

WalkBike Springfield Meeting – March 10, 2022

I. City of Springfield American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Neighborhood Revitalization Grant for pedestrian safety projects. (The second grant)

This is an opportunity for neighborhood councils and businesses/individuals to propose pedestrian safety improvements in neighborhood business areas. DPW will then evaluate and seek funding from this \$12 million City ARPA funding. East Springfield Neighborhood Council has already suggested projects and a DPW proposal is underway. WBS is hoping that all neighborhoods will review the projects suggested in WalkBoston walk audits and the PVPC 2020 Complete Streets Prioritization Projects. WBS is prepared help.

II. City roadway improvement projects updates

The 2022 paving plan is still not finalized because the City is still waiting for the level of funding from the State.

The MassDOT hearing about the Tapley/St. James./291 intersection is expected in early April.

III. Friends of the Highland Railtrail

A first meeting of the Friends of the Highland Railtrail was held on Feb. 14. **Notes of the meeting attached.** A next meeting is being scheduled for April 27.

The East Forest Park Civic Association is hosting a meeting about the east end trail on April 13 at the East Forest Park Library at 6:30 PM.

The designated construction funding in the region's Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for the McKnight section of the trail has been delayed to 2025 because the design phase is going slower than initially planned.

IV. State Street Crossing Update – consultant suggestions. A City Council Maintenance & Development Committee to discuss is currently being scheduled.

V. Riverwalk Access

AMC program – March 24 @ 6PM Register in advance for this meeting:

https://outdoors.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpc-6opjwvHNLuJDFdvmsiJqOdu--_8EtV

Recently announced is that Springfield will receive major funding from Amtrak for building out the entrance of Riverfront Park. Outstanding issues: lack of restroom facilities on river side of park and need for parking.

We also discussed exploring whether the blank wall along the Riverwalk by Clinton Street might be a mural project.

VI. Safe Routes to School Update

Springfield did not receive the grant submitted for the Washington Elementary School. City Engineer Andy Krar is seeking an explanation and hoping that funding may still be forthcoming,

as it did with the funding for the Rebecca Johnson school. Liz will see an update of the later project.

ST2S staff, Lucy Friedman-Bell is seeking volunteers to join the arrival & departure assessment at DeBerry School on March 17 at 8 AM and/or 3 PM. To participate email: lucy.friedmanbell@aecom.com or call 203-242-6644.

VII. Earth Day Riverwalk ride (4/23)

The Connecticut River Conservancy is sponsoring a ride along the Riverwalk on Saturday, April 23, from 10AM – 1PM. Ride your own bicycle or borrow an electric pedal assist ValleyBike. The ride starts at the ValleyBike station at Kenefick Park in the North End. One option is the ride most of the Riverwalk to the Westfield River interpretive sign or to stop at West Street and participate in a shoreline clean-up. Registration required.

VIII. Bike Month – May 2022 (Bike week: May 11 -19)

Todd offered to offer bicyclist a free beignet at Granny's Baking Table on **Friday, May 13** in the morning. We will pursue organizing an early morning ride that will end at Granny's about 8 am.

We also discussed organizing a ride that tours many of Springfield murals: [Fresh Paint](#) and [Commonwealth Murals](#)

IX. American League of Bicyclists 3-7-22 presentation, hosted by the Holyoke Bike/Ped Committee

The presentation describes about applying to be recognized as a bicycle friendly business and bicycle friendly community. Springfield may not be eligible for such a designation, but we can use the requirements for changes that move us towards being eligible. The requirements are still being refined, for applications due in fall 2022.

X. National Bike Summit is In-person in Washington DC and virtual, March 27-30. Virtual lobbying day with federal legislators on Wednesday, March 30. To participate in the lobbying, contact [Jess Slavin](#) of MassBike

XI. Youth bicycle and skateboard safety event.

Rosemary Wood has received a grant for promoting helmet use by skateboarders and cyclists among youth in Springfield, Chicopee, and Holyoke. As an artist she plans to host a helmet painting event. We discussed that the youth may be more interested in painting their boards and bicycles and putting stickers on the helmets that will be given to the youth. Deb will check with Competitive Edge about getting stickers. There will be press event about the project on April 1

XII. WalkBoston Annual Meeting – Wednesday, March 30 – 5 PM

Attend this virtual meeting to hear about “walking while visually impaired” and more.