complete Streets Implementation, including Sharrow, Bicycle Indicator Placement, & Other markings

We described the successful ride on Oct. 21: we rode and measured bicycle lanes and noted sharrow placement on Bradley, Plumtree, South Branch, Main, Chestnut, Wason. Confirmed that we need to get a process that provides for feedback before additional roadways are painted. We will follow-up with DPW Chief Engineer, Matt Sokop. We will also bring this issue to Marcus Williams for discussion about Complete Streets implementation at the Council's Maintenance & Development committee.

Need to determine if the Complete Streets design guidelines being followed?
<http://www.pvpc.org/sites/default/files/doc-live-well-springfield2667.pdf>

All agreed to co-sign with the Holyoke Bike and Pedestrian Committee a letter congratulating MassDOT and Chicopee for the Complete Streets improvements to Rte 116 that significantly help with connections among our communities.

D. Citywide speeding and recent crashes/deaths

Default speed limit. Betsy made a public statement about this at the Oct. 15 City Council meeting. Will email Chris Cignoli to further push for implementation.

We discussed the need for the use of additional speed detection signs. The City currently has four. At the recent Moving Together Conference, we learned from the Ocean State Signal Co. vendor that they cost about \$2,500 each. Councilor Allen will look into getting more.

MassBike Pioneer Valley is joining the Massachusetts Vision Zero Coalition in sponsoring a statewide Day of Remembrance on Sunday, **November 18**. The Springfield event will be at **Springfield City Hall at 2 PM**. Contact [Alex Weck](#) for additional information.

E. Safe Routes to School

A training was held at the Brightwood Library on October 23 by national Safe Routes to School trainers. Assistant Superintendent Lydia Martinez attended and is very supportive of getting all Springfield schools involved.

Deborah Huber is working with Peter Kuusisto to identify four to five suggested routes to ride in Springfield, as part of his MassRIDES program with employers.

F. Connecting Lower Valley Bicycle/Walking Trails –

We are working with DPW to move forward improvements to Hall of Fame Ave/East Columbus to make getting to the South End Bridge easier. MassBike recently held an organizing event in Agawam where we learned about the many Complete Streets improvements in that community. They may want Springfield residents to help with getting Springfield Water & Sewer to allow for a multi-use path built atop the aqueduct that runs through the center of Agawam.

G. McKnight Trail – Beta Engineering has been selected as the Design Contractor for the “25% Design” phase. There will be a public presentation of the UMass Design students ideas on November 13 6-8 PM at the Rebecca Johnson School. It was reported that she will be meeting with the Mayor on Tuesday about the project’s progress and how the CPA funding can be used to finalize the design.

H. Non-motorized wheeled vehicle Park – Park Dept. developing conceptual plans. Need update at next meeting.

II. EVENTS

- MassBike’s statewide Day of Remembrance – November 18. Springfield event at 2 PM at Springfield City Hall
- Connecting Lower Valley Bicycle/Walking Trails meeting at Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club on Nov. 29 at noon – contact [Sheila McElwaine](#) for more information.
- WalkMassachusetts Network – first meeting December 1 in Worcester <https://walkboston.org/walkmanetwork/>. Contact [Betsy Johnson](#) to carpool.
- MassBike PV Annual Meeting in Florence –Tuesday, December 4, 6 PM. Contact [Alex Weck](#) for additional information.

III. OTHER

- West Springfield Memorial Ave. hearing expected in December
- Springfield “X” redesign also expected soon.
- MassBike mini grants for up to \$500 grants. Contact [Alex Weck](#) for additional information.
- Walk audit of Forest Park – Contact [Dave Bloniarz](#) of Re-Green.
- Planning for Complete Street Demo Day 2019 will start in Jan/Feb.
- Catherine Ratte is looking for funding to update the City’s 2012 Bike/Ped Plan
- Still need to get the State St. crossing by library addressed.

NEXT MEETINGS:

December 6 @ PVPC

January 3 @ Forest Park Branch Library