

WalkBike Springfield February 8, 2024 Meeting Notes

Traffic Commission

1. Hector Velez of DPW Engineering asked Liz Stevens to attend the Traffic Commission meeting on Feb. 7 to request where reduced speed limit signs are wanted in the McKnight neighborhood. St. James, Bay, and Worthington should all be reduced to 25 mph or not posted at all, which means the 25 mph default is in effect. The Commission indicated a vote would be taken on this at the next meeting (March 6 at 10:15). At the meeting, representatives from East Springfield also requested change to uniform posting of 30 mph along Page Blvd. from Roosevelt to Bircham (currently the postings range from 30, 40, and 45 mph).
2. We discussed WBS compiling a list of the 30 mph postings that should be reduced to 25 mph or just eliminated. We should also identify streets such as Dickinson with multiple variable postings.
3. Betsy reported on a conversation with Robert Shewchuk of the City law department who is on the Traffic Commission. First was a request to add information about the Traffic Commission to the City's [Boards and Commissions webpage](#) and to get the meetings posted. She also discussed the new state law that allows communities more flexibility in setting speed limits. Shewchuk will need to be convinced that a Complete Streets Council would have a different charge than that of the Traffic Commission. WBS needs to get the two roles clearly differentiated.

City Council Involvement

Councilor Malo Brown is the new chair of the Maintenance & Development Committee. Liz will follow-up about arranging a presentation by WBS. Todd suggested that we use the WalkMassachusetts "[Crash Report](#)" – the 2023 Report will be released in mid to late March.

Iron Man Volunteering June 9 – note from Jim

Ironman Volunteers June 9 Needed - Last year we had 7 volunteers that helped out at the swim start for which we received \$750 in grant money. This year we like to have 7 to 10 volunteers to help us get another grant for volunteering. Last year our assignments were to direct parking, hold sign for the swim start, and mostly to sort participants cloth transition bags into boxes. To volunteer go to this link for sign ups at the swim start. <https://ironman.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=76026>

Input your first name and email, then the password "walk" then it will take you to our swim start shift from 5am to 8:30am N Riverfront park (although we will probably be at the North End Bridge by the Pride station like last year) read the waiver and then sign the waiver. If you volunteered last year, they have your full volunteer information saved. If you are new this year it will have a full volunteer application to fill out.

Once you've registered to volunteer, please send an email to Jim Gurzenski at pedalrun@yahoo.com so he can make sure you are in.

4-foot Passing signs

Deb will follow-up on the status of the installation of the signs and of getting more signs.

Roosevelt Ave Project Status

The final report to the grantor AmericaWalks was submitted. Over the next month we will compile the suggestions from the October community forum.

Other Updates

Bike/Skate Park: Parks Dept. is currently finalizing the contract with Pillar Design Studios. We will pursue the scheduling public meetings and advocating for a pump park component. We will resubmit a Community Preservation Fund proposal.

Baystate Health request: WBS received a request for working with medical residents at Baystate Brightwood Health Center. Betsy will follow-up.

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 14, 2024 AT 6 PM