

WalkBike Springfield Virtual Meeting February 11, 2021 Notes

I. Safe Routes to School Update

Patrick Higgins of SR2S described that the SR2S infrastructure grant implementation for the Rebecca Johnson School is underway with meetings that are focusing on changes in front of the school and in the back so there can be connection to the McKnight Trail. With design, bid, construction, the project will take two to three years to complete. We thought there might be a WalkBoston audit for the school, but there is not. It was mentioned that there might be a past safety audit. There was a review of conditions before the Walking School Bus was started a few years ago.

II. Draft list of 2021 Repaving Projects for Complete Streets treatment

We discussed the feasibility of bicycle lanes and of road diets to reduce speeding on a number of major roadways. Hector provided the **attached** graphic of some of the streets.

Chestnut (Lyman to Carew): 1) adequate width and only one section of parking on the west side; 2) need special treatment such as green paint across on-ramp to I291; 3) need bike box at Carew St. where there should remain a left turn, straight, and right turn lane

Fort Pleasant (Sumner to Mill): Hector indicated that Vladimir in the DPW office is working on a design, which should be able to include a protected bicycle lane because the street is VERY wide

Pasco (Boston to Page): probably only sharrows down the MIDDLE of the travel lanes; need to re-add the left turn lane from Pasco to Page

Dwight (Carew to Frank Murray): no parking, so should be able to add a bicycle lane; should investigate a road diet

Hampden (E. Columbus to Main): sharrows down the MIDDLE of the travel lane

Breckwood Blvd. (Boston to Bradley) – welcome addition to the existing network; make the bicycle lane as wide as possible so that there are only 10 ½ - 11 ft travel lanes – as should have been done on Bradley

Island Pond – good continuation from the Roosevelt intersection; carefully investigate where parking might be removed

Locust St. – probably only sharrows because too much existing parking – investigate. We discussed that all of the proposed changes to parking need to go the Traffic Commission and City Council.

III. Report on AQCA State Street Crossing Meeting

The Armoury Quadrangle Civic Association January 21 meeting was well attended. Check out the YouTube and other links at <http://www.walkbikespringfieldma.org/action--resources.html>

Next step is for Councilor Walsh to convene a Maintenance & Development Committee meeting about the City actually doing something about this dangerous situation after 15 years!

Betsy is in touch with UMass about possible help in getting possible “pedestrian safety countermeasure” designs.

IV Highland Rail Trails

No update on the McKnight section. DPW recently applied for a MassTrails grant to undertake initial design for the section from East Longmeadow to Springfield College. Paul is

interested in helping to counter any opposition. Introduction with Ryan Haley who was previously championing the project will be made.

V. Virtual Design Hearing for St. James Ave at St. James Blvd. & Carew

March 3 -- Comment period March 3 – March 17, 2021

<https://www.mass.gov/event/springfield-design-public-hearing-webinar-and-comment-period-2021-03-03t000100-0500-2021-03>

All are encouraged to watch and see if the road diet and shared use path (rather than a bike lane) are still part of the project. We will discuss at the next WBS meeting in order to submit comments before March 17.

VI. Speeding & Signage

Hector of DPW reported that the aluminum signs cost about \$80 and installed on a pole at \$110. The process to get new speed signs is to contact Chris Cignoli and have them approved by the Traffic Commission.

Need to still get DPW's list and map of where speed signs currently exist to eventually determine whether existing 30mph signs are the result of a "speed study" or just because this was the prior default speed.

Send email to walkbikespringfield@gmail.com of locations where a new 25mph sign should be posted and whether there is an existing post that could be used Include a picture of the location, if possible.

VII. Other

Need to identify if there is an existing parking regulation that allows parking if there is still a 9 ½ foot travel lane remaining.

WalkBoston Annual Meeting – March 24, 2021 @ 5:00 PM

<https://walkboston.org/2021/01/29/save-the-date-annual-celebration-3-24-5pm/>

Consider attending this virtual event – that is free, although a donation is requested. Betsy is the new chair of WalkBoston.

NEXT MEETING (VIRTUAL)

Thursday, March 11, 2021 @ 6 PM