

## WalkBike Springfield March 14, 2024 Meeting Notes

### 1. Traffic Commission & Speed Limit Changes

At the February 7 meeting of the Traffic Commission the East Springfield Neighborhood Council requested making the speed limit along a section of Page Blvd. be make uniform at 30 mph. This was approved at that meeting. At the March 7 meeting, the McKnight Neighborhood Association requested that the 30 mph limits on Worthington, St. James, and Bay be reduced to 25 mph (the City's default speed limit.) Liz Stevens and Steven Howard both described crashes that had taken place on Worthington and Bay Streets by their homes. There was a pedestrian fatality at Worthington and Bowdoin on Sept. 1, 2023! But, the commissioners wanted documentation from the Police of crashes at 30mph before willing to just reduce the speed limits in this entirely residential area.

Next Traffic Commission meeting is on **April 4 at 10:15 am at 70 Tapley St.** Todd indicated that he will ask for some additional speed limit reductions. It was suggested that any requests be endorsed by the neighborhood council.

WBS wants to continue to make additional speed limit reduction requests. Email [walkbikespringfield@gmail.com](mailto:walkbikespringfield@gmail.com) with suggested locations (e.g., lengths of street with varying limits, high crash areas, etc.)

Deb mentioned that the MassDOT project on St. James from St. James Blvd to Chicopee is proposed to have a 35 mph limit, which is higher than the section from I291 to St. James – confirm?

### 2. Pedestrian Fatalities Press Event

WalkMassachusetts will be issuing their third annual Crash Report (summary of 2023 pedestrian fatalities) the last week of March. WBS will hold our own press event. Springfield had the most roadway fatalities for a community in the state (19) and the most pedestrian fatalities (8)! We will emphasize that we must redesign our roads to slow vehicles. Education and enforcement are important, but narrowing our plethora of 4-lane arterials and using other traffic calming measures are what are really needed.

### 3. 25th Bike Month - May 2024

We discussed conducting a third annual Mural Ride on Sunday May 19 – Todd has suggested May 11 or Memorial Day weekend. [will send a poll. We will reach out to Kevin Green and RAD to see if either group will sponsor a ride/event.

### 4. City Council Involvement

We have reached out to Councilor Malo Brown, chair of the Maintenance & Development Committee to schedule a meeting where WBS can present our priorities – particularly establishing a Complete Streets Council. No response to date. Craig, from whom Brown is his district Councilor will also follow-up with this. Hoping the pedestrian fatalities press can get the Council's attention.

### 5. 2024 Proposed Street Repavings

City engineer reported that Dwight Road, Island Pond Road (but what section, and will it include bicycle lanes/), and Chestnut/Noble by Baystate (need to check that the Noble Rd. section is included.) Still need to get the complete list.

Updates:

- Iron Man Volunteering June 9 – send [Jim Gurzenski](#) an email if you have or are going to sign up to volunteer.
- Bike/Skate Park – Pilar Design contract being finalized.
- Valley Bike Restarting!! Contact being finalized by end of March; bicycles all returning by mid June – confirm that Springfield is participating.
- PVPC Study of Belmont, Locust, Mill, Ft. Pleasant intersection – summer road safety audit.
- Maple & Union Study Community Meeting - April 16 (flyer attached). Discussed advocating for having the project include changing Maple to one lane from Dwight to Central. Will contact Milton Bradley School about holding a separate meeting.