

## WalkBike Springfield Virtual Meeting September 10, 2020

### Notes

#### I. Safe Routes to School activities

Patrick Higgins of SRTS is reaching out the Springfield schools to offer to do a remote bike safety program. Has not heard back yet from any schools, but most are starting only next week. Suggested to reach out to a contact at the Renaissance School. Also, contacts at Rebecca Johnson are going through channels to do an updated walk audit – maybe in October or November. There are also “hands free” signs that will be distributed to schools.

#### II. Complete Streets Prioritization Plan

We had an extensive discussion of the draft Prioritization Criteria to be used in rating the suggested Complete Streets projects. The draft is **attached**. Suggested was to add an additional grade related to Health Equity to indicate that North and South Ends and Old Hill have the highest health inequities, McKnight, Indian Orchard, Metro Centre, and Pine Point are middle grade and other neighborhoods less. Becky is still getting documentation related to this score, including a historic “red lining” map from Benjamin Bland at the Health Dept. and other data from the Public Health Institute of Western Mass.

We agreed that score related to the degree of car ownership and access to transit would be good to add. Other items discussed related existence of bus shelters, especially near senior housing and housing developments, need for benches especially in business districts, and bicycle parking at Parks. Need to ask the Postmaster to require bicycle parking as part of post office leases.

Becky Basch of PVPC will be further revising the criteria and has an intern beginning to evaluate the projects suggested to date.

We then reviewed the summary of the major projects (to upgrade crossings, side paths, bicycle lanes, etc.) that have been suggested and for which DPW is doing some initial cost estimating:

Roosevelt Ave. from Wilbraham Rd to Page Blvd.

(Senior Ctr access, 3 schools, Blunt Park, etc.)

Berkshire Ave. to extend the intersection projects

St. James Ave. to extend the intersection projects

Armory/Liberty “rotary” (2 schools)

Clinton/Taylor St./crossing W & E Columbus to connect McKnight Trail to RiverWalk

W. Columbus shared use path for linking to Agawam

Page Boulevard (Rte 20) from Roosevelt to Berkshire

There also needs to be additional exploration of how other sidewalk and crosswalk projects can be addressed by the City.

III. September [BayState BikeMonth](#) or check out [PV Bike Month Facebook Page](#)  
Poster attached.

IV. Report on Sept. 8 Meeting with Andy Krar

-- Representatives of WalkBike Springfield discussed complete streets implementation issues with Andy and Hector (including travel lane widths, parking delineation, signage, sharrow placement, etc.). Got agreement regarding adding signage at the end of Bicentennial and perhaps some “No Parking in Bike Lane” signs;

-- We should plan on commenting on the annual pavings in April – July; we will still receive the list of the possible repavings that is going to the utility companies at the beginning of the year;

-- MassDOT Shared Streets grant for Wellesley/St. James intersection in McKnight; project to be completed by October 2020;

-- The design contractor for the “X” project, Fuss & O’Neil is finishing a redesign that does not eliminate nearly as many trees and has a shared use path (widened sidewalk) on both sides of Sumner. The large tree by the Trinity Church will still be removed. Did not know if there were other changes related to the round-about on Belmont and how soon there would be another public hearing.

#### **IV. Other Updates**

-- **McKnight Trail** – Chris Cignoli (Springfield DPW), MassDOT, and Buckeye Gas will be meeting soon to resolve the ownership debacle. We will do outreach to ensure that the Governor’s Trail Committee is also at the meeting. {Have learned that the Trail folks will be attending.}

-- **413 Wheel Park** - City Council to soon take up approving the Community Preservation Committee’s recommendation for funding [this is happening on September 14]

#### **-- WalkBoston Annual Celebration & Golden Shoe Awards (virtual)**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/30th-annual-virtual-celebration-and-golden-shoe-awards-registration-114705960616?aff=websitewidget>

Sign up to “attend”. Excellent speaker in [Mark Fenton](#), who did a walk audit of the “X”

-- **Valley Bikes** – Springfield Health Commissioner is holding firm that Springfield will not join the other communities in returning the bikes in 2020. It was discussed that perhaps this is really because they don’t want to have to deal with vandalism problems as much as Covid health issues.

-- **DPW’s Contractor Guide regarding striping** – WBS has received a 7-page “cut and paste” version from Hector. Needs work. Will ask Jeff McCulloch at PVPC if there are model guides from other communities.

-- **Riverwalk** – Deb has been monitoring its upkeep. Needs the COVID warning signs that are posted at other Springfield parks.

**NEXT MEETING (VIRTUAL): Thursday, Oct. 8 @ 6 PM**