

WalkBike Springfield Meeting June 8, 2023 Notes

Roosevelt Ave. Project Update

We have received 63 surveys, including a number from Central High School. Presentations have been made to the neighborhood councils in East Springfield, Pine Point, and Bay. On May 11, four riders conducted a “Bike Audit” ride. Along with the Wayfinder Advocates we will be conducting a “Walk Audit” of “section one: Island Pond to Gaucher. We are scheduling October 26 for the community forum. {Springfield Prep at 2071 Roosevelt has offered to host}

2023-2024 Street Pavings

We discussed that the new interactive MassTrails map shows Breckwood Ave. as having a bike lane – Breckwood is on the 2024 Paving List (attached). Will advocate for a road diet on Breckwood to slow vehicles. Concern that Dwight Road towards Longmeadow used frequently by cyclists desperately needs repaving. Wondering why private ways are taking priority?

There was further discussion about the need for the Council-passed “[Complete Streets Council](#)” that would provide an opportunity for discussion of using repavings for Complete Streets implementation.

WalkBike Springfield will send a letter to the Mayor and City Council about the need to finally implement this entity that was passed as part of the Complete Streets Policy in 2016.

Riverwalk Closure & Iron Man Race – June 11

We were uncertain as to whether the structural repairs had been made because the Jersey barrier was still across the north end of the bridge over the railroad tracks. {June 9 update: *The RR Overpass is open for the Ironman. Shoring completed. Deck replacement to follow no schedule at this time.* June 11 update: *all open and Riverwalk overgrowth cleaned up for the race.*}

The elevator is still out of order!

We learned that if WalkBike Springfield could provide 5 or more volunteers for a very early shift on Sunday morning, we would be eligible for at least a \$500 grant. {Update: *a call for volunteers went out. Thanks to Jim, Deb, Jason, Todd, Yolanda we will be receiving the funds!*}

Vegetation Clearing Suggestions

City Councilor Sean Curran has offered to pass on locations of roadway edges and sidewalks in need of overgrowth clearing to the Sheriff’s office who has a crew doing such clearing. Send locations to walkbikespringfield@gmail.com

Bike Month Debrief and Planning for 2024 - Ride of Silence

We had only four riders for our Roosevelt Ave. “bike audit” during which we demonstrated with pool noodles the now required minimum 4-foot distance that vehicles must give to cyclists and other “vulnerable road users.” Pictures at <https://www.facebook.com/WalkBikeSpringfield/>

We had two riders for the Mother’s Day Mural Ride. Next year we will avoid Mothers Day and work to get more publicity because the ride was wonderful!

We discussed whether we should host a “[Ride of Silence](#)” during Bike Month 2024. This is a remembrance a bit like the International Day of Remembrance. {*Check out the website – to be discussed further!*}

Bike Park Status

It is unofficial, but Springfield is expected to get the grant award for construction of the Bike/Skate Park at Gurdon Bill Park that is located at the corner of Liberty and Armory and Warwick Streets. We will inquire to Parks about the scheduling of community design meetings. Meanwhile we are mildly optimistic that additional Community Preservation Act funds will be awarded for identifying three additional neighborhood bike/skate parks and for a destination park.

West Street Project

DPW is requesting construction funding for improved pedestrian and bicycle accommodations on West Street between the North End bridge and Plainfield Street. The plans include a signalized crossing directly to the Pride station, a more direct crossing at the Riverwalk, and a shared use path for getting to Plainfield St. and the new underpass.

[WalkMassachusetts Network](#) Presentation - June 21 @ 1 PM - Vehicle Design & Visibility

Next WalkBike Springfield Meeting: July 13 at 6 PM.

Roosevelt Ave. Walk Audit: July 20 at 5:30 PM