

WalkBike Springfield December 14, 2023 Meeting Notes

Roosevelt Ave. Project Update – we now need to compile all the suggested pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements from the Community Forum, the audits, and the surveys. We will then schedule meetings with City and State agencies to advocate for implementation. Meanwhile the survey is being updated, which we will continue to circulate. In spring 2024, we will schedule an additional walk audit from Cottage Street to Central High (Bay St.) area.

2023 International Day of Remembrance Recap – about 30 people attended. 48 fatalities in the past year from Hampden County were recognized. Pastor Willie Ballard provided the event with the appropriate tone. *MassLive article attached.*

WalkMassachusetts Walk Audit Academy Recap – in lieu of the November WalkBike Springfield meeting, the five groups who conducted walk audits as part of the WalkMassachusetts program shared findings and discussed next steps. The instructional videos expect to be publicly available soon, so WBS can promote to encourage others to conduct walk audits.

4' Passing Signs – we discussed where we've seen the signs put up in Longmeadow (including signs in both direction every ½ mile along Route 5) and elsewhere. We are trying to schedule a meeting with DPW engineer Valez to get the signs Springfield has obtained installed, and to advocate for getting additional signs, especially the larger sized ones. Suggested locations: White St., Walnut St., Abbott/Harkness. If you see places where the signs have been installed that you feel are effective, please let WBS know with an email to walkbikespringfield@gmail.com.

Complete Streets Council Next Steps – a follow-up email has been sent to DPW Director Chris Cignoli who said he would respond to the requests to establish the Council authorized in 2016 “after the election”. We discussed whether we should just try to make the Traffic Commission more robust. *Ordinance attached.* Where other City commissions are listed on the [City website](#) with responsibilities and membership, the Traffic Commission is NOT. ***We need to call 311 and report that the Traffic Commission is not listed.***

DPW Projects Updates – DPW expects to hear about the most recent Complete Streets application in January/February. MassDOT is rethinking how the funds should be allocated going forward. WBS will discuss possible projects from the Roosevelt Ave. project for a next application.

A project in the works for 2024 is converting Chestnut St. from Liberty St. to Harrison Ave. as two-way. This project is very flawed because it doesn't go all the way to State St. and will make Mattoon St. a ready “cut-through” street. Dwight St. will stay one-way, but rebuilt with bump-out crossings and a protected bicycle lane.

Goals for 2024 – We spent most of the meeting brainstorming WBS 2024 initiatives:

- Reduce existing 30 mph signs to 25 mph (new: “Once a written request is received by MassDOT Highway's Traffic and Safety Engineering Department, MassDOT will have 90 days to respond with an approval or denial to the request. These requests do not require a speed study, but justification for the request can help MassDOT with its evaluation.”)
- Add School Zone signs to middle and high schools ([also now recently allowed.](#))
- Get more (especially the larger signs for the greater than 30 mph roadways) 4-foot passing signs.
- Determine if PVPC could help with projects such as evaluating the feasibility of a round-about for Roosevelt and Wibraham Roads.
- Pursue getting Chuck Marohn of [Strong Towns](#) for a Springfield Public Forum
- Continue Roosevelt Ave. project.
- Volunteer again for the [Iron Man race](#) on June 9, 2024.

NEXT MEETING: January 11, 2024 – By Zoom Only

Special thanks to Todd Crosset and Granny's Baking Table. The restaurant is closing, so WalkBike Springfield will no longer be holding our meetings there.