

**WalkBike Springfield Virtual Meeting June 11, 2020 Notes**  
**PVPC Hosted Zoom**

**I. Roadway Projects**

**Dickinson/Orange/Locust/Hancock/Mill intersection:** Two members had conversations with DPW Engineer Andy Krar about the striping at this intersection, which is currently being repaved now that the Water & Sewer work is finished. Most likely there will not be improvement for pedestrian crossing. Suggested this intersection be a complete streets priority for perhaps installation of a round-about.

**6-Corners Round-about:** the final paving for the round-about is soon to be done. A neighbor reported that it seems to be making getting through this complicated intersection for cars, pedestrians, and cyclists. Also described that this project is part of the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts' evaluation of the complete streets projects.

Betsy will be following up DPW to get updates on other projects.

**McKnight neighborhood crosswalks:** It was reported that Covid has disrupted the McKnight Association's focus on the crosswalk assessment. It is hoped that they can select a few priorities for new painted crosswalks/handicap ramps. In terms of deciding priorities, we discussed analyzing walking routes to school, as well as to bus stops, and hoped the School Committee/Department would take this up. However, we recognized that now with Covid was not when they could be concerned with this.

**McKnight Block Party & Complete Streets Demo:** The Block Party is postponed at least until 2021 and PVPC would not have funding to organize the Demo at that time. It was indicated that WBS could undertake the task of getting the permits, so at a later date, WBS should reconsider doing such an event along with the Block Party. At the next WBS meeting we should discuss alternative activities to promote safe walking and bicycling that could be done despite Covid during the rest of 2020.

**II. Complete Streets Prioritization Plan Update:** On behalf of the City of Springfield, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is developing an updated list of projects that could be eligible for MassDOT Complete Streets funding. Two versions of a wiki map have been developed for folks to input project suggestions.

<https://tinyurl.com/2020-SPFLD-CS-PUBLIC-WIKI>

<https://tinyurl.com/2020-SPFLD-CS-WIKI-WORKING>

Becky Basch of PVPC illustrated use of the map. She is reaching out to neighborhood councils to get input – presently there have been few suggestions from Outer Belt, 16 Acres, Indian Orchard, and Pine Point. What are improvements needed to facilitate walking and bicycling to where one goes in each neighborhood. She is seeking suggestions of streets that could be candidates for a shared use path or protected bicycle lane (Dwight St. downtown, Roosevelt, West Columbus). She is reviewing the walk audits done by WalkBoston and by LiveWell

Springfield. Public Health Institute of Western MA will provide suggestions from the PhotoVoice project.

At the meeting projects mentioned: A bicycle lane from the end of the McKnight Path to Union Station and then a crossing of East and West Columbus from Liberty St. to Clinton St. to connect to the Riverwalk; other Springfield confusing intersections, such as Mill/Locust, Ft. Pleasant/Belmont; Liberty/Armory/Magazine/291/Stafford.

We will begin to prioritize suggested projects at the July WalkBike Springfield meeting.

### **III. Other Updates**

**Signage change requests:** no response from DPW, but requests sent just before the Covid shut-downs. Requests to lower the speed limit where it is already posted require an engineering study and the speed set by MassDOT standards, which could mean they could be raised instead of lowered. However, Jeff McCullough of PVPC mentioned that MassDOT is currently reviewing and hopefully will be revising this – but not necessarily soon. Meanwhile Councilor Allen is going to look into the “thickly settled” part of Dickinson being signed as such – so that a 25 mph limit would be in effect.

**Street Lighting budget:** given Covid budget constraints this is not going to happen this year.

**Central Library State St. Crossing:** still being ignored by DPW. Councilor Lederman was investigating whether there could be state action.

**413 Wheel Park:** Parks Department submitted a proposal for site evaluation and design for Community Preservation funding. WBS participated in the presentation to the CP Committee and were received favorably.

**“Try 25” Yard Signs:** It was requested to having them put in yards along Meredith, Washington, Eldridge which are being used as “cut through” streets.

**Logo:** Ami Jackson offered to help with coming up with designs for a WBS logo. Deb is going to get her the ideas previously generated.

### **NEXT MEETING (VIRTUAL)**

**Thursday, July 16 @ 6 PM**