

WalkBike Springfield Virtual Meeting Notes May 13, 2021

(apologies for the zoom link problems!)

I. **Safe Routes to School Update.** On May 11, a modified walk audit was held from the DeBerry School along State Street to the Skyview Tower on Chestnut St. It is unclear why SPS is having children who live 1 ½ mile away are being asked to walk. The audit focused on the safest options for crossing State St. The SR2S planning for Rebecca Johnson are expected to resume in the late summer/fall. The MassDOT project for the St. James/Tapley intersection could improve conditions for students walking to the Van Sickle Middle School and Renaissance High School

II. **Kristen Sykes, Connecticut River Valley MassBike Chapter.** All are encouraged to sign up for the new CT River Valley Google Group -- You can use this group to promote bike events, opportunities for bike advocacy or to connect with other bikers in the CTRV. To join the google group email jes@massbike.org.

Kristen described some of the Chapter's activities:

(1) [Light Brigade](#) – this is giving out of front and back bicycle lights for free. WBS and RAD have held Light Brigade in the past and need to do again with Make-It Springfield. See what folks in [Holyoke](#) have done.

(2) Cycling Instructors – CVRV Chapter seeks individuals who can be cycling instructors. Training and financial compensation offered. Email kristen@massbike.org if interested.

(3) Bike Month/Riding Promotions – is now scheduled for May and Jeff McCoulogh at PVPC is coordinating events for the week of Sept. 21. Meanwhile MassBike has a series of monthly riding activities – check out https://www.massbike.org/baystatebikemonth21_announcement

Kristen also shared information related to her job with the Appalachian Mountain Club about trails and how there could be funding for Springfield (as an environmental justice target community) through the [Land & Water Conservation Fund](#) (actually funded by Congress for the first time in many, many years and from the Transportation Climate Initiative. We need to check with Springfield Parks Department about plans for the LWCF.

Deb asked for help regarding getting Google maps to add Springfield's bike lanes onto their maps. Kristen will see if she can get some help with this.

III. **DPW Engineering Update.** On May 6, Betsy Johnson and Deb Huber met with Springfield DPW Engineering head, Andy Krar and two other staff. We covered topics covering outstanding grant requests, projects, complete streets, and more. See the **attached summary**.

III. Upcoming Hearings

May 25 – MassDOT project: [St. James/Tapley Intersections](#). This is the project that hopefully now includes pedestrian and biking accommodation due to Todd Crosset's advocacy.

May 26 - Highland Rail Feasibility Study (**copy of email invite attached**). This is the second presentation, so that opponents have another opportunity to attend.

IV. Additional Updates

State Street Crossing to Library– City Council Maintenance & Dev. Committee (Councilors Walsh and Lederman) held a hearing with DPW Commissioner Cignoli on April 22. After discussion Mr Cignoli seemed to be more open to assessing installing some kind of pedestrian accommodation as long as it was not immediately crossing State St. in front of the library entrance.

ValleyBikes Return – bicycles have finally been returned to the Springfield stations. We need to determine how to get promotion of the subsidized passes.

Way Finders Advocates Walk Audits – June 9 @ 5:30 training (**see attached Zoom instructions.**) As with the Union Station audit, the audits are then to be done independently. WalkBoston will development a report about the conditions in the Old Hill neighborhood from the participant audits. WBS needs to encourage using this system to get walk audits done throughout all of Springfield.

MUTDC Comments – this is the out-of-date federal guidance using by communities in setting speed limits, spacing traffic signals, street dimensions, etc. [AmericanWalks](#), [NACTO](#), Vision Zero organizations have all provided guidance on submitting comments. **WBS's submittal attached.**

Wheel Park – Betsy participated with the Parks Department in interviewing two firms – both would be very good. Both would assess as many as six sites and provide assistance with the fund-raising for construction. Hope to hear soon about a settled contract.

Outreach to Commissioner Clapprod & District Attorney Guilluni. Wrote letters requesting the departments work with WBS to assess conditions related to fatal crashes. No response, Deb to follow-up. **Letters attached.**

NEXT MEETING (VIRTUAL)

Thursday, June 10, 2021 @ 6 PM