

## WalkBike Springfield April 14, 2022 Meeting Notes

I. Safe Routes to School Update – Lucy Friedman-Bell reported that there is interest from Brightwood, Gerena, Bowles, and Dryden schools for safe walking/bicycling education programs in 2022-23. Principals at DeBerry and Homer schools will be meeting about the recent arrival and dismissal assessment. The quantity of students being driven does not seem to be being given enough consideration.

### II. Trails Update

Highland Railtrail. The East Forest Park Neighborhood Council held a meeting on April 13 about the proposed shared-use path for the eastern section of the Highland Rail. A Video of the proposed route taken by a drone was shown. Opposition of the trail came from a woman who lives near the proposed McKnight Trail, otherwise there was general support for the trail. A meeting of the Friends of the Highland Rail Trail is being planned for June.

Riverwalk Trail. The Connecticut River Conservancy, along with ValleyBike, RAD Springfield, and WalkBike Springfield, is conducting a bicycle ride along the Riverwalk on April 23, starting at 10 am at Kenefick Park. There is also an option to help with a River bank clean-up. Pre-registration is required.

### III. Massachusetts Bike Month

PVPC weekly planning zoom – Wednesdays @ 5 PM

WalkBike Springfield is sponsoring two events: (1) **April 13** morning ride along the River walk that could be part of the Safe Roads Alliance's Joining Forces for Safer Roads fund-raiser that will end at Granny's Baking Table where there will be free beignets for riders and all bicycle commuters.

(2) **April 24** Mural Ride @ 5:30 PM, starting at Mason Square/State St/North End to Druyea Way. (see murals at <https://www.freshpaintspringfield.com/artists>)

### IV. Roadway Projects

St. James/Tapley intersection – MassDOT held a hearing on April 5. Concerns were raised about the level of truck traffic and desire for examples of other roundabouts that accommodate the number and variety of trucks at this intersection. At our meeting concern was raised about the tremendous back-ups that occur at this intersection and onto I291 when there is a funeral procession, especially when schools are being dismissed. Issue needs to be raised with the cemetery superintendent and Traffic Commission.

The rescheduled meeting of the City Council Maintenance & Development Committee with DPW director Chris Cignoli about the State Street crossing to the Central Library will now be **May 3** at 5 PM by zoom.

V. WalkBoston – the statewide pedestrian advocacy organization has a number of events of interest to WalkBike Springfield members:

[Annual Meeting recap](#)

[2021 Annual Report](#)

[2021 Pedestrian Fatalities Report](#) - unfortunately Springfield is featured because of the extreme number of pedestrian deaths in 2021. WalkBoston will advocate to its City contacts that Springfield apply for a newly announced federal [Safe Streets and Roads for All grant](#) to undertake a [Vision Zero](#) initiative.

[WalkMassachusetts Network](#) **April 20** meeting by zoom 1 PM (separate notice being sent)  
[Not Just a Book Club](#), May 5 @ noon

#### VI. Other

**Updating the Springfield Bicycle Network Plan.** We will hold an in-person session to mark up maps with the new bicycle lanes, planned projects, and reaffirm the decided routes to transverse Springfield from our surrounding communities and among various neighborhoods. This session will be held at Granny's Baking Table on Tuesday, **April 26, starting at 5 PM.**

See a compilation listing of multiple walking & bicycling events below

### Summary of Upcoming Walking & Bicycling Activities

- April 20 – 1:00 PM – [WalkMassachusetts Network](#) monthly meeting;  
[email Miranda Briseno](#) for the zoom link
- April 22 – Deadline for Rep. Neal "[Community Project Request Form](#)"
- April 23 – 10 AM – [Connecticut River Conservancy RiverWalk Ride & Clean-up](#) –  
use a ValleyBike, if desired - pre-registration requested
- April 26 – 5 PM @ Granny's Baking Table, 309 Bridge St. to work on an updated Springfield Bicycle Network map
- May 2022 – [Bike Month](#)
- May 3 – 5 PM – City Council Maintenance & Development Committee meeting about State St. crossing
- May 5 – Noon --[WalkBoston "Not Just a Book Club"](#)
- May 12 – Walkbike Springfield Monthly meeting
- May 13 – earlyish ride and free beignets at Granny's Baking Table for cyclists
- May 15-22 - Safe Roads Alliance [5 mile rides fund-raiser](#)
- May 24 – 5:30 PM - Mural Ride (Mason Square to downtown)
- June 4 – 10-5 – Springfield Pride Parade Bicycle brigade organized by Northampton cyclists
- June 9 – WalkBike Springfield meeting
- June 11 – free helmets and board painting project